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First name: Mirjam Last name: Brett Organization:

Title:

Comments: I urgently ask the NFS to refrain from logging the mature forests of the Telephone Gap area. The management plans are sorely outdated and don't reflect the dire need to protect old stands of trees. Aside from the usual issues of habitat loss, erosion and degradation of the aesthetics of the Vermont landscape, logging of vast tracks of mature trees, not only reduces the sequestration capacity of our lands but furthermore releases vast amounts of already fixed carbon from the soils as well as the harvested tree parts that will not be used for long-lived products. It is a true shame to see the Forest Service allowing itself to get trapped in the short sided notion that trees are here for profits. We need to do better and keep our vanishing pockets of mature forest and roadless lands intact. The services provided by forests left to their own devices are many, including the superior ability to absorb carbon and keep it sequestered for decades to come, provide habitat to many of our endemic animals and plants and a place of respite to the people who need to step away from the daily grind. Keep the trees standing!