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First name: Ryan

Last name: Gumbart

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

I have been following the Standing Trees newsletter throughout this process and I have read the reports and watch the youtube videos from the hearings. I would first like to express my dismay about the way Standing Trees has spread false information about the State's logging of old-growth. After reading their numerous posts to common conservationists and the general public about the State's intention to log old-growth forests I was surprised that such a project would be approved. After further digging into the facts of the project I am frustrated with the propaganda that Standing Trees has spread through direct false statements about the nature of the project.

I would like to express my full support of the departments goals and objects for the management of the land in the Telephone Gap project area. These management practices are exactly what the public needs to learn more about from trusted resources. I believe the State could do a better job of rebranding the way they talk about forest management. In second growth forests, it is a restoration effort to add complexity and biological diversity to the forest. If left alone, nature would do that same thing; disturb the forest regenerate age classes and restore the second growth forest to a more resilient and healthy state. However, in the no management scenario there is much less control over restoring it to native species, diverse age classes, and other things that give natural old-growth forests their ecological value. With active management these features can be created or enhanced and in a timely manner. If left to her own devices, nature may do the same thing but over a much longer time frame. And time is obviously not something we have to play with.

I believe the proposed project is not only appropriate but completely necessary for the well-being of our forests. Forest products are a useful byproduct of the care that the forests of Vermont need. We did the damage with industrialization, globalization, and agricultural conversion. Now we must try to steward our land back to health, not simply give up and hope we don't loose it.

Thank you,  
Ryan Gumbart