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Comments: I strongly oppose the proposed Telephone Gap logging project. It targets 11,800-acres of mostly mature and old trees northeast of Rutland, VT, an area larger in size than the City of Burlington. This massive timber sale would endanger the water quality of Chittenden Reservoir, introduce invasive species, release vast amounts of carbon to the atmosphere, and destroy habitat needed by threatened and endangered species like the Northern Long-eared Bat. It also proposes more than 2,500-acres of logging in one of Vermont's largest unprotected wildlands, a 16,000-acre "inventoried roadless area" that straddles the Long Trail and the crest of the Green Mountains south of Brandon Gap.

Despite the rarity of old forests across New England, the Telephone Gap timber sale endangers 10,855 acres of mature and old forest up to 160 years of age, or 92% of the total area proposed for logging. Because of this, Telephone Gap has been called one of the worst logging projects on federal public lands by a national coalition of 120 environmental groups.

Thank you for giving serious consideration to the preservation of our ecosystem.