Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/5/2023 5:13:27 PM

First name: Heather Last name: Karlson Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a former full time Vermonter, and have spent part of the year in Vermont for the last 54 years.

I am writing to urge you to stop the Telephone Gap logging project. We need to protect older forests, not cut them.

Mature and old forests not only store carbon; they are also powerhouses for biodiversity, clean water, and climate resilience. Many of New England's most imperiled species, including pine marten, Northern Long-eared Bats, and brook trout, thrive in healthy, old forests. Old forests excel at removing the phosphorus and nitrogen that drive algal blooms and dead zones in our rivers, lakes, and ponds. And they are exceptional at reducing the impacts of both floods and droughts, by slowing, sinking, and storing water.

Please stop the Telephone Gap logging project.

Thank you.