

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/14/2023 1:02:23 AM

First name: John

Last name: Cordes, MD

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear US Forest Service Project Officials:

I am concerned that the Telephone Gap project and the Plan do not consider and value the role that old trees play in sequestering carbon. We know from climate change scientists Beverly Law and William Moomaw that "Forests pull about one-third of all human-caused carbon dioxide emissions from the atmosphere each year. Researchers have calculated that ending deforestation and allowing mature forests to keep growing could enable forests to take up twice as much carbon." So keeping large trees in the ground is an incredibly effective and cheap way to reduce climate change. This project goes in exactly the wrong direction. It will increase climate change by releasing carbon as these trees are removed, and by preventing these valuable trees from continuing their free carbon removal and storage services. This project should be cancelled.