Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/11/2023 4:53:42 PM First name: Fletcher Last name: Dean Organization: Title:

Comments: I oppose the Telephone Gap proposed logging in VT.

Mature and old forests need to remain intact as major carbon sinks to fight climate change and protect biodiversity, including endangered species like the Northern Long-eared Bats. The Telephone Gap area has many trees that are between 80 and 160 years old. The proposed logging operation goes against President Biden's 2022 Executive Order to preserve these very forests. UVM research has shown that mature and old forests can store 2-4 times the amount of carbon if simply left standing.