

Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project – 7/14/2021 Virtual Public Meeting

Meeting Recording

<https://youtu.be/9HwZJn1J8Q4>

- Forest Service Resource Specialist Presentations start at 25:44
- Questions and Answers start at 1:37:10

Meeting Chat

Meeting started 7/14 5:56 PM [7/14 6:32 PM] Groff, Shannon - FS

Welcome! If you have a question related to the Telephone Gap IRP, please post it here in the chat window and we will do our best to answer it after tonight's presentations.

[7/14 6:36 PM] Groff, Shannon – FS

Welcome! If you have a question related to the Telephone Gap IRP, please post it here in the chat window and we will do our best to answer it after tonight's presentations.

[7/14 6:38 PM] Groff, Shannon – FS

Interested in learning more about management areas and the Forest Plan? Click here: [GMFL Planning, Management Areas and More Website](#).

[7/14 6:39 PM] Leslie Beaulieu (Guest)

Curious why the name is Telephone Gap...

[7/14 6:42 PM] Mattrick, Christopher -FS

Telephone Gap is one the landscape features within the project area. One of the gaps in the spine of the Greens separating Pittsfield and Chittenden. I chose is because I liked the name!

Edited

[7/14 6:42 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

Thanks for inviting questions in the chat, Shannon! Curious if a carbon accounting has been completed re: estimated CO2 released from the project's deforestation? A calculation of the carbon sequestration that's no longer feasible post-deforestation? Curious regarding the maths here given the state and federal emissions reductions goals. More resources re: deforestation and carbon sequestration:

https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/public_lands/forests/clearcutting_and_climate_change/

<https://www.fs.fed.us/ecosystemservices/carbon.shtml>

[7/14 6:51 PM] Groff, Shannon – FS

Leslie, you can access the map here: [Telephone Gap IRP Overview Map](#), available on our [Telephone Gap IRP Project Website](#)

[7/14 6:52 PM] Glen Ayers (Guest)

How much of the total acreage is within the GMNF designation/acquisition area?

[7/14 6:53 PM] Jessica (Guest)

"Does the selective harvest of timber plan prioritize leaving old growth trees standing? What about 100+ yr old trees? It seems that the older the tree the more carbon already sequestered. I'm also concerned about the practice of clear cutting areas completely." Also interested in this, thanks.

[7/14 6:53 PM] Lopi (Guest)

how many acres are potentially to be clear cut

[7/14 6:53 PM] Lindsey (Guest)

I'm also interested in the question about carbon assessment. Especially regarding the stands of 80+ year old trees in many of the areas in the plan.

[7/14 6:53 PM] Annette Smith VCE (Guest)

I was in Granville a couple months ago and looked to the southwest and saw a very large patch cut high up on the ridgeline. I asked the locals and they said it was GMNF. Why cut so much on the ridgeline? Is that likely to happen with this project? It was really ugly.

[7/14 6:54 PM] Lopi (Guest)

how can we convince you guys to not clear cut at all?

[7/14 6:55 PM] Groff, Shannon – FS

Access the Telephone Gap IRP Landscape Assessment, maps and additional information by clicking here: [Telephone Gap IRP Project Website](#)

[7/14 6:55 PM] Carole (Guest)

I understand that you are working from a plan from 2006. We are living in different times and need all of our trees to help us get through climate emergency. Why have you not updated your policy for the emergency that we are living in?

[7/14 6:56 PM] Larry (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.

[7/14 6:56 PM] Zara Reeves (Guest)

Scientific studies conducted by Dr. Bill Moomaw and others indicate that, for the survival of the planet, being proforestation i.e., letting mature forests stand is the optimal for carbon sequestration. Doesn't survival of us and the planet come before monetary gain in these national forests?

[7/14 6:57 PM] Mattrick, Christopher -FS

IRP = Integrated Resource Project

[7/14 6:58 PM] Ken Johnson

The survival of the planet depends on how many inhabitants. Vermont is growing twice as much wood fiber as is harvested. We can continue to harvest timber sustainable and support wildlife habitat and the forest economy.

(1 liked)

[7/14 6:58 PM] Robert Fields (Guest)

I'm concerned about early successional habitat and if you are planning to do enough to create enough to help balance the age class structure of the forest since most of it is reaching maturity?

[7/14 6:59 PM] Lopi (Guest)

I agree 100% with what Zara just said. Value of Standing Timber is inherent in leaving Timber Standing.

[7/14 7:00 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

Some helpful data resources re: emissions reduction potential by retaining tree cover (regardless of age): <https://www.wri.org/insights/conserving-forests-could-cut-carbon-emissions-much-getting-rid-every-car-earth>

Conserving Forests Could Cut Carbon Emissions As Much As Getting Rid of Every Car on Earth
New research from WRI and others shows that stopping deforestation, restoring forests and improving forestry practices could cost-effectively remove 7 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide annually...

www.wri.org

[7/14 7:00 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

PNAS study here: <https://www.pnas.org/content/114/44/11645>

Natural climate solutions

Most nations recently agreed to hold global average temperature rise to well below 2 °C. We examine how much climate mitigation nature can contribute to this goal with a comprehensive analysis of "...

www.pnas.org

[7/14 7:00 PM] Glen Ayers (Guest)

When you say "Desired Future Condition" exactly who determined what was being desired in the future? How long ago was that future desired, and how/when do we get to revisit those past, outdated designations, and revise the desired future condition, in light of the climate emergency and the need to practice proforestation to protect biodiversity and the climate?

[7/14 7:00 PM] Eric Daniels (Guest)

Wildlife populations are crashing globally. Cutting down more trees will hasten their demise even faster.

[7/14 7:00 PM] Allen McGonagill (Guest)

So if these forests are northern hardwood with a cutoff of 120 years and they are something like 80 years old now, does that mean you have an incentive to 'manage' (clear cut) them now so they never reach that designation?

[7/14 7:00 PM] Stephen Leslie (Guest)

We can manage for old growth characteristics in all our forests by applying ecological forestry management practices.

[7/14 7:01 PM] Allen McGonagill (Guest)

If so... doesn't that imply that we are actively working against fostering the development any old growth forests in the future?

[[7/14 7:01 PM] Lindsey (Guest)

Allen, that was my question as well. Also concerned about the cutting of remote wildlife habitat that was mentioned earlier.

[7/14 7:03 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

Still very curious if USFS has done this. This seems essential for any forest management plan. My Q from before: "Curious if a carbon accounting has been completed (or will be completed soon) re: estimated CO2 released from the project's deforestation? A calculation of the carbon sequestration that's no longer feasible post-deforestation? Curious regarding the maths here given the state and federal emissions reductions goals."

[7/14 7:05 PM] Manzanita (Guest)

I'm also interested in the question about carbon assessment and clear cutting. Is it necessary to clear cut when the planet is losing way too many trees as it is? I do agree with forest thinning and burns for forest health.

[7/14 7:05 PM] Groff, Shannon – FS

Thank you for all of your questions. We will do our best to answer them after tonight's presentations.

(3 liked)

[7/14 7:05 PM] Ken Johnson

Deforestation is not what happens when harvesting in the National Forest. Regeneration occurs in harvest locations, providing habitat for wildlife and continuing to store carbon.

(1 liked)

[7/14 7:06 PM] Lopi (Guest)

I read in the landscape assessment that herbicides are to be used in conjunction with "management" of the forest. Is glyphosate going to be utilized despite the danger of allowing cancerous substances to be added to the ecosystem

[7/14 7:07 PM] Allen McGonagill (Guest)

Average stand age is 100 years... So you're cutting it JUST before it reaches the "old" growth classification. Is that related?

[7/14 7:09 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

Helpful resource from Yale: Why Keeping Mature Forests Intact Is Key to the Climate Fight
<https://e360.yale.edu/features/why-keeping-mature-forests-intact-is-key-to-the-climate-fight>

Why Keeping Mature Forests Intact Is Key to the Climate Fight

Preserving mature forests can play a vital role in removing CO2 from the atmosphere, says policy scientist William Moomaw. In an e360 interview, he talks about the importance of existing forests an...

e360.yale.edu

7/14 7:10 PM] Ken Johnson

Historical harvest levels have dropped, limiting wildlife habitat. Private lands end up providing habitat, sometimes to the detriment of the private land. National Forest land should continue to provide the wildlife habitat needed for the many species in Vermont.

