

In opposition - Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project #60192

To the United States Forest Service,

My family and I live in the foothills of the Green Mountain National Forest in the county of Windsor, VT. I am writing this comment to strongly object to the logging and clear cutting of one of the only remaining old growth forests in Vermont. This area is within the Telephone Gap in the Green Mountain National Forest. Old growth forests make up only a tiny percentage of forests in New England, just .02%? Isn't this violating an executive order from the President that prohibits the cutting of old growth trees and forests needed to support biodiversity and combat climate change? Enough is enough.

I have educated myself on the practices of the US Forest service and other invested interests such as the hunting/game industry, timber industry, wood products industry, and the logging industry. There is a lot of money to be made here! Unfortunately there are many of us who understand science and the important role old growth forests play in both capturing and storing significant amounts of carbon and exclusively supporting biodiversity. Biodiversity equals Ecological Health and a healthy forest. On the other hand the same can not be scientifically proven with facts and evidence that human created young forests through clear cutting, select cutting, pesticide application, mowing, and brush hogging will ever replicate a naturally maturing forest ecosystem. This idea is driven by one's Ego.

Human controlled and created young forests support little diversity but do support non-native wildlife such as the white tailed deer, eastern cottontail, and grouse. Ironically, The most endangered and threatened species such as the long eared bat, which IS native to Vermont and teetering on the edge of extinction, depends on old growth forests. There are no threatened or endangered species that need more young forests (early successional habitats) to thrive. In addition, these controlled operations such as the Telephone Gap project invite invasive species and create an ugly scar on the landscape. In my observation logging roads and erosion sites made by clear cutting and logging in the National Forests and state forests invite more AWD, ATV, Quads and other destructive motorized machinery & vehicles into an otherwise pristine natural habitat.

There are plenty of opportunities for new forests to arise naturally during blow downs, weather events, and beaver activity to name a few. Want to create early successional habitats? Why not explore the rewilding of old golf courses, fields, abandoned agricultural land, old logging sites, empty lots, green spaces, people's backyards, lawns and parks!

I will continue to spread the word with facts and information. Private land is one thing and some logging will occur but in old growth forests in our National Parks? This needs to stop if we are to reach the country's goal of 30% land being permanently protected. Let alone the benefits of an ancient forest for the next 7 generations or more. This project is about making a lot of

money for some, tell it like it is. I choose the future over today's profits. In the words of Henry David Thoreau - "In wildness is the preservation of the world."

Stephanie Nyzio
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