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Title:

Comments: We are writing in regard to the US Forest Service proposal to log in the Telephone Gap area of the Green Mountain National Forest.

We have lived in Vermont for close to 30 years. Hiking and observing wildlife in the Green Mountain National Forest is an integral part of our lives. In addition it has kept us sane during the current pandemic.

We are concerned about logging in the Green Mountain National Forest because mature and old-growth forests are an important part of the life support system of our state and of our planet.

We are concerned that logging in the Telephone Gap area will threaten the headwaters of Otter Creek, the river that sustains and is habitat for wildlife and flows through many communities including our own. Logging in the area also threatens Chittenden Reservoir a beautiful body of water used by many for recreation.

Logging in this area would disrupt an important Inventoried Roadless Area and impact sections of the nearby Long Trail.

Old-growth forest ecosystems provide needed habitat for wildlife including endangered species.

The ability of mature and old-growth forests to remove and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere is a crucial component for mitigating climate change and maintaining the mature forest is essential for Vermont to meet its commitment to fight climate change.

We strongly support saving the Telephone Gap area from logging.