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Comments: I would like to request that you reconsider the Telephone Gap Project. What may have been considered best conservation practices in the past is not what is called for today. Earth's climate change timeline does not call for management or conservation. It calls for preservation.

The plan calls for the harvesting of mature growth trees which provide a natural source of carbon sequestration. Under current and future climate conditions, there is no guarantee that the trees you plan to harvest will or even can be replaced by comparable growth.

The planned and purposeful use of insecticides in wetland areas to eradicate an invasive insect which arrived on this continent through unintended means defies not only environmental best practices but also common sense. The environmental impact on wetland habitats and watersheds will be greater than the loss of ash trees in this specific region of VT.

The project proposal argues that the work will create more recreation opportunities and make the forested land more accessible to outdoor enthusiasts. The viewpoint that humans need access to every piece of land in existence has played a major role in habitat destruction and the loss of forested spaces.

The time to preserve is now. Let's add the Telephone Gap Wilderness Preserve to the growing list of protected lands in this state and around the country.