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First name: Ned

Last name: Houston

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello Rochester District folks.

Re Telephone Gap IRP/Forest Plan

I believe that the recreational opportunities proposed (details below) are worthy of approval and will become highly valued assets for all Vermonters and visitors. I support these recreational uses and the other components of the plan (including the timber harvesting, wildlife habitat enhancement, and soil/wetland restoration) because they are generally very low impact activities that allow for a responsible and sustainable future of these beautiful forest lands.

I'm writing in support of the Vermont Huts Association's application for a special use permit in the proposed action for the Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project to construct, operate, and maintain a four-season hut within the footprint of the former lodge that was destroyed by fire near South Pond.

A hut in this location takes advantage of existing infrastructure and is ideally situated to host users of the trails mentioned below, creating a new point of access to the outdoors for trail users of all ages and abilities.

Additionally, I support the USDA Forest Service's proposal to create 34.9 miles of trail through new construction, relocation, and designation for mountain biking, hiking, and cross-country skiing will greatly enhance the ability of the public to enjoy this incredible public resource that is the Green Mountain National Forest.

These projects will provide critical trail connectivity for both the Velomont Trail and Catamount Trail and service numerous user groups.

I also support the addition of 3.1 miles of existing Long Trail to the National Forest Trail System as part of the pending South Pond acquisition.

Thanks for the work you do!

Sincerely, Vermont resident.