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First name: Zack

Last name: Porter

Organization: Standing Trees

Title: Executive Director

Comments: April 8, 2024

PETITION TO: Chris Mattrick, District Ranger, Rochester and Middlebury Ranger Districts, Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests

Dear District Ranger Mattrick:

We, the undersigned, write to you with grave concerns about the climate, biodiversity, and health and safety impacts of the proposed Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project #60192.

In the winter of 2023, approximately 1,600 commenters (a record for the Green Mountain National Forest) as well as more than 13,000 petition-signers wrote to you about the implications of the Telephone Gap Project. The vast majority of those who commented one year ago expressed the same concerns that we are raising in this letter for a second time.

Considering the level of public outcry one year ago over the proposed scale of reckless mature and roadless forest logging in the Telephone Gap project, we are alarmed that the Forest Service's Proposed Action to log nearly 12,000 acres has changed very little from the last version available for public review (these numbers reflect the total "stand acres" proposed for harvest).

The Telephone Gap timber sale has been called one of the ten worst projects in the U.S. by Climate Forests, a national coalition of 120 environmental groups. This highly destructive logging job would devastate an area larger than the City of Burlington, Vermont. It endangers the water quality of the White River and Otter Creek, puts downstream communities in greater danger of flooding, risks introducing invasive species, and destroys habitat needed by threatened and endangered species.

The landscape targeted for logging includes a vast, 16,000-acre "Inventoried Roadless Area" and forests with major concentrations of mature and late-successional trees between 80-160 years old. Roadless areas of this size are rare in Vermont and New England, and are especially important for biodiversity and clean water. Meanwhile, mature and late successional forests accumulate and store the most carbon in the fight against climate change compared to young trees. The Green Mountain National Forest has older, healthier forests than most in New England; we should manage this public land for the benefit of the climate, clean water, and biodiversity, not cut it down.

Public lands like the Green Mountain National Forest contain, on average, 30% or more carbon than private lands in the Northeast US. We should not be spending our tax dollars to subsidize cutting mature and old trees in public forests at the expense of the climate. Young people and future generations will bear the brunt of the climate catastrophe that is happening all around us. The International Panel on Climate Change states that time is running out for action. On the global scale, forest protection represents approximately half or more of the climate change mitigation needed to hold temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Research shows that New England's forests could store two to four times more carbon if we let them grow old. Letting mature forests grow old on public lands is one of the most effective ways that New England forests can contribute to the global fight against climate change. We must put our public forests on a different path.

Historically, old-growth forests dominated the New England landscape, supporting native biodiversity and rich indigenous cultures. In a short period of time, these remarkable forests - and the species and cultures that grew

from them - were eliminated (or nearly-so) from our region by European settlers and their descendants. Old forests are exceptional for sequestering and storing vast amounts of carbon, protecting water quality, and mitigating droughts and floods. Today, just 0.3% of New England forests are older than 150 years.

On Earth Day of 2022, President Biden issued an historic Executive Order directing the US Forest Service to conserve mature and old-growth forests to benefit the climate and biodiversity. The US Forest Service manages the majority of mature and old-growth forests across the US, and has an especially important role to play in helping to recover old-growth forest ecosystems in regions of the country where few exist, like New England. In response to President Biden's Executive Order, the Forest Service is conducting a process to amend the Forest Plans of every National Forest in the US. Why is the agency racing ahead with the Telephone Gap logging plan when agency priorities are poised for rapid change?

The Green Mountain National Forest is a bastion of biodiversity, a reservoir of clean water, a carbon-storage warehouse, and a refuge for people seeking to reconnect with the more-than-human world. The Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project threatens these unique values.

For the benefit of our climate, our communities, and our non-human neighbors, please abandon or significantly modify the Telephone Gap IRP Modified Proposed Action to protect all mature and old-growth forests, as well as roadless forests that are critical for clean water and wildlife.

