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Organization:
Title:
Comments: I am writing this letter to bring attention to a certain area marked for timber harvesting. This area I believe to be a Unique and Sensitive Mature Stand. I would encourage that this area be surveyed before any timber harvesting/management plans are made for this plot.

My Background: I currently own a share of a camp that borders the Green Mountain National Forest. The Camp has been in our family for four generations. Located at the end of the Townsend Brook Road in Pittsfield, Vt. I have spent my entire life, 48 years, in the woods of Pittsfield, Chittenden and surrounding towns. I have hiked, hunted, fished throughout these lands and I currently spend up to 70 days a year, hunting in the Green Mountain National Forest and the Adirondack Park. My education includes a degree in Forestry from Paul Smiths College and an Architecture degree from VTC. That being said, I have gained much knowledge and experience over the 48 years of my life, and hopefully will gain much more in my days to come.

Location of the Plot: Located on the north side of Townsend Brook starting at the Brook extending North to the snowmobile trail that heads to the California Wood Lot. The eastern border is the Gallagher Property at the end of the Tozier Hill Rd. The Western border follows the bottom of the Ridgeline starting at what was an old horse barn site in the days of the Old Stage Coach Rd to the snowmobile trail heading to the California Wood Lot. See attached Maps.

Description of Plot: This section of Forest is a Unique and Diverse section. The Plot includes several types of Forest, a healthy mature hardwood section, a large steep side hill comprised of beach and other hardwoods, a varying age dense spuce section.

The Mature Hardwood Section consists of Maple beach ash cherry and other hardwoods that are of large diameter. Most trees are free of beech scale, black knot and other diseases that are present elsewhere. The general health of the stand is very good. The soils I believe consist of a deep loam layer over the top of gravel. The ground is normally moist to wet through the year because of the many springs that are there. A dense layer of grasses, small trees and other browse, coat the forest floor. Because of the consistently moist soils, Southern exposure, health, and maturity, this stand produces nuts, seeds, browse and other foods every year. Even on bad years, when most of the forest produces slim to no seed, nuts, ect., this stand produces. I personally have observed this and the animals (deer, bear, moose, turkey and others) that feed there, my whole life. In fact it has been observed for 4 generations of my family, starting with my great grandfather.

The Varying Age Spruce Stand is south of the Mature Hardwood stand. It is somewhat of a Unique lower elevation Spruce Stand. This area was once much larger, however do to harvesting and never regenerating after harvesting, this is all that is left is this section of Forest. Trees range from young to fully mature and is in good health. This stand of spruce provides a dense cover for wildlife of all kinds. Birds of all kinds reside here. At anytime you can hear birds here, unlike a lot of the forest surrounding this stand. Animals bed down and ride out inclimate weather here. The density provides shade to the forest floor and all the springs that feed the streams all year long.

There are many drinking holes and wet areas for the wildlife.

The maps you provided at Barstow School meeting indicated that these stands have not been harvested since 1918 or before. I believe that they never harvested do to poor accessibility, wet soils and uniqueness of the stand.

IN MY OPINION, NO IMPROVEMENT COULD BE DONE AND ANY EQUIPTMENT AND HARVESTING WOULD ONLY DO UNDESERVING DAMAGE TO THE STANDS AND THE SOFT, WET SOILS WITHIN THEM. HARVESTING WOULD EFFECT WILDLIFE FEED AND COVER NEGATIVELY, AS WELL AS WARM WATERS FLOWING INTO TROUT STREAMS. THESE WOULD BE EXCELLENT STANDS TO USE AS A CONTROL FOR MATURE STANDS, PROVIDING A UNIQUE AREA TO STUDY.

I would pleased to walk this plot with anyone who is interested. Thank you for your time in reading this.