

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/17/2025 6:07:39 PM

First name: Diedre

Last name: Gish

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to demand that the Telephone Gap logging project be canceled in the Green Mountain National Forest in Vermont . I live in the downstream watershed downstream near the White River and am concerned about water quality and flood resiliency. I am also terribly concerned about climate change and the precedent that this project would set for other cherished public lands. I enjoy hiking and seeing the unique flora and fauna in the old growth forests in the Telephone Gap region. The Forest Service stated in the Telephone Gap Biological Evaluation that "the gray wolf and Canada lynx are not known to occur within the project area on the GMNF, [and] they are not likely to occur within the project area in the foreseeable future." From what I understand, a Canada lynx was captured via security camera video just outside the Forest Service building in Mendon, VT. There is great need to maintain standing, undisturbed forests for our animal friends. If completed, the Telephone Gap logging project would cut 817 stand acres of old growth, a significant figure considering that the US Forest Service estimated in June that there are only 2,000-acres of old-growth in the 400,000-acre Green Mountain National Forest. In other words, only 0.5% of the entire forest is old growth, and the Telephone Gap project threatens this extraordinarily important and rare habitat. Let's keep this valuable old growth area in tact. And in a time where the evidence of climate catastrophe are increasingly evident, we need to retain forests as a means of carbon sequestration. The Telephone Gap project would release 254,556 tons CO₂e, the equivalent of driving more than 60,000 average passenger vehicles for a year. This is the climate impact from just one of the National Forest's logging projects - the Early Successional Habitat Creation, Robinson, Somerset, and other recent projects are all on a similar scale, and conceivably are already releasing similar or greater amounts of climate pollution.

Thank you for considering my comments and for cancelling the Telephone Gap logging project.