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Comments: I am saddened by our National Forestry Service Policy for the Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project #60192. It is a bad idea and I am totally opposed to clear cutting nearly 12,000 acres of National Forest in Chittenden, Vermont.

It is known that trees and forests are a carbon sink. Reducing carbon is imperative in the efforts to slow the climate crisis. Removing all these trees is counterproductive!

We know that millions of species are disappearing from the planet, and we also know diversity in forests is critical to the survival of many species. A forest regeneration after clear cutting does not include the same genetics as an aging forest left place. At a time of diminishing populations of wild and indigenous species - we must take care to preserve them.

Wood CAN be harvested selectively leaving the integrity of the forest intact. We cannot continue the false premise that clear cutting is a good plan. Our local County Forester, Ethan Tapper, recently recognized as Regional Forester of the Year, and others are proclaiming the importance of leaving forests intact.

To quote him:

"Our forests are resilient and adaptive but also very sensitive. Slight changes in environmental conditions, or the presence or absence or behavior of a single species can have consequences that ripple throughout a forest community, causing harmful and destabilizing impacts.

To me, cryptic function loss is a call to action. In the midst of a climate crisis and a biodiversity crisis, it is our responsibility to protect the health and the resilience of forests, and the tens of thousands of species that rely on them, and to help them recapture the critical functions that have been lost. Actively managing for diversity and complexity is part of this, as is controlling biodiversity threats like non-native invasive plants, deer overpopulations, deforestation and forest fragmentation"(Cryptic Function Loss - Ethan Tapper Jan./ 30, 2023.

We need our National Forest Service to be a role model - not a perpetuator of methods that no longer serve us.