

Colton Enterprises, Inc.

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March 11, 2023

USDA Forest Service
c/o Christopher Mattrick, District Ranger
99 Ranger Road
Rochester, VT 05762

SUBJECT: Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project #60192 Comments

USDA Forest Service,

This letter is to provide written support for the Telephone Gap Project. The economic value that this project, like other National Forest projects, provides to our local community and surrounding areas is extensive.


- 7 out of 12 Colton Enterprise employees live in Pittsfield, VT
- Colton Enterprises annually purchases ~\$850,000 in low grade logs from 40 loggers and truckers
- ~65% of Colton Enterprises' log inventory is sourced from National Forest lands
- ~\$550,000 worth of direct value into local economy from just National Forest lands
- Colton Enterprises relies heavily on National Forest low grade logs
- A large portion of the Town of Pittsfield is owned by the National Forest
- Pittsfield receives annual stipends for that acreage
- Low grade log and hazard removal is in directly alignment with healthy forest management

Many National Forest projects are ongoing in the area; these type projects are not new to the area. There is a long history of logging in this area. Stanley Tool owned 16,000 acres of land which is now a part of the National Forest. While they owned it they logged it continuously every year and still maintained it as a sustainable forest that supplies the raw product for their use.

From 1975-1980 I logged on the National Forest and clear cut around 200 combined acres in Granville, VT and its now some of the most beautiful and healthy growing forests in the area. My family has been logging in this area for generations and the economic benefits are significantly beneficial.

Please accept this written letter as our company and employees' full support for this project.

Sincerely,



Ray G. Colton
President