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Comments: I am writing with objections to the Telephone Gap project. This is the third letter I have submitted about the forest management plan for this particular forest.

First of all, it is hard to believe that the Forest Service is still planning to log significant acreage of mature and old growth areas of the Green Mountain National Forest. Are science, an Executive Order, thousands of citizens' comments, and recognition of the importance of old growth and mature forests by the USDA itself not enough to change your mind? Cutting more than a quarter of the last remaining old growth forest in the GMNF is most certainly a significant impact!

Since your initial species inventory, there have been several documented sightings of Canada lynx in the area around Chittenden and Addison County. Your biological evaluation concluded that there are no lynx here and they aren't likely to arrive in the foreseeable future. But you were incorrect about the lynx, and I wonder what other rare and endangered species you missed or dismissed in your assessment. Wildlife depends on intact forest ecology, and logging destroys forest ecology.

Essentially, I think the Forest Service is using outdated methods and information to make a faulty case for the promotion of logging. This is not the strategy we need right now. The forests need us to leave them alone: let them continue sequestering carbon, providing habitat, absorbing water to prevent flooding downstream, and so much more. Building roads and timber harvesting are not going to support the long term needs and goals of our public forests, they are going to further fragment the forest and damage the ecology.

Please cancel all plans for logging in the Telephone Gap area.

Thank you.