Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/17/2023 11:25:36 AM

First name: Darla Last name: Bruno Organization:

Title:

Comments: 92% of the areas proposed for logging in the Telephone Gap timber sale are classified as mature or old by the Green Mountain National Forest as they are up to 160 years old, violating President Biden's historic Executive Order from Earth Day 2022, which directed the US Forest Service to protect these forests for the benefit of the climate and biodiversity. We know that old trees absorb more carbon. The last survey in this area was done in 2006, before it was known that older trees absorb more CO2.

The Northern Long-eared bat uses this part of the forest for habitat and this bat is nearing extinction. The US Fish and Wildlife Service listed the bat as "endangered" in November 2022.

Logging also threatens water supply areas like the Chittenden Reservoir, and risks exacerbating flooding in downstream communities.