Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/16/2023 12:34:57 AM First name: Karen Last name: Goetz Organization: Title:

Comments: I strongly oppose the logging in the proposed Telephone Gap project. Research by the University of Vermont shows that New England forests could store 2 to 4 times more carbon if we just let them grow old. Letting mature and old trees stand is one of the most effective things that Vermonters can do to combat climate change and extinction. Private forests are the source of 96% of the timber supply in Vermont, so protecting public forests would have minimal impact on the wood products economy. Timber harvesting in this area would violate President Biden's executive order prohibiting logging in old growth forests. I urge you not to adopt this plan.