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Organization:

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Comments: As a long time member and volunteer with the Long Trail Club I urge you to cancel the proposed logging operation in the Telephone Gap section of the Green Mountain National Forest. I have helped maintain the section of the Long Trail that includes Wetmore Gap and Bloodroot Gap for many years. I am very familiar with the terrain and flora and fauna of the area. The proposed logging and roads would be disastrous for the ecology of this area.

In addition, 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. Logging threatens water supply areas like the Chittenden Reservoir, and risks exacerbating flooding in downstream communities. Imperiled brook trout and reintroduced populations of Atlantic salmon depend on cold, clear water flowing from these high mountain streams.

The Telephone Gap timber sale proposes nearly 2,600-acres of logging inside the 16,000-acre Pittenden Inventoried Roadless Area, second largest in the entire Green Mountain National Forest and one of the largest wildlands in Vermont. Straddling an undeveloped and rugged section of the Long Trail from Brandon Gap south towards Chittenden Reservoir, this area is important for wildlife habitat and connectivity as well as quiet recreation.

Please reconsider this timber sale and protect the ecological integrity of Telephone Gap.