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Comments: As a frequent visitor to Vermont's great outdoors, I urge the Forest Service to rethink their plan. The massive timber sale in the Green Mountains (VT) via the Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project (TGIRP) is a terrible idea. This destructive plan would endanger the water quality of Chittenden Reservoir, introduce invasive species, and destroy habitat needed by threatened and endangered species, such as the Northern Long-eared bat. These PUBLIC lands should be managed for the benefit of the climate and biodiversity, not cut it down.

Mature and old-growth forests excel at removing and storing carbon from the atmosphere. And yet, 92% of the areas proposed for logging in the Telephone Gap timber sale are classified as mature or old by the Green Mountain National Forest, violating President Biden's historic Executive Order from Earth Day 2022, which directed the US Forest Service to protect these forests for the benefit of the climate and biodiversity. 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?

Thank you for your consideration.