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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comment on Telephone Gap logging study

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I am a resident of Salisbury, Vermont concerned about environmental issues, particularly water quality, wildlife habitat, and climate change. I am writing to express my concern regarding the Telephone Gap logging proposal. The size of the project, the impact on older forest stands, and the building of roads in areas that have been roadless I find very problematic, as well as the possible impacts on watersheds. These are some of the reasons that I oppose this project, and strongly urge that plans be put on hold.

Though the National Forest Management Plan calls for balancing a variety of interests, that plan was written before we began to accept the reality of climate change. Sequestering carbon must be a priority, which older mature trees do well. Older trees also anchor the soil and prevent erosion, as we experience more extreme rain events. And they provide habitat for a range of insects, amphibians, birds and mammals. Healthy mature forests will provide a refuge for wildlife attempting to adapt to climate change

As I understand it, there is an additional large clearcut project planned for the GMNF. We should be working to preserve these forests, which have taken more than 100 years to re-establish themselves and using more recent science and values to make management decisions.

Please put the Telephone Gap project on hold, and work to revise the GMNF plan.

Sincerely,

Heidi Willis

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