[7/14 7:10 PM] Lopi (Guest)

The value of standing trees outweighs the monetary value. Money is temporary. Trees left standing have longevity and provide much needed carbon sinks

[7/14 7:11 PM] Annette Smith VCE (Guest)

Can you compare what happens in the GMNF Wilderness area in terms of forest density, tree health, etc. with this proposal?

[7/14 7:11 PM] Allen McGonagill (Guest)

That makes it sound like you are planning to selectively thin the forests in order to create more space (to prevent overcrowding? to allow aspen to grow?). Is that the plan? Or is there any clear cutting? Clear cutting would keep us in the same cycle where same age trees again lead to "over crowding". How would it be different the next time around?

[7/14 7:11 PM] Stephen Leslie (Guest)

50% of the carbon stored in a forest is held by the top 1% of the biggest trees. New findings show that, although it is not as rapid as in young trees, sequestration is greatest from the growth period of 50 years to 150 years of age and is continuous after that. The soil biome of an old growth forest is so robust that an estimated 60% of the carbon is stored below the ground. There are innumerable benefits accruing to old forests in terms of healthy landscape function and biodiversity---not to mention the aesthetics.

Although managing for old growth while still harvesting timber reduces timber yield on average to 60% of what it would be from a typical selective cutting, the real world benefits of carbon sequestration, infiltration and retention of water, and restoration of biodiversity, far outweigh the loss.

[7/14 7:12 PM] Anne Dolivo (Guest)

Given that the present goal is to drawdown carbon as soon as possible and by 2050 at the latest, how long will it take to regenerate a tree and drawdown carbon at the same rate as a mature tree?

[7/14 7:12 PM] Lopi (Guest)

how does harvesting habitat benefit the wildlife? In order to provide habitat would we not be wiser to leave the habitat intact?

[7/14 7:13 PM] Zara Reeves (Guest)

The Forest Plan, as just stated in "Desired Conditions" IS OUTDATED by current science, taking carbon sequestration into account; the best is to let them grow :proforestation, it is one major, major contribution region can do for our hemisphere re climate change

[7/14 7:14 PM] Allen McGonagill (Guest)

How do you measure diversity after cutting to make sure you are having the intended results? If we do not see an increase in diversity and end up with the same cycle again, how would we know that?

[7/14 7:14 PM] Groff, Shannon - FS

Thank you for all of your questions. We will do our best to answer them after tonight's presentations.

[7/14 7:14 PM] Ken Johnson

As trees age, less and less light reaches the forest floor. Walking around the long term wilderness area inside the blue line in NY State reveals little wildlife because of little food and shelter in the old forest.

[7/14 7:14 PM] Glen Ayers (Guest)

This presentation is so stilted and based on a pre-determined outcome. This isn't planning, it is deciding what is going to be done and then cooking the books to justify a pre-conceived decision. This "management" review is all about resource extraction of the public's forests, turning a living forest into a stream of commodities for private profit. This sort of bad-faith planning effort should be called out and resisted by the public. You should all remember what happened to Terry Hoffman, a previous Forest Supervisor of the GMNF, who was transferred to work on the Gypsy Moth program in a basement in Washington, DC. after his disastrous management of the GMNF.

[7/14 7:15 PM] Carole (Guest)

The trees know how to take care of themselves. They do not need human beings "managing" them.

[7/14 7:15 PM] Allen McGonagill (Guest)

Agree with the above. The information presented and framing is all pointing towards a predetermined conclusion. And the public comment is happening after the fact.

[7/14 7:15 PM] Eric Daniels (Guest)

It's hard to take seriously a forest plan that's 15 years old, after all the scholarship supporting proforestation that has arisen since then.

[7/14 7:15 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

Agreed w/ these recent chats

[7/14 7:15 PM] Lopi (Guest)

Glen Ayers: WELL SAID

[7/14 7:16 PM] Lindsey (Guest)

Agreed with Glen, Allen, Eric. This presentation seems very one-sided.

[7/14 7:16 PM] Zara Reeves (Guest)

Yes, to Eric Daniels comment.

[7/14 7:17 PM] Lopi (Guest)

Perhaps we should include some of the younger generation in re-assessing these plans because they are the ones who will inherit the mess left behind by people who value money over the ability to continue to live on a healthy planet.

[7/14 7:18 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

USFS, you invited Qs and comments here but I'm not seeing engagement with them. I see some industry pushback (did my research). Are you going to engage?

[7/14 7:19 PM] Groff, Shannon – FS

Thank you for all of your questions. We will do our best to answer them after tonight's presentations.

[7/14 7:21 PM] Lopi (Guest)

<https://vermontlumber.com/history.php> Ken Johnson, you directly benefit from logging these forests. Your opinions support your business

[7/14 7:22 PM] Stephen Leslie (Guest)

The ancient old growth forest was highly complex and biodiverse---beyond our imagining---food forest to the Abenaki---old forests that grew up after ag desertion are same age stands and that's why the understory is relatively barren---80-100 year old stems all the same age and undifferentiated canopy.

[7/14 7:22 PM] Mattrick, Christopher -FS

I am going to request that all who are in the chat be respectful of others opinions and thoughts.

[7/14 7:23 PM] Allen McGonagill (Guest)

A retail lumber company owner happens to believe that cutting forests is good for wildlife....

[7/14 7:23 PM] Mattrick, Christopher -FS

You will be removed from the meeting if you are disrespectful to other attendees or the presenters.

[7/14 7:24 PM] Lopi (Guest)

There is no disrespect in pointing out the conflict of interests here.

(1 liked)

[7/14 7:24 PM] Stephen Leslie (Guest)

For the last 10 years VT has been losing an estimated 11,000 acres of forest (mainly to development).

[7/14 7:25 PM] Allen McGonagill (Guest)

That kind of vested interest should be disclosed. So they can be taken in context of the comment.

That wasn't an attack to observe the connection between the person's role and their comment.

[7/14 7:25 PM] Ken Johnson

As a human being and resident of Vermont, I believe my opinion matters as much as yours. Holding a different opinion than yours does make me evil, I see the world differently and no less validly. I think there is a serious misconception and misrepresentation here and much talk of deforestation, which is not what is being discussed here.

(1 liked)

[7/14 7:25 PM] Glen Ayers (Guest)

Plenty of gaps will naturally be created in the forest canopy as the larger trees die and fall over, either from wind events or natural causes. This is how a forest becomes all-age, but these stands already have great age and species diversity. What is lacking is true old growth, which will not be increased by any of the proposed forest degradation activities that are being proposed. This forest area is unfragmented and should be left that way, as this is the most important biologically, and is the most rare habitat type in New England. What is being planned is to turn the forest back 50 to 100 years, at a great loss for most species, and is being done solely to benefit a single "resource" which is timber, for private profit.

(1 liked)

[7/14 7:26 PM] Anne Dolivo (Guest)

Well said Glen

[7/14 7:28 PM] Catherine L (Guest)

Yes Glen. And those falling trees can add their continued dynamics into the streams as mentioned.

[7/14 7:29 PM] Lopi (Guest)

thank you, Glen, for articulating so well a viewpoint that needs to be heard and respected.

[7/14 7:29 PM] Carole (Guest)

Yes, well said Glen. That private profit has much to do with the biomass industry which is killing thousands and thousands of trees.

[7/14 7:29 PM] Annette Smith VCE (Guest)

Will the project have as a goal to improve water quality?

[7/14 7:29 PM] Lindsey (Guest)

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/forests-can-help-prevent-floods> We know that forests retain water, mitigate the effects of drought, slow down the flow of water and prevent run off. As our state experiences both drought and floods, which will continue to get worse with the climate crisis, I am extremely concerned about the further logging of trees on our public lands.

Forests can help prevent floods and droughts

Forests can retain excess rainwater, prevent extreme run-offs and reduce the damage from flooding.

They can also help mitigate the effects of droughts. A new report published today by the European ...

www.eea.europa.eu

[7/14 7:30 PM] Lopi (Guest)

Exactly. That is another problem with the plan, they are proposing "removing" dead timber. Trees don't really die, they add value to the biome as they decay. Intrinsic to the health of the region.

[7/14 7:31 PM] Leslie Beaulieu (Guest)

Certainly creating diverse forests that support wildlife habitat is a good thing. Any forest that is only one species will be wiped out if a specific pest attacks that stand.

