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Comments: I have spent ten summers on Lake Tarleton and in the surrounding areas with extremely happy memories having had life changing experiences. Tarleton Integrated Resource Project #56394, which has many inconsistencies with best practices and the law (which I'm sure others have detailed), would inhibit the ability for myself and others to fully enjoy Lake Tarleton's inherent natural beauty, to create new and lasting lifetime memories. I believe the Tarleton integrated research project should be stopped and that the landscape surrounding Lake Tarleton should be designated a Scenic Area, allowing future generations to use one of the most beautiful areas in North America to develop a love, appreciation, and respect of the outdoors that can come only through immersion into the wilderness.

The first summer I spent on Lake Tarleton was 2006, when I was eleven years old. Escaping from city life I was immediately enamoured by the natural beauty of the area and the possibilities it provided for. I developed a lifelong love and appreciation of camping and exploration that first summer going on overnight trips around Lake Tarleton to one of the many camping spots including at the Apple orchard shown in Appendix A of the Tarleton Integrated Resource Project. In 2008 I had explored the Webster Slide, getting my first taste of (a very short) portion of the Appalachian Trail. These local experiences gave me the practice and courage to further explore the White Mountains, to go up Mount Moosilauke, to explore the Franconia Range, the Bonds, and a favourite of mine, the Presidential Range. Without those early experiences, walking around in pristine wilderness, I would have never discovered a love for the outdoors and would never have been able to hone my skills to prepare for longer expeditions. I have since been up mountains across countries and continents, in the Highlands in Scotland, the Alps in Austria, and the Himalayas in India. If I had instead walked around "managed" forestry, among felled trees and trodden worksites with less diverse wildlife, I have no doubt that a lifelong appreciation and respect of the wilderness would have not been nurtured.

Having grown up a bit, at fifteen I began "lake hosting" a program to keep invasive knotweed from entering Lake Tarleton at the boat launch. At sixteen I began leading trips around the Lake Tarleton area myself, bestowing the wonder that had gripped me as a child onto others. Equipped with a NOLS Wilderness First Aid qualification I went around the same areas I had started in, maintaining and building walking trails and campsites, and then leading day and overnight trips around Lake Tarleton's various camp sites, teaching a new generation about the natural beauty of the land and learning how best to lead successful trips. Again, this would not have been possible if the forest was managed, littered with evidence of manipulation. You can not teach the wonder of the outdoors when there is obvious evidence of modernity all around. It is impossible to "leave no trace" when the forest is being managed and a trail of felled trees and distorted wildlife is being left behind.

Having first being drawn to Lake Tarleton over fifteen years ago, I still keep with me a hand drawn map of the lake and the surrounding trails (maintained first by the old Lake Tarleton Club and now by Kingswood Camp) and roads (such as the Old Charleston Road from the 1800s). The Tarleton Integrated Resource Project threatens to remove the beauty and wonder of the area that originally captured me and has stayed with me until this day. Instead of turning the area into a managed forest, I implore you to instead designate it a scenic area, so that the area can continue to make an impression on future generations.

In keeping with the intent of the original land acquisition (in 2000, supported by 600 individual donors), the White Mountain National Forest should remove this and all future threats to Lake Tarleton's surrounding forest by amending the 2005 White Mountain National Forest Plan and designating a Scenic Area in the landscape surrounding spectacular Lake Tarleton, Lake Katherine, Lake Armington, and stretching along the Appalachian Trail corridor north to Webster Slide, and Wachipauka Pond. This contiguous landscape is among the most scenic in the Granite State. And yet, the White Mountain National Forest has failed to designate any Scenic

Areas west of I-93. For the benefit of the local tourism and recreation economy, and for the integrity of this treasured landscape, including Abenaki and early colonial historical resources, it's past time to permanently remove the threat of logging and development by amending the White Mountain National Forest management plan and designating a Scenic Area.

Americans are born with many inalienable rights and privileges. One of the most important birthrights of the American people is the privilege and honour of exploring and preserving the natural wilderness bestowed on the country, from sea to shining sea. In order to continue this proud tradition on the shores of Lake Tarleton, Lake Katherine, and Lake Armington, a Scenic area should be designated, allowing future generations to learn, explore, preserve, and bask in the natural beauty bestowed on them and their fellow Americans.