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First name: Chris

Last name: Balch

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Telephone Gap timber sale has been called one of the ten worst projects in the U.S. by Climate Forests, a national coalition of 120 environmental groups. This highly destructive logging job would devastate an area larger than the City of Burlington, Vermont. It endangers the water quality of the White River and Otter Creek, puts downstream communities in greater danger of flooding, risks introducing invasive species, and destroys habitat needed by threatened and endangered species.

The landscape targeted for logging includes a vast, 16,000-acre "Inventoried Roadless Area" and forests with major concentrations of mature and late-successional trees between 80-160 years old.

The Green Mountain National Forest has older, healthier forests than most in New England; we should manage this public land for the benefit of the climate, clean water, and biodiversity, and simple beauty - not cut it down.

The International Panel on Climate Change states that time is running out for action. On the global scale, forest protection represents approximately half or more of the climate change mitigation needed to hold temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Research shows that New England's forests could store two to four times more carbon if we let them grow old.

On Earth Day of 2022, President Biden issued an historic Executive Order directing the US Forest Service to conserve mature and old-growth forests to benefit the climate and biodiversity.

These are ALL telling reasons why this project should not go forward.

Traditionally, the USFS does NOT listen to the people, nor good science when making these determinations. The USFS only listens to the bidders - the capitalists intent on wringing every dollar from every natural resource regardless of the destruction caused.

I call you out. I demand you listen to the people and listen to and implement good science, and not listen to the capitalists.

I demand you protect the forest, not facilitate exploitation. Stop this project now.