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Comments: I hope that the Telephone Gap cutting project will NOT go forward. Old growth forests are rare and precious, and should be preserved in the wild state. They cannot be replaced. Sources of wood, and opportunities for recreation, can be found elsewhere.

In addition, the cutting will release 254,556 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere. We should be finding new ways to sequester carbon, instead of destroying those that we already have.

Vermonters want public entities to be stewards of our landscape, not embrace destruction. If we can't replace it, it is not ethical to destroy it.