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Comments: To whom it may concern:

I am emphatically against logging 12,000 acres of the Telephone Gap forest. Logging this land is a reckless action. DO NOT PROCEED WITH THIS CUT.

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. Logging this land is a reckless action. DO NOT PROCEED WITH THIS CUT.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service listed the bat as "endangered" in November 2022. The Northern Long-eared Bat prefers mature and old-growth forests for roosting and foraging - exactly the sorts of areas that are proposed for logging. Removing their habitat is a reckless action. DO NOT PROCEED WITH THIS CUT.

Of the 11,800 acres proposed for logging, the Telephone Gap timber sale proposes nearly 2,600 acres of logging inside the 16,000-acre Pittenden Inventoried Roadless Area, second largest in the entire Green Mountain National Forest and one of the largest wildlands in Vermont. Straddling an undeveloped and rugged section of the Long Trail from Brandon Gap south towards Chittenden Reservoir, this area is important for wildlife habitat and connectivity as well as quiet recreation.

Logging this land is a reckless action. DO NOT PROCEED WITH THIS CUT.

Michael Sacca

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