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Comments: I am writing to plead that the planned timber harvesting at Telephone Gap be reconsidered. It is so crucial that we protect and maintain mature forests such as Telephone Gap during this ecologically delicate moment. The described "Multiple resource management to implement the Forest Plan across a large landscape area. Proposed activities include timber harvesting, wildlife habitat enhancement, recreation & forest access improvements, and soil and wetland restoration work." could go ahead WITHOUT lumber work and still create the economic and geographic improvements and investments that would benefit the area. We simply cannot shrug about the cutting down of mature trees and forests at this crucial time.

Moreover, I work for the Ruth Stone House, a small literary and arts nonprofit in Goshen, VT. I commute to work past the beautiful forests of the Green Mountains, which are like a jewel set inside of the corridors of Route 7 and Route 100. Its atrocious to imagine patchwork logging projects happening in there. It feels so unnecessary! No small economic argument can make losing that mature forest make sense. Hiking and skiing and recreation that happens in that area happen there because it is beautiful and vibrant and alive, multi-generational forest. It is a carbon sink and an essential living biome. Please do not log!