



May 1, 2023

Derek Ibarguen, Reviewing Officer
Attn.: PAL-LSC Administrative Review Coordinator, Suite 700
Forest Service, Eastern Region
26 East Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Mr. Ibarguen,

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) makes no objection to the Draft Decision Notice for the Tarleton Integrated Resource Project but appreciates this opportunity to provide further comments. We commend the White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) for taking a wide and inclusive approach to the future management of the Tarleton Project Area, and for including a variety of stakeholders.

ATC has previously provided comments on the Draft Environmental Analysis and here reinforces our perspective on some details provided in the Tarleton Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (March 2023).

- ATC supports removal of non-native Norway Spruce from unit 39 in the vicinity of Sentinel Mountain. We further suggest monitoring forest response post-removal such that it will provide information for considering removal of the remaining stand in future. Positive results on unit 39 would support further Norway Spruce removal and restoration of native forest within the Appalachian Trail buffer in that area.
- ATC anticipates no significant impact within the Appalachian Trail visual foreground provided that no harvesting takes place within the stated 500-foot buffer area and that all such activity be conducted only in winter.
- ATC requests site visits with WMNF staff prior to commencement of harvest activity within MA 8.3 in the vicinity of Sentinel Mountain. We believe such visits will provide opportunities to consider potential site-specific impacts and discuss mitigation as necessary.

ATC greatly values our partnership with WMNF in managing the Appalachian Trail in New Hampshire and we look forward to continued collaboration in this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Matthew Stevens'.

Regional Manager, NH/VT