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Comments: Hello,

We appreciate this opportunity to comment on the Telephone Gap IRP. We will keep our comments in this initial stage brief, but wish to express our full support for the plan as presented. Beyond the economic and forest health benefits, we know this critical habitat project will enhance our National Forest for wildlife, accelerate carbon uptake in the emerging young growth that will result, and ultimately improve the stability of our state's biodiversity. These actions are well overdue as a result of the lack of timber management through much of the 80s and even into the early 2000s, and we excited and pleased to see habitat management once more being taken seriously on our National Forest.

We look forward to seeing the work that comes of this first round of discussion, and will anticipate applying finer filters to the second draft. It is our hope that USFS will stand your ground, stick to the science of silviculture, and implement this plan to the greatest degree possible. The lack of early successional growth in Vermont is the looming habitat crisis we are facing, and the important work embodied in this proposal will be an invaluable addition to the habitat mosaic of our shared landscape.

Best Regards,

Mike Covey

Executive Director

Vermont Traditions Coalition