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Comments: I was stunned to hear of the proposed extent of forest cutting proposed as part of the Telephone Gap project. Research by Bill Moomaw of Tufts University has shown there to be much greater benefit to leaving the older, larger trees versus removing such trees for the purpose of creating young forest. The older trees sequester more carbon than the younger trees (for example, a single 150 year old, 54" diameter, 100' tall red oak provides a benefit equal to 35 young canopy trees, 29 years old, 12" diameter and 50' tall). At this point in time, it is critical that the Forest Service put a priority on the service of carbon sequestration that the older forests provide. In addition, with both climate change and the global transportation of plant material and insects, there will be gaps formed in the forest by fire, disease and insect related mortality. In New Jersey, we are currently having a serious die off of ash trees due to the emerald ash borer, and this is creating gaps in the forest. There is no need to artificially create gaps by logging in our public forests. In addition, there is an incredible lack of older growth forest now compared to the pre-industrialization extent. The older growth forests provide for a wealth of birds and wildlife dependent on these large intact forest areas. Fragmentation of the forest by logging will put these species at risk of invasive plants and animals including the cow bird. The limited quantity of intact forest needs to be left to do the work of a forest. If anything, we should be looking to expand this intact forest area.