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Comments: The Green Mountain Forest is special and singular. It is a jewel in the crown of Vermont's beautiful woodlands, and is home to trees and animals that deserve to remain undisturbed.

In this time of climate crisis, it is essential to respect and protect mature and old-growth forests, which 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? There is a precedent set already - not to mention an urgent need - to protect Telephone Gap from this violent and destructive logging.