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Comments: Though climate change is an enormous global threat, we here in Vermont have the ability to contribute significantly toward mitigating that threat. Protecting mature and old trees, not cutting them down, may be the most significant way Vermonters can combat climate change and extinction.

The Forests proposed for logging in the Telephone Gap timber sale have very significant concentrations of mature trees. Mature Old Growth Forests, with trees between 80-160 years old, accumulate and store far more carbon than young trees. Left to continue living and growing, the Green Mountain National Forest offers humans significant protection against climate change while also supporting biodiversity - which supports the viability of human life on Earth.

On behalf of our children and the generations to come, I ask the Forest Service to choose Alternative A, No Action and to allow the forests of Telephone Gap to continue to grow old. Mature Old Growth Forests not only protect against climate change, the loss of biodiversity, and the flooding of downstream communities, but preserve unfragmented wildlife habitats and clean water. For the sake of local Vermont communities, the global human community and all Life, please halt this project.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration.