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Comments: Dear Forest Service

Thank you for this opportunity to have a discourse on the proposed Telephone Gap Project.

I read as much of the agenda as possible. Please do not clear-cut 11,000 plus acres of forest. No old-growth trees should be sacrificed.

In a study of 700,000 old trees in countries around the world(author Peter Wohlleben a former forester) old growth trees are more productive, grow faster and have better carbon sequestration/ help with greenhouse gases.

I was confused by the modifications table on your website which states "high quality mature and old growth hardwood, yellow birch and red spruce" are being considered, yet in another section the proposed harvest does not include Old Growth Trees. (Storymap)

Which is correct?

A wide variety of habitats for animals, birds, and plants some of which are rare, endangered or threatened will be disrupted and biodiversity jeopardized.

Displacement leads to extinction.

Under VTfish and wildlife.com there is a post-mortem list of the animals already lost including birds, bumblebees, butterflies, mammals, fish, mussels, and vertebrates.

With the sacrifice of trees, soil erosion and changes to the water cycle occur. We are already at the tipping point with global warming.

I would strongly suggest looking into the Minominee Indians in northern Wisconsin who have the "first sustained yield forest management system in the country"(see Tree Keepers: Where Sustaining the Forest is a Tribal Tradition (e360.yale.edu article by Fred Pearce)They take only the trees that are weak, sick or dying.

They are 93% forested and have been around for 150 years, compared to Chittenden area's 61%. You have lost over one-third of the forest there. In 1880, two-thirds of the forest was gone because of abuse and neglect.(that's from your website)

What the Minominee say is "most foresters are trained to cut the best trees and leave the sick ones behind. We do the opposite". The Indians are the stewards of the Earth, it would behoove us to listen to them.

Maybe send your silviculturists/forest ecologists there... Pause any cutting of trees.

In your proposed protocol, you mention the use of herbicide(Roundup/glyphosate?) in the water supply as a remedial measure for the oak? trees which is disturbing.

There has to be a non-toxic option.

Yes, there are legitimate concerns with the bark beetle and emerald ash borer.

Of course, we want to keep our oak trees, but not at the expense of the aquatic life, pregnant women, children, and communities.

And what about animals that drink the water supply near the designated herbicide location?

According to the NIH(National Institute of Health-ncbi.nlm.nih.gov) under the National Library of Medicine, glyphosate/Roundup is "probably carcinogenic to humans" and can result in "neurotoxicity in fish." The effects are cumulative.

Besides neurotoxic effects, the "herbicide" deregulates the signaling pathways of the nervous system, creates oxidative stress, neuro-inflammation, and mitochondrial dysfunction.

To quote from the NIH, "the main driver of this success has been the economic benefits in the agricultural sector after the introduction of genetically modified crops".

Economic enrichment of the few at the expense of the next 7 generations of people. The same goes for logging

interests seeing trees as nothing more than a cash crop.

The "19th-century view of progress(Manifest Destiny)viewed the land and its occupants as a blank slate, its current inhabitants and systems were like so many weeds"(author Jenny Odell) Has anything changed since 1880?

As for the trees, everything goes when everything's gone. Selling the wilderness of the soul puts us in danger. We are all endangered species.(this is a quote from somebody)
Thanks for listening and best regards.

Jennifer Lamb