Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/12/2023 4:05:57 PM First name: Barbara Last name: Deal Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a longtime Vermonter and forest hiker, I am increasingly concerned about the emergence of invasive plants due to logging. Last summer, I saw more knotweed than I have ever seen in places near logging operations. I worry that these invasive plants will disrupt the balance of our forest ecosystem. Knotweed blocks sunlight from reaching the ground and stunt native plant growth, leading to fewer resources for birds and other animals in the area.

I have my doubts that loggers in the Telephone Gap will be expected to take measures to prevent the spread of these invasive plants. They seem to be cutting corners to maximize their timber harvests. They can do whatever they want on private land, but I oppose this Telephone Gap proposal because I don't want to see the forest be overwhelmed with more of these invasives. Thank you.