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Comments: As so effectively documented in the USFS display at the Visitor's Center in Lincoln NH (on the western edge of the Pemigewasset Wilderness), a century ago much of northern New Hampshire was clear-cut. According to the same display, despite the resilience of nature, the region is still recovering. And two centuries ago, the clear-cut forests of Vermont and New Hampshire inspired George Perkins Marsh, of Woodstock VT, to publish *Man and Nature* (1864, but the product of several decades of research), the first comprehensive, historically grounded study of the multiple effects of human agency on the health and productivity of the forests, the fields, the waters, the soils, and the ecological relationships that so intimately tie them all together. From that time, much subsequent work by scientists, students, and those who know and love the forests only confirms and deepens our respect for the inter-relationships of the natural world around us, and our dependence on these inter-relationships.

The current decision to log close to 900 acres of prime woodlands in the region of Lake Tarleton raises such questions all over again, and suggests that we haven't learned very well the lessons of the past. It is not only the scale of the logging proposed—880 acres—that raises such a concern; it is also the siting, with the iconic Lake Tarleton as the focus for such work: much of the proposal occurs on the direct shores of the lake, and other portions of the proposed logging scheme directly abut a section of the Appalachian Trail (where it passes between Mt. Cube and Mt. Moosilauke). Both of these areas are heavily frequented (and used in all seasons)—a point that underscores the importance of this region for the many people who cherish these lands, forests, and waters (some of the purest waters of the White Mountains) for hiking, kayaking, camping, fishing, and for many other activities.

In the minds of many, the nurture and preservation of these beloved forests is essential. That "multi-use vision" was central to the agreement arrived at in the negotiations over these lands in 2000, which turned over 5,300 acres surrounding Lake Tarleton to public ownership; indeed Sen. Judd Gregg took pride in celebrating at the time how "this pristine . . . wilderness has been saved." Now, 20 years later, it is clear that such an agreed purpose is in jeopardy of transgression.

In his Introduction to the 2003 edition of Marsh's "Man and Nature," David Lowenthal notes that Marsh had come only reluctantly to realize that "resource husbandry could not rely [exclusively] on enlightened self-interest. Collective stewardship crucial to environmental health required rescinding [the sacred right of every man to do what he will with his own property]" (citing Marsh's own observation). [From the Introduction to G. P. Marsh, *Man and Nature* 2003 [1864], pg. xxxiv.]

Here, in this exact area, and now, with such a historical legacy to guide us, to wreak such wanton destruction on such a cherished corner of these woods would seem but mindless folly. I would hope that any careful reflection on such issues would lead to a full reconsideration of this proposal.