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Comments: Dear Forest Service Administrators -

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on the Telephone Gap IRP. I commented during the earlier comment period and I see that you did make some welcome changes to this draft. I applaud you for developing Alternatives C & D, but I encourage you to select Alternative A. This would allow the forests of Telephone Gap to grow old old for the benefit of biodiversity and the climate.

I feel strongly that this project should be approved through the Environmental Impact Statement process instead of the Environmental Assessment process. We need a more stringent review process when so much is at stake, meaning the fate of our planet as we know and love it.

President Biden's Executive Order recognizes the importance of mature and old growth forests. You should protect all mature stands over 80 years old, which would have the added benefit of helping to protect important habitat for the endangered Northern Long-eared Bat.

You should also stop logging in all Inventoried Roadless Areas including the Pittenden Inventoried Roadless Area.

Thank you very much