

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/2/2023 7:48:44 PM

First name: Sharon

Last name: Shea

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I was devastated to hear of this proposed destruction of this old forest land. I'm fairly new to Vermont, but I'm a New Englander and appreciate the northeast forests especially. I have traveled up and down the east coast and there's nothing to compare to our wonderful forests.

Much of the argument not to cut this forest is backed up by an ecological argument about the value of older trees and how much carbon they absorb - more than newer growth. Good on that, but there's a lot more.

These old trees can't be replaced. They're gorgeous--a piece of our heritage in living here. They're history, they're elegant, they are our elders with all the years they've lived through. I live nearby so I really, really care. I'm next to Pine Hill which is all newer growth woodland. I appreciate that woodland, but I actually look for older growth forests to explore. There's nothing like them and they can't be replaced.

Much of my family works in the environmental sector and I hear the young one talk of 'forest management.' It's about how it will "provide an area for a variety of species" and so forth. I think it's an excuse for logging. Those old growth trees are irreplaceable, they're special. It's as if you want to kill the grandparents but still call it a healthy family in the name of science because that would be more profitable.