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First name: Abigail
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Hello, I am a first year student at Castleton University. Spreading copious amounts of money to get my degree in Wildlife and Forestry Conservation. Hence my interest in sending you this comment. I am getting my degree in hope to one day help protect and save the environment. When finding out about the Telephone Gap project I was deeply disheartened. Living so close to the Green Mountain Forest, I never fail to acknowledge and witness its beauty. In my first year of college I have taken Environmental chemistry, Natural resource management, Wildlife management, and Environmental ethics. In every one of these classes climate change and CO2 emissions is a common discussion topic, considering its importance. Due to the amount of information on all different sides of climate change, Chemically, ethical, management centered, ect. While I am fair from an expert on the topic, this logging plan has extremely damaging outcomes. Following a Forest plan from 2006 when climate change has become a much greater problem is detrimental to future conservation. Old forests are very beneficial to climate change, but cutting them down is even more damaging. Old forests absorb and store a huge 50% of the above ground carbon worldwide. 50%; That is a very large sum of carbon. New England's forests are one of the largest. They could store two to four times more carbon if we just let them grow(UVM study). There is no loss in keeping the forest as it is. It would save money, work, and time. Not worth the recreational human gain when climate change is rapidly increasing and without change we won't be able to enjoy the natural world for much longer. The Global Carbon Budget Tracker report of 2022 says we only have 9 years left before we reach the tipping point. I am graduating from college after my junior year, which is 3 years already. If I decide to go to grad school that is 4 more years. 7 years until I am done school and can start my career in conservation. However, if we stay on this path and keep tearing down the natural world, that gives me 2 years before we reach the tipping point and can't go back, ever. I want to be able to have a career in which I make a difference in environmental conservation. Please don't tear down 11,800 acres of the forest: A large sum of my studies will be surrounded, The deep complex ecosystem that resides there, and the overall beautiful carbon storage system without any need for human interference. A natural method of carbon removal from the atmosphere; Cutting it all down would be devastating, irreversibly damaging, and not well thought through.