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Comments: I strongly support the work and partnership with the GMND and Ruffed Grouse Society & American Woodcock Society, and I applaud the Green Mountain National Forest's Manchester and Middlebury Ranger Districts team for their efforts to promote forest resiliency, wildlife habitat diversity and healthy & functioning forest landscapes.

A forest monoculture does not benefit wildlife and if we continue to ignore the science and refuse to make way for curated forest disturbances in the GMNF we will be faced with several bird and wildlife species that can no longer thrive in Vermont. I strongly support science-based forest management and silvicultural activities like those incorporated into the Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project proposal.

The opposition would like everyone to do only what they approve of. That is not how a public forest should be managed, so please don't fall victim to their rhetoric. There is room in the forest for a balance approach where several interests can get what is important to them and the reality is the vast majority is and will continue to be for old timber growth. What this project does is take a small section of the forest and make it part of a patchwork of successional forest to benefit wildlife. The type of forest Standing Trees is preaching is by far the majority of the GMNF, and that is ok...as long as there are some areas to be managed just as the Telephone Gap project would allow.

Thank you for listening.