

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/8/2024 11:55:44 AM

First name: Daniel

Last name: Brett

Organization:

Title:

Comments: For far too long, timber-harvesting interests have dominated US Forest Service culture and guided decision-making regarding land management. The Telephone Gap proposal is a perfect example of this mindset. The vast majority of old-growth forest in Vermont has long-since been destroyed, yet rather than allowing mature forests to continue along the path to replacing those lost ecosystems, GMNF is proposing to cut them down to create successional habitats we already have plenty of. This seems a thinly-veiled rationale for allowing timber interests access to cheap wood.

At a time when carbon sequestration has become necessary to ensure human survival, reducing the harvest of trees should be a much higher priority than ever before. Recent Presidential guidance has made this clear, yet it continues to be ignored by GMNF leadership. I prefer the option of benign neglect with respect to Telephone Gap. Leave it alone. These forests do not need us. But we need them, now more than ever.