

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/13/2023 12:59:19 PM

First name: Barbara

Last name: Ganley

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a lifelong New Englander and a Vermonter for over 40 years, I have come to know and love the unlogged parts of the forested mountains as one of the primary reasons we are the great good state that we are. Whether we are hunters and/or hikers or viewers from a distance, we are a state of people who have always cherished our relationship with the wild and understood the role of uninterrupted large tracts of land in the health of the environment and all who depend on it.

Because Vermont faces development pressures in the valleys, it is evermore essential to keep the forests pristine and unlogged. Without our intervention, they support essential biodiversity, keep the watersheds intact and their sources clean, absorb carbon, provide crucial habitat and corridors for wildlife, and provide room for our children to wander and dream.

It is completely unnecessary to log these forests. Science shows us again and again, emphatically and clearly, that mature forests manage themselves far better than people. Who in this state would benefit from this so-called "management"? And for how long? Since when have we in this state become so arrogant to think we can log parts of the forest and "manage" it by destroying some of its core balance? Vermont has so little mature forest and it desperately needs our care by leaving it untouched.

I urge the Forest Service to reject this management plan. You are charged with being in service to the forest, and to do so, this project should establish these lands as part of Vermont's goal of a minimum of 10% of the land being forever wild.