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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please designate the Lake Tarleton HMU a scenic area or choose the "no action" alternative. Lake Tarleton my spiritual home and the nexus of my personal spirituality. I know I am not alone in feeling this way. I was married along the shore of Lake Tarleton, as were other members of my family; several weddings take place here each and every year. When I die my ashes will be spread in the forest around the lake. On that, I am not alone either; I have been witness to this act already occurring for others who have cherished the area as I do.

The Kingswood Camp community actually more often refers to the lake as "Mother Tarleton" than it calls it Lake Tarleton. Sure, there's a bit of camp humor involved in that but it also speaks to the spell the lake casts on those who know it. To us, it's the apotheosis of a pure, unspoiled, life-giving Mother Earth; there's nothing more healing, invigorating, and life-affirming than a plunge into its pristine waters.

This beautiful refuge from the ills of modern society and the sickness of the planet is the backdrop which we use to instill in our campers a love of the natural world. Children need to feel connected to the natural world before they can learn to love it and become its' stewards. We start by hiking, paddling, and camping on the trails and woods around the lake and then branching out to all of the 48 4,000 foot peaks around the state. So many campers have developed a passion for the outdoors and many have gone on to careers in conservation and environmental work; most will tell you their eyes were initially opened by the summers they spent on the shores of Tarleton.

Please don't take this away from us. Do the right thing and designate the Lake Tarleton HMU a scenic area or choose the "no action" alternative.