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Comments: Dear Forest Service folks,

I am writing to implore you NOT to cut any trees in the Telephone Gap area of the Green Mountain National Forest, especially the larger, older trees.

Historically, the national forests were always available for logging, but when that custom started, we were not in the climate crisis we're in now. Compare what the CO2 content in the atmosphere was in 1900 versus what it is today. Changing times, and a changing environment require a new set of rules for how best to care for our public lands, especially our forests.

We need all the carbon sequestration that is possible. The science is clear: older trees hold much more carbon than newer trees. The old growth trees may not grow as fast as young trees, but they have so much more carbon stored in them.

And we should not be clear cutting our older trees to ensure habitat for bobolinks, or any other species that were never endemic to New England forests prior to European settlements. Bobolinks lived in the prairies, not Vermont's forests. So to use them as an excuse to clear cut is more than absurd. It's a pathetic attempt to hide the truth about clearcutting behind a thinly veiled conservation-sounding falsehood.

Our national forests are public lands. Listen to the public! Everyone who knows the truth about the Forest Service plan for Telephone Gap is opposed to it.

Please don't allow cutting of old trees under the guise of being fair to the logging industry. You can make the same argument for continuing to mine and burn coal: "The coal miners need work."

Our national forest is only 30% of the forests in Vermont. Loggers can cut on the other 70% that is not PUBLIC land.

Please do the right thing and revise the original plan.

Carl Bucholt