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Comments: I am writing to express my strong opposition to the US Forest Service's plans to log older and mature forests in Vermont's Telephone Gap area. I believe that this proposal not only threatens the natural habitat of wildlife, but also poses significant environmental risks to neighboring communities.

Firstly, the proposed plans do not take into consideration the Northern Long-Eared Bat, which is now listed as an endangered species. This means that the planned logging could have devastating effects on the bat's habitat and ultimately lead to the extinction of this species.

Secondly, older forests store more carbon than younger forests and are more resilient to disease and the impacts of climate change. The logging of older forests would release this carbon into the atmosphere, contributing to global warming and climate change.

Thirdly, logging also creates flooding risk for neighboring communities, as determined by studies by Vermont Forests and Public Recreation. The loss of older trees and their extensive root systems reduces the soil's ability to retain water and increases the likelihood of flooding.

Furthermore, the logging plans are not in accordance with the recent Biden decree to survey all old forests on federal lands, with Vermont's Conservation Design, which calls for protecting 9% of forests to grow old, or with the Vermont Climate Solutions Act. This indicates a lack of adherence to federal and state regulations that are designed to protect the environment and mitigate the effects of climate change.

It is also worth noting that the logs are likely headed to pulp mills in Quebec, and onwards to China - we are exporting deforestation. This is unacceptable, as it not only contributes to the degradation of our natural resources but also supports unsustainable practices in other parts of the world.

In light of these concerns, I urge you to reconsider the logging plans and instead pursue more sustainable and environmentally responsible alternatives. We cannot afford to sacrifice our natural resources for short-term gains, and I implore you to take a long-term view in the management of our forests.