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Comments:

Endangered Species: The Telephone Gap area is home to extremely rare species, including the Canada Lynx. According to public records obtained by Standing Trees, a Canada Lynx was seen on September 3rd, 2024 walking just outside, of all places, the GMNF headquarters in Mendon! If Canada Lynx are traveling past the Forest Supervisor's office alongside the busiest road in the region, it is all but certain they are using much better habitat nearby in the heart of the Telephone Gap landscape. And yet, despite proof of the presence of Lynx in the Telephone Gap project area, the Forest Service stated in the Telephone Gap Biological Evaluation that "the gray wolf and Canada lynx are not known to occur within the project area on the GMNF, [and] they are not likely to occur within the project area in the foreseeable future." This is nonsense! The Forest Service must go back and analyze potential impacts to lynx.

A Canada lynx walks through the parking lot of the GMNF headquarters in Mendon, VT on September 4th. A security camera captured this lynx walking through the parking lot of the GMNF Supervisor's Office in Mendon, VT on September 3rd.

Old Growth Forests: The Telephone Gap logging project would cut 817 stand acres of old growth, a significant figure considering that the US Forest Service estimated in June that there are only 2,000-acres of old-growth in the 400,000-acre Green Mountain National Forest. In other words, only 0.5% of the entire forest is old growth, and the Telephone Gap project threatens this extraordinarily important and rare habitat.

Climate Impact: The Telephone Gap project would release 254,556 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e, the equivalent of driving more than 60,000 average passenger vehicles for a year. This is the climate impact from just one of the National Forest's logging projects - the Early Successional Habitat Creation, Robinson, Somerset, and other recent projects are all on a similar scale, and conceivably are already releasing similar or greater amounts of climate pollution.