[7/14 7:31 PM] Lopi (Guest)

It seems that the main goal of this project is to mask harvesting timber for profit within "care for biodiversity" which is directly impacted by the timber harvest. Just leave the forest alone

[7/14 7:31 PM] Bill Sayre (Guest)

What wildlife species benefit from early succession habitat?

[7/14 7:32 PM] Lopi (Guest)

Are local tribes at the table?

[7/14 7:32 PM] Ken Johnson

As I have stated earlier, Vermont is growing twice as much timber as we are harvesting. We are well on the positive side of doing our part to be responsible with the resource. We buy timber harvested locally, for our contribution to the local economy. That forest products economy is as concerned about the health of the forest as anyone, however we see the forest as regenerating vigorously. Logging on public lands is done by professionals, who follow best management practices. Sound harvesting practices do not diminish the ability of the forest to process water and reduce the severity of water events.

[7/14 7:32 PM] Leslie Beaulieu (Guest)

I was disappointed to see a basic clearcut along rt3 73 near the area being discussed.

[7/14 7:33 PM] Doug Smith (Guest)

Does timber harvesting encourage alien invasives?

[7/14 7:33 PM] Catherine L (Guest)

Invasives come in strongly when the soil becomes disturbed. Significant concern about opening for non-native invasives in the logged areas.

[7/14 7:33 PM] Allen McGonagill (Guest)

Almost certainly disturbing ground through harvesting will enable invasives to come in.

[7/14 7:33 PM] Groff, Shannon – FS

The 'Botanical Resources' map that MaryBeth just shared can be found by clicking here: [Botanical Resources](#), available on our [Telephone Gap IRP Project Website](#)

[7/14 7:34 PM] Glen Ayers (Guest)

When large old trees (really big ones) fall over, they often raise a large root wad into the air that creates a large pit and associated mound that develops when the root wad/soil decomposes and settles. This pit and mound micro-topography is critical for reducing run-off, recharging groundwater, increasing the hydro-period of springs and seeps, and has a huge impact on biodiversity, due to the complex micro-habitats that are created when the land is actually functioning properly. This is what the "Desired Future Condition" should be, not what has been artificially claimed to be desired as a way to continue business as usual.

[7/14 7:34 PM] Groff, Shannon – FS

Interested in learning more or participating in the Telephone Gap IRP BioBlitz? Check it out by clicking here: [Telephone Gap IRP BioBlitz](#)

[7/14 7:34 PM] Annette Smith VCE (Guest)

For another perspective on "invasive species" see this <https://www.jlHUDSONSEEDS.NET/NativesVsExotics.htm> and at the end is a link to a book. Food for thought.

[7/14 7:34 PM] Rachel Smolker (Guest)

It is my understanding that Vermont is struggling with fragmentation due to development etc. So why would we want to cut/clearcut/create openings and young tree stands in the GMNF? Wouldn't it make sense to allow those publicly owned lands a place protected from those forces? We have a LOT of private land in the state... Are forest management plans in Vermont done in concert with/taking into account the status of the rest of our landscape? Or in isolation?

[7/14 7:35 PM] Anne Dolivo (Guest)

Also, as previously stated, the presence of humans (eg loggers) will disturb sensitive species such as the bats that were noted.

[7/14 7:35 PM] Annette Smith VCE (Guest)

The fragmentation of the Lowell mountains has resulted in an unexpected large amount of invasive species on which increasingly more chemicals are used.

[7/14 7:36 PM] Lindsey (Guest)

Yes, Leslie, I live very close to that clearcut on Route 73 near the Chittenden Brook trail (aka Robinson Integrated Resource project) It was logged last winter. It continues well past Route 73, parallel to Chittenden Brook Trail access road. It's terrible.

[7/14 7:36 PM] Catherine L (Guest)

Invasives are moving north with the changes in zones. This needs to be planned for as well.

[7/14 7:37 PM] Allen McGonagill (Guest)

Is there any public opinion polling associated with these longer term plans? I don't think many VTers know about this project. And I cannot imagine that given the important plant and animal species residing and migrating through this corridor that they would support timber harvesting here.

[7/14 7:37 PM] Groff, Shannon – FS

Thank you folks for all of your questions! We will do our best to answer what we can after tonight's presentations.

[7/14 7:37 PM] Doug Smith (Guest)

I am surprised at how little discussion is taking place regarding the role of mature forests in mitigating the effects of climate change.

[7/14 7:39 PM] Eric Daniels (Guest)

When will an updated forest plan - one that takes current science into account - be published?

[7/14 7:39 PM] Catherine L (Guest)

How often are the Forest Plans updated? Is there research we can review of how European Forests are managed?

[7/14 7:39 PM] Allen McGonagill (Guest)

"81 PERCENT OF AMERICANS ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM BELIEVE FUNDING OF NATIONAL FORESTS SHOULD NOT BE CUT, DESPITE FEDERAL BUDGET PROBLEMS. 74 percent of Republicans surveyed 80 percent of Independents surveyed 89 percent of Democrats surveyed"

<https://www.nationalforests.org/who-we-are/press-news/survey-reveals-americans-overwhelming-support-for-our-national-forests>

Survey Reveals Americans' Overwhelming Support for Our National Forests

Poll reveals highly favorable sentiments for our country's National Forests and the benefits they provide.

www.nationalforests.org

[7/14 7:39 PM] Allen McGonagill (Guest)

And that's nationwide polling, not even counting Vermont...

[7/14 7:40 PM] Catherine L (Guest)

Yes Doug the powerful sequestering as Prof Moomaw demonstrates with old growth forests is exponential to young/regenerating trees.

[7/14 7:40 PM] Stephen Leslie (Guest)

As a farmer in the localvore movement, I agree with Ken Johnson that we should responsibly harvest forest products rather than take a not-in-my-backyard stance. BUT we need soil health management systems in place to regulate every project, we should manage all forests in the state with ecological forestry practices, whether private or public, and we should aim to place at least 30% into "forever wild" status---Telephone Gap would be a good place to start!

[7/14 7:41 PM] Patrick Maher (Guest)

I appreciate the chance to listen to this ongoing project and am interested to read the EA (environmental assessment) that will answer many concerns noted above, coupled with the EIS (environmental impact statement). I would ask that during the EA process and while finalizing the EIS, that the Beech Bark disease that is rampant in the North Chittenden area be assessed and selective timber management be considered to prevent the continued spread of this disease.

[7/14 7:42 PM] Ken Johnson

The National Forests provide many benefits, for all Vermonters. One of those benefits is timber, to support the local economy. Responsible harvesting stimulates new growth, provide early successional habitat and protects water quality. This has been going on in the National and State forests for many years and the gorgeous forests we have today have been partly produced by this harvesting.

(1 liked)

[7/14 7:42 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

I don't think the EIS will address the carbon accounting/sequestration though

[7/14 7:43 PM] Rachel Smolker (Guest)

Given illustration of the logging road impact on hydrology, What will impact of the logging roads and traffic resulting from this project look like?

[7/14 7:43 PM] Monica Filippenko & Peter Cummings (Guest)

I am concerned about any logging of mature and old trees. I feel that the desired condition of these forests is allowing them to continue to grow and eventually become old growth forests once more. With so few old forests left, and everything we know about their value for wildlife, local human populations, and the whole planet, it seems to me that the best thing to do right now is leave them alone and allow them to sort out long-term recovery from the damage done to them in the past.

[7/14 7:43 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

We're in new territory now re: forest management. Concerned USFS isn't doing math estimates on GHGs here

[7/14 7:43 PM] Catherine L (Guest)

Indeed Monica!

[7/14 7:44 PM] Anne Dolivo (Guest)

I agree with Michael's comment

[7/14 7:44 PM] Geoffrey Gardner (Guest)

I believe old trees transfer more of the carbon they sequester to the soil than do younger trees. This seems to cut against cutting old trees for the sake of allowing younger trees to grow. And isn't it the case that the use of heavy equipment for large cutting projects tends to compact and otherwise damage soils. Many of the great things being mentioned about this area are the result of it being lightly cut or not cut at all. And the major pluses being mentioned in every category are owing to the growth of that 85% of trees 880 years or older. And yet the conclusion drawn at the end of so many slides is: we need to cut the old trees.

