

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/6/2024 11:52:31 PM

First name: Laura

Last name: Smith-Riva

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I implore the GMNF to place on hold plans to sell and log trees associated with the Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project. With our hottest year on record last year this project needs to be re-evaluated using the current best climate science. As a native Vermonter and an avid outdoor recreationalist and nature lover, I believe that the few old trees we have left should be maintained with reverence rather than chopped down as a commodity. As a livestock farmer for many years, I can tell you that there is no cooler place for an animal than in the forest. Man made structures do not offer the kind of protection from heat that the forests offer. We need these havens for both wildlife and humans. I hope that this project does not go forward and support Option A.

Management of our woodland is crucial, but that management should not be the wholesale of our old growth and mature trees. Thank you for reading my comments.