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First name: Lindsey

Last name: Berk

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom it May Concern,

I am a Brandon resident who immensely values the public lands of the Green Mountain National Forest, particularly those in Telephone Gap area. Hiking during the unfurling of spring ephemerals, swimming in the verdant spectrum of high summer, leaf peeping during the magic of autumn and cross country skiing in wintry wonderlands, my family enjoys the GMNF throughout the year. It is one of the main reasons we chose to live here.

And we are intensely concerned about the proposed Telephone Gap harvesting due to the following facts:

- 92% of the areas proposed for logging in the Telephone Gap timber sale are classified as mature or old by the Green Mountain National Forest, violating 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 Northern Long-eared Bat is teetering on the edge of extinction. Much of the Telephone Gap project area is suitable habitat for this endangered bat.
- The Telephone Gap timber sale threatens important headwaters for Otter Creek, which flows into Lake Champlain, as well as the White River, a tributary of the Connecticut River.

Please reconsider your plans to harvest lumber in Telephone Gap region, and all of the Green Mountain National Forest. In this time of an ever-increasing climate crisis, we need to be protecting our public forests, not selling them to the highest bidder. Please consider the well-being of your children, your children's children and seven generations in the future; their lives, as well as those of all of our two-legged, four-legged, winged, finned, rooted and non-rooted relations, are on the line.

Sincerely,

Lindsey