

April 8, 2024

PETITION TO: Chris Mattrick, District Ranger, Rochester and Middlebury Ranger Districts, Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests

Dear District Ranger Mattrick:

We, the undersigned, write to you with grave concerns about the climate, biodiversity, and health and safety impacts of the proposed Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project #60192.

In the winter of 2023, approximately 1,600 commenters (a record for the Green Mountain National Forest) as well as more than 13,000 petition-signers wrote to you about the implications of the Telephone Gap Project. The vast majority of those who commented one year ago expressed the same concerns that we are raising in this letter for a second time.

Considering the level of public outcry one year ago over the proposed scale of reckless mature and roadless forest logging in the Telephone Gap project, we are alarmed that the Forest Service's Proposed Action to log nearly 12,000 acres has changed very little from the last version available for public review (these numbers reflect the total "stand acres" proposed for harvest).

The Telephone Gap timber sale has been called one of the ten worst projects in the U.S. by Climate Forests, a national coalition of 120 environmental groups. This highly destructive logging job would devastate an area larger than the City of Burlington, Vermont. It endangers the water quality of the White River and Otter Creek, puts downstream communities in greater danger of flooding, risks introducing invasive species, and destroys habitat needed by threatened and endangered species.

The landscape targeted for logging includes a vast, 16,000-acre "Inventoried Roadless Area" and forests with major concentrations of mature and late-successional trees between 80-160 years old. Roadless areas of this size are rare in Vermont and New England, and are especially important for biodiversity and clean water. Meanwhile, mature and late successional forests accumulate and store the most carbon in the fight against climate change compared to young trees. The Green Mountain National Forest has older, healthier forests than most in New England; we should manage this public land for the benefit of the climate, clean water, and biodiversity, not cut it down.

Public lands like the Green Mountain National Forest contain, on average, 30% or more carbon than private lands in the Northeast US. We should not be spending our tax dollars to subsidize cutting mature and old trees in public forests at the expense of the climate. Young people and future generations will bear the brunt of the climate catastrophe that is happening all around us. The International Panel on Climate Change states that time is

running out for action. On the global scale, forest protection represents approximately half or more of the climate change mitigation needed to hold temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Research shows that New England's forests could store two to four times more carbon if we let them grow old. Letting mature forests grow old on public lands is one of the most effective ways that New England forests can contribute to the global fight against climate change. We must put our public forests on a different path.

Historically, old-growth forests dominated the New England landscape, supporting native biodiversity and rich indigenous cultures. In a short period of time, these remarkable forests – and the species and cultures that grew from them – were eliminated (or nearly-so) from our region by European settlers and their descendants. Old forests are exceptional for sequestering and storing vast amounts of carbon, protecting water quality, and mitigating droughts and floods. Today, just 0.3% of New England forests are older than 150 years.

On Earth Day of 2022, President Biden issued an historic Executive Order directing the US Forest Service to conserve mature and old-growth forests to benefit the climate and biodiversity. The US Forest Service manages the majority of mature and old-growth forests across the US, and has an especially important role to play in helping to recover old-growth forest ecosystems in regions of the country where few exist, like New England. In response to President Biden's Executive Order, the Forest Service is conducting a process to amend the Forest Plans of every National Forest in the US. Why is the agency racing ahead with the Telephone Gap logging plan when agency priorities are poised for rapid change?

The Green Mountain National Forest is a bastion of biodiversity, a reservoir of clean water, a carbon-storage warehouse, and a refuge for people seeking to reconnect with the more-than-human world. The Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project threatens these unique values.

For the benefit of our climate, our communities, and our non-human neighbors, please abandon or significantly modify the Telephone Gap IRP Modified Proposed Action to protect all mature and old-growth forests, as well as roadless forests that are critical for clean water and wildlife.

