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First name: Judith

Last name: Schwartz

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To the Forest Service:

I am an environmental journalist based in Bennington and am vehemently against the proposed Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project. I have written about the importance of intact forests for resilience to global heating and challenges like floods, droughts and wildfires in my three books as well as publications like Scientific American, UK Guardian and Mongabay. I emphasize "intact" because forests are more than the sum of their trees. To quote the title of a talk I recently gave at the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center, "Forest Is A Verb": they have ecological functions, including driving the movement of moisture and wind, that are undermined when they are logged or broken up by roads. As theoretical physicist Anastassia Makarieva put it, "The biosphere is divided between natural ecosystems that work for stability and disturbed ecosystems that cannot do that work." At a time when forests and other landscapes are degrading due to development, extreme weather, and fires, we need ecosystems like the Telephone Gap area to stay intact and provide a buffer to climate impacts.

Please listen to the many, many people who care about Vermont's forests and are begging you to not disturb this one.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith D. Schwartz
Bennington, Vermont
www.judithdschwartz.com