

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/21/2023 5:56:43 PM

First name: Emily

Last name: Landenberger

Organization:

Title:

Comments: With 92% of the proposed logging area comprised of mature and old-growth forest, it's reckless to destroy the forest of Telephone Gap. We lose the carbon removal and storage capabilities of this patch of forest and we are in direct violation of President Biden's executive order to protect forests for the benefit of climate and biodiversity. We stand to lose critical biodiversity in the form of all life above and below ground that relies on this forest for survival. Notably, the Northern Long-eared Bat, which is nearing extinction, relies on mature and old-growth forests for its survival. This project also threatens our watershed in that the Telephone Gap timber sale threatens critical headwaters of the Otter Creek and White river which flow into Lake Champlain and the Connecticut river, respectively. This increases flooding risk in downstream communities and threatens populations of brook trout and the recently reintroduced Atlantic salmon. It is imperative that the decisions we make take into full consideration the impact on our watershed and our ecosystem as a whole. When we view these systems holistically and recognize our interdependence with and as part of these systems, it becomes clear that slashing nearly 2,600 acres in one of the largest wildlands of Vermont is foolhardy and shortsighted.