Sincerely,

Laura Simon

Eesha Williams

Bethany Menkart

Kate Goetz

Wallace Elton

Paula Stahmer

Jodi Rodar

Patricia Gallagher

Deborah Crown

Renee Carpenter

R. Bruce MacAdam

Miriam and Mike Kurland

Laurel Facey

Dean Shamblen

Gabriel Robinson

Don Ogden

Geoffrey Gardner

Dee Gish

Barbara McKay

J Thomas Dunne

Jenny Lane

JOANNA HAMLIN

Ariel Arwen

Candy Jones

Howard Jennings

Helen Snively

Rona Fried

Ryan Park

George Klohck

Susan Hodges

Chris Wood

Harry White

Ron Slabaugh

Susan Worgaftik

fearn lickfield

Janie Simmons

Zara Zsido

Lopi LaRoe

Ulrike von Moltke

Mark Nelson

Karen Starr

Kathleen Shepherd

Elaine Sloan

F Corr

Sandra Stephens

Sikander Rashid

Katherine Thorndike

Debra Kraemer

Alice Evans

Laurence Doody

Doug Bender

Jodi Ross

Daniel Brett

Catherine Bock

Heather Buckner

Sarah Lincoln

Robert Hoffert

Bonnie Brown

Robert Goldman

Slowomir and Irene Przybysz

Brian C Jones

Douglas Zehner

Peter Wood

Cindy and Christine Guarnieri

Dale LaBonte

Y Pimental

Bruce and Maureen DeNunzio

Fred Kosnitsky

Carol Fleischman

Jane Knight

Wolfger Schneider

karen Bixler

Anna Erik

Baruch Zeichner

Kathleen Mislán

Barthold Bouricius

Joanna Colwell

Christopher Hinds

Emily Lanxner

Henry Harris

Glenn Cratty

Emily Hoyler

Susan Mills

Mary Lou Conca

Eric Brooker

Kelly Mccracken

Jennifer Lovett

James Vander Poel

Janice Stearns

Maxine Adams

Anne D'Olivo

Lark Shields

Anne Lloyd

Frank White

Viva Butler

Susan Davis Patterson

Sylvia Staub

Sally Roth

sue sullivan

Dick Devens

Anna Rose Benson

Sylvia Fagin

Amy Mason

peter stamm

Deborah Wachtel

Patricia Hunt

Carol Cannaveno

Kristen Cameron

Yda Filiberti

Judy Kowalczyk

Celinda Ezzell

Carole Petrillo

Garrett Connelly

Amelia Turner

Susanne Abetti

Stephanie Nyzio

Dawn Serra

Carolyn Schmidt

Ann Spanel

Isabeall Logan

Sylvie Desautels

Daniel Hoviss

Heather Karlson

Douglas Smith

Anne Wallace

Jennifer Esser

Kirsten Elin

Susan Kersavage

janet sinclair

Chip Mayer

Jack Mayer

Alice Silverman

Adam Tanych

Josh Kelman

Stephanie Boucher

Aaron Lamperti

Mary Crowther

karen nylander

Bill White

John H Sisson Jr

Barbara Murphy-Warrington

Dottie Nelson

Daniel Wright

Caitlin Gildrien

Jordan Kleiman

Barbara Ganley

Dianne Clouet

Sarah Ashe

Elizabeth Nestler

Mary Yates

anne dannenberg

Joann Rooney

Ryan Williams

Aibert Randzio

Jim Hand

Victoria DeWind

Martha Klein

Miriam Wolf

Eric Jones

David Shaw

Allan Sirotkin

Christine Copeland

Susan Kellogg

Brenna Galdenzi

Robert Comer

Gerry Coffey

Michelle Dufort

Catherine Hafey

Ross Conrad

Catherine Kidder

William Vought

Karen Bourque

Bruce Ogilvie

Diny Sweitzer

Elinor Osborn

Judith Serkin

Kaymarion Raymond

Cynthia Taylor

Nancy Polan

Carolyn Kuebler

Lucille Brock

GAIL BORDEN

Jennifer McFeeters

Marcia Angermann

Bess Klassen-Landis

Debby Goldman

Jean Lix

Deborah Randzio

Gail Coffey

MaryJo Johnson

Lindsey Berk

Chris Balch

robert gerlin

Jonas Kaplan-Bucciarelli

Jan McCleery

Gerry Slager

John Hunt

Michael Kellett

John Nininger

Deborah Lubar

mark Gibson

Alan Baker

Heather Snyder

Maggie Kuhl

Gail Mellow

Barbara Nelson

Debra Sprague

Sally Burrell

Catherine Grant

Gretchen Thompson

joanne Morgan

Jenna Hunsinger

Hinton Putnam

Howard Prussack

Becky Atchinson

Linden de Voil

Katy Haas

Daniel Batten

Kate Williams

Gary Smith

Marilyn O'Neil

Steven Bogart

Caily Herbert

CHRIS WETHERBY

Elizabeth Sofish

Jean Gerber

Marianne Marotta

Mary Erdei

Patricia Beasley

Colleen Leonardi

Anne Kelley

Kris Pastoriza

Margaret Clerkin

Craig O. Burt III

Elise Manning

Gaen Murphree

Barbara Simoes

Clarissa Libertelli

John Elder

Faye Kinney

