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Comments: I am writing with concerns for the planned Telephone Gap logging in the Green Mountain National Forest. When will our leaders realize we are part of the circle of life dependent on the health of our environment and planet for survival?

It is quite clear with the continued destruction of our environment, little by little we are slowly killing humanity. Global warming and climate change are proof of that. Numerous scientific studies factually prove climate change as a contributor for making our environment and ecosystems vulnerable for the development and survival of viruses. Global warming has turned our planet into a petri dish for the growth of the new mega-viruses we have been seeing in recent decades. Now COVID, a deadly threat that hasn't seemed to open anyone's eyes to the need for change is here to stay. We can't afford to turn a blind eye to the destruction of our environment any longer if our future generations are to survive.

Protecting our environment is the key. Please don't think that in the big scheme of things, the proposed logging for the Telephone Gap " is just a few trees." It starts with the fragmentation of our forest and before you know it....it's gone, all of it and so are we! The logic behind logging a 160 year old mature forest that supports vast quantities of carbon and supports wildlife and harbors endangered species, is nothing less than irresponsible. Don't be fooled into thinking it will grow back and regenerate over time. Although nature has a unique way of healing itself, it takes 200 + years to show its full benefits. With global warming now breaking down our doors, we don't have that time.

Preserving the aesthetic qualities and beneficial workings of our green mountains that identify Vermont is the responsibility of our Vermont leaders. I am calling upon you to not allow the logging planned for the Telephone Gap. Take action to stop the destruction of our Green Mountain National Forest. Act now before it's too late.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my concerns,

Lori Bernier