

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/17/2025 9:31:01 PM

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Comments: I am writing to express my disappointment at and opposition to the USFS's proposal to log old-growth forest at Telephone Gap. Given what we know about the ecological value of mature forest, the realities of climate change, the burgeoning public interest in old-growth forests, and of course the fact that only a tiny amount of old growth exists in our region, cutting old trees just makes no sense. Forest ecologist Suzanne Simard has taught us that old trees, or "mother trees," are vital to the health of a forest ecosystem. They are the hubs of a network that connects trees of all ages, sharing resources and information. These old forests also provide critical habitat-homes-for myriad species from birds to mammals to insects to fungi. These forests are much more valuable as oxygen-producing, carbon-storing, living ecosystems than as lumber. I sincerely hope you will be responsive to the public's wish to protect our old-growth forests, and reconsider your proposal.