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Title:

Comments: I am writing to beg you: DO NOT LOG in the Telephone Gap. This is an OLD GROWTH FOREST and the heart and soul of Vermont. It brims with good energy and deserves human care and protection. It is our national, and our human duty to love and care for these old trees as they care for all species around them. This is the great circle of care that we are here to take part in. I have walked and prayed in this forest. I beg you to maintain it.

In addition to my personal heart call, I must add the following argument:

Mature and old-growth forests excel at removing and storing carbon from the atmosphere. And yet, 92% of the areas proposed for logging in the Telephone Gap timber sale are classified as mature or old by the Green Mountain National Forest, violating President Biden's historic Executive Order from Earth Day 2022, which directed the US Forest Service to protect these forests for the benefit of the climate and biodiversity.

In December, the US Forest Service withdrew a timber sale in Oregon called "Flat Country" because it targeted mature forests of up to 150 years in age. Telephone Gap proposes logging forests up to 160 years in age. If Flat Country was important to withdraw, why is the Telephone Gap timber sale moving forward? Please withdraw this sale. Thank you.