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First name: Karen

Last name: Horn

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to ask that you withdraw your proposal to log Telephone Gap.

I live in Vermont, at the point where Otter Creek enters Lake Champlain. Detritus from this logging operation with almost certainly travel down Otter Creek, polluting it with particles harmful to fish, amphibians and people in bathing suits or in kayaks who are there to enjoy one of our pristine Vermont streams.

But up on the mountain, on the 1200 acres the Service plans to log, the damage will be catastrophic. President Biden issued an Executive Order in April 2022 to prevent exactly the type of project that you have proposed. OLD GROWTH FORESTS ARE ONE OF BEST SEQUESTERS OF CARBON THAT WE'VE GOT. Cutting them down is a form of human suicide.

I moved to Vermont from Oregon in 2021 as a climate refugee fleeing a deadly wildfire. In the western US, there is a growing opposition to old growth logging and this pushback is having results. In December, the US Forest Service withdrew a timber sale in Oregon called "Flat Country" because it targeted mature forests of up to 150 years in age. Telephone Gap proposes logging forests up to 160 years in age. If Flat Country was important to withdraw, why is the Telephone Gap timber sale moving forward?

Our world is changing rapidly. I know that personally. I never knew I would have to sell our beloved house and move 3,000 miles away because of the effects of climate change. I want to see the Forest Service step up and acknowledge that circumstances have changed and it is time to protect what forests we have left. Instead of logging, how about planting more trees? That would be good work that we can all appreciate.