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Comments: Thank you for taking the time to receive comments. I am writing to express my support for continuing to manage USFS land in Vermont and the Finger Lakes using a balanced approach of intentionally passively managing places with active management. Understanding forest carbon and its responsible management in the context of our forests should be considered as a factor in decision making, but it should not drive management on USFS land.

From resilience to species diversity, a full range of wildlife habitats, local wood production, and cultural values it is important that the forest service continues its multiple use framework including at Telephone Gap. If there are demonstrable reasons for reducing the amount or intensity of treatments in places (not based exclusively on carbon) then those should be given due examination. Given the rigor of the planning exercises that the Forest Service undertakes, it is unlikely though not impossible that such a thing exists.

In conclusion, there are some groups in the region who are strongly advocating for a wilderness first approach. The passion they present for the outdoors and nature in general is admirable, but somewhat misguided and based largely on sentiment. Continuing to base the stewardship of Forest Service land on science, and multiple use principles is important in a local and global context. Thank you