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First name: Nora
Last name: Croll
Organization:
Title:
Comments: To whom it may concern:
I am a 4th generation Vermonter who grew up in and around the forests in Telephone gap (I didn't know what they were called). My grandmother's house is right near Brandon gap in Goshen so that area of wilderness is dear to me.

I am also a life-long forager and lover of wild places, and the mature stands in telephone gap have the best and most intact mushroom communities I know of. There are very few truly large oak groves anywhere else in Vermont, and the trees in this area are HUGE. The telephone gap forests are a legacy that should be allowed to live as a true wilderness with no ragged logging roads which bring invasive species and erosion and loss of habitat. huge logging operations are destructive and crude with giant equipment that rips through everything.

Recent discoveries showing how important well-established native forests are and how they and their fungal soil partners sequester massive amounts of carbon prove that old-growth forests (which most of telephone gap definitely is!) are far more valuable alive than dead! The older the trees, the healthier and more diverse the trees' rhizomal network is. The culling of the largest and oldest trees is terribly destructive!

Short-term profits (mostly private!) MUST NOT be allowed to trump the myriad long-term benefits of such a vital public resource. Intact forests are a win-win-win gift to everyone and should not be plundered for a quick buck. Not only do they sequester large amounts of carbon, but forests have an inherent right to exist unmolested in the few truly wild areas left in vermont.

As a person who loves this area and values the beauty and wildness of the telephone gap wilderness, I beg you to stop this outmoded "management" practice. I am familiar with several pieces of land that have been "managed" for lumber by A Johnson and I can attest that they are nothing like the intact forests around Brandon gap and beyond.

Please save the telephone gap wilderness and don't let the logging industry plunder this irreplaceable resource just when we need it most due to climate change. The plan is outdated and barely even mentioned climate change and carbon sequestration!
Thank you,
Nora Swan Croll