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Comments: It seems to me that there has been far too little harvesting on the Green Mountain National Forest. This constricts the resource base upon which the rural forest products economy depends. It also has had an adverse affect on amount of early succession habitat, which in turn, is adverse for populations of song birds, as well as ruffed grouse, white tailed deer, and snowshoe hare. The National Forest should be a model of good management, in accord with sound principles of forest management. And educational example. The constriction on harvesting, and the artificial definition of old growth, which defines timber ready to harvest as trees must not be harvested because they eventually will be old growth, violates sound forestry principles. By that standard, almost any tree is potential old growth. Similarly for the shift that occurs when we restrict harvesting here, requiring that the products we use be made from forest products harvested in other parts of the world, where environmental protections are much lower than here. We can harvest and manage in a way that leaves our forest more healthy, environmentally sound, and more productive. Then there are all the decent, hardworking people whose families depend on the harvest of forest products -- harvesting, management, trucking, and adding value at mills and factories making lumber, furniture, cabinetry, houses, paper, and energy. And the communities that depend on these people as a market for groceries and other products and services. When these workers and their families disappear, the rural community culture is hurt too. Then there is the matter of the Carbon Cycle. Wood products, particularly hardwood furniture, flooring, and cabinetry store Carbon for decades, even centuries. And the young trees that replace the trees harvested for hardwood lumber, absorb Carbon Dioxide at a faster rate. Old trees, though they may store Carbon for much of their lives, eventually get to the point where they absorb no Carbon Dioxide, and actually start emitting Carbon Dioxide. Working forests, compared with forests that are not managed and harvested, keep absorbing Carbon Dioxide, at a faster rate, while storing Carbon in the product of the forest, as well as the forest itself.