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Comments: Below are numerous concerns about the Telephone Gap Project 60192:

1) At a time when the human species must preserve our mature forests to mitigate climate change, logging in this area is contrary! This proposal is based on out-of-date information. Recent research is showing old trees sequester by far the most carbon, with the largest 1% of trees in the US sequestering 30% of carbon. We need to change the way we view projects in the GMNF and instead of chopping down mature forests, preserve them and let them grow stronger.

2) The world is losing species at an alarming rate (according to a UN report, about 150 species per day, mostly due to habitat loss). The Northern Long-eared Bat is endangered and prefers old-growth forests for roosting, just one species that depends on the Telephone Gap region for habitat. Imagine the wreckage of pristine habitat after logging this area. Now is the time to leave whatever wild lands we have left, untouched!

3) Most timber harvesting in Vermont takes place on private lands (96%) so protecting the public lands would have minimal impact on the wood-products industry. In fact, the logging should be left to private owners. Taxpayer dollars are better spent on forest protection direly needed to combat global warming and habitat loss, than on chopping forests.

4) With water sources threatened all over the planet, it is our duty to protect the headwaters in Vermont. Logging in the area will threaten Chittenden Reservoir, exacerbate flooding downstream and may imperil brook trout. The headwaters must be kept in pristine condition as they are a source of Otter Creek and ultimately Lake Champlain.

5) Vermont is working diligently to create areas of connectivity for future habitat migration, etc. The untouched GMNF plays a huge role. Telephone Gap area is one such place. To construct more roads in the region and destroy the roadless nature of much of the range is contrary to Vermonters' goal of connectivity. Constructing roads also allows invasive plant growth otherwise not introduced.

We must look at the GMNF in a new light and conserve what we have for the sake of every living species left on this planet: It is time to change our perception placing the value on the untouched, pristine, old-growth of forests rather than the extraction of precious resources. Hence, taking the high road to protect future generations. Our eyes must open to a new reality facing the remaining natural world. There is not any time left to procrastinate - we must make the right decisions now. Please do not move forward with this project.

Thank you.