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Comments: In 2022, President Biden issued an Executive Order directing the US Forest Service to conserve mature and old-growth forests to benefit the climate and biodiversity. The US Forest Service has an important role to play in helping to recover old-growth forest ecosystems in regions of the country where few exist, like New England. Please take the time to change the Telephone Gap logging plan to match the conservation request. Even the updated selections did not change the project enough to conserve mature and old-growth forests.

Vermonters need to be the stewards of the Green Mountain National Forest and keep it a stronghold of biodiversity, clean water, carbon-storage warehouse, and a refuge for people seeking to reconnect with nature. The Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project needs to reflect these unique values.

For the benefit of our climate and the sustainability of the current life on Earth, please abandon or significantly modify the Telephone Gap IRP Modified Proposed Action to protect mature and old-growth forests, as well as roadless forests that are critical for clean water and wildlife. The Forest Service has a huge role to play in this goal and we need to count on you to plan for a sustainable future, please.