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First name: Kathryn Last name: Pedersen

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a Vermonter and I love this forest, it's wildness, it's beauty, and the benefits it bestows on our climate and biodiversity. I am strongly opposed to the USFS plan to cut almost 11,800 acres of old and mature forest in the Telephone Gap area of the GMNF. These forests support important biodiversity, sequester more carbon than younger trees, and provide habitat for the Northern Long-eared Bat which is on the verge of extinction. The US Fish and Wildlife Service listed the bat as "endangered" in November 2022. Our forests aren't just "wood products" to be harvested in accordance with a scientifically outdated 2006 forest plan. You are in violation of President Biden's 2022 Executive Order directing the US Forest Service to protect these forests for the benefit of the climate and biodiversity. Vermont's Congressional Representative and Senators are also opposed to this project. Who is for it? The USFS in and the wood products industry?