Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/6/2023 7:42:24 PM First name: Patrick Last name: Wickstrom Organization:

Title:

Comments: While logging is an important aspect to Vermont's economy, so is clean water, clean air, in-tact landscapes. We cannot have irresponsible logging within our state. With challenges already being faced in our watersheds with increased eutrophication due to increased storm water runoff and warmer weather from climate change we cannot afford to lose any more valuable forest to logging. Medium and old growth forests are a rare commodity in Vermont due to extensive logging in the industrial era and colonial days. The last of these great forests are key in protecting not only water and air quality but also provide value to the outdoor recreation economy and provide vital habitats to some of VT's most threatened species. Old growth forests are also better situated to resiliency from impacts due to invasive species and climate change. Logging the Telephone Gap in GMNF would be irresponsible economically and ecologically. Not to add this would be going directly against President Biden's executive order preventing the logging of these precious forests. Just as the Flat Country logging sale in Oregon was was withdrawn, the Forest Service should do the same for the Telephone Gap logging project here in Vermont. Please reconsider this project and protect this forest for the sake of the ecosystem and for future generations to enjoy as a part of Vermont's robust outdoor recreation industry. Thank you.