

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/12/2023 9:52:44 PM

First name: Diedre

Last name: Gish

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear US Forest Service,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed logging in the Telephone Gap area of the Green Mountain National Forest.

I am a Vermont landowner with 100 acres in forestry current use and understand the tremendous value of Vermont's forests: their beauty, tourism value, forest product sources, carbon sequestration, and ecosystem benefits.

Climate change is an urgent threat to life on earth. This past January was the warmest January on record in New England. Species such as the northern long-eared bat are threatened. We must do everything we can to mitigate climate change and protect vital habitat of threatened species. Telephone Gap is overwhelmingly mature and old-growth forest, which is great at sequestering carbon and providing habitat. It is one of the largest wild lands in Vermont, and headwaters for the Otter Creek, which flows into Lake Champlain, and the White River which feeds into the Connecticut River. I live less than a mile from the White River and value its clear waters for recreation and fish habitat.

I would like to have the Telephone Gap area of the Green Mountain National Forest saved from the current destructive harvest plan.

Thank you