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First name: Jennifer Last name: Skinder Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to oppose the USFS plan to undertake large-scale industrial logging in Telephone Gap. Telephone Gap is an important wilderness area, containing mature and old forests and exists as one of the largest wildlands in the state. Large-scale logging in this forest violates President Biden's 2022 Earth Day Executive Order to protect mature forests. Telephone Gap's wilderness is important for Vermont's biodiversity, providing wildlife habitat, and connectivity. Logging this area will impact the headwaters of Otter Creek and ultimately Lake Champlain. The impacts of climate change will be mitigated by preserving wildlands such as Telephone Gap. Vermont is able to set an example for the rest of the country by maintaining mature forests as a means to establishing climate resilience.