Sincerely,

Laura	Simon
Eesha	Williams
Bethany	Menkart
Kate	Goetz
Wallace	Elton
Paula	Stahmer
Jodi	Rodar

Patricia	Gallagher
Deborah	Crown
Renee	Carpenter
R. Bruce	MacAdam
Miriam and Mike	Kurland
Laurel	Facey
Dean	Shamblen
Gabriel	Robinson
Don	Ogden
Geoffrey	Gardner
Dee	Gish
Barbara	McKay
J Thomas	Dunne
Jenny	Lane
JOANNA	HAMLIN
Ariel	Arwen
Candy	jones
Howard	Jennings
Helen	Snively
Rona	Fried
Ryan	Park
George	Klohck
Susan	Hodges
Chris	Wood
Harry	White
Ron	Slabaugh
Susan	Worgaftik
fearn	lickfield
Janie	Simmons
Zara	Zsido
Lopi	LaRoe
Ulrike	von Moltke
Mark	Nelson
Karen	Starr
Kathleen	Shepherd
Elaine	Sloan
F	Corr
Sandra	Stephens
Sikander	Rashid
Katherine	Thorndike

Debra	Kraemer
Alice	Evans
Laurence	Doody
Doug	Bender
Jodi	Ross
Daniel	Brett
Catherine	Bock
Heather	Buckner
Sarah	Lincoln
Robert	Hoffert
Bonnie	Brown
Robert	Goldman
Slowomir and Irene	Przybysz
Brian C	Jones
Douglas	Zehner
Peter	Wood
Cindy and Christine	Guarnieri
Dale	LaBonte
Y	Pimental
Bruce and Maureen	DeNunzio
Fred	Kosnitsky
Carol	Fleischman
Jane	Knight
Wolfger	Schneider
karen	Bixler
Anna	Erik
Baruch	Zeichner
Kathleen	Mislan
Barthold	Bouricius
Joanna	Colwell
Christopher	Hinds
Emily	Lanxner
Henry	Harris
Glenn	Cratty
Emily	Hoyler
Susan	Mills
Mary Lou	Conca
Eric	Brooker
Kelly	Mccracken
Jennifer	Lovett

James	Vander Poel
Janice	Stearns
Maxine	Adams
Anne	D'Olivo
Lark	Shields
Anne	Lloyd
Frank	White
Viva	Butler
Susan Davis	Patterson
Sylvia	Staub
Sally	Roth
sue	sullivan
Dick	Devens
Anna Rose	Benson
Sylvia	Fagin
Amy	Mason
peter	stamm
Deborah	Wachtel
Patricia	Hunt
Carol	Cannaveno
Kristen	Cameron
Yda	Filiberti
Judy	Kowalczyk
Celinda	Ezzell
Carole	Petrillo
Garrett	Connelly
Amelia	Turner
Susanne	Abetti
Stephanie	Nyzio
Dawn	Serra
Carolyn	Schmidt
Ann	Spanel
Isabeall	Logan
Sylvie	Desautels
Daniel	Hoviss
Heather	Karlson
Douglas	Smith
Anne	Wallace
Jennifer	Esser
Kirsten	Elin

Susan	Kersavage
janet	sinclair
Chip	Mayer
Jack	Mayer
Alice	Silverman
Adam	Tanych
Josh	Kelman
Stephanie	Boucher
Aaron	Lamperti
Mary	Crowther
karen	nylander
Bill	White
John H	Sisson Jr
Barbara	Murphy-Warrington
Dottie	Nelson
Daniel	Wright
Caitlin	Gildrien
Jordan	Kleiman
Barbara	Ganley
Dianne	Clouet
Sarah	Ashe
Elizabeth	Nestler
Mary	Yates
anne	dannenberg
Joann	Rooney
Ryan	Williams
Aibert	Randzio
Jim	Hand
Victoria	DeWind
Martha	Klein
Miriam	Wolf
Eric	Jones
David	Shaw
Allan	Sirotkin
Christine	Copeland
Susan	Kellogg
Brenna	Galdenzi
Robert	Comer
Gerry	Coffey
Michelle	Dufort

