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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my concern about the U.S. Forest Service's plan to clear cut in the Telephone Gap area in Vermont. Old growth and other mature forests provide many benefits for air and water. They also provide valuable habitat for many species of wildlife including some whose numbers are of concern. Since 1963 the world has lost 2/3 of its wildlife...37,400 species are on the verge of extinction. Since 1974 bird numbers have declined by 29%. These numbers are staggering. Humans should be working hard to preserve habitat of all kinds, not clear cutting forests which will not simply destroy the habitat that the forest provides but also pollute nearby rivers, like the White River and Otter Creek, destroying habitat for the fish and other aquatic species that use these waters. With climate change always looming we should be protecting large stands of forest that help cool the planet. Please leave the trees in Telephone Gap standing and find ways to severely limit logging everywhere in Vermont and beyond. Instead, work to develop more ways to reuse and recycle. Encourage people to stop buying products they don't really need. Our children and grandchildren need a healthy planet to live on. Please stop and think about what you're doing. Don't clear cut Telephone Gap...or anywhere else. Thank you.