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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a bird hunter, conservationist, and outdoor enthusiast, I support Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project and thank the Green Mountain National Forest for your efforts to promote healthy forests and diverse habitat conditions for birds and wildlife. The forest management recommendations proposed in the Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Plan are aligned and consistent with the forest-wide goals and objectives relating to 2006 Green Mountain National Forest Plan.

The Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project Landscape Assessment document indicates that there are serious gaps between the existing habitat and forest diversity conditions found within the Telephone Gap IRP area and the desired habitat objectives and targets established by the Forest Plan.

Vermont's State Wildlife Action Plan p 14 reports "Wildlife is very important to the people of Vermont. This love of wildlife is more than anecdotal. The 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service documented that 62 percent of Vermonters went fishing, hunting, or wildlife watching. Vermont ranked second, only two points behind Alaska in participation (U.S. Dept of Interior 2011). When it comes to wildlife watching, however, Vermont was first in the nation with an impressive 53 percent of residents enjoying this activity. This same survey estimates more than \$704 million was spent on fish-and wildlife-based recreation in Vermont."