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Comments: We need to protect the forests to combat climate change. More trees, not less. I doubt they're(GMNF) planting 12,000 acres of new trees as they cut down old ones. This isn't just about climate reasons, it's also about the animals and insects that inhabit this area. I went to an event last week where a herpetologist spoke about how we need to protect the reptile and amphibian species in our state. If they(GMNF) log 12,000 acres, that will greatly affect the reptile and amphibian(as well as many mammals, birds, insects, etc.) populations in Vermont. This will not only have a major impact on the animals, but our agriculture as well. We need to strongly consider what is at stake.

I think option alternative A is the best option for our state. No moving forward till the US Forest Service goes through the Forest Plan amendment process.

Alternative A - Do nothing. Save Public Forests believes the GMNF should choose this alternative and put Telephone Gap on hold at least until early 2025, when the US Forest Service will do a nationwide Forest Plan amendment process. That will update agency stewardship of mature and old-growth forests, spurred by President Biden's Executive Order. The current GMNF Plan that Telephone Gap is based on was done in 2006 before much of the current best science on climate and forests had been done. We strongly support Alternative A.