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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a property owner and New England native, I STRONGLY OPPOSE the US Forest Service Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project. Cutting down 10,000 acres of mature and old-growth forest is an abomination of nature and preservation of our air, forests, and the natural landscape of this great land of ours.

"Wildlife habitat enhancement" for rare species rehabilitation has become a euphemism for remaking the natural landscape by various state wildlife agencies. This attempt to remake our natural environment by clear-cutting forests ALREADY IN USE by the wildlife that sustain the ecosystem is MORE IMPORTANT than rehabilitating species which may or may not survive on their own. The natural evolution of living creatures eliminates species which are not suitable for such environments over time through natural selection, and so such "wildlife habitat enhancement" is RECKLESS and ignorant, as is neglecting the effect it will have on New England's ability to sequester carbon for the next 200 years. The science does NOT back up this clear-cutting project and the US Forest Service must TERMINATE this project now.

ALL NEW ENGLANDERS MUST OPPOSE this project for the following reasons:

The US Forest Service must produce a much more rigorous Environmental Impact Statement to determine the significance of its proposed management actions in the Telephone Gap landscape. An Environmental Assessment doesn't "cut it" with so much at stake.

I encourage the US Forest Service to select Alternative A, No Action, which would allow the forests of the Telephone Gap landscape to continue to grow old for the benefit of biodiversity and the climate.

Although it is prudent that the Forest Service developed Alternatives C and D which propose changes that would lower the intensity of timber harvest in a subset of mature and old forests, and would reduce the miles of roads constructed in the project area, these alternatives do NOT go nearly far enough to honor the intent of President Biden's Executive Order on conserving mature and old-growth forests.

I am asking the Forest Service to sustain the environment of Vermont and all of New England by protecting ALL MATURE STANDS over the age of 80 in the Telephone Gap landscape and across the entire Green Mountain National Forest, which will have the added benefit of helping to protect important habitat for the endangered Northern Long-eared Bat.

I nearby call for an END TO LOGGING in all Inventoried Roadless Areas, including the 16,000-acre Pittenden Inventoried Roadless Area in the Telephone Gap project area, to protect un-fragmented wildlife habitat and clean water, and defend downstream communities from flooding.'

Projects such as Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project give the US Forest Service, as well as our Federal Government and its leaders a POOR REPUTATION and hurt them in the eyes of their constituency, the American people. No matter what benefits the US Forest Service THINKS this project has, those benefits are based in poor science and ignorance. PRESERVATION OF OUR NATURAL OLD AND MATURE GROWTH FORESTS IS PARAMOUNT to our future as a country, for the wildlife ecosystem they maintain, and more important ANY rare wildlife species habitat rehabilitation or forest management needs.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jesse Gebryel