

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/10/2023 10:06:26 PM

First name: candy

Last name: jones

Organization:

Title:

Comments: In 2013, VNRC published " Community Strategies for VT Forests and Wildlife. It states: Blocks of forests provide habitat for a wide variety of species, and maintaining connectivity between large forest areas can ensure that wildlife species are able to travel between habitats and adapt to climate change. In addition, healthy forests protect water supplies, absorb precipitation, and filter water, thereby enhancing flood resilience and water quality in other parts of the watershed.

These ecosystem services are hard to quantify and easy

to take for granted. When it comes to considering "value," looking at a single example gives us a rough estimate of their monumental importance. Vermont's forests are estimated to remove more than 75,000 metric tons of carbon (about as much as emitted by 14,000 light cars in a year) and 1,610 metric tons of other pollutants from the atmosphere each year - a function that would be worth about \$16 million if it was paid for out of pocket."

Although this paper was published in 2013, the trend toward fragmentation of forests was already taking a toll.

We can assume that this trend has not only continued but also accelerated with the flood of non-native people moving to VT. When we already know that fragmentation is causing degradation of wildlife corridors and also water absorption, why would we want to further that harm by logging in large, intact forests such as Telephone Gap? There are so many ways that it has been made clear that fracturing forests has a variety of unwanted consequences, it is hard to swallow that the Forest Service would propose such a devastating "management" system as the Telephone Gap project.