Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/10/2023 2:57:20 PM First name: Millie Last name: LaFontaine Organization: Title:

Comments: I am a resident of Vermont's neighbor, New Hampshire, who is actively campaigning to save our wildlife and wild lands through a grassroots organization, Great Old Broads for Wilderness. Our New England chapter is focused on the preservation of old growth forests. Not only are these lands essential for habitat of some of our most endangered species, they are critical for carbon sequestration and storage, water quality in vast watersheds, and mitigation of many other effects of climate change.

For the Forest Service to open nearly 12,000 acres of forest land in Vermont to clear cutting by loggers is unconscionable. To destroy the living network upon which we humans ultimately depend for survival for a paltry short-term gain makes no sense on any level. This flies squarely in the face of our need to preserve, not destroy, what is left of our natural world, and to add to, not rob from, our forests. Vermont, and the Forest Service, must do better than that!