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Comments: It is beyond dispute that killing trees not only releases carbon into the atmosphere, but also sacrifices a critical pathway for carbon absorption long into the future. Due to decades of logging, American forests now have far less biomass than they would have if managed by mother nature. Deforestation is a key accelerant of the climate crisis.

Our hope for avoiding climate catastrophe rests on the carbon equation of the next decade, not decades from now when trees cut down could be replaced with regrowth.

Mature and old-growth forests excel at removing and storing carbon from the atmosphere. And yet, 92% of the areas proposed for logging in the Telephone Gap timber sale are classified as mature or old by the Green Mountain National Forest, violating President Biden's historic Executive Order from Earth Day 2022, which directed the US Forest Service to protect these forests for the benefit of the climate and biodiversity.

Forest trees provide the enormous benefits such as stabilizing local climate by transferring heat from land surfaces to higher in the atmosphere and buffering temperature extremes. On a global scale, forests reduce earth's temperature about 0.5 degrees C. Trees release water vapor and biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOCs) which promotes cloud formation, and contributes further to cooling and formation of condensation nuclei, more cloud formation, and ultimately precipitation. Intact forests play an enormous role in global and regional terrestrial water cycles. Trees promote water absorption from rainfall and contribute to long term water storage in aquifers.

Logging requires road building and skid trails leaving lasting ecosystem damage: soil compaction, surface erosion, increased stream sedimentation, degraded water quality and aquatic habitat, reduced biodiversity, spread of invasive vegetation, and suppression of forest regeneration.

Logging damages remaining trees, and does not "restore" forest health. Through underground mazes of roots, fungi, and bacteria called "mycorrhizal networks," trees share resources like water and nutrients, helping each other survive stresses. Forest thinning disrupts these mycorrhizal networks leaving remaining trees more vulnerable to disease, pest attack, and drought, shortening their life span.

Please cancel this project which has absolutely no public benefit and drives us further into climate extinction.