

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/18/2025 3:55:56 AM

First name: Ashley

Last name: Adams

Organization:

Title:

Comments: ATTN: Responsible Official, Christopher Mattrick, District Ranger

FROM: Ashley Adams

RE: Objection to the Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project

I write to respectfully ask for the immediate cancellation of the frankly appalling Telephone Gap project because it would undermine our urgent need to preserve a habitable planet for all species.

Our planet is on life support with species disappearing at alarming rates and climate systems tipping out of control. Vermont's forests are still recovering from near elimination at our hands. Our national forest belongs to us. It is our heritage and, in Vermont, there is precious little of it. Climate scientists are urging governments to preserve old growth and allow mature forests to grow old. Conservation biologists, ecologists, and others know that forests support an irreplaceable biodiversity of life- and that we imperil ourselves and all species when we fragment and eliminate forest habitat. One needed to look no further than the Green Mountain National Forest headquarters in the Telephone Gap project area on September 3, 2024 to illustrate the power of leaving a forest alone to thrive: a rare Canada Lynx caught on film.

Mature and old growth forests are our children's insurance policy against an uninhabitable future. We must not do anything to further imperil our children and undermine their ability to survive in this world. The Telephone Gap project, if allowed to proceed, would plunder a public treasure for private gain, eliminating over 800 acres of old growth in the process. We are stewards of the land and a basic tenet of that truth is that we preserve and protect for those who come after us. The over 250,000 tons of CO2 that would be released during the course of the project would cause irreversible climate damage and eliminate critical habitat. Callus treatment with astonishing results, and counter to the purported mission of the forest service. As a child, growing up on beautiful forested land in Lamoille county, I had the misapprehension that the primary role of the forest service was to preserve and protect our public forests- a noble cause to my mind. The stated mission is to "sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations." The most pressing need- the existential need of present and future generations is to preserve this forest in perpetuity for the benefit of all species. Please cancel the Telephone Gap project and consider the idea that protecting old growth forests and allowing forests to grow old and wild is fundamentally the best way for the Forest Service to fulfil its mission.

Sincerely,

Ashley Adams