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First name: Michael

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Organization: Kingswood Camp for Boys

Title: Assistant Director

Comments: Dear New Hampshire Forest Service:

I am Assistant Director of Kingswood Camp for Boys and have been enjoying the pristine views of Lake Tarleton and Mount Moosilauke's two summits for the past 27 summers (soon to be 28).

That beautiful view inspired me to hike Mt. Moosilauke for the first time in 1999 and that hike inspired me to begin hiking as much as my schedule would allow in the hopes of finding more untainted views like the 360-degree summit of Moosilauke. I have since hiked nearly all of the 48 400-footers in addition to large sections of the Appalachian Trail. Importantly, I accompanied many campers on their first hikes to the nearby hills and got to inspire them to appreciate the value of nature and the mountains. To preserve that experience for future generations, I write in objection to the Tarleton Integrated Resource Project #56394.

As you know, the White Mountain National Forest purchased the land around Lake Tarleton in 2000. A developer was hoping to purchase the land around Mt. Mist to build a resort, including cabins and a golf course, to take advantage of the proximity to the Appalachian Trail. The State of New Hampshire saw the scenic value of the land and put a stop to the plan. Both Senator Judd Gregg and Representative Charlie Bass mentioned "future generations" in their remarks praising the purchase.

I do not believe "future generations" means 22 years. If the State of New Hampshire saw the land as pristine in 2000, why does the State not see the same land as pristine in 2022? If the State was opposed to private development in 2000, why is the State endorsing public development in 2022?

Lake Tarleton is the largest lake in the White Mountain National Forest and sees a plethora of boaters who frequent the lake. The Lake Tarleton Association tracks the usage of the lake through the Lake Host Program, and Kingswood's counselors-in-training volunteer their time to these efforts. If you note the logs, you will see that boaters flock to Lake Tarleton from both near and far. The surveys can look at qualitative data in terms of acreage and environmental impacts, but these same surveys can not quantify the human element of why people visit Lake Tarleton and the value of being around an untouched national forest.

Put simply, if this is not a "scenic area" in the eyes of the government, I honestly wonder what is.