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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

Thank you for the planting of new climate adaptable tree species, heat tolerant, on some south facing areas as a forward thinking move. Thank you for trying to contain and eradicate invasive pests in your new management plans.

I am dead against logging in or creating new roads, landings or game management clearcuts in Vermont's road less areas. This includes in the Telephone Gap area. The untrammled conditions necessary for future wilderness designation for areas in the Green Mountain National Forest will be unnecessarily degraded by including these currently roadless areas in a new forest management plan. Our states' last old growth trees exist in protected areas, on private lands or in areas that are functionally inaccessible through steep terrain or lack of roads.

Glastonbury Wilderness area in Southern Vermont comes to mind and a road less section I recently wandered upon through 6 foot tall hobble brush that took serious effort to reach. I was in awe of the handfull of massive old growth beech trees we discovered. Truth be told there are very few deer in the area but the elevation with deep winter snow prevents most deer from living here anyway.

As we all know old growth forests develop by simply escaping destructive forces and growing over the centuries. Trees fall and fire impacts the trees but industrial logging with its artificial processes of selection which includes large scale removal of trees including dead and dying trees, and game management clearcuts eliminate niche habitats for many species including birds and bats. In addition the soil may suffer compaction. A visit to Muir Woods outside San Francisco will inspire anyone and we can witness the ancient trees as they lie dead on the ground , unmanipulated and unmanaged by man.

The fallen dead trees fulfil many functions becoming soil and forming homes for many unique species.

Please eliminate plans to log and create roads and clear cuts in road less areas of the Telephone Gap Area. We have few areas with potential to become old growth areas. We should leave the ones we have alone to develop without our interference, no matter how good the intentions.

Thank you,  
Daniel