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Comments: I am writing as a concerned citizen and as a long-standing member of my town's Conservation Commission (Guilford, VT). In our work as a Conservation Commission we have become increasingly aware of the role that old-growth type forests play in mitigating climate change and protecting the water, land, and biodiversity resources that are critical for Vermont's future.

Thank you for developing Alternatives C and D to the Forest Service's initial IRP that incorporate diverse age class representation, climate-smart forestry, and the enhancement of late successional/old-growth forest attributes.

I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to select one of those Alternatives (C or D) to ensure that the Telephone IRP meets forest plan goals while showcasing how to protect and recruit late-successional and old-growth forests for carbon storage, late seral wildlife habitat conditions, and structurally complex forest conditions.

I also recommend that the Forest Service not harvest in stands that are over 150 years.