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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a four seasons hiker and spend much of my time outside. I am also a grandmother who is concerned about the current environmental state of the world and think that the time is now to pay attention to our actions as they affect the climate and environment.

I am concerned about the TGIRP for several reasons:

1. The current Forest Plan dated 2006 is out of date and does not rely on science regarding the benefit of mature trees to sequester carbon. I have been told that there is no money for a new plan and that Forestry plans in other areas of the country are more out of date, thus it is not likely that a new plan will be done soon. This is irrelevant. We do not need to ignore science regarding carbon sequestration. There should be a dollar amount placed on the benefit of carbon sequestration by these old trees and that dollar amount should be factored into the equation when discussing cost benefit analyses of logging v. leaving the trees. This needs to happen before they are cut down, not when it's too late.
2. Effects on wildlife - the TGIRP is allegedly going to benefit wildlife due to making 'new forests'. I would like an environmental study done (or made public, if it's already been done) showing which species are going to benefit and how this project is going to help the endangered Northern Long-eared Bat which prefers mature forests.
3. Effects on wildlands - the TGIRP 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. What is the justification for that? Again, there is a clear dollar value placed on logging; what is the dollar value placed on wildlife habitat and connectivity as well as non motorized recreation?
4. Effects on water - This project threatens headwaters, reservoirs, and can exacerbate flooding downstream. It also will muddy clear waters needed by salmon and brook trout. A comprehensive study needs to be done and shared with the public regarding the effects on water.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. Anne Lloyd