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Comments: I was in the plant nursery business for 40 years and have lived in Vermont for almost 70 years.

Recently I have been aware of the true value of large areas of untouched forest, both ecologically and as a major source of carbon sequestration. I have witnessed clear cut, species selection, roughly managed and skillfully managed forests under our program of current use. None of these approaches the scale of the Telephone Gap(project#60192) area of pristine forest, of which 12000

acres has been selected for commercial logging and management. There are no roads. Roads cut in would constitute a break in the Pittenden Inventoried Roadless area, which is the second largest undisturbed area in the Green Mountain National Forest. Protecting old growth forest is extremely important. They are vast carbon sinks and are the subject of our States goal of protecting 30%of Vermonts forested land mass to wildlands by 2030. This is spelled out in the current draft of H.126.

I believe that it is important to leave this particular tract of land alone. It contains watersheds for the Chittenden reservoir,the 1st branch of the White River and Otter Creek. And it borders the Long Trail.

In my years of growing trees I have come to understand their complexity better, and how they adapt (or not) to soil compression and use of deep track harvesters, which bruise the root zone.

In old growth forests it is not necessarily better to cut down for light entry. In many cases there are 6 or more trees' roots growing over the same rock, seeking and sharing nutrients. It is a delicate balance that is best left to nature for its continuance.

This area has some old growth, rare in New England and especially Vermont. Leave it alone.