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Comments: My choice of forest management for the Telephone Gap Plan lies with the Alternative B Modified Plan. Forest conservation targets as of 2019 for the Southern Green Mountain biophysical region {{ Vermont Agency of Natural Resources 2019 }} were set at 3-4 % of the forest in young successional forest {{ 22,000 - 30,000 acres }}.

The reports from the Telephone Gap Region indicate a lack of diversity within the various age classes of timber. The increase in cutting to establish young growth will lead to the creation of abundant wildlife populations. There are 54 Vermont Species of Greatest Conservation Need along with 4 categories of insects {{ Vermont Agency of Natural Resources - Forest Conservation Targets 2019 }} listed. There is no question in my mind that early successional habitat is required.

Aspen/ birch forest habitat has greatly diminished over time in Vermont. This plan calls for an increase in aspen/birch habitat. Hopefully, our grouse and woodcock population will expand. Sixty- five species of wildlife are dependent on young forests. Alternative Plan B has to be implemented.

Your forest service plan calls for no timber management of Old Growth Forest {{765 acres }}. It has been reported by National Woodlands - Article - Working Forest - A Path To Climate Solutions, that 85% of carbon storage takes place from the actual biological growth process. I'm confident that the US Forest Service's Best Management Practices that are carried out with AlternativePlan B will only create a more diversified healthy forest in the future.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on this management plan.