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First name: Nick

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Organization: The Vermont Mountain Bike Association

Title: Executive Director

Comments: District Ranger Mattrick,

On behalf of the Vermont Mountain Bike Association and our 9,600+ individual members, I'm writing to express my continued strong support for the U.S. Forest Services' proposal to provide sustainable recreation opportunities within the Telephone Gap IRP area and the trail modifications to the original proposal included in Alternatives B,C, and D. The 17+ miles of new trail construction, Velomont designation to an existing 13+ of roads and trails, and additional trail relocations and improvements will provide critical connectivity for various user groups, including those on the Velomont Trail and Catamount Trail.

Additionally, I support the continued incorporation of a special use permit for Vermont Huts Association to construct, operate, and maintain a four-season hut within the footprint of the former lodge that was destroyed by a 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 above, creating a new point of access to the outdoors for trail users of all ages and abilities.

Thank you and the U.S. Forest Service staff for thoughtfully pursuing the goals, objectives, and desired future conditions laid out in the 2006 Green Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, and for your ongoing collaboration with the recreational stewardship community.