Catherine	Hafey
Ross	Conrad
Catherine	Kidder
William	Vought
Karen	Bourque
Bruce	Ogilvie
Diny	Sweitzer
Elinor	Osborn
Judith	Serkin
Kaymarion	Raymond
Cynthia	Taylor
Nancy	Polan
Carolyn	Kuebler
Lucille	Brock
GAIL	BORDEN
Jennifer	McFeeters
Marcia	Angermann
Bess	Klassen-Landis
Debby	Goldman
Jean	Lix
Deborah	Randzio
Gail	Coffey
MaryJo	Johnson
Lindsey	Berk
Chris	Balch
robert	gerlin
Jonas	Kaplan-Bucciarelli
Jan	McCleery
Gerry	Slager
John	Hunt
Michael	Kellett
John	NIninger
Deborah	Lubar
mark	Gibson
Alan	Baker
Heather	Snyder
Maggie	Kuhl
Gail	Mellow
Barbara	Nelson
Debra	Sprague

Sally	Burrell
Catherine	Grant
Gretchen	Thompson
joanne	Morgan
Jenna	Hunsinger
Hinton	Putnam
Howard	Prussack
Becky	Atchinson
Linden	de Voil
Katy	Haas
Daniel	Batten
Kate	Williams
Gary	Smith
Marilyn	O'Neil
Steven	Bogart
Caily	Herbert
CHRIS	WETHERBY
Elizabeth	Sofish
Jean	Gerber
Marianne	Marotta
Mary	Erdei
Patricia	Beasley
Colleen	Leonardi
Anne	Kelley
Kris	Pastoriza
Margaret	Clerkin
Craig O.	Burt III
Elise	Manning
Gaen	Murphree
Barbara	Simoos
Clarissa	Libertelli
John	Elder
Faye	Kinney
Guntram	Herb
Patricia	Occhipinti
Janet	Fredericks
Kerri-Ann	Jennings
Gerry	Farrington
Carol	Xavier
Callie	Brynn

Patricia	Shanley
Rachel	Babin
Elizabeth	Steel
David	Cobb
Laura	Brown-Lavoie
Petrice	Espinosa
Kali	Erskine
Martha	Osmun
Susan	Shea
Laurie	Brittain
Douglass	
Leah	Foerster
Claudia	Phillips
Rita	Friedman
Pamela	Fogg
Bonnie	Condon
Judy	Wade
Midori	Batten
Kate	Tanita
Melita	Sedic
Tirzha	Osmun Palmer
Tom	Kidder
Julie	Ray
Susan	Murcott
Andrea	Stefani
Rebecca	Seibel
Tracy	Weatherhogg
SUSANNAH	MORLOCK
Lynn	Wild
Hamilton	Gillett
Laura	Smith-Riva
Diane	Hopkins
Robert	West
Elaine	Faletra
Melissa	Van Guilder
Gracey	Osmun Palmer
Helene	Nilsen
Vanessa	Valente
Sylvia	Knight
Beth	Whitaker

Kevin	Gish
Pam	Youngquist
Lynne	Mendes
catherine	arcolio
Hannah	Crand
Lisa	Solbert-Sheldon
Ashley	Van Riper
Earl	Hatley
Sandy	Henneberger
Aylie	Baker
Kathryn	Begley
Ivan	Filippenko
Bob	Atchinson
Diana	Bailey
W	Wallis
Lily	Jen
Chantelle	Beeson
chris	matera
Nola	Parker
Ponnie	Derby
Garret	Whitney
Andrea	Gallawa
Martha	Hill
Maureen	Hoffert
Mark	Adams
Sarah	Bourne
Monica	Filippenko
Jerome	Andrews
Anders	Link
Wenona	Waldo
Reka	Filippenko
Donald	Powers
Bob	Walker
Robert	Wyatt
Chris	Gish
Cate	Wirth
Gayle	Giovanna
Christine	Harris
Allan	Fiore
Peter	Mihaly

