

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/13/2023 10:01:55 PM

First name: Janet

Last name: Cason

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I live in Massachusetts, but I am deeply troubled by the proposed Telephone Gap logging project in Vermont's Green Mountain National Forest. This is an old growth forest with trees 80 to 160 years old that are many times more efficient at removing CO2 from the air than younger trees. Keeping old growth forest systems intact is essential for reducing CO2 and other pollutants in the air. It takes decades for newly planted trees to absorb the same amount of CO2 released by the cut trees and emitted by the gasoline powered machines that cut them. We don't have that much time. We have less than a decade to reduce our emissions enough to keep the global temperature from rising more than 1.5 degrees Celsius and thus prevent runaway warming. We cannot accomplish this by just reducing our emissions. We also need the old growth forests to help us. Newly planted trees can never make up for all the CO2 that the old trees would have continued to capture and store if they had been allowed to live. In addition, the Green Mountain National Forest is essential for filtering and regulating rain water for the area such as water that supplies Chittenden Reservoir. In conclusion, Green Mountain National Forest is a precious natural resource that can never be replaced. The Telephone Gap project (even on a smaller scale) would destroy the forest's ability to regulate temperature, provide clean air, and insure a clean water supply for the area. It is a reckless project that should not be approved. Stop the Telephone Gap project.