Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/13/2023 2:55:27 PM First name: Theora Last name: Ward Organization:

Title:

Comments: We now know that the best way to protect our forests is to leave them alone. Forests manage themselves far better than any "Forest Service" or logging company. There is solid scientific research to back up this fact and also the fact that old trees sequester more carbon than young trees. Our forests are the nations largest terrestrial sink. Besides the incalculable job they do in sequestering carbon in this critical time of climate chaos they also protect water quality, mitigating drought and flooding and provide habitat for wildlife and insects that are all part of the interwoven fabric of the forest ecosystem.

Logging releases vast amounts of carbon into the atmosphere, destroys habitat and forest diversity .

The present logging plan even includes 2500 acres of one of Vermonts unprotected wildlands - basically a roadless area south of Brandon Gap. This old growth forest contains trees up to 160 years old. With old growth forest so scarce at this time it is unconscionable to destroy these trees.

It is time we as a people take action to preserve our planet for future generations. saving our forests is one of the tools we have to reach this goals. This logging project will financially benefit a few at the detriment of our children and grandchildren.