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Comments: Climate catastrophe is upon us and we need to do everything possible to save our oldest trees and forests which help mitigate the overwhelming toxins we put into the air. Research by the University of Vermont shows that New England forests could store 2 to 4 times more carbon if we just let them grow old. Letting mature and old trees stand is one of the most effective things that Vermonters can do to combat climate change and extinction. Private forests are the source of 96% of the timber supply in Vermont, so protecting public forests would have minimal impact on the wood products economy. We must put our public forests on a different path.

I urge you to consider a more enlightened and visionary approach to forest management. We can no longer continue on this path and need to make changes to our policies which have been recently highlighted by President Biden. We don't need token adjustments to the proposed plan for Telephone Gap. We need the plan to align with Biden's executive order and to be responsive to the urgency of our climate crisis. I implore you to take the road less traveled and forge a new path to better forest practices.