Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/12/2023 12:15:01 AM First name: Bert Last name: Picard Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear people, please seriously consider this. These trees in the Green Mountains have taken decades, even 100 years or more, to grow. If we act in haste, they are gone and cannot be brought back. It is so easy and fast to do irreparable harm. With climate disasters bearing down on us, trees - especially big trees - are the easiest, best way nature captures carbon. As the expression goes, the first thing you do to get out of a hole is to stop digging. Logging the Telephone Gap in the Green Mountains is exactly the opposite: it is digging the hole we are in even deeper. PLEASE think very hard before you decide to cut.

Sure , we need lumber. But right now, we need even more, intact, biodiverse, mature forests. While Vermont is trying to come up with schemes to reduce carbon in our transportation and home heating, the best bang for our buck, the easy, uncomplicated way to reduce carbon, is to NOT CUT the trees. It is a no-brainer. Thank you for considering this.

Sincerely,

Bert Picard