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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Lake Tarleton has been an integral part of my life since 1984 when I went to Kingswood Camp for the first time. My time on the lake predates the Wipflers, who have owned and operated Kingswood from that following summer until today. To say that my summers on Lake Tarleton were the best times of my life is an understatement, and when I tell you that Lake Tarleton is sacred to me - that is also no exaggeration. To this day, every summer when I make my annual pilgrimage to Lake Tarleton, when I arrive I am in complete awe at its raw beauty, and I have always taken great comfort in knowing there are still hold-outs in this great Country of ours that are safe from greed and destruction. But it is my understanding that after achieving National Forest status, at which time it should have received total protection from such commercial encroachment, that the zone in which Lake Tarleton sits in the WMNF has been incorrectly classified - and is now somehow slated to have its pristine shores and surrounding forest harvested for lumber. I wish to express and go on record with my strongest opposition - and frankly, disgust - with those who are allowing this, and with those who intend to encroach on this sacred land. Lake Tarleton is one of the few readily accessible locations that I know of in America that hasn't already been invaded and ruined in the name of making money. Lake Tarleton's pristine, undeveloped waters, shoreline, and surrounding forest provide not only a peaceful, beautiful spot for both Kingswood campers and New Hampshire residents alike to enjoy, but they are also rich, delicate ecosystems and home to countless endemic species of both flora and fauna. I am told it is your claim that this logging will in fact benefit a handful of species - but having majored in biology at Villanova University and having studied field ecology extensively while there - I can confidently state that it is naïve to make such claims and to ignore how potentially devastating this action might be for other species. There are countless examples in American history when such claims were made, and all reassurances were given to those in doubt, only to realize in hindsight there was a miscalculation, or something overlooked, and subsequently irreparable damage was done. It should be noted that the Wipflers have been outstanding stewards of Lake Tarleton, going to great lengths to maintain its waters and shores, decade after decade. You truly could not ask for better envoys or caretakers than the Wipflers and the extended Kingswood family. I find it both perplexing and disturbing that now an exception is being made to what I thought was self-evident for protected land within a National Forest - that the land surrounding Lake Tarleton is no longer safe from the commercial interests of those who care little about the fragility and sanctity of natural ecosystems. How is it that of the more than 800,000 acres that comprise the White Mountain National Forest, this small piece of land, which is used by so many people, is now being targeted for logging? It's simply unconscionable - and is not justifiable. Once this compromise is allowed, then inevitably more of the same will occur in the decades that follow - and Lake Tarleton's precious, pristine waters and its undisturbed surrounding woods will become but a distant memory. I implore you to reconsider this decision, and to intervene in the invasion to this hallowed, unadulterated sanctuary.

I don't know how better to demonstrate just how important Lake Tarleton is to me personally than to tell you that my 8-year-old son, who I hope will get to attend Kingswood for the first-time next summer, and who I hope will be able to enjoy the incredible, clean, natural beauty of Lake Tarleton as his father did almost 30 years ago - his full name is Dax TARLETON Hall (see attached).

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss my thoughts on this matter further.