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Comments: Dear U.S. Forest Service,

After reviewing the "Green Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan," I conclude that the Telephone Gap project to log 2500 acres amid a mature forest of over 10000 acres will unnecessarily contribute to worldwide habitat degradation. By hastening the 1.5 degree C. tipping point defined by the IPCC, the Telephone Gap logging will bring the day closer when all or most of our coral reefs will be lost. This concrete example will be accompanied by the initiation of numerous processes with unknown impacts on our global climate, according to the IPCC. We've seen these kinds of changes force Indigenous peoples in Alaska to have to relocate their communities due to sea level rise, threaten communities living in Pacific Island nations, and contribute to catastrophic natural events like the flooding in Pakistan. Given the persistent warnings from numerous agencies about the growing climate emergency, the 2006 report's failure to mention the carbon impacts of the active forest management of the Telephone Gap area is unconscionable. As the second largest contributor of carbon to the atmosphere in the world, the United States has an obligation to try to rectify the chaos it has helped unleash by eliminating all unnecessary atmospheric carbon release. The Telephone Gap project falls into the "unnecessary category." Maintaining this forest tract intact is the most cost effective and practical method we have of beginning to reign in the excesses of our carbon pollution.

In addition to hastening worldwide climate change and disrupting life for humans and wildlife, this project, based on an outdated 2006 assessment, will contribute to habitat fragmentation in a large area of mature forest. These expanses need protection, not active forest management, to maintain the biodiversity the forest currently possesses. Nature has been quite capable of managing itself without human aid and this instance is no different. Forest do not need management for climate change resilience. As the climate changes, habitats will gradually adjust as they always have and nature will reach an equilibrium. In 2016, Harvard Forest scientists Foster and Orwig published "Preemptive and Salvage Logging: When Doing Nothing is a Viable Alternative." The Telephone Gap project is one where doing nothing is not only a viable alternative, but the best course for humans and wildlife both locally and planet-wide. Please do not begin or complete this project on the basis of its outdated plan that fails to take the true environmental toll into account.