Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/25/2024 5:58:11 PM First name: Merrick Last name: Gillies Organization: Title:

Comments: I'm writing in full support of the proposal recreation in the Telephone Gap IRP area, backing the development of 34.9 miles of trails for mountain biking, hiking, and skiing, which will greatly enhance connectivity for various user groups like those on the Velomont and Catamount Trails. I also endorse integrating 3.1 miles of the Long Trail into the National Forest Trail System with the pending South Pond acquisition. Additionally, I fully support the Vermont Huts Association's request for a special permit to construct a four-season hut near South Pond, leveraging existing infrastructure to provide a new access point for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages and skill levels.