Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/20/2022 4:00:00 AM
First name: Lilian
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: I wish to enter the following comment into the record for the Lake Tarleton Integrated Resource Project:

The proposed logging around Lake Tarleton must be removed from the 2005 White Mountain National Forest Plan. Instead, an area that surrounds Lake Taleton, Lake Katherine and Lake Armington, and that continues along the Appalachian Trail corridor north to Webster Slide, and Wachipauka needs to be designated as a Scenic Area in the landscape

I was one of many people who supported the acquisition of over 5,300 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. Proposing to log this area is a direct contravention of the intent under which this tract of forest was acquired.

We are in a period of rapid climate change, a global threat of a magnitude never before experienced. The scientific concensus is that drastic reduction of our carbon emissions in the next 30 years is compulsory if we are to avoid catasptrophic heating of our planet.

Forests are the only proven system that removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. In particular, old, mature trees lock up and store more carbon annually than young trees. If old, unmanaged forest is compared to a forest managed on a 60-year rotation, the carbon stored per hectare is 611 tonnes for the unmanaged forest and 274 tonnes for the managed forest.

It is wholly irresponsible to propose logging the forests around Lake Tarleton in this critical window when mitigating climate change is of the utmost urgency. Logging also violates the spirit in which the forests were protected

I ask that the outdated 2005 White Mountain National Forest Plan be revised to intergrate the above information. The Plan should also be revised to describe the threat that logging represents to maternity colonies of the Federally Threatened Northen Long-eared bat. The importance of this area for the bat maternity colonies has been documented in the Forest Service Biological Evaluation for the Tarleton Project.

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