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Comments: Please leave the old growth forest stands at Telephone gap in Rutland and GMNF intact. Old growth forests are extremely rare and critical for ensuring biodiverse species and sequestering carbon.

The practice of logging and early successional forest created by cutting, releases CO<sub>2</sub>, not only in the road building/improving, cutting, transporting, and manufacturing or burning of the wood, but also after the cut in the rotting of roots and soil organisms. We need maximum sequestration and storage of carbon now, not in twenty plus years after cut stands regrow.

Let the "old", "mature", "late successional" stands keep growing into old growth on public land rather than tax subsidized logging. The No Action alternative plan would do this best and be of the most public good. Log on private lands where 95% of the logging is done in Vermont and on the thousands of acres of already approved logging in GMNF