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Comments: I am strongly opposed to this project as planned. It does not appear to balance the two opposing values of protecting public mature/old growth forests and enriching our timber economy. Actions on this public land should reflect public values, and this plan currently appears only to reflect the values of the timber industry and mountain bikers.

We cannot sacrifice the few remaining mature forests here in the northeast. Not just because of their value in carbon sequestration, or their deep long-term ecological benefits to the surrounding forests, soil, and watersheds, but because of their value to humanity and the natural identity and legacy of New England.

We have to think now about the forests we want to leave behind for our grandkids, and their kids. If we cut this forest now, it won't grow back to its current stage for a hundred years or more, and that's only IF it never gets cut again, but cutting it now may set the precedent that it will be a working forest from now on, never to be allowed to grow old again.

Thanks to the UVA program and the amount of working public land we already have, we know that there will be economically viable timber resources in Vermont in the future. But we can't guarantee that there will be large swaths of public mature old forests unless we actively protect them now and into the future.

Stop. Go back to the drawing board and figure out how to fuel economic growth somewhere else. Protect this vital, precious, and irreplaceable piece of old mature forest.