

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/6/2023 2:24:59 PM

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Comments: I am saddened and outraged about the US Forest Service plan to log 11,800 of critical mature forest in Telephone Gap (the TGIRP), at the precise moment that we need to actively protect wild, old forests, our most powerful tool in the fight against the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis. I grew up in Lamoille County at the edge of a beautiful forest, as did seven generations of my ancestors. I have seen the environmental degradation and loss of species that occurs when forest land is logged, sustainably or otherwise. There are very few mature, wild forests remaining in Vermont. Those remaining provide critical life support for endangered species, are much more resilient to pests and disease, and sequester and store far more CO<sub>2</sub> than young forests. These forests also protect clean water for humans and wildlife and prevent severe flooding. The Telephone Gap plan violates President Biden's historic Executive Order from Earth Day 2022, which directed the US Forest Service to protect these forests for the benefit of the climate and biodiversity. The mission of the Forest Service is purportedly "Caring for the Land and Serving People." Please honor this mission, listen to the latest climate and forest science, and do the important work of protecting our public forests. Scientists around the world are sounding the alarm; urging governments to protect forests- allowing them to grow old and wild to maximize carbon sequestration and preserve complex biodiversity. Do this in the name of future generations who deserve a habitable climate and an intact and healthy biome. The Telephone Gap plan will push us ever closer to climate and biodiversity tipping points. As citizens, we should not have to fight against harms perpetrated by our government. The Telephone Gap plan is shameful and unjust. Government exists to protect and preserve for the benefit of all.