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First name: Amy

Last name: Orange

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern:

I write to express my concern over the Telephone Gap project. Clearcutting, or shelterwood harvesting is an unacceptable approach and would destroy mature old forest. In Vermont, not even 1% of forests are considered old forest, yet about 14% of the forest in the Telephone Gap project meet this definition. We should be preserving these forests, not clearcutting them. These methods of harvesting put extreme stress on a forest as they not only destroy the trees, but they destroy the soil ecosystem as well.

Additionally, older trees store carbon better than younger trees, and since this project claims to be related to climate change adaptation, this must be considered. Harvesting mature trees will cause 40-60% of their stored carbon to be released into the atmosphere. This is counterproductive.

We do not need a tree farm replacing an old forest. We must preserve our old forests and encourage forest diversity rather than planting trees with a goal of a higher timber yield. As a Vermont resident, I do not want this project and object to it as currently presented. I also do not want my tax dollars going to a project like this, but would be happy if you would like to devote resources to preserving (i.e. leaving alone) additional forests in Vermont.

Thank you for considering my thoughts on this matter,

Amy