Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/18/2024 7:45:45 PM
First name: Todd
Last name: Waldron
Organization: Ruffed Grouse Society & American Woodcock Society
Title: Northeast Forest Conservation Director
Comments: Subject: Support for the One Mile Lonesome Ridge Integrated Resource Project

Dear Mr. Sjostrom and the Androscoggin Ranger District Team,

As the Northeast Forest Conservation Director for the Ruffed Grouse Society & American Woodcock Society (RGS & AWS), I am writing to express our strong support for the One Mile Lonesome Ridge Integrated Resource Project.

RGS & AWS promotes sustainable forest management to enhance forest health, improve habitat diversity, and to balance forest age class diversity across landscapes for species like the Ruffed grouse, American woodcock, and many others. We commend the White Mountain National Forest for its proactive approach to forest management, which aligns with the management objectives outlined in the 2005 WMNF Land and Resource Management Plan.

The project's focus on vegetation management using a variety of silvicultural treatments, including even-aged and uneven-aged treatments like patch cutting and group selection, is crucial for developing the forest age class diversity necessary to sustain early successional habitats. This diversity is vital for maintaining populations of species identified as being of greatest conservation need in New Hampshire's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan, such as Ruffed grouse, American woodcock, Golden-winged warbler, Scarlet tanager, Wood thrush, Olive-sided flycatchter and Spruce grouse to name a few.

The combination of commercial timber harvesting, non-commercial treatments, and watershed restoration proposed in the One Mile Project will significantly benefit both wildlife and the local ecosystem. We believe that creating open habitats and increasing age class diversity through responsible silvicultural practices will promote resilience to climate change and other environmental stressors.

RGS & AWS encourages the Forest Service to continue integrating science-based forest management to ensure that the landscape remains healthy and diverse. RGS & AWS is committed to being a conservation partner, and we would be happy to collaborate further to support the successful implementation of this project.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input and for your ongoing commitment to forest stewardship.

Sincerely,
Todd Waldron
Northeast Forest Conservation Director
Ruffed Grouse Society & American Woodcock Society