

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/7/2023 1:23:20 PM

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Comments: As a long term resident of Vermont (past 30 years in Newbury, plus additional years in the 1980's) I am truly dismayed that the National Forest Service would consider large scale logging in the "Telephone Gap". Mature forests are increasingly rare and serve to offer great benefit to the environment and to all of us who would like to lessen climate change for the survival of our children and grandchildren.

Consider: The areas proposed for logging in the Telephone Gap timber sale have major concentrations of mature trees between 80-160 years old, which science shows accumulate and store the most carbon in the fight against climate change compared to young trees

The GMNF has greater carbon density than most forests in the Eastern US; we should manage this public land for the benefit of the climate and biodiversity, not cut it down.

Research by the University of Vermont shows that New England forests could store 2 to 4 times more carbon if we just let them grow old. Letting mature and old trees stand is one of the most effective things that Vermonters can do to combat climate change and extinction.

This is not even to mention other societal benefits of having a relatively untouched forest for recreational use by Vermonters and tourists (good for the VT economy), and the mental health benefits (proven by studies in Japan where doctors actually prescribe "nature or forest therapy")...especially at a time when anxiety and depression are epidemic.

It is unconscionable to allow this project to move forward.

Thank you for considering this commentary,

Priscilla Connolly M.D. , Newbury, VT