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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a young Vermonter requesting you refrain from logging the rare example of mature Northern Hardwood forest found in Telephone Gap. Additionally, I request that you do not use herbicides or pesticides in the project area.

The planet is on the brink of an irreversible climate catastrophe. The mature trees found in the Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project area play an essential role in storing carbon and alleviating the effects of climate change. This plan incorporates outdated management practices that do not address the urgency of our current global situation. Time is running out and we no longer have the luxury of using outdated plans such as these. This project has been identified by the Climate Forests Coalition as one of the ten worst timber sales in the U.S. today.

Given our planet's trajectory, what we currently know about climate change, and the importance of carbon storage, why would we eradicate some of the last mature forest we have left? Given what we know about the dangers associated with pesticides and herbicides and their effects on water quality and overall ecosystem health, why would we introduce them in the Telephone Gap project area? Given what we know about the status of endangered species, why would we take their habitat away?

How will we defend this action to future generations who will question our motives and lack of insightful decision making? Designating all or a significant portion of the project area as a climate forest reserve is an excellent alternative. The Green Mountain National Forest can take the lead on addressing one of the biggest challenges of our time while providing a place for crucial research and essential habitat.