Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/11/2023 8:43:08 PM First name: Eric Last name: Krasnauskas Organization: Title:

Comments: I write today to ask that you not to cut the trees of these 12,000 acres for the "Telephone Gap". First and foremost, we do ourselves a disservice whenever we make these cuts, increasing our flood risk, damaging biodiversity, and stripping the land of it's resilience right at the time when we need it most.

What's worse, these trees are old, and older trees are precisely the ones we need to be preserving. These are living beings connected and communicating with eachother all the time, and anchor the life and habitats of these areas. Without them, life big and small will suffer.

If we are ever as a people to take a step back and reconsider our destructive ways, cancelling this proposal would be an excellent place to start. There are so many things we now regret that seemed necessary and natural at the time... whaling, spanking children, lead in our pipes and asbestos in our walls. And as our awareness grew, so grew our horror at the damage we had been causing...I pray that we do not make more mistakes of this kind, and raise our awareness of the interconnectedness of life before its too late.

Thank you, -Eric