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First name: Elizabeth

Last name: Curry

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear US Forest Service Officials,

My family and I have enjoyed many restful and rejuvenating weekends in the Green Mt National Forest at the Rochester and Hancock locations for over 40 years. We've stayed at a small cabin/camp owned by friends and can never forget the moments of feeling the sun hit the meadows and forest floors while walking amongst the late-successional and old-growth stands where we've seen and heard so much wildlife that is normally hidden from human sight. These peaceful times remind us of the importance of preserving and protecting these corridors which, like land itself, cannot be replaced within our lifetimes.

This letter is to thank you for working with Vermonters to develop the Alternatives C and D that were created after your initial Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project, to incorporate diverse age and class representation, climate-resilient forestry, and to enhance late-successional and old-growth forest attributes. I urge you to proceed with Alternative C or Alternative D to ensure that the IRP meets forest plan goals while demonstrating how to protect and further late-successional and old-growth forests for carbon storage, late seral wildlife habitat conditions, and structurally complex forest conditions. These outcomes will have multiple, lasting benefits for generations of humans and wildlife to come

It is imperative from a climate-resiliency standpoint that we not harvest in stands that are over 150 years old. There is no need to do this, as there are plenty of sustainable forest strategies that allow for harvesting and replanting rapid-succession growth on lands where old growth has already been disassembled. Please adopt this critical path that protects our remaining late succession and old growth stands in your next IRP.

Many thanks for your consideration of this letter,

Liz Curry

Burlington, VT