[7/14 7:44 PM] Nancy Gaudreau (Guest)

Would it be possible to visit the Cape NRA, Blue Ridge Fen and/or North Pond area sometime with a biologist to learn about the area(s)? Also would like to see winter parking on FS 57 (River Rd) where the snow plow turns around just past FS 53 to allow access to Catamount Trail.

[7/14 7:45 PM] Annette Smith VCE (Guest)

These presentations are making a good case for setting the goals to address past human negative impacts and management that improves and maximizes the biological hot-spots, improving water quality, restoring and expanding wetlands, much of which nature will do well if left alone. I'm not seeing how logging thousands of acres is a priority for this particular area. Sounds very special and worth limiting human impacts.

[7/14 7:46 PM] Nancy Gaudreau (Guest)

What is the status of the South Pond acquisition?

[7/14 7:46 PM] Monica Filippenko & Peter Cummings (Guest)

I agree with Annette

[7/14 7:46 PM] Catherine L (Guest)

Yes Geoffrey, Professor Bill Moomaw on YouTube has pro forestation presentation that shows the differences for carbon sequestration ability of 25yo, 50 yr and 100 year old trees.

[7/14 7:46 PM] Monica Filippenko & Peter Cummings (Guest)

I also agree with Geoffrey's comment

[7/14 7:47 PM] Lindsey (Guest)
Good point, Geoffrey.

[7/14 7:47 PM] Groff, Shannon – FS
Nancy, we are planning additional resource specific meetings, and field trips to follow this kick-off meeting. Shawn will mention more about that shortly. Thanks for the suggestions!
(2 liked)

[7/14 7:47 PM] Mattrick, Christopher -FS
Nancy - South Pond hopefully closing and becoming National Forest sometime late fall/early winter

[7/14 7:47 PM] Monica Filippenko & Peter Cummings (Guest)
Our desired condition for the GMNF is undisturbed soil

[7/14 7:47 PM] Ken Johnson
Traveling through the woods to harvest trees does not damage the soil. Some of the best regeneration of species that require disturbed soil, such as yellow birch, occurs in the skid roads. The natural freeze-thaw cycle and the action of the roots of young trees, serves to minimize any effects of compaction.

[7/14 7:48 PM] Glen Ayers (Guest)
Still waiting for the portion of this event that will be addressing the Greenhouse Gas emissions impacts from logging, and a full carbon accounting of what the existing carbon storage/sequestration is, and what the future potential carbon storage will be as the forest ages. That should be coming right up. Can't wait to see the details, since you have been doing all this studying and measuring for the past few years.

[7/14 7:48 PM] Doug Smith (Guest)
Sonds as if you guys have done a good job leaving this area alone for enough years for old trees to grow. Great! Maybe the best way to implement the plan is to do very little -- certainly little more timber harvesting.

[7/14 7:48 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)
VAST? GHG accounting?

[7/14 7:49 PM] Strand, Jay -FS
VAST = Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (snowmobile organization).

[7/14 7:49 PM] Strand, Jay -FS
GHG = Greenhouse Gas

[7/14 7:50 PM] Annette Smith VCE (Guest)
Do you evaluate how these trails impact wildlife habitat connectivity?

[7/14 7:50 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

Sorry I know what VAST stands for

[7/14 7:50 PM] Bill Sayre (Guest)

Is there any correlation between the rate of increase in the stocking of forest products, and absorption of Carbon Dioxide?

[7/14 7:50 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

This is what I was asking about:

What Is the Environmental Impact of Motorized Recreation?

<https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/ask-mr-green/what-environmental-impact-motorized-recreation>

What Is the Environmental Impact of Motorized Recreation?

Hint: Our measly 25 mpg average is part of the problem

www.sierraclub.org

[7/14 7:50 PM] Lindsey (Guest)

Please leave Chittenden Reservoir alone

[7/14 7:51 PM] Monica Filippenko & Peter Cummings (Guest)

Perhaps there is enough public access to these lands. The best use for these forests is to leave them alone.

[7/14 7:51 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

I'm happy to give up my access to camp here

[7/14 7:51 PM] Lopi (Guest)

leave it as is, please. we are happy to clean up other people's trash to keep it free

[7/14 7:51 PM] Annette Smith VCE (Guest)

Is the USFS saving the chat from this event?

[7/14 7:52 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

Assuming it's public record

[7/14 7:52 PM] Mattrick, Christopher -FS

Yes. The chat and the recording will be saved.

[7/14 7:53 PM] Ken Johnson

Sorry, I'm interested in continued timber harvesting. I believe the forest is resilient and grows vigorously in the released sunlit areas and the products produced are an important part of the local economy, stores carbon in the products made and in the new growth and provides habitat for many more species than inhabit old growth forests.

[7/14 7:53 PM] Allen McGonagill (Guest)

https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-45367-1_5

[7/14 7:53 PM] Allen McGonagill (Guest)

Here is a recent published scientific article studying how disturbance of soils relates to invasive species and native species (diversity). Per Figure 5.2, you can see unsurprisingly that disturbance decreases native diversity and increases invasive diversity:

[7/14 7:54 PM] Lopi (Guest)

your personal interest in harvesting and benefiting financially does not outweigh the needs of the larger public and the health of the land itself

[7/14 7:54 PM] Geoffrey Gardner (Guest)

What is emerging most clearly from this presentation is that ecological and biodiversity functions and values already present throughout this area are in direct conflict with the drive to log which will undermine if not erase those values and functions --the very things people love about their forest! And this is done with no accounting in detail about purported economic benefits that seem to trump everything else.

[7/14 7:55 PM] Allen, Angie

I still see Holly on a frozen screen. Is that only on my end?

[7/14 7:55 PM] Monica Filippenko & Peter Cummings (Guest)

I would suggest that everyone study the work of Dr. Suzanne Simard, who has spent her lifetime studying the resilience of forests under various management strategies, including no management.

[7/14 7:55 PM] Strand, Jay -FS

I believe so Angie - she's not frozen on my screen.

[7/14 7:55 PM] Monica Filippenko & Peter Cummings (Guest)

Also, it is incorrect to say that timber products store carbon. A standing tree stores far more carbon than your dining room table.

[7/14 7:56 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

Let me just say that I'm thrilled to see so many fellow Vermonters here on this call, advocating for the protection of our public forests!

[7/14 7:56 PM] Catherine L (Guest)

Thank you Monica

[7/14 7:56 PM] Ken Johnson

I disagree. The ecological and biological diversity that exist are there because of the skilled management of the National Forest employees of the regular timber harvests.

[7/14 7:56 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

Just wanted to say thank you. The chat response is powerful, articulate, science-based and irrefutable

[7/14 7:57 PM] Catherine L (Guest)

When a tree falls in the forest it continues a profound increase of sequestering due to all the new decomposers that come in for decades AFTER it hits the forest floor.

[7/14 7:57 PM] Monica Filippenko & Peter Cummings (Guest)

thank you Catherine

[7/14 7:57 PM] Bill Sayre (Guest)

Which songbirds benefit from forest management?

[7/14 7:57 PM] Lindsey (Guest)

Will the felled trees be allowed to remain on the forest floor?

[7/14 7:57 PM] Allen McGonagill (Guest)

Forests don't need management to flourish. Nature reaches balance and homeostasis overtime without intervention. It's how ecosystems function. It's not like forests and animals struggled to survive before humans...

[7/14 7:58 PM] Monica Filippenko & Peter Cummings (Guest)

I second Lindsey's question

[7/14 7:58 PM] Lopi (Guest)

the ecological and biodiversity has survived despite the interference by logging and the forest service, more accurate.

[7/14 7:58 PM] Ken Johnson

No, it is not incorrect to say a table stores carbon. In the small amounts the tables and cabinets and wood floors and framing lumber and chairs and a million other products.

[7/14 7:58 PM] Groff, Shannon – FS

Just a reminder - you can access the Telephone Gap IRP Landscape Assessment, maps and additional information by clicking here: [Telephone Gap IRP Project Website](#)

[7/14 7:58 PM] Anne Dolivo (Guest)

And a naturally fallen tree provides shelter and protection for wildlife.

[7/14 7:58 PM] Annette Smith VCE (Guest)

What kind of water quality monitoring currently takes place, is there baseline aquatic and temperature data? Will post-project monitoring be occurring?

[7/14 7:58 PM] Lopi (Guest)

she said More Carbon

[7/14 7:58 PM] Doug Smith (Guest)

Disappointed that the roads presentation did not recommend closure of a significant number of roads that negatively impact biodiversity, alien species invasion, and hydrologic disturbance.

