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Comments: RE Lost River Integrated Resource Project

I grew up at the base of Grandview Mt. and am intimately acquainted with the project area, having spent much of my youth hiking, camping, fishing and hunting around Grandview, Mt. Cilley, Crooked Brook and Lost River.

I am in general support for the project and its goals. It will continue the diversification of age and species composition of the forest.

Protecting existing older stands of red spruce, balsam fir and hemlock will continue winter protection of deer herds.

Clear cuts and patch cuts will produce much needed early successional habitats that will benefit a large number of game and non-game species, as well as important habitat for migrating neotropical birds.

Although our forests have a remarkable ability to regenerate on their own, I noticed American Chestnut was on the list of species for possible plantings. Due to our rapidly changing climate, i believe that these trees will survive in our region which is slightly beyond its historic range. Plantings of Wild type, Back cross hybrids or Darling 58 when approved would be a great addition to the forest. it would add diversity to the landscape. Mature trees are abundant mast producers benefiting a host of wildlife large and small. The trees fast growing characteristics and historic longevity would benefit long term carbon sequestration. The rot resistant qualities also would store carbon even when dead.

Climate change may require plantings of chestnuts and other species as conditions change faster than the trees can migrate on their own.