

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/8/2024 1:06:59 PM

First name: Dee

Last name: Gish

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing with concerns over the proposal to log 12,000 acres of the Green Mountain National Forest Telephone Gap area near Pittsford, VT. I strongly believe the Telephone Gap logging project should be put on hold at least until early 2025 when the US Forest Service will conduct a nationwide Forest Plan amendment process. The amendment will update agency stewardship of mature and old-growth forests, spurred by President Biden's Executive Order. The current GMNF Plan that Telephone Gap is based on was done in 2006 before much of the current best science on climate and forests had been done. We see firsthand the consequences of climate change in Vermont - record temperatures and extreme weather events like this past summer's flooding. Mature forests are invaluable in their ability to store carbon, help prevent flooding, and provide habitat to many vital species of animals and plants in Vermont. Please put this logging project on hold.