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Comments: Please do not permit the Green Mountain National Forest "Telephone Gap" logging project to go forward! This project would result in the destruction of almost 12,000 acres of older, mature forest. Why is the U.S. Forest Service - which is tasked with preserving our national forests - planning to destroy such a large swath of this beautiful forest?

In this time of looming climate catastrophe, trees and forest soils are critical in mitigating global heating since they are the most effective way we have at this time to remove and store atmospheric carbon. Carbon sequestration is critical because even if we were to stop all fossil fuel emissions tomorrow the carbon already in the atmosphere would ensure that the planet would continue to heat. And older, mature forests sequester and store the most carbon. (The largest 1% of trees store 30% of above ground carbon in the U.S.)

In addition to carbon sequestration, older, relatively undisturbed forests like the Telephone Gap forest, provide a host of other ecosystem services, such as cleaning air and water, allowing critical biodiversity to flourish, and providing beauty, solace, and recreational opportunities.

In general, this project will result in widespread destruction to trees, fragile forest soils, and wildlife. In particular it will threaten the water quality of the Chittendon Reservoir and will allow the logging of hundreds of acres in one of Vermont's last unprotected wildlands.

If we are to leave a habitable planet for our children and grandchildren we must preserve our forests across the globe. In the U.S., our public forests are the logical place to start.

Please do not approve this project.