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Comments: Hello US Forest Service,

I love and live in the Green Mountain Forest of Vermont and I was devastated to hear of your plans to allow logging as part of the Telephone Gap project, a space that contains the largest roadless areas in Vermont and of which 16,000 are being eyed for logging.

The Telephone Gap Project takes Vermont's public forests in the wrong direction. I am disheartened by the leadership who have deemed this destruction a possibility and I will not let those trees go down without a fight.

There are many, many ecological reasons as to why logging this area is a terrible idea. My two personal concerns are as follows:

The Northern Long-eared Bat is a species that is teetering on the edge of extinction. The US Fish and Wildlife Service listed the bat as "endangered" in November 2022. The Northern Long-eared Bat prefers mature and old-growth forests for roosting and foraging - exactly the sorts of areas that are proposed for logging. Much of the Telephone Gap project area is suitable habitat for this endangered bat.

There is no hope for the Northern Long-eared Bat once its habitat is stripped. Along with my concern for the bats, I consider the rest of the wildlife in this forest corridor.

Of the 11,800 acres proposed for logging, the Telephone Gap 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. Straddling an undeveloped and rugged section of the Long Trail from Brandon Gap south towards Chittenden Reservoir, this area is important for wildlife habitat and connectivity as well as quiet recreation.

To move forward with the Telephone Gap Project is to exploit a loophole in the Roadless Rule to back misguided management plans. There is a logging epidemic in Vermont's forests and you have the power to stop it. Do so.

-Tina