



February 28, 2024

Angela Coleman, Associate Chief
U.S. Forest Service
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-0003

Re: Bartlett and Massabesic Experimental Forests

Associate Chief Coleman,

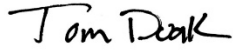
We are writing to express our support for the continued staffing and operation of the Bartlett and Massabesic Experimental Forests. Collectively, our organizations represent thousands of private timberland owners who own and actively manage their forests for multiple uses and benefits. The research and educational work conducted at the Massabesic and Barlett Experimental Forests has directly or indirectly benefited every timberland owner and the forest products businesses they supply.

Making these experimental forests especially unique is the length of time they have been in operations (up to 90 years) and the tenure of the staff (i.e., William Leak's 68 year career). The operational length and staff tenure has provided continuity for long-term silvicultural studies rarely seen at other experimental forests. These studies help answer questions about silviculture, forest habitat, carbon management, and forest response to a changing climate. But there are many unanswered questions that still need to be addressed.

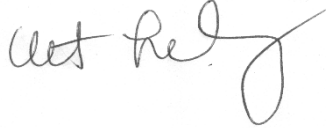
These facilities are also important educational centers. The silvicultural research done at these experimental forests is regularly passed on to Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire forestry professionals. This research is also passed on to international forestry groups. These forestry practitioners include consulting foresters, loggers, state and federal service foresters, industrial foresters, academic institutions, and timberland owners. It is also important to note that both experimental forests integrate silvicultural and wildlife habitat research to provide sustainable, long-term solutions.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our support for these unique and valuable facilities and staff and we welcome the opportunity to work with you to find a solution to keep them operational.

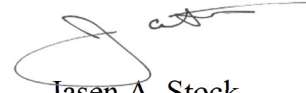
Thank you,



Tom Doak
Maine Woodland Owners



Society for the Protection
of NH Forests



Jasen A. Stock
NH Timberland Owners
Association

CC;

United States Senator Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator Susan Collins
United States Senator Angus King
United States Senator Maggie Hassan
United States Congresswoman Annie Kuster
United States Congressman Chris Pappas
United States Congresswoman Chellie Pingree
United States Congressman Jared Golden

Cynthia West, Director, Northern Research Station
David Lytle, Deputy Chief of Research and Development

Derek Ibarguen, Forest Supervisor, WMNF