Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/4/2022 7:24:01 PM
First name: Peter
Last name: Ascher
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Comments Re: Lake Tarleton Integrated Resource Project

May 4th, 2022

As a Piermont resident with a year round home directly on Lake Tarleton since 2006, I attended all the US Forest's Service various meetings and presentations relating to the above Project.

After analyzing the US Forest Service's various proposals, I still have grave reservations:

My wife's family has been coming to Lake Tarleton since 1944 and my three sons all attended Kingswood Camp. We were very aware of the threat of logging and development around Lake Tarleton in the years after the Tarleton Club closed. We were hugely relieved when the Trust For Public Land, individual donors and Local, State and Federal Government came together to preserve this beautiful spot. I have watched the video of the Dedication Ceremonies in 2000 and it is clear that those people who worked so hard to preserve the land surrounding Lake Tarleton intended it to remain a pristine New Hampshire wilderness. I believe that Lake Tarleton should be reclassified as a "Scenic Area" and that improving public access should NOT include logging of the surrounding forest.

In 2017, my wife and I took over the management of the Lake Tarleton Lake Host Program from its' founder, Charley Muntz. We had been volunteer Lake Hosts for eleven years and took the Invasive Species Training annually, as well as many other educational courses about Watershed Management and Water Quality. We are members of the Loon Preservation Society. I am also on the Lake Tarleton/Katherine Water Testing Team. To date, Lake Tarleton has had two Cyanobacteria Blooms on the shoreline, several Ecoli outbreaks, two Chinese Snail "saves," invasive Japanese Knotweed along Route 25C in the vicinity of both lakes and a two year period where the loons were affected by mismanagement of the dam and high water levels on Lake Tarleton. In short, this is a delicate natural environment. I do NOT believe that your Environmental Assessment and FONSI conclusion have fully addressed the dangers of logging around Lake Tarleton. Opening a logging road and having trucks and heavy equipment coming and going will inevitably spread the Japanese Knotweed into the forest. Furthermore, clearing forest on a steep slope above the lake will lead to run-off and higher Spring loon nesting season lake levels, neither of which we want.

From living in Piermont since 2006, I have learnt that the natural beauty of the environment is of primary importance to the people here. Many of us consider Piermont Mountain and the Lake Tarleton State Park beach the treasures of our town. Our family makes an annual hike up Piermont Mountain every July. The views of the forest and lakes from the summit are extraordinary. To see those views marred by logging would be heartbreaking to me.

Peter Ascher
Piermont NH