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First name: George Last name: Tucker Organization:

Title:

Comments: I support the implementation of Alternative B. Much of the forests in Vermont, including the Green Mountain National forest, are homogenous forests of 80 to 100 year old trees primarily comprised of beech and maple. Stands of white birch, aspen and other early successional intolerant species are disappearing or have already disappeared from the landscape. A forest that is diverse in species and age classes is a forest that provides habitat for many more species of wildlife than homogenous stands that are all the same age with a less diverse tree, shrub and forb mix. Timber harvesting will help achieve this need. As we face a changing climate, a more diverse forest is more resilient to climate change impacts. Forest management also supports local Vermonters who work in the forest products industry. This is an industry that needs to be maintained in Vermont. Please choose Alternative B. It is the smart choice.