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Comments: My family has enjoyed Lake Tarleton and the surrounding forests for years every summer and the logging plan as presented threatens the pristine beauty of this area and will irrevocably harm the ecosystem. The White Mountain National Forest last revised its management plan in 2005. The ensuing 17 years have produced vast changes in science and public opinion. The National Forest Management Act says that Forest Plans should be revised after a maximum of 15 years. Scientists now inform us that we have a little less than 8 years to radically change our ways to avoid irreversible negative effects of Global Warming and the consequent Climate Emergency. Those same scientists believe that we can avoid the worst effects by drastically reducing our use of fossil fuels and, at the same time, stopping logging and allowing forests to mature on our public lands. Short of revising the White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) Forest Plan, which is overdue, a simple change in the Management Area designation for the forests surrounding Lake Tarleton to "Scenic Area" is an important first step that we can take today.

In keeping with the intent of the original land acquisition, 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.