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Comments: The plan for timber harvest in Telephone Gap seems very short sighted and based on old science, serving mainly the timber industry. In the age of climate change, we as a society should be saving the bigger, more mature trees as current science shows that they capture and hold large amounts of CO<sub>2</sub>, at a greater rate than less mature trees. Last Earth Day President Biden directed the USFS to protect mature growth for the benefit of the climate and biodiversity!

Mature forests are also important to bears and other animals, many birds, and the endangered Long Eared Bat. Logging is also very destructive to the soil, and can lead to erosion, besides destroying the natural beauty and peaceful quiet which many people, Vermonters and visitors alike, seek out when they travel, camp and recreate in the Green Mountain Forest.

This wonderful Forest will never be the same after such a huge project, and the climate will suffer from it, so please cancel or greatly reduce this harvest plan. I am very much opposed to it.