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First name: Natalee

Last name: Braun

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

I am writing to express my heartfelt plea to protect the Telephone Gap forest, an area of significant ecological importance that is vital to our fight against climate change. As someone who has devoted years to studying and advocating for climate action, I must speak out against the proposed logging project and the devastating consequences it would have on this irreplaceable landscape.

Forests are one of our most powerful tools for mitigating climate change. The Telephone Gap project would release an estimated 254,556 tons of CO₂e, equivalent to the annual emissions of over 60,000 vehicles. This is an enormous climate cost that we simply cannot afford. Old-growth forests, in particular, are invaluable carbon sinks, storing far more carbon than younger forests. The proposed project would destroy 817 acres of old growth- nearly half of the 2,000 acres that remain in the Green Mountain National Forest. We cannot justify sacrificing such a rare and critical resource at a time when the climate crisis demands immediate action.

The destruction of these forests is not just an ecological loss-it is a loss for this and future generations. As someone who has spent years dedicated to climate advocacy, I know the importance of protecting places like Telephone Gap. This forest represents more than trees; it embodies hope, resilience, and the possibility of a better future.

I urge you to reconsider the Telephone Gap project and prioritize the long-term health of our planet over short-term gains. We have so few old-growth forests left, and the stakes are too high to allow this destruction to proceed. Please choose a path of conservation and climate action, not one of irreversible harm.

Respectfully, Natalee Braun, PhD