

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/9/2024 1:58:30 AM

First name: Katrina

Last name: Schwarz

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a current Vermonter and strong advocate for our forests and our planet, I oppose the proposed plan for logging at Telephone Gap. While I understand that some logging is necessary for our environment and economy, I know that the extent of the proposed plan is far too extreme. Despite being credited as a green state, only 3% of Vermont forests are truly protected from logging. As a result, we have only a tiny percentage of Old Growth Forests. Old Growth Forests are our best resource as we face the climate crisis. Our forests are carbon powerhouses, and Old Growth Forests specifically are important to sequester and store carbon. While it is a common misconception that new forests are better than Old Growth forests for carbon storage, the reality is that the older a forest gets, the more carbon it is able to store. Additionally, forests hold a large proportion of all biodiversity in Vermont. Biodiversity is critical for protecting the environment, maintaining our ecosystems, disease prevention, and much more. Therefore, logging places our natural equilibrium at risk. There are countless reasons that this logging project is dangerous and unnecessary, and I urge all those involved to take the time to reconsider. Please understand that forests are our lifeline, and that this project directly puts the well-being of Vermont and all who live here at risk.