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Comments: I am a senior citizen of Vermont and have lived in many states and countries. In Austin, TX during the late 1980s and early nineties, I worked tirelessly to preserve Barton Springs, Barton Creek and the Edwards Aquifer from pollution and detrimental development. It has been very very discouraging and sad that our destruction and appetites seem impossible to control everywhere I lived. So, please leave Vermont's Telephone Gap unharmed and unexploited. I have copied information already sent to you for you to re-read because it is important to take extra notice.

The Telephone Gap timber sale threatens important headwaters for Otter Creek, which flows into Lake Champlain, as well as the White River, a tributary of the Connecticut River. Logging threatens water supply areas like the Chittenden Reservoir, and risks exacerbating flooding in downstream communities. Imperiled brook trout and reintroduced populations of Atlantic salmon depend on cold, clear water flowing from these high mountain streams.

Of the 11,800 acres proposed for logging, the Telephone Gap timber sale proposes nearly 2,600 acres of logging inside the 16,000-acre Pittenden Inventoried Roadless Area, second largest in the entire Green Mountain National Forest and one of the largest wildlands in Vermont. Straddling an undeveloped and rugged section of the Long Trail from Brandon Gap south towards Chittenden Reservoir, this area is important for wildlife habitat and connectivity as well as quiet recreation.