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Comments: As we work to achieve the goals of Vermont Conservation Design, the State's framework for conserving biodiversity at the landscape scale, GMNF planning must look at its place in the State and the region when considering the costs and benefits of cutting old trees.

The GMNF plays an important role in Vermont and the region by providing the little area that we do have designated as wilderness. Most of Vermont's privately owned forests are managed for timber production. Public lands therefore have an appropriately outsized role in meeting the conservation goals necessary to conserve the State's biodiversity.

In the current context of what we know about the importance of old forests in addressing both the biodiversity and climate crisis, these trees are worth more to more people alive and growing than they are in forest products.

Please reconsider heavy cuts in old forests in the Telephone Gap area.