Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/8/2024 4:00:00 AM First name: Michael Last name: Cummings Organization: Title:

Comments: I encourage the Forest Service to select Alternative A, No Action, which would allow the forests of the Telephone Gap landscape to continue to grow old.

It is APPALLING to me that such a large area of healthy, beautiful, mature forest so close to my home could be so easily sold for timber harvest right under my nose, without hardly even knowing that this was about to happen! We need to protect this forest and forests like it for future generations. This wilderness is precious and full of life. The land supports a vast number seasonal song birds and is a home to so much beloved wildlife. All our bat populations are in a decline and this forest can help us hold onto these precious species.

Much of the Telephone Gap area is mature forest that borders on old growth characteristics in various places, and such forests, left intact, have a tremendous positive impact on our climate and ecosystem resiliency. We must prioritize the latter across the board, making greater efforts to identify less impactful means of obtaining lumber and other building materials.

Thank you for providing Alternatives C and D, but these alternatives do not go far enough in their protections. In the name of my little granddaughter who is one year old, I encourage the Forest Service to select Alternative A, No Action, which would allow the forests of the Telephone Gap landscape to continue to grow old and continue to be a carbon sink to help in the fight against climate change.