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Comments: Because of the certainty that Vermont will experience increasingly heavy precipitation for at least the next century, this is an especially important time to preserve both our old growth forests and to nurture the forests that will mature into old growth stands in the future. The trees' roots and canopies help control flooding and absorb carbon dioxide.

My wife and I recently saw the two exhibitions of Lyman Orton's collection of paintings of typical Vermont lives and landscapes between 1910 and 1950. It was during this time that people from "away" began moving to Vermont, both seasonally and permanently. Many of the artists were supported by FDR's WPA. Then, in the late 1960's, there was another influx of "back to the land" young people, many of whom are now permanent residents. These are changes in the state's demographics that are not controllable. Vermont is a uniquely beautiful state and many people have chosen to live here. The Green Mountain's forests are not only a major part of Vermont's beauty, they are also an important carbon sink that contributes to the world's effort to control global warming. Vermont is struggling to adapt to the destructive increase in precipitation which is destroying roads, bridges, fields, and homes, as well as costing taxpayers enormous amounts of money.

Preserving Vermont's old growth forests is an important part of ensuring the state's environmental and economic future.

Please protect and preserve both the national and state-owned forests.