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Comments: This objection to the Telephone Gap project is based on my comments of March 23, 2023, as well as additional information from the environmental assessment recently released. My earlier comments centered largely on my concerns about climate change. The new information includes the calculation that the project would release 254,556 tons of C02, a major amount by any standard, one comparison to which is 60,000 average passenger vehicles driven for a year. Additionally, 817 stand acres of Old Growth would be cut, and most of the approximately 11,000 acres proposed for logging would be mature and old forest. These are the sizes of trees that sequester the most carbon, because of their large size, even relative to faster-growing younger trees which have much less mass.

Climate change is causing worse and worse disasters and costs to society globally and in the US. It is accelerating and worsening as shown by a few examples.:
-2024 was the hottest year in human history, and it is having major impacts.
-Catastrophic flooding in Vermont in July and August 2024 caused millions of dollars of damage and loss of homes and businesses. These were in large part the result of climate-worsened atmospheric rivers that dumped huge volumes of water in compressed time periods. We can expect more of this, and Vermont's terrain makes us especially vulnerable to these.
-Canadian wildfires burned millions of acres of forests dried out by excessive warming. The smoke travelled all across Canada and covered much of the eastern US. Trends show that more fires are likely everywhere, including in New England.
-The horrific wildfires in Los Angeles were the result of erratic rain and drought and excessive heat, all exacerbated by climate change that produced unstoppable fires when fanned by high wind. This most expensive fire disaster in US history is only the latest in a worsening trend.
The Federal government should not be spending money to accelerate climate change which this scale of logging in the GMNF will do. Period. The logging proposed at Telephone Gap would exacerbate climate change.

I urge you to modify the project in these ways:
-Cancel the logging on Old Growth and mature and old forests.
-In particular, do not log in the Pittenden Roadless Area.
-We do not need more Early Successional Habitat creation which cuts old trees and replaces them for a time with brush land and then young trees until the cycle is repeated, all at public expense for game species that are not endangered and have plenty of other appropriate habitat elsewhere.

Thank you for your consideration.