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First name: Chris
Last name: Campany
Organization: Windham Regional Commission
Title:
Comments: Brett Hillman
Wildlife Biologist

David Francomb
District Ranger
Manchester District
GMNF

Dear Brett and David,

The Windham Regional Commission (WRC) would like to offer the following comments regarding the Early Successional Habitat (ESH) project.

We are supportive of the idea of diversifying the forest and creating early successional habitat.

We are also supportive of maintaining large blocks of contiguous forest and connecting habitat.

It is the latter we wish to bring to your attention. The ESH project map, as currently constituted, shows a heavy concentration of clearing in the Wardsboro/Dover area. This area is an important regional habitat connectivity area. It is a highest priority connectivity block on ANR's BioFinder 2016, providing connection between two highest priority interior forest blocks. It is noted as one of two regionally significant bear travel corridors in our regional plan (Windham Regional Plan, 2014). Therefore, we encourage care in the planning and timing for creating and maintaining ESH. We would not want the ESH project to unduly diminish connectivity values in this area.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Chris Campany
Executive Director