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Comments:

Thank you to the U.S. Forest Service for developing Alternatives C and D to their 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 Alternative 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 stage wildlife habitat conditions, and structurally complex forest conditions. I recommend that the Forest Service not harvest in stands that are over 150 years old.

I encourage the U.S.F.S to take action to ensure that Vermont is a nationwide leader in meeting the Biden Administration targets for 30x30 conservation, old-growth forest protection, and advancing needed climate-smart forestry practices.