[7/14 7:58 PM] Glen Ayers (Guest)

It should also be pointed out, and maybe Shawn will disclose this to the participants, that the Forest Service gets to keep the "profit" from timber sales and use the money in their local budget. This provides a perverse incentive that helps to drive this effort to chop down the trees that really belong to the public.

[7/14 7:58 PM] Catherine L (Guest)

Yes Anne bears and others hibernate in them

[7/14 7:59 PM] Monica Filippenko & Peter Cummings (Guest)

No more cutting trees on our public lands please. We would like them left be.

[7/14 7:59 PM] Lopi (Guest)

Glenn and others, how do we organize around protecting the forest from these plans? I am interested in working with others on a plan

[7/14 7:59 PM] Ken Johnson

My wife is a vigorous pruner of house plants and the trees and shrubs around our house. The plants grow back even more vigorously. The forest responds in much the same way. Areas exposed to sunlight support dynamic growth.

[7/14 8:00 PM] Carole (Guest)

I've read the new science is saying that because of the extreme heat and droughts, new trees are not growing in the cut lands.

[7/14 8:00 PM] Allen McGonagill (Guest)

Forests are not house plants.

[7/14 8:00 PM] Annette Smith VCE (Guest)

You are not doing an EIS? Why not?

[7/14 8:00 PM] Groff, Shannon – FS

If you are interested in attending a field trip within the Telephone Gap IRP and/or a follow-up, resource specific virtual meeting [please let us know by filling out this short form](#). We will follow-up with interested folks with more details.

[7/14 8:00 PM] Lopi (Guest)

forests are not your wife's houseplants nor are they your personal farm

[7/14 8:00 PM] Catherine L (Guest)

I believe Standing Trees Vermont is an organization you could contact.

[7/14 8:01 PM] Mike Covey (Guest)

It is critical that we don't inappropriately conflate timber harvest with forest fragmentation. Acknowledging that a lack of early successional habitat is our looming habitat crisis should be a driving factor in this plan. The GMNF in general is long overdue for timber harvest, and as these will likely be implemented over time, the benefit to wildlife and forest health can be presumed to be a

long term benefit of ongoing forestry operations. The value of public access to these lands for various purposes cannot be overstated. If you want folks to buy into land conservation and management, there is no substitute for engaging them upon that landscape.

[7/14 8:01 PM] Doug Smith (Guest)
Has a decision been made NOT to do an EIS?

[7/14 8:01 PM] Bill Sayre (Guest)
Did the natives manage the forests?

[7/14 8:01 PM] Rachel Smolker (Guest)
Also interested to know why or if the decision has been to not do an EIS. ALready?

[7/14 8:01 PM] Lopi (Guest)
thanks Catherine

[7/14 8:01 PM] Glen Ayers (Guest)
This project will be highly controversial , if it includes logging, and will require the preparation of a full Environmental Impact Statement. A cursory EA is not adequate for a project of this size and scope.

[7/14 8:01 PM] Eric Daniels (Guest)
+1 to Annette's question. Why is it already decided to not do an EIS?

[7/14 8:01 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)
Very keen to see EIS and carbon accounting. How is the GHG impact not in this presentation?

[7/14 8:01 PM] Ken Johnson
In Vermont, unless you own a brush hog or plow and use it often, eventually you will have a forest,. We are fortunate to live in Vermont where there is still sufficient rain, unlike the experience the western states are having right now,

[7/14 8:02 PM] Monica Filippenko & Peter Cummings (Guest)
I am also wondering why no EIS?

[7/14 8:02 PM] Catherine L (Guest)
How do we get on the mailing list again?

[7/14 8:02 PM] Lindsey (Guest)
We need to see an EIS.

[7/14 8:02 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)
Are we ignoring entirely the USG's decision to halve emissions by 2030?

[7/14 8:02 PM] Mattrick, Christopher -FS
Could folks stop posting in the chat for a few moments so that the link to the field trip interest form stays visible in the chat.

[7/14 8:02 PM] Monica Filippenko & Peter Cummings (Guest)
I second Michael's comment

[7/14 8:02 PM] Lopi (Guest)
if they don't listen to us, we can always do a tree sit or two

[7/14 8:02 PM] Bill Sayre (Guest)
What are the benefit to Vermont's rural communities from manage forests?

[7/14 8:02 PM] Groff, Shannon – FS
If you are interested in attending a field trip within the Telephone Gap IRP and/or a follow-up, resource specific virtual meeting [please let us know by filling out this short form](#). We will follow-up with interested folks with more details.

[7/14 8:02 PM] Glen Ayers (Guest)
Shawn, when will you be presenting the Climate Impact Analysis? This presentation is completely lacking.

[7/14 8:03 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)
Eager to hear input and engagement now re: all the Qs above

[7/14 8:03 PM] Bill Sayre (Guest)
Is it important to have a balance plan? Why or Why not?

[7/14 8:03 PM] Rachel Smolker (Guest)
can you repost the link?

[7/14 8:04 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)
EIS is the big one

[7/14 8:04 PM] Glen Ayers (Guest)
We want to know why you are refusing to disclose the climate impacts!

[7/14 8:04 PM] Mark Nelson (Guest)
the link is not on the screen.

[7/14 8:04 PM] Susie J. Gray (Guest)
Shawn and other FS presenters, thank you for your presentations! Food for thought.

[7/14 8:04 PM] Annette Smith VCE (Guest)
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=5zZb7e4BvE6GfuA8-g1GI52Kt12J-gINqLnPo70KOaxUNkJOQ09OQUxMSEFMRFET0ROWjk4U1g0SC4u>

[7/14 8:04 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)
Carbon accounting is another Q

[7/14 8:04 PM] Langston, Shawn – FS

You can also scroll back up to the form.

[7/14 8:04 PM] Groff, Shannon – FS

If you are interested in attending a field trip within the Telephone Gap IRP and/or a follow-up, resource specific virtual meeting [please let us know by filling out this short form](#). We will follow-up with interested folks with more details.

[7/14 8:04 PM] Monica Filippenko & Peter Cummings (Guest)

please discuss GHG emissions. That is a question

[7/14 8:04 PM] Bill Sayre (Guest)

What are the economic benefits of harvesting timber?

[7/14 8:05 PM] Brian Lynch (Guest)

Excellent presentations by all! Thank you for all the great information and well thought out options. We are lucky to have each of you as stewards of our forests!

[7/14 8:05 PM] Lopi (Guest)

good thing it was recorded so you can rewatch it

[7/14 8:05 PM] Jonathan Yacko (Guest)

Well said Christopher!!!

[7/14 8:05 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

Careful about the reprimand here. These are public lands and we are public taxpayers

[7/14 8:05 PM] Robert Fields (Guest)

Chris, well said!

[7/14 8:05 PM] Stephen Cummings (Guest)

Agree Brian! Thank you to all presenters.

[7/14 8:05 PM] Allen, Angie

Great job tonight, presenters!

[7/14 8:05 PM] Glen Ayers (Guest)

Stop criticizing the public, Chris!

(1 liked)

[7/14 8:06 PM] Lopi (Guest)

right on Michael

[7/14 8:06 PM] Monica Filippenko & Peter Cummings (Guest)

We really appreciate the presenters and the chance to voice our thoughts alongside the presentation.

[7/14 8:06 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

I look forward to the GHG accounting in the coming weeks/months

[7/14 8:06 PM] Rachel Smolker (Guest)

THanks for the presentations. Actually good at multi-tasking. We do look forward to participating.

[7/14 8:06 PM] Robert Fields (Guest)

You and your team did a great job presenting!

[7/14 8:06 PM] Lopi (Guest)

exactly. you might consider having extra help to read the chat

[7/14 8:06 PM] Bill Sayre (Guest)

Thanks for following the science

[7/14 8:06 PM] Jonathan Yacko (Guest)

Christopher and team, thanks so much for your time and energy going into this project and meeting tonight!

[7/14 8:07 PM] Lopi (Guest)

You make the decision or WE make the decisions?

[7/14 8:07 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

Since our video and audio is muted, chat is our only public comment function

[7/14 8:07 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

It's an important one

[7/14 8:08 PM] Catherine L (Guest)

Thank you for the opportunity to attend this public forum.

