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Comments: The US Forest Service must produce a much more rigorous Environmental Impact Statement to determine the significance of its proposed management actions in the Telephone Gap landscape. An Environmental Assessment doesn't "cut it" with so much at stake.

The many concerned Vermonters 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 for the benefit of biodiversity and the climate. Just LEAVE IT ALONE!!! We have done so much damage already to our forests, wildlife, birds, salamanders and other living creatures who depend on forests.

Thank you for developing Alternatives C and D (for details, scroll down to the next section on "updates"), which propose changes that would lower the intensity of timber harvest in a subset of mature and old forests, and would reduce the miles of roads constructed in the project area.

Although Alternatives C and D are a step in the right direction, they don't go nearly far enough to honor the intent of President Biden's Executive Order on conserving mature and old-growth forests. The Forest Service needs to protect ALL MATURE STANDS over the age of 80 in the Telephone Gap landscape and across the entire Green Mountain National Forest, which will have the added benefit of helping to protect important habitat for the endangered Northern Long-eared Bat.

Call for an end to logging in all Inventoried Roadless Areas, including the 16,000-acre Pittenden Inventoried Roadless Area in the Telephone Gap project area, to protect un-fragmented wildlife habitat and clean water, and defend downstream communities from flooding.

Once the forest is gone, it's gone, and will take years to recover, if, indeed, it does at all. leave it alone. Do the right thing.