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Comments: The New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association represents timberland owners and the state's forest products industry. A central tenant of our organization is support for sustainable, multiple use management of New Hampshire's forest resource.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment again in support of the proposed project. We support this project's efforts to achieve the management goals and objectives established in the 2005 Forest Management Plan. This plan was developed with input from a broad group of stakeholders representing recreational, wildlife, conservation, and sustainable management interests. The work being done within this project is consistent with the Plan and Forest's multiple-use management mandate.

Our only reservation with the proposal is it does not go far enough in achieving the forest-wide age class and regeneration goals. The 2020 WMNF Monitoring Report acknowledges the Forest's shortfall in meeting Plan's harvest and age class objectives. Of the 1,325 acres being treated by this project, only 149 acres are seeing even-age treatments that will produce the young age classes needed. In addition to impacting forest health, vigor and productivity, the perpetuation of this age class imbalance (lack of young forests) also impacts wildlife populations that rely on these young forests for a portion of their lifecycle.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on this proposed project and look forward to remaining engaged in this discussion.