

graded areas, and most of the bike trail (except trail surface) would be revegetated with native species after construction. Additional information on revegetation is in Chapter 2.

Cumulative effects would include the vegetation removal that has already occurred as part of the development of the existing SUP area. It is unknown what acreage of forest types has been removed on the existing SUP area, but the proposed expansion would cumulatively add to tree removal in the Butler Creek and La Valle Creek watersheds.

4.4.2.2 *Old Growth Forest*

→ Approximately 39 acres of old growth forest would have trees removed for ski trails, lifts, and other project components. Currently, the total acreage of old growth forest in the Grant/O'Keefe Ecological Management Area is 1,452 acres out of a total area of 16,887 acres (8.6 percent). Removing 39 acres of old growth for this project would reduce the total in Grant/O'Keefe to 8.4 percent, which would still meet the goal of 8 percent or more in each area. An old growth mountain hemlock stand in the existing SUP area adjacent to the proposed expansion area would not be affected.

Cumulative effects on vegetation resources were identified by considering the Proposed Action in relation to the existing SUP area. It is unknown whether old growth forest was removed as part of the development of the existing SUP area.

4.4.2.3 *Wetlands and Riparian Areas*

No wetland or riparian areas would be affected by this project because none occur in the proposed expansion area.

Because no wetland or riparian areas would be affected by this project, there are no cumulative effects on these resources.

4.4.2.4 *Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Plants*

No TES plant species have been identified in the proposed expansion area. These surveys have targeted all sites to be disturbed for ski trail and other construction activities. Approximately 10 acres of potential clustered lady's slipper habitat would be disturbed for ski trail construction on the south side of TV Mountain. This construction would remove all trees along an approximately 100-foot-wide path. Tree removal may impact individual plants and habitat but will not lead toward federal listing of clustered lady's slipper (Lichthardt 2003).

Cumulative effects on TES plant species were identified by considering the expansion project in relation to the existing SUP area. It is unknown whether clustered lady's slipper was removed as part of the development of the existing SUP area.

4.4.2.5 *Weeds*

Under this alternative, weed management would continue as described in the MSB Operating Plan and using the weed mitigation measures in Appendix B. The LNF Integrated Weed Management Program uses education; prevention; biological, mechanical, and cultural methods; and herbicides as tools to contain, control, and eradicate invasive noxious weeds on LNF lands.