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First name: Dan

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

I am a furniture builder who uses and values timber as a resource for my work. I am also a person who heats my home with wood. So I understand and appreciate the concept of our forests being used as an economic and practical resource.

However, I also understand that the prevailing outlook of the forest industry and Forest Service is to see timber primarily, if not uniquely in those terms. This, I believe, is a grave mistake.

When we assess the value of a forest, or when we assess what is best practice for its continued growth and health, all too often those judgements are made through a lens of economic value and usefulness to human interests, which given our short life spans, are only short term interests.

Some forest areas should be left alone. Our training tends to only see value in marketable stands, or in terms of other anthropocentric parameters. But the telephone gap area should not be seen in this way. It has the potential to be left alone, to be governed by mother nature, be it for better or for worse in our eyes. We must understand that our point of view is limited. For instance, only now are we just beginning to understand the underground connections and lifelines that lie underground in an undisturbed forest. We cannot continue to use old standards for best practices, because history (and many current events) shows us that we are often not good stewards, despite our intentions.

Please resist the urge to allow harvesting in Telephone Gap. Any short term loss of income or profit will be more than offset by allowing nature to progress unimpeded by us in at least some areas. It doesn't matter if it was logged at one time. Its own evolution as a forest has restarted, is establishing itself, and it doesn't need our "help" in any way.

Leave this one go.

Thank you,
Dan DeWalt
Dewalt Cabinet Shop
Newfane
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