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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Dear USDA Officials,

I would like to ask that you please reconsider the plan to log the Green Mountain National Forest near Telephone Gap, south of Rochester, Vermont. The plan as presented contradicts the Presidential Executive Order to "conserve mature and old-growth forests for climate and biodiversity". It is important to secure as many contiguous areas of wild, old-growth forests as possible, especially in our relatively small Green Mtn. NF. How can we preserve old growth forests for our future if we cut down the biggest, oldest trees? These majestic trees hold far greater values than that of board feet. Logging in such areas should be limited to only provide emergency access and allow for controlled burns should extended droughts ever lead to fires.

New logging will damage native species, exacerbate climate change, endanger our crucial White River watershed, introduce invasive species, and destroy habitat needed by endangered species. When I listened to the USDA live meeting and public comments, I did not hear these issues seriously addressed, merely skirted.

I feel there should not be any logging near one of our state treasures, The Long Trail, or in ANY roadless wilderness area. I, my family, and friends are avid backpackers who find essential rejuvenation and inspiration from our forest wildlands (a necessity in our stressful world. ) These important values are non-existent in forests that have been disrupted by industrial logging.

I am deeply concerned to hear that the current Forest Plan that guides the management of our tiny Vermont forests is over 15 years old, which is the point at which it should be revised. Apparently there is a lack of funding and our plan waits in line behind several other plans that are 25 years old. This outdated plan is a serious concern in the face of the environmental crises our world faces now, compared to 15 years ago. Please shelve the Telephone Gap plan and construct no new logging plans until we have an updated Forest Plan.

Thank you for taking our comments!