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Comments: Please refer to my previous comments of 3/7/23 and 4/4/24. I understand that the logging plans for the Green Mountain National Forest are consistent with the present forest management plan. This includes Telephone Gap. However, the science has changed dramatically since the plan was written, and doesn't take climate change into consideration. It's no secret that the importance of carbon sequestration should be figured into everything we do now, whether it is stated in the current forest management plan, or not.

The Green Mountain National Forest has greater carbon density than most forests in the Eastern US. These important forests should be allowed to grow old. Old growth stands should remain intact. This "do nothing" approach to forest management is by far the simplest and least expensive way to help mitigate climate change, and will have positive consequences that reach beyond Vermont. It is also consistent with President Biden's 2022 Executive Order on conserving mature and old-growth forests.

Our National Forests were established to restore and protect water quality and guard against flood disasters. Nearly 14 years ago, tropical storm Irene and other storms demonstrated the ravage of climate change in Vermont. My town of Plainfield has recently experienced two devastating floods due to climate change. We simply must do whatever we can to mitigate the effects of this climate emergency, and the best thing we can do for clean water, flood mitigation, and carbon sequestration, is allow forests to grow old and remain standing. Please eliminate all plans to log in Telephone Gap, and note the attached picture.