Ed	Efchak
Leslie	LaCroix
Rae	Houseman
Patricia	LeBon Herb
Priscilla	Y
DAVID	FISK
Lydia	Parker
Gary	Burditt
Jennifer	Normoyle
PHILIP	GUISER
Ian	Heiselmeyer
Susan	Kass
Sarah	Buss
Tish	Upton
Chris	Belcher
Margaret	Bragg
Dagan	Brush
Jim	White
Carl	Bucholt
Corlan	Johnson
Joan	White
Al	Futterman
Sarah	Maes
Diane	Tetrault
Carol	Johnson
Andrea	Mills
chad	peterson
Leigh	Harder
Noelle	Magluilo
Stephanie	Scott
Elizabeth	Hoffman
Charles	Parent
Kerry	Edmunds
Daniel	Towler
Ann	Duclos
Sandra	Charron
Victoria	Leda
Phillip	Merrick
Darryl	Bloom
Kate	Mortimer

Todd	Anderson
Claire	Ellerbrook
Sarah	O'Neill
Deb	Soule
Philip	Bowman
Kristen	Lee
Gail	Schwartz
Jonathan	Blake
Carole	Cummings
Robert	Guethlen
Brandt	Mannchen
Daniel	Mosle
Emily	Beattie
Carolyn Clark	Pierson
Ruby	Bates
Margaret Lena	Schultz
Linnea	Congleton
Itai	Gal
Kathryn	Grover
Kaela	Dougan
Dean	Percival
Diane	Beers
sam	reynolds
Stacy	Bates
Mary	Saudade
Bianca	Zanella
Alice	White
Jan	Ogilvie
Margaret	Sisson
Sibylle	Saunders
Eric	Truran
Ingrid	Curtis
Amanda	Swanson
KATE	Reeves
Elaine	Manghi
nc	lathrop
Gwenevra Lodi	Nabad
Wendy	Boyd
Rena	Chicklas
Rich	Holschuh

Linda	Fondulas
Jeanine	Weir
Benjamin	Hastings
Rep .Michelle	Bos-Lun
ralph	corbo
Janice	McCann
Sue and John	Morris
Lea	Sloan
Peter	Revers
Greg	Dennis
Lena	Greenberg
Anjanette	DeCarlo
Pamela Telos	Whitfield
Jennifer	Smith
Zack	Porter
david	fried
PAM	KELLY
Janice	Vien
Pamela	Kellogg
Diana	Salyer
Schuyler	Gould
Dodi	Melnicoff
Sarah	Stott
Katherine	Crown
Margaret	Benn
Donald	Monroe
DAVID	FULLERTON
Allan	Seymour
Nicole	C
Priscilla	Baker
Traci	Brown
Jennifer	Pyne
Jim	Sweitzer
Jake	Madden
Thomas L	Toscano
Katherine	Harrelson
Phyllis	Rubenstein
Elizabeth	Bancroft
Emma	Townsend
Monica	Heartwood

Em	Keen
Sally	Begley
Charles	Houston III
Nancy	Halpin
	Vermont Childhood
Survivor of	Abuse
Susan	Parsons
HENRY RALPH	CARSE
Mable	Clark
Amber	Beeson
jill	kopel
Rebecca	Dorian
Owen	Snyder-Smith
Sam	Merriam
Parker	Furr
Kyle	Trombley
Ayaan	Raza
Peter	Heartwood
Terri	Phelps
Michael	Cummings
Jeff	Hanavan
Hollie	Newsom
Allyson	Stoodley
Magdaline	Volaitis
Leigh	Reynolds
Lucinda	Belanger
Kara	Dunn
Mark	Fucile
stephanie	Powers
Karenina	Schuller
Lucy	McNulty
Meredith	Markow
Marcia	Means
Mary	Pardy
Jade	Kreilis
Alison	Gardner