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Comments: Carbon sequestration is an important tool to counteract greenhouse gas emissions causing climate change. Forest health is also necessary, but consideration must be given to retaining older, healthy, more massive trees that have sequestered the most carbon. New growth cannot replace the carbon sequestration of mature old-growth timber for at least 40 years while we need to sequester the carbon in our atmosphere today to reduce the effects of global warming.

Mature and old-growth forests excel at removing and storing carbon from the atmosphere. And yet, 92% of the areas proposed for logging in the Telephone Gap timber sale are classified as mature or old by the Green Mountain National Forest, violating President Biden's Executive Order 14072, which directed the Forest Service to protect these forests for the benefit of the climate and biodiversity.

The US Forest Service's proposal for the management of the Telephone Gap region of the Green Mountain National Forest near the town of Chittenden includes the logging of 12,000 acres of trees, many of which are up to 160 years old.

In December, the Forest Service withdrew a timber sale in Oregon called "Flat Country" because it targeted mature forests of up to 150 years in age. Telephone Gap proposes logging forests up to 160 years in age. If Flat Country was important to withdraw, why is the Telephone Gap timber sale moving forward?

Please reconsider the proposal and either withdraw it or design it in a way to maximize carbon sequestration now.