Guntram Herb

Patricia Occhipinti

Janet Fredericks

Kerri-Ann Jennings

Gerry Farrington

Carol Xavier

Callie Brynn

Patricia Shanley

Rachel Babin

Elizabeth Steel

David Cobb

Laura Brown-Lavoie

Petrice Espinosa

Kali Erskine

Martha Osmun

Susan Shea

Laurie Brittain

Douglass

Leah Foerster

Claudia Phillips

Rita Friedman

Pamela Fogg

Bonnie Condon

Judy Wade

Midori Batten

Kate Tanita

Melita Sedic

Tirzha Osmun Palmer

Tom Kidder

Julie Ray

Susan Murcott

Andrea Stefani

Rebecca Seibel

Tracy Weatherhogg

SUSANNAH MORLOCK

Lynn Wild

Hamilton Gillett

Laura Smith-Riva

Diane Hopkins

Robert West

Elaine Faletra

Melissa Van Guilder

Gracey Osmun Palmer

Helene Nilsen

Vanessa Valente

Sylvia Knight

Beth Whitaker

Kevin Gish

Pam Youngquist

Lynne Mendes

catherine arcolio

Hannah Crand

Lisa Solbert-Sheldon

Ashley Van Riper

Earl Hatley

Sandy Henneberger

Aylie Baker

Kathryn Begley

Ivan Filippenko

Bob Atchinson

Diana Bailey

W Wallis

Lily Jen

Chantelle Beeson

chris matera

Nola Parker

Ponnie Derby

Garret Whitney

Andrea Gallawa

Martha Hill

Maureen Hoffert

Mark Adams

Sarah Bourne

Monica Filippenko

Jerome Andrews

Anders Link

Wenona Waldo

Reka Filippenko

Donald Powers

Bob Walker

Robert Wyatt

Chris Gish

Cate Wirth

Gayle Giovanna

Christine Harris

Allan Fiore

Peter Mihaly

Ed Efchak

Leslie LaCroix

Rae Houseman

Patricia LeBon Herb

Priscilla Y

DAVID FISK

Lydia Parker

Gary Burditt

Jennifer Normoyle

PHILIP GUISER

Ian Heiselmeyer

Susan Kass

Sarah Buss

Tish Upton

Chris Belcher

Margaret Bragg

Dagan Brush

Jim White

Carl Bucholt

Corlan Johnson

Joan White

Al Futterman

Sarah Maes

Diane Tetrault

Carol Johnson

Andrea Mills

chad peterson

Leigh Harder

Noelle Magluilo

Stephanie Scott

Elizabeth Hoffman

Charles Parent

Kerry Edmunds

Daniel Towler

Ann Duclos

Sandra Charron

Victoria Leda

Phillip Merrick

Darryl Bloom

Kate Mortimer

Todd Anderson

Claire Ellerbrook

Sarah O'Neill

Deb Soule

Philip Bowman

Kristen Lee

Gail Schwartz

Jonathan Blake

Carole Cummings

Robert Guethlen

Brandt Mannchen

Daniel Mosle

Emily Beattie

Carolyn Clark Pierson

Ruby Bates

Margaret Lena Schultz

Linnea Congleton

Itai Gal

Kathryn Grover

Kaela Dougan

Dean Percival

Diane Beers

sam reynolds

Stacy Bates

Mary Saudade

Bianca Zanella

Alice White

Jan Ogilvie

Margaret Sisson

Sibylle Saunders

Eric Truran

Ingrid Curtis

Amanda Swanson

KAta Reeves

Elaine Manghi

nc lathrop

Gwenevra Lodi Nabad

Wendy Boyd

Rena Chicklas

Rich Holschuh

Linda Fondulas

Jeanine Weir

Benjamin Hastings

Rep .Michelle Bos-Lun

ralph corbo

Janice McCann

Sue and John Morris

Lea Sloan

Peter Revers

Greg Dennis

Lena Greenberg

Anjanette DeCarlo

Pamela Telos Whitfield

Jennifer Smith

Zack Porter

david fried

PAM KELLY

Janice Vien

Pamela Kellogg

Diana Salyer

Schuyler Gould

Dodi Melnicoff

Sarah Stott

Katherine Crown

Margaret Benn

Donald Monroe

DAVID FULLERTON

Allan Seymour

Nicole C

Priscilla Baker

Traci Brown

Jennifer Pyne

Jim Sweitzer

Jake Madden

Thomas L Toscano

Katherine Harrelson

Phyllis Rubenstein

Elizabeth Bancroft

Emma Townsend

Monica Heartwood

Em Keen

Sally Begley

Charles Houston III

Nancy Halpin

Survivor of Vermont Childhood Abuse

Susan Parsons

HENRY RALPH CARSE

Mable Clark

Amber Beeson

jill kopel

Rebecca Dorian

Owen Snyder-Smith

Sam Merriam

Parker Furr

Kyle Trombley

Ayaan Raza

Peter Heartwood

Terri Phelps

Michael Cummings

Jeff Hanavan

Hollie Newsom

Allyson Stoodley

Magdaline Volaitis

Leigh Reynolds

Lucinda Belanger

Kara Dunn

Mark Fucile

stephanie Powers

Karenina Schuller

Lucy McNulty

Meredith Markow

Marcia Means

Mary Pardy

Jade Kreilis

Alison Gardner