

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/1/2023 5:00:00 AM

First name: Karen

Last name: Schelling

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to you to ask for support in limiting or even better deciding not to log any further into the Green Mountain National Forest. I am a long-time Vermonter; my primary residency is in Putney, but we are blessed to also have bought a cabin in Stockbridge Vermont in 1988. We started hiking up in the Bingo Creek Basin area probably in the early 90s, or our local Stockbridge neighbors sharing with us special trails that lead to special waterfalls. The kind of locations where you would swear the moss is 12 inches thick and your footprints might be the only ones that this part of the forest would see for a while. With each visit, we ask ourselves what is so precious about these places, the solitude, the air, the water, the wildness, and then most of all the trees!!!!

Imagine how brokenhearted we are now when we drive up to the area that was clear-cut. Yes, I understand these pines were planted, but clear-cutting was that necessary. That part is done and can't be returned, I'll go up there from time to time and check on how the place is healing itself- this summer it was new jewelweed growth and hummingbirds.

I want to focus on the Telephone Gap. I know you know all the science, and I could do a big copy and paste here of information that is very accurate and easy to read, StandingTrees.org is a good place to go for information. But better yet, let me just say as a Vermonter, an American, a citizen on the earth and hopefully one day a grandmother who will get to see her grandchildren thrive on our planet.

- I ask you please to reconsider the Telephone Gap project. Be modern. See what has changed since the beginning planning stages of this project on a national level. The president has signed new orders increasing protection for federal lands, and Vermont is setting new standards for conservation. Thank you for your time and consideration.