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First name: Sue Last name: Westin Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a professional artist living in Vermont and have been painting and selling wildlife scenes for forty years. I am a member of a Master Artist of the international Society of Animal Artists and have exhibited in Vermont and in museums and galleries across the U.S.. By now you have learned of the need to protect our wild areas and our soils and air and our psychological health ... all effected by our wild places. I believe in "aesthetic ethics" and that wild places have a value beyond monetary value. My question is who profits from the proposed clearcutting, is the dollar value more important than maintaining the heritage and sacred value of old growth forests? Perhaps there is another way to provide electric and internet services, another route perhaps costing more dollars but saving what is our natural heritage long past the time the monetary profits will be spent. I vote to not allowing the Telephone Gap to be raped.