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Comments: The Forest Service seems to be approaching this project in a vacuum. We are in the throes of a climate crisis where the only way we have to reduce the existing CO₂ in the atmosphere is by plant sequestration with our forests being the largest provider this process. The idea of diversity is a good and noble pursuit, but the primary goal of the Forest Service at this time needs to be allowing our woods to do the job needed at this time: sequestering carbon and an unmanaged forest provides that better than a managed forest at least according to Ethen Tapper our last Chittenden County Forester. In last spring's edition of Branch Out, a publication of the Burlington City tree farm, he stated, "Recent information indicates that an unmanaged forest sequesters more carbon than a managed one."

There is plenty of time to experiment with forest diversity when the climate crisis has passed but without a planet climate under control, all the diversity planning will be for nothing. If we don't reduce the CO₂ in the air, the temperature will keep rising and our forests are our best hope to do this.

Please reconsider any logging in the Telephone Gap area and be carbon stewards for the planet. - for my children and grandchildren as well as for you and yours.