

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/12/2023 3:00:05 PM

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Title:

Comments: I am writing to request that the managers of the Green Mountain National Forest halt the Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project proposal and update the current forest plan , which is outdated, in order to address climate change . It should be a top priority to focus on carbon sequestration on our public forests.

I have observed over many years how degradation has occurred on state and private lands where timber production was the priority. I also understand that it is difficult to manage woodlands for old age characteristics needed for carbon storage and meet all the goals of Forest abatement. I believe that the storage value of carbon in new growth would be a fraction of that in an older growth forest setting. We need older mature hardwoods to continue storing carbon rather than the clear cutting and shelter cutting that is proposed.

I strongly urge you to consider making the land intended for cutting an ecological reserve for carbon storage and conservation of diversity. The benefits would be many with this alternative. Conserving approximately 12,000 acres could enable a far reaching demonstration of undisturbed natural forest healing, an ecological laboratory, a refuge for wildlife that need old forests, and a huge resource for recreation and mental and spiritual health.

Thanks for reading and letting me voice my thoughts on this important decision.