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First name: Catr Last name: Buxton Organization:

Title:

Comments: There is a vast arc of disagreement about how Vermont should manage it's forests going forward, among very smart, wise, considerate, skilled people of all walks of life. Our world is changing rapidly and our global forest networks are at risk. We have a responsibility to continue learning. Our learning and understanding of forest ecosystems including new understandings about the fungal networks providing new known (and unknown) ecosystem functions, continue to grow. We have made mistakes and have had some successes in managing forests. We will continue to do both! We must leave room for the emergence of new understandings of how ecosystems function while improving our stewardship existing biodiverse landscapes including forests of all ages as they create conditions for so many other beings to live. I would like to see the Telephone Gap left alone to grow for future generations. We must have areas where we do not manage, and areas of a variety of management strategies that are ecologically sound. Our forest products industry is important, wood is an important energy and heating source, we all need to build and repair BUT I think if we listen to all of the science we will find that trying different strategies in different places based on the context of the ecosystem needs balanced with our use-needs, we will find a better solution than clear-cutting or "shelter cutting" 11,000 acres of forest that is a lot older than me and likely you, maybe even combined. Please respect that our forests are part of the COMMONS. We cannot and must not extract all of the resources. We can change plans. We can adjust our thinking. We can find creative solutions that are well thought out and include considerations for all of the stakeholders, not just humans.