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Comments: When I first moved to Vermont in 1976 I soon became involved in my local Springweather Audubon Society, and then represented them as a member of the Vermont Wilderness Association. For years I hiked and cross country skied in the parts of the Green Mountain Forest which would eventually be designated as Wilderness by Congress and the President of the United States.

In those days the common opinion among foresters seemed to be that there was no old growth forest in Vermont to speak of. We headed into areas where small patches of forest seem to have been spared and admired the size of the trees and studied the variety of other species flourishing there. Science has changed a lot in almost 50 years. I would ask you to leave any undisturbed areas of Telephone Gap as they are right now. Leave them to nature and see what happens.

There is no economic or human need which will be served by any sort of human disturbance. As for the Audubon Societies' argument about species which need other sorts of habitat than the one which is there now, I would say, protect the very rarest habitats to continue to show us their stories.

Seeing the video of the Canada Lynx in Vermont, not that far from Telephone Gap, reminds me that we humans don't know everything, and the more of nature which can be left natural for us to learn from in this mad world of climate change, the better.

Private land is so prevalent in Vermont, that public land must be treasured in its natural state.