

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/6/2023 6:42:36 PM

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Comments: Dear Officials,

As we see the increasing, devastating impacts of climate change - please take action to protect our old forests so they can sequester more carbon and provide refuge for endangered species.

Please honor President Biden's Executive Order directing the US Forest Service to conserve mature and old-growth forests to buffer climate change and protect biodiversity.

Many of the trees in Telephone Gap are 80-160 years old, which scientists have shown to accumulate and store the most carbon - essential in our fight against climate change. The GMNF has greater carbon density than most forests in the Eastern US; we should manage this public land for the benefit of our climate and biodiversity, not cut it down.

Mature forests matter not only for the carbon that they store - they also are essential for preserving biodiversity, clean water, and climate resilience. Many of New England's most endangered species, including pine marten, Northern Long-eared Bats, and brook trout need healthy, old forests to thrive. Old forests excel at removing the phosphorus and nitrogen that drive algal blooms and dead zones in our rivers, lakes, and ponds. And they are exceptional at reducing the impacts of both floods and droughts, by absorbing excess water flows.

Please stop the plans to log Telephone Gap - honor President Biden's executive order - and preserve our public lands for posterity .