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Comments: Several concerns regarding the Telephone Gap Project.

1/ Consideration to clear cut National Forest in Vermont and sell trees as biomass to be burned seems so out of this world thinking at the same time we are experiencing escalating Climate Change that was not predicted to be like this for several decades seems mind boggling.

2/ INVASIVE PLANTS, (not to mention bugs)brought into the deep forest and to private property used as access to project by logging equipment? For the last 20 years we have all seen Wild Chervil, Colts Foot, and the worst, Japanese Knotweed, a plant that can burst through foundations, and Pavement. Invade the Green Mountain Forest from the edges. Now we propose to change the forests forever by bringing these invasive species to the center of the forest. These plant travels on construction and logging equipment and typically first shows up in areas that have been totally cleared, as they need large amounts of light to survive. They consumes huge amounts of minerals and nutrients from the soil and grows as fast as Bamboo. No animals eat them and when they get into any property are impossible to eradicate. Invasive plants will destroy our forests, and lower the property values of private land adjacent to the forest. This has already happened in Acadia National Park, and the Knotweed is winning. Wiping out old species and limiting biodiversity. WHY WOULD WE RISK THIS HERE IN THE GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST???

2/ SOIL COMPACTION: Roads direct and increase runoff into local streams. We are fortunate in Vermont that our GMNF has a wonderful layer of duff, filtering run off. In many places in the proposed areas of logging the duff is more than a foot thick. There is no amount of monitoring that that can prevent this from being scraped off, compacted or replace it when the damage when it happens.

The areas that are logged and that access to the woods used are NEVER the same. One can walk in the woods of the forest now and see old logging landing, places where erosion has been happening that it never happened before and old logging roads that have become direct streams from the top to bottom of the mountain, any time it rains heavily, which happens at least several times a year as our climate in the Green Mountains has changed radically in the last 50 years.

3/BIRDS The 2019 comprehensive study of 529 species in US and Canada found a net loss of 2.9 BILLION BREEDING BIRDS since 1970. A major attributing factors is Tree removal and land clearing. We may be patting ourselves on the back for bringing back Falcons and Eagles, but we are losing the deep woods birds, Evening Thrush, Juncos, Woodpeckers, and Nuthatches by the Thousands right here in our own Green Mountains. Why would we remove even one acre of there habitat???

The other evening at the Barstow School one of the women representing the Forest Service said we are doing this for the forest of 100yrs from now. It sounded so like the explanations of 150 years ago. From the time when humankind thought there was always more, and it was put here for us to use or change as we saw fit., especially if we had a "plan""For the Greater Good"

Mother nature is a smart gal, BELIEVE IN THE WISDOM OF NATURE.

Why would we want to have the Green Mountains logged and clear cut. Causing thousands of Trees, Animals, bird, etc. to die or at best re-establish their lives. In the 100 years it takes to grow back none of us will be here and we have no idea what our planet will be like, or even still be here.

Mankind can be SO arrogant. We are paying the price now for our past. Yet we still keep at it.....