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Comments: I am writing to voice my continued strong objection any logging of the Telephone Gap forest area, in particular the plans to build roads through viable living forest to reach previously unlogged areas, especially the mature and old-growth forest areas. Turning these trees into a commodity for private economic gain goes against our need to preserve what we can of intact forest ecosystems. That means not just the trees, but the living organisms in the soil, and the insect, bird, fungus and animal life that all contribute to a robust habitat.

So I advocate for Alternative A - allow the forest to grow with its own diversity, to support the lives of the mature and old-growth stands of trees, and to care for itself without human intervention.

These concerns are particularly pressing with the upcoming change of federal administration in Washington DC. The Biden Administration sought to protect ecologically sensitive sites and national monuments, and to respect Indigenous knowledge when looking at the advisability and impacts of planned human use such as extraction of natural resources. The US Forest Service received new guidelines advocating for more protection of mature forests.

I hope that you will have the courage and wisdom to re-consider the logging plans for Telephone Gap - even in the amended form, they still involve much destruction to this forest area. Set it aside as an area to protect and respect, with a view to the long-term.