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Organization: Environment America

Title: Public Lands Campaign Director

Comments: Attached is a comment signed by 12,933 Environment America supporters.

Dear Christopher Mattrick, District Ranger, Rochester/Middlebury Ranger Districts,

The Telephone Gap project proposes 11,800 acres of logging in mostly mature and old forests. In addition, the proposal includes more than 2,500 acres of logging within the second largest Inventoried Roadless Area in the Green Mountain National Forest. The Telephone Gap area is critical for wildlife habitat, clean water and a natural solution to climate change as old trees absorb and store carbon.

With a pending biodiversity crisis and the effects of climate change already being felt around the globe, we cannot afford to chop down these trees. Our mature and old-growth forests are worth more standing.

Please reconsider your plans and act to conserve the Telephone Gap area of the Green Mountain National Forest.