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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Aalana Feaster and I am a City of Boston resident. I STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposed Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project (TGIRP) due to the significant and generational climate devastation it will cause. This project which will result in the logging of 11,800 acres of mature trees in Vermont's Green Mountain National Forest, that are between 80-160 years old. The benefits from these mature trees outweigh ANY minimal gain from a young tree. We are in the midst of a climate crisis, and we have to protect our natural landscape and not destroy it! Mature forests are vital to our communities; they provide ecosystem benefits such as cooling temperatures, managing stormwater runoff, wildlife habitat and pollution sequestration, for free, 24/7!

Destroying this mature forest threatens the following devastating impacts:

- *threaten the water supply for important headwaters such as Otter Creek

- *endanger the water quality of Chittenden Reservoir

- *introduce invasive species

- *displace countless wildlife; for example, the Northern Long-eared is on the brink of extinction, and calls this habitat home

- *release extremely high amounts of carbon into the air

- *significantly diminish the health benefits this forest currently provides residents!

This proposal is reckless and out of touch with the advances being made at the Federal, State and Local level to protect our environment! We should preserve and manage this land for the benefits of biodiversity, and not destroy it! Please reject this awful, destructive and environmentally out of touch project! The mature forest is the real benefit, and we should do everything we can to protect it!! The health and environmental gains will benefit us for generations to come!

Thank you,

Aalana