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First name: Michael

Last name: Dover

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a retired environmental scientist and concerned citizen, I am writing to protest the plan to log thousands of acres in the Telephone Gap area of Green Mountain National Forest. I also write as one who is dedicated to preventing further climate catastrophe. This project will only increase our rush toward irreversible climate change with devastating consequences for human life worldwide. Although mature and old-growth forests excel at removing carbon from the atmosphere and sequestering it, more than 90 percent of the proposed areas in the Telephone Gap plan are classified by GMNF as mature or old. This violates the president's executive order from April 2022, in which he directed your agency to protect these forests specifically to support climate protection and biodiversity.

With regard to biodiversity, the proposed sale threatens the survival of the endangered northern long-eared bat - listed by your sister agency, the US Fish & Wildlife Service. It also threatens one of the largest wildlands in Vermont, the Pittenden Inventoried Roadless Area, providing uninterrupted and undeveloped habitat for countless species.

Until a few years ago, I was fortunate to own property and a rustic cabin in Stockbridge, not far from the Telephone Gap area. We were visited by moose, deer, turkeys, and bears, along with a rich assemblage of songbirds. Areas like Telephone Gap provide an extensive refuge for these and so many other species. Logging this area would change that for decades if not longer. Put bluntly, this is a crime against nature. I urgently call for you to abandon this project.