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Comments: I support the proposed Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project. Management of public forest lands is important to help achieve a number of worthwhile goals, including enhanced biodiversity and increased carbon sequestration, notwithstanding misinformed comments to the contrary.

Although other factors are important, young, vigorous forests generally take up carbon at a faster rate than mature forests. As mature trees die and rot away, they release their stored carbon to the atmosphere. Other trees grow to take their place, but the overall carbon storage in a mature forest reaches a plateau, and contributes little if anything to ongoing sequestration.

If mature trees are instead harvested and used as building materials, their stored carbon will remain locked in place in the structures that are built. The young trees that take their place in the forest will then take up more carbon at a more rapid rate, acre for acre, than the mature trees would have done.

Regarding biodiversity, it's generally promoted by edge habitats. Edge habitats can be produced by providing numerous openings in the forest canopy, as has been proposed in this project. Other management goals, such as reducing overstocking, wetlands restoration and improved recreational opportunities, are also worthy of support.