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Comments: Please deny the proposal by the Green Mountain National Forest that threatens Telephone Gap, which holds some of the oldest and healthiest forests in New England.

Because 92% of the trees proposed for logging in the Telephone Gap timber sale are classified as mature or old, this project would violate 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.

This 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. The project 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. This must not be allowed.

Research by the University of Vermont shows that New England forests could store 2 to 4 times more carbon if we just let them grow old.