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Comments: Please enter the following comment into the record for the Lake Tarleton Integrated Resource Project.

I ask that the 2005 White Mountain National Forest Plan be amended to eliminate proposed logging around Lake Tarleton. That could be done by designating a Scenic Area in the landscape surrounding Lake Tarleton, Lake Katherine, Lake Armington, and stretching along the Appalachian Trail corridor north to Webster Slide, and Wachipauka Pond.

I was one of the individuals who supported the acquisition of over 5300 acres surrounding the lake in 2000 to protect the forest from development. That effort was celebrated then by the Governor, New Hampshire's congressional delegation and numerous non-profit organizations. Allowing this area to be logged now would not be in keeping of the intent of that original land acquisition.

Especially now that there is scientific consensus that the climate emergency must be acted on immediately, we must be protecting our maturing and old growth forests, which act as carbon sinks. Older trees lock up more carbon annually than the young trees that might replace them. In fact mature forests are the only tried and true way to remove significant amounts of carbon from the atmosphere.

The 2005 plan is out of date and needs revision to reflect changes in the scientific consensus. The revised plan should account for the Forest Service Biological Evaluation for the Tarleton Project. That evaluation describes the "risk of impacting maternity colonies" of the Federally Threatened Northern Long-eared Bat if the area is logged as proposed.

Please remove the threat of logging from this immensely valuable wilderness area.