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Comments: As a Vermonter who cares deeply about our state's public forest and a viable future for our communities, I write to object to the Telephone Gap logging project.

Mature forests are a haven for biodiversity, a buffer against the escalating climate crisis, and a source of joy and refuge for me and many other people I know. Old-growth forests are especially valuable, and rare in Vermont-the Forest Services estimates that only 2,000 acres of old-growth exist in Vermont, and this project proposes to cut up to 800 of those.

Scientists increasingly agree that no kind of logging serves the health of a forest. In this time of climate crisis, as wildfires are destroying millions of acres of trees in other regions, our forests are already struggling to survive temperature extremes, diseases and invasive species. The last thing we should be doing is cutting down more trees. This is a critical time for slowing climate change, and forests-especially old ones-are one of our best hopes for mitigating the cycle of escalating natural disasters.

Please cancel this project.