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Organization:

Title:

Comments: In opposition - Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project #60192

To the United States Forest Service,

My family and I live in the foothills of the Green Mountain National Forest in the county of Windsor, VT. I am writing this comment to strongly object to the logging and clear cutting of one of the only remaining old growth forests in Vermont. This area is within the Telephone Gap in the Green Mountain National Forest. Old growth forests make up only a tiny percentage of forests in New England, just .02%? Isn't this violating an executive order from the President that prohibits the cutting of old growth trees and forests needed to support biodiversity and combat climate change? Enough is enough.

There are many of us who understand science and the important role old growth forests play in both capturing and storing significant amounts of carbon and exclusively supporting biodiversity. Biodiversity equals Ecological Health and a healthy forest. I studied Wildlife Biology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA.

Human controlled and created young forests support little diversity but do support non-native wildlife such as the white tailed deer, eastern cottontail, and grouse. Ironically, The most endangered and threatened species such as the long eared bat, which IS native to Vermont and teetering on the edge of extinction, depends on old growth forests. There are no threatened or endangered species that need more young forests (early successional habitats) to thrive. In addition, these controlled operations such as the Telephone Gap project invite invasive species and create an ugly scar on the landscape. In my observation logging roads and erosion sites made by clear cutting and logging in the National Forests and state forests invite more AWD, ATV, Quads and other destructive motorized machinery & vehicles into an otherwise pristine natural habitat.

Brett Dodge

Bethel, VT