

## Review of Proposed Projects with No Management in Old Growth Forest Conditions

| <b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>  |            |   |                   |
|---|------------|---|-------------------|
| <b>Project Name:</b>  |            | Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project |                   |
| <b>Level of NEPA</b>  |            | Environmental Assessment                  |                   |
| <b>Region</b>   | Eastern, 9 | <b>Forest</b>                             | Green Mountain NF |
| <b>Target Decision Date</b>   |            | June 2024                                 |                   |
| <b>Why is Vegetation Management Proposed within Old Growth Conditions?</b>  |            |   |                   |
| No vegetation management is proposed in forests that have old growth conditions.  |            |   |                   |
| <b>Summary of Proposed Activities in Old Growth Conditions</b>  |            |   |                   |
| <p>There are no proposed timber harvest activities in forests with old growth conditions. While there are some forested areas within the Telephone Gap Project area that are considered old growth, the action alternatives do not include any harvest of old growth forest. Documented old growth forest based on the Forest Plan definition for old growth forest occurs within the 297-acre Cape Research Natural Area in the northwest corner of the project area; all acres of old growth forest in the project area are in areas where timber harvest is not allowed or is protected from active management.</p> <p>The Telephone Gap project proposed action includes stands exhibiting some level of late forest successional attributes. The action alternatives eliminate stands best exhibiting these attributes from the proposal but include both modified commercial and non-commercial treatments for other stands to enhance their late successional habitat quality in stands that are considered as potential future old growth. The treatments are designed to enhance late successional forest habitat attributes in stands exhibiting substantial old forest characteristics.</p> <p>The goals of the project include improving wildlife habitat; enhancing forest health and diversity through timber harvesting to provide wood products for the local and regional economy; controlling non-native invasive species; restoring soil and wetland conditions; increasing recreation and scenery viewing opportunities; improving the trail and road network; and protecting heritage sites throughout the area.</p> |            |   |                   |

| <b>FOR WASHINGTON OFFICE ONLY:</b>                               |                             |
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| <b>Review Required</b>   | <b>Date Review Complete</b> |
| Ecosystem Management Coordination                                | June 3, 2024                |
| Forest Management, Rangelands Management, and Vegetation Ecology | June 3, 2024                |
| Fire and Aviation Management                                     | June 3, 2024                |
| <b>Review/Approval</b>   | <b>Digital Signature</b>    |
| Deputy Chief – National Forest System                            |                             |