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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USFS, I am writing with regards to the proposed logging and tree harvesting plan for the western White Mountains Forest and especially Lake Tarleton. I strongly object to the proposed plan. Frankly, I am appalled that the USFS would consider commercial development of this natural treasure to be more of a priority than preserving the beauty and natural values of a standing and intact forest. I have family in New Hampshire, have spent time in the state and my son attends Kingswood Camp for Boys, which sits on the shores of Lake Tarleton. the USFS current plan would damage the unique and precious experience of the boys along with everyone else who comes to NH expressly for its outdoor paradise qualities(visitors from around the world and from other states--taxpayers like myself included). We are living in a time of dramatic change and volatile natural imbalance. Standing forests are one of the best defenses against dangerous climate change, greenhouse gas and perilous weather patterns.

I believe this land around Lake Tarleton and in the White Mountains Forest has been incorrectly zoned and should be re-classified as a MA 8.5 (Scenic Area), which would prohibit timber extraction, cell towers, wind turbines, and other development that would diminish the area's scenic, cultural, or natural values. Currently there are nine scenic areas in New Hampshire, but none are found west of I-93. It sure seems like Lake Tarleton, the largest lake in the WMNF, with its commanding view of Mount Moosilauke, the tallest mountain in the western WMNF, should qualify as a Scenic Area.

Indeed, I want to express my shock and dismay that USFS would damage this area for generations. I cannot believe that our government is willing to trade off New Hampshire's heritage, the trust and commitment of countless conservationists, the precious experience of intact nature for the health and well being of children and adults alike.(and the other living creatures who make their home in the forest) All for a stack of pallets,boxes of matchsticks and cheap deck furniture. Really? Please stop this calamity and reverse the current zoning plan. Move forward with the highest level of protection available to America's natural treasures. The Forest, New Hampshire and America deserves it. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.