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Comments: I OPPOSE the telephone gap proposal

1. The Telephone Gap proposal and the 2006 Forest Plan on which it is based are critically out of date because they do not significantly consider the project's impact on climate change. The Telephone Gap project should be stopped until it and the 2006 Forest Plan are revised to quantify and mitigate the effect on climate change.
2. Biodiversity: There is widespread scientific agreement that we are now in the sixth global mass extinction, much due to habitat loss. The Telephone Gap project area harbors thousands of species, many of which depend on interior mature and old forests for survival. We should protect them, not destroy their habitat.
3. The policy of cutting old trees is climate flawed. (Note: seedlings are hardly ever planted in New England's forests. Natural regeneration is sufficient.) When stands of old trees are cut the area becomes a net source of CO₂ for 10-20 years. Watch a fascinating 10-minute PBS video on this research at tinyurl.com/Forest-Carbon.
4. Cutting old forests to create young forests accelerates climate change. At the core of the 2006 Forest Plan and this project is an outdated policy of manipulating the forest by targeted cutting to bend it into conformity with Forest Service goals. The project proposes reducing mature and old forest from 12,000 acres to as few as 5,400, while increasing younger forest categories from 1,700 acres to as many as 10,500.