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First name: William

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USFS Decision Makers,

My name is Will Amidon, I am a lifelong Vermonter and Earth and Climate Science professor at Middlebury College. I am writing to express my opposition to the Telephone Gap logging project, which I feel should be completely abandoned for three reasons:

First, it destroys critical habitat that supports endangered species such as the Canada Lynx. Second, it releases a huge amount of carbon to the atmosphere that would be better to leave in standing trees. Third, the 812 acres of old growth timber has intrinsic value beyond its board feet of lumber or its ability to attract tourists. It is a sacred fragment of nature, clinging to existence in as the natural world is destroyed everywhere we look. Why do we need to destroy this piece of our shared resource so a few dying lumber mills can stay in existence for another couple years?

In closing, I understand the need to manage National Forests as a timber resource, but the ecological damage to timber yield ratio of Telephone Gap makes no sense. This forest is far more valuable developed as a tourist resource (e.g. hiking, skiing, mountain biking) than as a timber resource. I suggest we save this piece while we can.

Thanks for your consideration and sending best wishes,
Will Amidon