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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

I am deeply concerned about the proposed Telephone Gap logging project in Vermont. I believe that this project is not only a threat to the ecological health of the area but also violates federal law, particularly with regards to logging in roadless areas.

The Roadless Area Conservation Rule, also known as the Roadless Rule, was established by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in 2001 to protect the country's roadless areas from logging and other types of development. The rule prohibits road construction and timber harvesting in designated roadless areas, which are defined as areas of at least 5,000 acres that have no roads or are located more than one mile from a road.

Logging in roadless areas can have significant negative impacts on the environment and the local community. These areas often provide critical habitat for wildlife and contribute to the overall ecological health of the surrounding region. Furthermore, logging in roadless areas can have detrimental effects on water quality and can increase the risk of soil erosion and landslides.

In addition, mature and old-growth forests are effective at sequestering carbon, which helps to mitigate the effects of climate change. Logging these forests not only releases stored carbon into the atmosphere but also reduces the forest's ability to sequester carbon in the future.

I believe that it is immoral and irresponsible to log roadless areas, especially those that have been designated as critical habitat or have other important ecological or cultural values. Instead, I urge the Forest Service to focus on sustainable and responsible forest management practices that prioritize ecological health and the well-being of local communities.

The proposed Telephone Gap logging project violates federal law. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for actions that may significantly affect the quality of the human environment. I urge the Forest Service to conduct a thorough environmental analysis of the proposed project and to consider alternative management strategies that are more consistent with the values and goals of the Roadless Rule.

Therefore, I urge the Forest Service to reconsider the proposed Telephone Gap logging project and instead focus on more sustainable and responsible forest management practices that prioritize ecological health and the well-being of local communities. The Forest Service should respect the Roadless Rule and the values it represents. Alternative forest management practices, such as selective logging and thinning, can be used to achieve management objectives while still protecting critical habitats and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Sincerely,

Chris Karounos