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Comments: Comment on Lake Tarleton IRP Environmental Assessment #56394:Logging and mercury concentrations in waterbodies:

The Lake Tarleton EA failed to incorporate/address the impairments and restoration plans for the water bodies in the proposed project area.

Lake Tarleton, Lake Katherine, Eastman Brook and Lake Armington all are classed as impaired waters by NH DES. These lakes all contain mercury.

Eastman Brook (13 miles) is an impaired stream, for mercury and pH, with a restoration plan. The 1860 map of Warren shows the Cross Mine above and north of where the main road intersects Charleston Rd.

Lakes Tarleton, Katherine, and Armington have restoration plans. The Lake Tarleton Logging Project ("IRP") documents failed to incorporate the data on potential of logging to increase mercury concentrations in nearby water bodies. An increase in mercury in the watershed and water bodied would affect fish, otters, beavers, loons, great blue herons, mergansers, ospreys and other birds that feed on fish, insects, birds and humans who eat fish from any of the lakes that abut the proposed logging. The documents failed to account for the combined effect of beaver dams, climate change and logging, on mercury concentrations. Neither the Lake Tarleton Draft Environmental Assessment nor the Biological Assessment contain the word mercury.

The Lake Tarleton Logging Project EA and other documents failed to take the best science into account, most importantly, recent data on climate change which shows that intact forests accomplish USFS habitat diversity and carbon sequestration goals.

Northern Long-Eared Bat: The biological resources report states: "Indirect effects include those that affect bats through alteration of habitat, such as the removal of roost trees when bats are not present. While there would still be ample roost trees available within the HMU and the surrounding area after the proposed timber harvests have been conducted, bats may be impacted if existing maternity roost trees are removed. Site fidelity is common in NLEB and females often return to the same maternity area over multiple years (USDA Forest Service2014). While research has shown that an NLEB maternity colony can persist with a 20 percent reduction of the roost trees associated that colony, which would be consistent with the ephemeral nature of snags (Silvis et al. 2015), there is still a risk of impacting maternity colonies with the degree of tree removal proposed."

The revised Tarleton Logging Project EA and Biological Evaluation failed to adequately address the threats posed by logging, mercury, and herbicides to the Northern Long Eared Bat and Tri-colored Bat, the former which may soon be listed as endangered.