Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/6/2024 4:00:00 AM
First name: Brett
Last name: Ladeau
Organization: National Wild Turkey Federation
Title: Vermont State Chapter President
Comments: On behalf of the Vermont State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, please see attached letter of support for the Telephone Gap IRP.

Dear Mr. Mattrick,

On behalf of the Vermont State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF-VT), and our over 1,000 members in the Green Mountain State, we support the timber harvest and forest management actions proposed in the Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project Preliminary Environmental Assessment.

NWTF-VT strongly supports the activities proposed under [lsquo]Alternative B: Modified Proposed Action[rsquo] to promote young forest habitat, enhance oak habitat, and increase stand diversity and age classes. The application of even-aged and uneven-aged silvicultural techniques, along with forest stand improvement work across the proposed 8,205 acres will provide significant benefits beyond timber products. Many species of wildlife that have experienced population declines associated with a decrease in available young forest will benefit from the habitat created and restored through these activities, including passerines, ruffed grouse and American woodcock. In addition, these activities will improve overall forest health and increase the growth and vigor of remaining stock. Ultimately, these improved forest conditions will yield long term benefits for carbon sequestration and storage and overall forest resiliency against the impacts and future uncertainty associated with climate change.

NWTF-VT appreciates the efforts of USDA Forest Service to manage the Green Mountain National Forest for multiple benefits and values, including clean water, forest products, recreational opportunities, and wildlife habitat. We look forward to continuing our long-term partnership and collaboration to advance conservation in Vermont.

Thanks,

Brett