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Comments: I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed Telephone Gap logging project in Vermont's Green Mountain National Forest. This project poses significant threats to the habitat of the endangered Canada lynx, the old-growth forest ecosystem, and the climate.

While I am a resident of California, I have a local stake in this issue as my daughter, her husband and their young daughter live in the Otter Creek watershed downstream from Telephone Gap. My wife and I have visited numerous times and marvel at the relatively healthy condition and pristine splendor of the area's natural environment.

The Canada lynx, a species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, relies on the dense, mature forest habitats found within the Telephone Gap area for hunting and shelter. Logging activities would fragment and degrade this critical habitat, further endangering the already vulnerable lynx population.

The old-growth forests in this region are irreplaceable. These ancient trees play a crucial role in maintaining biodiversity, providing habitat for countless species, and regulating local climate conditions. Logging these forests would not only result in the loss of unique ecosystems but also disrupt the delicate balance that has been established over centuries.

The climate impact of the logging project cannot be ignored. The proposed logging would release an estimated 254,556 tons of CO₂e into the atmosphere, contributing significantly to greenhouse gas emissions. At a time when we are facing unprecedented climate challenges, it is imperative that we prioritize the preservation of our forests, which serve as vital carbon sinks.

I urge you to consider the long-term environmental and ecological consequences of this project. The protection of endangered species, old-growth forests, and our climate should be paramount. I respectfully request that you oppose the Telephone Gap logging project and work towards sustainable forest management practices that prioritize conservation and environmental stewardship.

Thank you very much for your attention to this urgent matter.