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Comments: To Chris Matrick, District Ranger

Rochester & Middlebury Ranger Districts

Green Mountain National Forest

I object to your finding of "no significant impact" for Option C based on my earlier comments:

1) Logging in forest stands identified as "old growth" in the US Forest Service Eastern Region under the pretext of improving them!!!! You can improve your plan by leaving these 800 acres alone rather than rushing into cut so they will no longer be considered "old growth". The loosey goosey definition of old growth in your outdated 2006 forest plan is laughable by anyone who considers science!

2) Logging in the Pittenden Inventoried Roadless Area using temporary roads "that have no impact" Good Luck -- we all know that any road building brings erosion, invasive exotic plants, and disturbance to forest interior species of wildlife, and potentially more motorized human traffic. You can improve your plan by not treating any of this roadless area.

3) A vast improvement to your plan would be to manage the Telephone Gap area as primarily a premium recreation area, which it is. There is plenty of early successional growth and forest edge in the Telephone Gap area when you evaluate the private land adjacent to the National Forest. You seem to have left out any real analysis of this private land which was stated as an original intent in your inadequate Environmental Assessment.

A full environmental impact study and/or "No Action", followed by a recreational management plan would be far superior to what you have come up with in your assessment.

Thank you,

Alan Coulter