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Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern: I am writing this letter as a concerned citizen and longtime friend of the areas surrounding Lake Tarleton and the White Mountain National Forest. For many years, I have worked summers on the shores of Lake Tarleton at Kingswood Camp for Boys. Beyond the energy and excitement created at the camp, the pristine setting makes the area truly unique. Having traveled to many of the region's other summer camps for competitions and other collaborative events, one notices that almost every other lake is ringed by houses and other structures. As a former archaeologist, sites that were not common proved themselves worthy of further study. In this case, both Lake Katherine and Tarleton and their largely pristine surroundings are both unique and should be treasured by the state. In fact, the inherent value of this portion of the White Mountain National Forest was set aside for the very fact that it did offer a natural setting free from resorts, vacation homes, and larger developments. As a result of these conservation efforts, the natural vistas of Mount Moosilauke and the White Mountain National Forest have changed little over my 25 years working at Kingswood Camp. Aside from the views, the fauna and flora have only continued to flourish in this portion of the White Mountains. In addition to loons, bald eagles also call Lake Tarleton home, and it is not uncommon to spot moose, deer, bears, and other fauna in the forests between Lake Katherine and Tarleton. The proposed clearcutting of vast stretches of forest within several feet of the lakeside will alter the landscape for the foreseeable future. In closing, the unique, relatively unaltered land around Lakes Tarleton and Katherine make it a region truly worth saving. As was previously mentioned, the land was set aside over a decade ago with the very purpose of recognizing this portion of the White Mountain National Forest's uniqueness, and to preserve its pristine habitats for future generations. For not only the people who love Kingswood Camp, but also the hundreds of thousands of tourists who hike along the Appalachian Trail near Webster Slide or the trails up Mount Moosilauke each year, this portion of White Mountains captures the essence of the free and wild spirit of New Hampshire. Please do not approve the logging operation slated for the lands in the immediate vicinity of Lake Tarleton, as you will permanently mar a landscape that touches the divine.