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Title:

Comments: Date Submitted: January 17, 2025

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Good Morning, U.S. Forest Service,

"These Green Mountains" Vermont State Song

"These green hills and silver waters

"Are my home- they belong to me"(all).

Please halt the proposed logging of 11,000 acres of Vermont's Telephone Gap public forest. This is a matter of life and death for 11,000 acres of mature, old-growth forest, which cannot be recreated in hundreds of years. This is life and death for the thousands of species, large and small, that thrive in these public lands enjoyed by so many of us. This forest does not need us to "manage it".

Our duty as Vermonters is to protect and preserve Vermont's amazing natural beauty of green mountains, rolling hills, lakes, ponds, rivers, and the creatures who inhabit these areas for current and future generations. Please.

I want my children's children to stand in an unspoiled, dense, old-growth forest and feel the magic. We humans ruin so many things. Let's not do it here as well. As Vermont citizens we must do everything we can to help mitigate climate change. How can we in good conscience, willingly vomit over a quarter of a million tons of CO2e into our environment? It's outrageous!

How can the "current" Forestry Plan be SO outdated that it does NOT even mention climate change? Is this the best we can do? I think not. We must rethink our forestry priorities, now.

Please step back. Widen your lens on this proposed project. Intelligence, wisdom, and restraint must prevail. Protect the Telephone Gaps Public Forest from being destroyed. "Let it Be."

Passionately,

Katherine Babbott