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Comments: I grew up in Chittenden, Vermont. My sister and I canoed at the Chittenden Reservoir as children, and I have hiked among the forests in Chittenden innumerable times. It was with profound sadness that I heard about the GMNF Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project proposal to cut over 800 acres of old growth trees and many more acres of mature forest in my hometown.

We have been reading to my children about the role that old growth trees play in the ecosystem in terms of sequestering carbon, soil health, and maintaining overall forest health. Old growth forest is not a resource that we can replenish once it is logged. These trees are invaluable in our current climate crisis. Old forestry methods that still advocate for maintaining forests by cutting these trees are not consistent with our evolving understanding of the science of forest health.

I am advocating for the Forest Service to reconsider this project. This resource is critical for public health - it's a resource that belongs in many ways to our children - no short-term financial gain from logging is worth this loss to the biodiversity of our forests.