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Comments: In 1992, the Forest Service adopted ecosystem management as an operating philosophy.

How does logging in Telephone Gap with grades of 15-24% square with a philosophy of ecosystem management? How is that considered management of diversity, viability and ecological productivity? In the guidebook: Best Management Practices for logging in VT: Logging roads cannot exceed 10% grade. Skid roads cannot exceed 20% grade. So how exactly can you extract timber from mountains with a 15-24% grade? Horses, perhaps?

Increased rainfall and microburst rainstorms are part of our predicted weather changes for Vermont. Siltation is already occurring at increased rates because of this, leading to fisheries disruption and increased flooding risks for communities downstream. We know that logging roads are major drivers for erosion, soil compaction, decreased absorption of rainwaters.

Ecosystem management needs to take into account all of these factors, and rely on current weather realities to make management decisions.