[7/14 8:08 PM] Lpurcell (Guest)

Many thanks to the presenters for this good information tonight and all the info and resources in the landscape assessment.

[7/14 8:08 PM] Mattrick, Christopher -FS

Lopi - as the responsible official for the project and the Rochester Middlebury District, I make the final decision with public input and resource specialist input and advice.

[7/14 8:09 PM] Lopi (Guest)

Are you an elected official?

[7/14 8:09 PM] Eric Daniels (Guest)

Having been in your shoes as a chat moderator, I empathize with your chat struggle tonight! However, I hope you might be able to see this response as overwhelming and serious popular opinion against something that sounds like justification for a logging plan.

[7/14 8:09 PM] Bill Sayre (Guest)

Why is it important to have balance in the age classes of the forest -- both to the environment and to forestry?

[7/14 8:09 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)
Thanks for noting no assessment for this project yet

[7/14 8:10 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)
I hope there will be a carbon assessment for this project

[7/14 8:11 PM] Kellie Becker (Guest)
Based on the assessment data I reviewed, it appears that the "Fair Designation" of Chittenden Reservoir outlined in the Otter Creek Tactical Basin Plan refers to mercury and phosphorus pollutants that were assessed and measured prior to the year 2000 based on a very few number of fish (4 as I recall). Including a re-evaluation of Chittenden Reservoir Water Quality to confirm/update this assessment is key to long term planning. Phosphorus data included in the Otter Creek Tactical Basin plan does not comport with Water Quality Testing conducted by the Town of Chittenden 2016-2019. Mercury testing was not completed in the Municipal Assessment. Given the age of the data and the sample size would the IRP consider adding to the knowledge base by reassessing the aquatic health of the Reservoir, Leffert's Pond and East Creek?

[7/14 8:11 PM] Lopi (Guest)
In my opinion that is too much power in one person.

[7/14 8:12 PM] Mike Covey (Guest)
I appreciate the work this team has done and the acknowledgement that timber harvest will be important moving forward. This will benefit the economy, biodiversity within the forest, and enhanced access will engage more stakeholders.

[7/14 8:12 PM] Monica Filippenko & Peter Cummings (Guest)
will the upcoming meetings about this be in-person? Please pardon me if this was already said and I missed it.

[7/14 8:13 PM] joe kraus (Guest)
A population of marten has been identified in the southern GMNF. Have you made any effort to determine whether they also exist in this portion of the GMNF? Also, will you make any effort to help connect the southern population with populations in northern Vermont? Thank-you.

[7/14 8:13 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)
Re: trigger, do EIS factor in GHGs? They should going forward

[7/14 8:13 PM] Mattrick, Christopher -FS
the meeting tonight is the public kick off meeting for the project. To inform the project that it is occurring and seeking your involvement. No analysis has yet been conducted. The analysis and public comment of that analysis will begin sometime in the winter 21/22 and extend through 2022.

[7/14 8:13 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)
Thanks for this first forum. You can see how much concern there is in the community. We'll continue to follow and engage throughout.

[7/14 8:14 PM] Mattrick, Christopher -FS

Look forward to that engagement Michael.

[7/14 8:14 PM] Mears, Jeremy – FS

Yes we had multiple camera traps on the North Half of the cembra- as part of the same effort
(1 liked)

[7/14 8:14 PM] Mattrick, Christopher -FS

For martens.

[7/14 8:15 PM] Mears, Jeremy – FS

cembra=Forest

[7/14 8:15 PM] Monica Filippenko & Peter Cummings (Guest)

take donations so that the plan can get revised sooner please

[7/14 8:15 PM] Catherine L (Guest)

We can write our legislators to get better policies as funding isn't happening.

[7/14 8:15 PM] Monica Filippenko & Peter Cummings (Guest)

thank you Catherine

[7/14 8:16 PM] Doug Smith (Guest)

Sounds as if we need to see if Senator Leahy can't help getting funding for a new plan.

[7/14 8:16 PM] Bob Leitch (Guest)

Thank you for the presentation that crossed aspects of the natural environment as it relates to this study area. Interesting to listen to the presenters and the work they have done. Keep up the great work!

[7/14 8:17 PM] Catherine L (Guest)

As constituents many legislators may not be aware the details.

[7/14 8:17 PM] Wyatt J. Cummings (Guest)

Thank you presenters for your hard work, looking forward to learning and engaging more!

[7/14 8:20 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

Is this acreage correct? Under the current forest plan, about 13% of all the non-wilderness land in the national forest—over 43,000 acres—will be logged to some extent within the next decade, a practice the Forest Service characterizes as important to creating balanced habitats and also to the timber industry. <https://www.ourherald.com/articles/expanded-logging-in-vermonts-natl-forest-puts-activists-on-edge/>

Expanded Logging in Vermont's Nat'l Forest Puts Activists on

When Mark Nelson first visited the Robinson Integrated Resource Project in central Vermont, he was stunned by an expanse of stumps and slash where a mature forest once stood. "When you go there a

[7/14 8:20 PM] Allen McGonagill (Guest)

Related question. Is there a revenue target that the team is managing to? Or is the decision solely based on the health of the forest / ecosystem?

[7/14 8:21 PM] Glen Ayers (Guest)

It seems like the first thing you should have studied is the existing carbon storage levels, and then modeled the future potential carbon storage, in light of the need to greatly increase the amount of CO2 being removed from the atmosphere. As Nunery and Keeton (2010) have found, as the level of disturbance and the intensity of disturbance increases, the amount of carbon decreases. We need to designate the Telephone Gap area as a National Carbon Reserve. You had time to cruise the timber, but not enough time to do a carbon assessment? That seems like an intentional omission. Convince us otherwise. We judge you by your acts, and not the vague assurances that you have no idea what is planned for this area. That seems a bit hard to believe, since you have put in so much effort just to justify citting timber.

[7/14 8:21 PM] Geoffrey Gardner (Guest)

Thanks to all the presenters for helping to clarify what we have and where this project may be going and the issues involved.

[7/14 8:22 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

100%, Glen. Couldn't agree more w/ your point re: carbon storage levels and future potential carbon storage

[7/14 8:22 PM] Mark Nelson (Guest)

Jay - Would you be willing to post the link to the most recent GMNF carbon assessment?

[7/14 8:22 PM] Mike Covey (Guest)

If I understood correctly, only roughly 1/3 of the area would be eligible for treatment for harvest. Is this correct? That would leave the vast majority of the area untouched. I'm trying to sort through how many of the concerns presented here are largely unfounded based on those percentages.

[7/14 8:23 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

is this it?

[https://fpr.vermont.gov/sites/fpr/files/Forest_and_Forestry/The_Forest_Ecosystem/Library/Forest%20Carbon%20Inventory%20 Mar%202017_final.pdf](https://fpr.vermont.gov/sites/fpr/files/Forest_and_Forestry/The_Forest_Ecosystem/Library/Forest%20Carbon%20Inventory%20Mar%202017_final.pdf)

[7/14 8:23 PM] Lopi (Guest)

I specifically do not want any clear cuts to occur at all
(1 liked)

[7/14 8:23 PM] Catherine L (Guest)

1/3 of 23,000 acres?

[7/14 8:23 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

seems essential that this project has its own carbon assessment

[7/14 8:24 PM] Doug Smith (Guest)

1/3 of the area sounds like a great deal to me when we're talking about timber harvesting and building of logging roads, etc..

[7/14 8:25 PM] Patrick Maher (Guest)

Thank you to the National Forest team for your professionalism & comprehensive presentation as this project kicks off. I appreciate your efforts and time!

[7/14 8:25 PM] Catherine L (Guest)

Please look at Professor Bill Moomaw's research and his presentations to international agencies.

[7/14 8:25 PM] Kellie Becker (Guest)

How does the current RRPC Wildcat Road Wetland Restoration Feasibility Report finalized in June 2021 work with and impact the Forest Service Wetlands & Roads presentation mentioned in your plan? If the Forest Service and the Town of Chittenden are considering having the Forest Service take over the legal trail in order to have a viable road for forest activities, has there been any consideration given to Forest Service extending that proposal to at least discuss managing all of Wild Cat Road given the proposed \$1.5M road project proposed in the RRPC Study is largely due to impact of Forest Service Project in the 2011 Recovery and Reinvestment Act to upgrade Leffert's Fishing Access, install the Fish Ladder and close the 'old' Forest Service Road? Forest Service has the analytical and technical skill set to protect the

[7/14 8:26 PM] Lopi (Guest)

I love that question

[7/14 8:26 PM] Kellie Becker (Guest)

'view-shed and enviroment.

