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First name: Jaden

Last name: Uram

Organization:

Title:

Comments: For the past seven summers, I have visited Lake Tarleton. Lake Tarleton, or Mother Tarleton as it is affectionately known, is truly a rare gem. There is no feeling quite like sitting in a canoe in the middle of the lake and looking around to see vast forests stretching out in all directions. The view of Mount Moosilauke peeking out over the tops of Mt. Mist and Webster's Slide is legitimately breathtaking and is not comparable to any other lake in the White Mountain National Forest. This view alone should be enough for the Lake Tarleton area to be classified as a Scenic Area (8.5) by the Forest Service. The logging operation planned for the northeast side of the lake will completely change this view and the effect it has on all who will see it. The view of Mt. Moosilauke is an invaluable resource and the logging operation would simply be a waste of something so one of a kind. Because of this extraordinary, invaluable view, the planned logging operation cannot take place.

Lake Tarleton is also home to a whole host of diverse wildlife. Every summer a group of common loons, a species considered threatened by the state of New Hampshire, come to Lake Tarleton to nest. Loons are highly territorial and require a large area to be comfortable nesting. They also need a quiet protected area to lay their eggs. It has been proven that human disturbance increases the likelihood that a loon will leave and possibly abandon their nest. Hearing the calls of the loons echo across the lake is a staple of a summer spent on Lake Tarleton and the logging operation is simply not worth the risk of the loons leaving their nests.

As a frequent hiker in the White Mountains, I have seen the effects that logging operations and logging roads can have on a forest. Even decades after the logging is done, there are obvious effects on the makeup of the forest. The plans for this logging operation involve clear cuts less than half of a mile from the Appalachian trail. Cutting down large sections of forest so close to such an iconic trail could compromise the wildness and beauty that make the trail cherished by many.