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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

I am a woodworker, building furniture and restoring antiques. So I understand the need and value of forest products and the forest industry.

I also understand how the forest service has mainly served the interests of the forest industry, allowing roads, logging and habitat damage in various locations in our country that primarily benefit Weyerhaeuser (spelling?) and other big corporations.

The proposed cutting in the telephone gap area is a very bad idea. We have very few mature forests left in the country, let alone in Vermont. When the forest industry sees a mature forest, they see dollar signs and try to tell us that the trees "need" to be cut.

If the only purpose for a forest were to make a profit for industry, they would be right. But a forest is about maintaining our ecosystem and, now more than ever, actually is about keeping the planet and humans alive and able to keep breathing.

A mature forest not only sequesters more carbon than the young planted plantation woodlands that replace them, but the totality of the forest ecosystem is necessary for the benefits to accrue. If you selectively cut, you damage critical inter-relationships between the flora and fauna in a region. The damage caused makes the remaining trees and vegetation less resistant to disease and degradation.

I am sad to say that the public is losing faith that our government agencies actually stand up for the good of that which they are supposed to steward.

I understand that some regulations, as directed by Congress, which has been heavily influenced by money donations from industry, direct the forest service to prioritize corporate interests over the interests of the public. But the current administration has issued a directive that carbon sequestration and preserving the longevity and health of the forest are a greater priority that will serve the nation better than allowing trees to be cut, damaging the ecosystem and enriching a few.

Please consider the credibility of the government when making this decision. Please remember that stewardship means having a long term vision. Logging the Telephone Gap area is a short term, profits minded, ecology-killing policy.

Do not allow this to happen.

Sincerely,

Dan DeWalt

DeWalt Cabinet Shop

South Newfane Vermont