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Comments: I am writing in opposition to the Telephone Gap project which includes logging in old growth areas, a rare type of forest the world (and the United States which has very little left at this point) should be protecting with its life. It happens to also be the most beneficial. This project ignores our crucial environmental crossroads. The earth and all of its inhabitants cannot afford shortsighted projects like this one to move forward.

In the words of of House Representative Amy Sheldon, D-Middlebury: "In the face of floods and extinctions, protecting roadless areas and mature forests like those in the Telephone Gap landscape is a no-brainer. It's a gift to future generations who will look back on us with gratitude and pride. We can and must do better by our National Forest."

Extensive, roadless areas are rare in Vermont. They help mitigate climate change and serve as refuge for rare species. When older growth in higher elevations is cut, invasive species move in. The benefits to any creation of early successional habitat are only temporary; in the longterm, there is great imbalance.

Thank you for listening.