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Comments: Cancel the Telephone Gap Project Now! There is no reason for this project to be carried out. Any resources that may be extracted in this area, can be taken from private lands. Vermont has a low percentage of forested public land and a much greater percentage of privately owned and managed forest land that is managed for timber and early successional habitat creation, particularly land in the Current Use program.

Logging this area would be bad precedent for management of other public land. This land, as all public land, must be managed with sensitivity to rare and endangered species, wildlife habitat, climate change and the link to carbon sequestration. It needs to be left alone!

Telephone gap is home to extremely rare species, including Canada Lynx that has been sighted in the vicinity. The Forest Service must go back and consider the impact of this logging project on the Canada Lynx and other wildlife. The Telephone Gap logging project is slated to cut 817 stand acres of old growth forest, threatening this extraordinarily vital and rare habitat. Logging this area would The Telephone Gap project would release 254,556 tons of CO₂, contributing to climate impact along with carbon release on other Forest Service logging projects.

Forest Service management practices are archaic having changed very little since I worked for the US Forest Service in the 1970's when roadless areas were first being planned. There needs to be a paradigm shift and a rethinking of the role of National Forests play in helping to recover old-growth and mature forest ecosystems and protecting the vital benefits these ecosystems provide. Public land should be managed as a model for the future, not managed according to the status quo focus solely on timber management and economic benefits .