Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/13/2023 1:12:20 AM First name: Alice Last name: White Organization:

Title:

Comments: Over the last decade, I have become increasingly concerned about the environment and sustainability. As a scientist and a professor of mechanical engineering, I have tried to educate myself about the complex issues involved so that I can advocate for policies that advance these causes. It was in this mode that I participated in a field trip to the Telephone Gap forest. Led by a Green Mountain Forest ranger, it was a multi-hour in-depth tour of the area with a focus on the history and the different kinds of forests that have resulted. I was impressed with the ranger's knowledge, but dismayed to learn that the Forest Service is working from a plan that is completely out-of-date and doesn't adequately take what we now know about climate change into account. That rare (for Vermont) old-growth forest is a priceless outdoor classroom/lab. Clear-cutting would destroy that resource and create a scar on the landscape. My question is, to what end? I haven't seen an argument for the logging that doesn't draw from antiquated views on "forest management." Effectively combatting climate change will require us to work together to develop new strategies and put them into action quickly, before it is too late.