

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/9/2022 3:00:53 PM

First name: Martha

Last name: Francisco

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I speak against the current plans to log the forest surrounding Lake Tarleton. As the largest lake in the White Mountains National Forest (WMNF), with its commanding view of Mount Moosilauke, the tallest mountain in the western WMNF, Lake Tarleton and its surrounding areas should qualify as a "Scenic Area." The White Mountain National Forest should honor this vision and put in place protections to safeguard this land for perpetuity. I am greatly concerned that the proposed logging will degrade forest health, jeopardize water quality, and endanger biodiversity, all of which directly undermines the Biden administration's efforts to address climate change and protect 30% of lands and waters by 2030. It runs counter to the public trust to strip these lands of their old-growth and mature trees, trees which form the backbone of our ecosystems and absorb the greatest amount of carbon dioxide, maintaining genetic diversity and providing habitats for all sorts of life.

The proposed project would strip the majesty from this unique part of the WMNF. I have visited the White Mountains, scaled Mount Moosilauke, swam in Lake Tarleton. The pristine and immaculate mountains that rise from behind "Lady T" are a vision worthy of saving. To quote John Muir, "how glorious a greeting the sun gives the mountains!" Please allow this ancient greeting to continue untouched by human axe. I implore you to protect this forest wilderness from becoming literal fuel for the global climate crisis.