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Comments: The destruction of old growth forests runs counter to our urgent need to retain wild areas for both bio-diversity and carbon sequestration. The value of 12,000 acres of standing old growth timber is far greater than the clear cut wood that would result from this ill-advised action. Vermont has plenty of wood for its building and heating needs that comes from privately owned woodlots and forests. There is no need to clear cut this public forest at a time that we are seeing devastating results from forests being cut in the Amazon and elsewhere around the world.

Times are changing, and I would hope that the U.S. Forest Service would be forward thinking about what is in the best interest of the country at a time when we are facing loss of habitat for many species and when we are in need of old growth forest to lessen the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions. First do no harm!