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Comments: Telephone Gap is the latest in a series of significant logging projects in the GMNF. Thanks to a groundswell of public support for mature and old-growth forests, there has been unprecedented public engagement on the Telephone Gap project. Over 13,000 individuals signed a petition calling for the project to be canceled, and there were more unique comments submitted to the Forest Service for Telephone Gap than any other project in GMNF history. We have already won a more detailed environmental analysis, a first-of-its-kind carbon assessment, and have delayed the Telephone Gap project by more than a year. Despite the delays and increased scrutiny, the Forest Service is still pushing a reckless plan at Telephone Gap, which would, among other things:

Cut nearly 11 thousand acres of public forest, 91% of which is classified by the Forest Service as mature or old.

Cut 817 stand acres of old-growth, according to the USFS's Region 9 definition.

Degrade habitat for some of Vermont's most imperiled animal species, including Northern Long-Eared Bat, Brook Trout, and Canada Lynx.

Release a whopping 254 thousand tons CO₂e, equal to driving more than 60,000 average passenger vehicles for a year.

Log 1,800 acres of the 16,000-acre Pittenden Roadless area, one of the largest unprotected tracts of wild land in the state. The Forest Service argues on absurd technicalities that building logging roads and cutting 11% of the area, in addition to damage already caused by the Robinson Project in Pittenden's northern half, will not substantially alter the "character" of the roadless area.