[7/14 8:26 PM] Doug Smith (Guest)

Do you work with Abenaki to assess disturbance to sacred sites?

[7/14 8:26 PM] Lopi (Guest)

what he said^^^ ^^

[7/14 8:26 PM] Mike Covey (Guest)

1/3 of 33,000 acres. With our broader lack of early successional habitat and the broader scope of the entire GMNF, this seems really reasonable, especially when spread across time.

(1 liked)

[7/14 8:26 PM] Munroe (Guest)

Have wildlife corridors been studied and identified? Being protected?

[7/14 8:27 PM] Catherine L (Guest)

All the migrating species?

[7/14 8:28 PM] Lopi (Guest)

thank you for listening to us

[7/14 8:28 PM] Kellie Becker (Guest)

Thank you all for a very interesting and informative presentation. AND, inviting continued participation as the project develops.

[7/14 8:28 PM] Munroe (Guest)

All species that need to migrate.

[7/14 8:28 PM] Monica Filippenko & Peter Cummings (Guest)

why consider clear cutting at all? what wildlife specifically will benefit from a clear cut? what wildlife is being targetted by this practice? in new england a standing dead tree can be home to over 70 different species, right? nature knows what it's doing all we have to do is get out of the way and leave it be. leave the soils undisturbed, let them regenerate.

(1 liked)

[7/14 8:28 PM] Mattrick, Christopher -FS

Doug - we do have to consult with federally recognized tribes and we do interact and work with the Abenaki to address any concerns they have regarding any land management proposals.

(1 liked)

[7/14 8:28 PM] Carole (Guest)

but if you are using the newer science from your 2006 plan, than you shouldn't be cutting trees and clear cutting.

[7/14 8:28 PM] Monica Filippenko & Peter Cummings (Guest)

i totally agree with doug - have the abenaki clans in vermont been invited into this conversation? after all these are their lands.

[7/14 8:29 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

a lot of climate science has emerged since 2006...

[7/14 8:29 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

a forest management planning for carbon sequestration

[7/14 8:30 PM] Mattrick, Christopher -FS

The Abenaki were invited to tonight's presentation.

[7/14 8:30 PM] Catherine L (Guest)

Yes I am interested in the Abenaki and other indigenous peoples. They have tremendous experience beyond our governmental agencies.

[7/14 8:30 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

The strong mitigation potential of forest ecosystems makes carbon management a key component of proposed future natural climate solutions (Griscon et al. 2017, Fargione et al. 2018). <https://academic.oup.com/jof/article/118/1/86/5648951>

[7/14 8:31 PM] Catherine L (Guest)

Do the Abenaki have access to participate virtually?

[7/14 8:31 PM] Lopi (Guest)
it wasn't mentioned, herbicide use was

[7/14 8:31 PM] Allen McGonagill (Guest)
Thank you for addressing that question. I appreciate it. I'm not sure I understand how a tree would make it to old growth if we are targeting mature trees. But I guess I'm hearing that we aren't specifically removing ALL of the old growths, and are managing them to be a fraction of a mixed age forest.

[7/14 8:31 PM] Bill Sayre (Guest)
Do you grow more timber than you harvest? How much more, or less?

[7/14 8:33 PM] Bill Sayre (Guest)
Do younger forests absorb more Carbon Dioxide than older forests?

[7/14 8:33 PM] Mike Covey (Guest)
I've seen no science to support the idea that wildlife won't migrate through regenerating forests. There are very few species that don't benefit from timber harvest, . Even canopy nesting birds need forest openings for portions of their life cycles. Is there any such body of work that the Forest Service is aware of? Will you be actively partnering with the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife?

[7/14 8:34 PM] Catherine L (Guest)
Bill they do not. See Prof Bill Moomaw presentation Proforestation to see the research and comparisons.

[7/14 8:34 PM] Eric Daniels (Guest)
Can you explain the history of the 7,500 acres acquired in 2001 that is now part of the Telephone Gap area? Are any of the candidate stands included in this acreage?

[7/14 8:34 PM] Lopi (Guest)
will it be used or not. that is the question

[7/14 8:35 PM] Monica Filippenko & Peter Cummings (Guest)
if modern, 21st century humans needed to manage forests in order for all wildlife to have appropriate habitat, why was there much more thriving wildlife before our society began its activities?

[7/14 8:35 PM] Bill Sayre (Guest)
Do professors sometimes disagree?

[7/14 8:37 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)
Bill, that's why we need a carbon assessment for this project

[7/14 8:37 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)
to answer your question as it pertains to this project

[7/14 8:37 PM] Mike Covey (Guest)

Was there more wildlife in pre-colonial times than we enjoy now? Was there more wildlife 100 years ago than there is now?

[7/14 8:39 PM] Bill Sayre (Guest)

Thanks, Michael ... There may be a way to do so.

[7/14 8:39 PM] Lindsey (Guest)

yes, Mike. 150-200 species of plant, insect bird and mammal go extinct every day

[7/14 8:39 PM] Mattrick, Christopher -FS

ANR - Agency of Natural Resources

[7/14 8:41 PM] Mike Covey (Guest)

How has human proliferation increased the need to manage habitat for the sake of ensuring appropriate habitat diversity in unoccupied areas?

[7/14 8:43 PM] Mike Covey (Guest)

How many species have gone extinct in Vermont in the last four decades?

[7/14 8:43 PM] Munroe (Guest)

Is reforestation of logged areas a responsibility of the National Forest Service?

[7/14 8:44 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

mike:

<https://vtfishandwildlife.com/sites/fishandwildlife/files/documents/Learn%20More/Library/REPORTS%20AND%20DOCUMENTS/NONGAME%20AND%20NATURAL%20HERITAGE/ENDANGERED%2C%20THREATENED%20AND%20RARE%20SPECIES%20LISTS/Endangered%20and%20Threatened%20Animals%20of%20Vermont.pdf>

[7/14 8:45 PM] Doug Smith (Guest)

Is there potential for creation of new wilderness areas in this project?

[7/14 8:45 PM] Annette Smith VCE (Guest)

Will the EA address the 30 x 30 Executive Order <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/27/executive-order-on-tackling-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad/>? and wouldn't it be important to consider how to incorporate that into this project review? Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad | The White House
The United States and the world face a profound climate crisis. We have a narrow moment to pursue action at home and abroad in order to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of that crisis and to se...
www.whitehouse.gov

[7/14 8:45 PM] Glen Ayers (Guest)

This evening has given me a bad feeling about the future of the Green Mountain National Forest. I think it is probably time to meet with Senators and Representatives and start the process of transferring the GMNF from the Department of Agriculture to the National Park Service in the Department of the Interior. Senator Leahy considers this to be his Park, and it might be a good idea to designate this National Forest as the Patrick Leahy National Park, where commercial logging is prohibited.

[7/14 8:45 PM] Mattrick, Christopher -FS

Munroe - Yes. We are responsible to ensure that harvested areas are being reforested either naturally or through planting. Most reforestation occurs naturally on the GMNF.

[7/14 8:46 PM] Anne Dolivo (Guest)

how long will it take for a young tree to drawdown carbon at the same rate as a mature tree?

[7/14 8:46 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

Agreed, Glen.

[7/14 8:46 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

I'm concerned that we're not planning for the future. Using old models.

[7/14 8:47 PM] Catherine L (Guest)

Anne it will take it to 75 years old

[7/14 8:47 PM] Mike Covey (Guest)

Thank you, Michael, but I do not believe that answers my question. I understand we have several T&E species, but the question I have is how many have gone extinct recently.

[7/14 8:47 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

anyone who questions habitat/species lost, it's on par w/ the climate threat:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/nov/17/habitat-loss-biodiversity-wildlife-climate-change>

[7/14 8:47 PM] Catherine L (Guest)

until it reaches mature tree status

[7/14 8:47 PM] Mike Covey (Guest)

Thank you Jeremy.

[[7/14 8:49 PM] Doug Smith (Guest)

Even lighter on the land would be no new roads?

