

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/10/2022 2:10:03 PM

First name: Max

Last name: Muheim

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I've been visiting Lake Tarleton and the surrounding area for 23 years, primarily in the summer months. In a constantly evolving and developing world, the most attractive thing about Lake Tarleton is what doesn't change. The lush forest. The crystal clear water. The unobstructed vistas. The smell of pine trees. Arriving on Lake Tarleton means instant peace, quiet, and calm in the familiar. Not only do I look forward to it, I embrace the break from the hustle and bustle of city life.

Lake Tarleton is the best place to sail and swim. The lack of shoreline development and the unusually light recreational boat traffic makes it the ideal place for an uninterrupted cruise on a breezy day, or a freshwater dip on a calm one. I've never found another lake with water so clean, and as a boater and swimmer, I am very concerned with the potential runoff that will come with decimating the surrounding trees.

When Lake Tarleton and the surrounding land was taken over two decades ago, wasn't the whole point to prevent exactly this type of destruction from happening? The expectation was that it would remain open to all, and be preserved, so I am very surprised to hear that the US Forest Service, of all agencies, is spearheading this effort. Would you allow a private developer to come in and do the same?

I ask that you acknowledge the groundswell of support on this issue, and move away from the plan to deforest this area. Better still, the right answer is to provide for the express protection of Lake Tarleton and its surrounding area in the White Mountain National Forest so that moving forward, this land is preserved for all.

Don't let the sparse human settlement of this area fool you. People are paying attention to this issue. Just like any other environmental destruction, once this habitat is disturbed, it'll never be the same. This plan will absolutely upset the balance in this most pristine ecosystem, and will also upset all those who, like me, find peace and comfort in the outdoor activities that Lake Tarleton and its surrounding lands have to offer.