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First name: Linda Last name: Bailey Organization:

Title:

Comments: I do not support the planned logging activity and timber sale that the Forest Service proposes for the Telephone Gap area. Now is not the time to be dramatically increasing the amount of tree removal planned for Vermont, and this forest in particular. Removing the wide-scale logging proposal would enable the mature trees found in this area to continue to grow and perform the critical role of sequestering carbon. We cannot get back the thousands of acres of mature forest that have already been cut, but we can stop making that mistake. Maintaining this forest area with out the planned logging also serves to protect water quality downstream, preserve water resources, support habitat for wildlife species that are critically threatened, and keep wildlands intact. Pursuing the timber sale and logging would violate President Biden's executive order from 2022, which directs the Forest Service to protect forests for the benefit of the planet and biodiversity. Please use that directive and the perspective of the planet and biodiversity when making any decisions.