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Comments: I would like to urge GMNF to withdraw or drastically rethink the proposal to log the Telephone Gap area of GMNF. There are several reasons for my objections:

- The Telephone Gap area is prime habitat for the Northern Long-eared Bat, which was recently listed as endangered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Logging these mature forests would remove or seriously degrade that much-needed habitat.
- The plan violates a presidential executive order from last year, directing the Forest Service to protect forests just such as the ones in Telephone Gap for the benefit of the climate and biodiversity.
- While much is made in the plan of the creation of new early-successional habitat, little is said of the Telephone Gap area's habitat value AS IS, let alone it's value as potential old-growth habitat if it were protected from logging and allowed to develop into an old growth forest in the future.
- Recent science has indicated that mature forests are better reservoirs of carbon storage than younger stands. Given the current climate crisis, It makes more sense to preserve these mature forests as a carbon reserve than to log them for short-term economic gain.

Please look beyond the outdated forest plan and consider the greater implications of this project. I urge you to instead protect and preserve the Telephone Gap area as the critical habitat and carbon reserve it already is.