Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/13/2023 12:54:49 PM First name: EDWARD Last name: WETHERBY Organization: Title:

Comments: The areas proposed for logging in the Telephone Gap timber sale have major concentrations of mature trees between 80-160 years old, which science shows accumulate and store the most carbon in the fight against climate change compared to young trees (see this study and another for recent science defining forest maturity). The GMNF has greater carbon density than most forests in the Eastern US; we should manage this public land for the benefit of the climate and biodiversity, not cut it down. DO NOT CUT THIS FOREST DOWN, WE NEED TO STORE CARBON IN THIS FOREST INSTEAD OF FILLING THE STREAMS AND RIVERS WITH SILT!