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Comments: I am writing in an effort to protect the Telephone Gap in the Green Mountain National Forest, and strongly oppose the U.S. Forest Service's proposal to log Telephone Gap.

Hundreds of people from across the country have stood up for this mature forest, which is critical for carbon storage, biodiversity, and water quality protection.

These 11,800-acres of mostly mature and old trees northeast of Rutland, VT, are an area larger in size than the City of Burlington. This massive timber sale would endanger the water quality of Chittenden Reservoir, introduce invasive species, release vast amounts of carbon to the atmosphere, and destroy habitat needed by threatened and endangered species like the Northern Long-eared Bat.

Adding insult to injury, the project also proposes more than 2,500-acres of logging in one of Vermont's largest unprotected wildlands, a 16,000-acre "inventoried roadless area" that straddles the Long Trail and the crest of the Green Mountains south of Brandon Gap.

As a US Citizen and Massachusetts resident living near the Green Mountains, I strongly oppose this project and urge its cancellation.