

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/13/2023 4:00:00 AM

First name: Kenneth

Last name: Johnson

Organization: The A. Johnson Co., LLC

Title: General Manager

Comments: I fully support the full implementation of the TGIRP. I believe it is important for Vermont's environment, for the economy of Vermont and for the people of Vermont as a whole. Attached is a comment letter about the project and a copy of a letter recently sent to the Addison Independent. Both documents are in full support of the management activities the GMNF team has proposed for the treatment areas.

I support the full implementation of the Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project for the following reasons:

- * Timber harvesting is an important part of the Vermont economy. The agricultural economy is one of the important pillars holding up Vermont's overall economy and I believe it is important to support the jobs that timber harvesting is important to.
- * Timber harvesting not only provides jobs for loggers and truck drivers, it also supports the lumber mills and crafts people of the state who make products from Vermont timber. Timber from the National Forest should be part of the raw material supply.
- * Forest resiliency will be improved in many areas by removal of diseased trees and improving the species mix. Areas that were previously cleared for agriculture and grazing are in particular need of attention to maintain and restore quality, amount, and distribution of habitats to produce viable and sustainable populations of native and desirable non-native plants and animals.
- * The forest products produced can compete in the marketplace and hopefully displace products from other areas and particularly other nations where management practices are often simply slash and burn.
- * The FS can contribute to the process of educating people about the sustainability of your work and how it can displace products in the marketplace that are not produced sustainably. With the Amazon rainforest losing 13,000 square miles during the four-year Bolsonaro presidency, the case for locally produced timber is strong.
- * White ash mortality from emerald ash borer will be killing both white and black ash trees in the near future. Danger from those dying trees needs to be minimized for all visitors to the National Forest.
- * Management of other diseases, such as beech bark disease, must be an active component of the plan so that you can continue the efforts to manage those diseases.
- * Significant improvements in recreational opportunities is possible within the treatment area. It is very important to improve public access as well as improve the variety of recreational opportunities. It is vital to encourage people to go outside and enjoy the natural environment we are so fortunate to have.
- * Improvements in the ability to maintain existing and new trails is very important so that the infrastructure can be maintained cost-effectively for many years into the future. I believe people are more inclined to venture outside when the infrastructure is well maintained.
- * Biomass is an important fuel for helping bridge the gap between the hydrocarbon intensive society we have now and a heavily renewable energy economy envisioned for the future, for some members of the public. Others feel it will be an important contributor of energy well into the future. Either way, we need biomass.
- * Attached is a letter sent recently to the Addison Independent in support of the TGIRP.