[7/14 8:50 PM] Eric Daniels (Guest)

There's a sign at Michigan Brook about those 7500 acres

[7/14 8:50 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

Mike, species are state-bound. look by region:

https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/esa_works/northeast.html

7/14 8:50 PM] Mike Covey (Guest)

Again, I think conflating habitat management with habitat loss/fragmentation is a really unfortunate approach. Will the Service be avoiding this pitfall?

[7/14 8:50 PM] Rachel Smolker (Guest)

who actually DOES the logging? Where are the logs used? Who makes money?

[7/14 8:50 PM] Kate Wanner (Guest)
Correct, Stanley Tool lands in 2001, just north of the South Pond addition

[7/14 8:51 PM] Anne Dolivo (Guest)
Thanks Catherine: that basically answers the question about leaving the old trees rather than planting new trees!

[7/14 8:51 PM] Catherine L (Guest)
You bet

[7/14 8:52 PM] Eric Daniels (Guest)
Thank you, Kate.

[7/14 8:52 PM] Catherine L (Guest)
we need more trees planted both urban and rural though

[7/14 8:53 PM] Eric Daniels (Guest)
Could Shawn clarify his earlier statement who was consulted as early as 2018 to discuss this project?

[7/14 8:57 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)
There was an earlier claim by a presenter that soils are the best carbon sequestration option (versus above ground). I want to contest that assumption. It's both and here not either or. Soils are very effective. Trees are equally effective. <https://extension.psu.edu/how-forests-store-carbon>
How Forests Store Carbon
This article offers an introduction to how forest store carbon. It describes how forests impact the carbon cycle, and how forests can be used to help combat climate change.
extension.psu.edu

[7/14 8:57 PM] Manzanita (Guest)
Thank you, presenters.

[7/14 8:58 PM] Doug Smith (Guest)
Don't leaves, buds, etc. get quickly converted to CO2?

[7/14 8:59 PM] Doug Smith (Guest)
Do commercial logs actually stay within the state? I understand that from the Adirondacks right now most timber is going to China?

[[7/14 9:00 PM] Tilley, Jeffrey -FS
Doug= Leaves, buds, etc. do decompose and some carbon is released into the atmosphere and some is stored in the soil. Other nutrients such as calcium and magnesium are returned to the nutrient cycle.

[7/14 9:00 PM] Catherine L (Guest)
Do any go to Europe as biomass?

[7/14 9:00 PM] Mears, Jeremy - FS

<https://vtfishandwildlife.com/sites/fishandwildlife/files/documents/Learn%20More/Library/REPORTS%20AND%20DOCUMENTS/NONGAME%20AND%20NATURAL%20HERITAGE/ENDANGERED%2C%20THREATENED%20AND%20RARE%20SPECIES%20LISTS/Endangered%20and%20Threatened%20Animals%20of%20Vermont.pdf>

[7/14 9:02 PM] Marcus, Aaron (Guest)

To speak to MaryBeth's response about plant extirpations in Vermont, here is the rare and uncommon plant list for Vermont. Species list as SX are believed extirpated. Species listed as SH are historical--missing/unreported in Vermont for at least the last 25 years (but sometimes much longer). <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/sites/fishandwildlife/files/documents/Learn%20More/Library/REPORTS%20AND%20DOCUMENTS/NONGAME%20AND%20NATURAL%20HERITAGE/ENDANGERED%2C%20THREATENED%20AND%20RARE%20SPECIES%20LISTS/Rare-and-Uncommon-Native-Vascular-Plants-of-Vermont.pdf>

[7/14 9:02 PM] Allen McGonagill (Guest)

Yes please. Would love to be on the project mailing list. Allen.mcgonagill@gmail.com

[7/14 9:02 PM] Catherine L (Guest)

catherineleblanc693@gmail.com

[7/14 9:03 PM] Marcus, Aaron (Guest)

Oops--miscopied the link:

<https://vtfishandwildlife.com/sites/fishandwildlife/files/documents/Learn%20More/Library/REPORTS%20AND%20DOCUMENTS/NONGAME%20AND%20NATURAL%20HERITAGE/ENDANGERED%2C%20THREATENED%20AND%20RARE%20SPECIES%20LISTS/Rare-and-Uncommon-Native-Vascular-Plants-of-Vermont.pdf>

[7/14 9:03 PM] Jennifer Swiftwater (Guest)

I would like to be on the emailist, vyhnak@sover.net

[7/14 9:03 PM] Barbara Gabrielsen (Guest)

please add Barblove@gmail.com

[7/14 9:03 PM] Deller, Mary -FS

Thanks, Aaron, couldn't get the website to load.

[7/14 9:03 PM] Barbara Gabrielsen (Guest)

and sixbridges@aol.com to the mailing list

[7/14 9:03 PM] Andrew Ramsey (Guest)

I would like to be on the mailing list. ramsey.andrew1994@gmail.com

[7/14 9:04 PM] joe kraus (Guest)

Please add joekraus@mac.com

[7/14 9:04 PM] Lopi (Guest)

artist.proof@gmail.com

[7/14 9:04 PM] Groff, Shannon – FS

Thank you all for attending this Telephone Gap IRP Kickoff Meeting! Remember, if you are interested in attending a field trip within the Telephone Gap IRP and/or a follow-up, resource specific virtual meeting [please let us know by filling out this short form](#). We will follow-up with interested folks with more details.

[7/14 9:04 PM] Kate Goetz (Guest)

add to mailing list: kgardnergoetz@hotmail.com

[7/14 9:04 PM] Tracy (Guest)

Please add: tracybodeo@gmail.com

[7/14 9:05 PM] Wyatt J. Cummings (Guest)

I would love to be added to the mailing list: wyattjcumplings@gmail.com

[7/14 9:05 PM] Mccann, John -FS

Michael, thanks for that PSU reference. Note that website indicates that many ecosystems do have more carbon in the soil than above ground. The example shown of sites where the soil has less carbon than above ground biomass included the rain forests with sandier soils. A better discussion about forest and soil types present in the planning area can help clarify this point locally.

[7/14 9:05 PM] Geoffrey Gardner (Guest)

Please place me on the mailing list for this project: geoffrey323@myfairpoint.net

[7/14 9:06 PM] Rachel Smolker (Guest)

Jeff can you provide that link on the project website? Or...How can we get that information?

[7/14 9:07 PM] Lopi (Guest)

If someone gave the forest service enough money would you guys stop selling our forests for profit

[7/14 9:07 PM] Catherine L (Guest)

In the Southeast of US timber to pelletgo to biomass to Europe would like to know where it all goes

[7/14 9:07 PM] Tilley, Jeffrey -FS

[nefa13_econ_importance_vt_final_web_jan29.pdf \(nefainfo.org\)](#)

[7/14 9:07 PM] Glen Ayers (Guest)

Thanks FS Guys and Gals! You have a difficult job, and I appreciate the conflicts you have to deal with and the politics. I think you tried to do a good job tonight, but it was a tough crowd.

[7/14 9:07 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

to the previous question re: endangered species and endangered habitat, we need to look regionally, not state based: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2486312/>
Going, Going, Gone: Is Animal Migration Disappearing
www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov

[7/14 9:08 PM] Shank, Michael J. (Guest)

Thanks, everyone!

[7/14 9:08 PM] Eric Daniels (Guest)

Thank you for the hard work. Much appreciated!

[7/14 9:08 PM] Marcus, Aaron (Guest)

Regarding global extinctions (vs. state-wide extirpations), you can look for species listed as GX on that list. There are a few known (and quite likely some additional ones that are unknown. *Astragalus robbinsii* var. *robbinsii*--a milkvetch went extinct in direct response to dam construction in Chittenden County in the 1890's. Several hawthorns and a woodmint which are debatably actually taxa are also historical.

[7/14 9:08 PM] Catherine L (Guest)

Thank you

[7/14 9:08 PM] Mccann, John -FS

Thanks for all the interaction and feedback!

[7/14 9:08 PM] Allen, Angie

Thanks again FS team!

[7/14 9:08 PM] Jennifer Swiftwater (Guest)

Thank you!

[7/14 9:08 PM] Anne Dolivo (Guest)

Thanks for an interesting presentation and discussion!

[7/14 9:08 PM] Lopi (Guest)

thanks!

[7/14 9:08 PM] Jonathan Yacko (Guest)

Thanks FS!

[7/14 9:08 PM] Wyatt J. Cummings (Guest)

Thanks again!

[7/14 9:09 PM] Munroe (Guest)

Thank you for this presentation!