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Comments: Comments on Updated Tarleton Integrated Resource Project

I am an owner of a house on Lake Armington, an adjoining property to the project for now 35 years!

My interest in the Tarleton land area and lake dates back an additional 30 years preceding my residence, as my parents were Consultants and visitors to the Lake Tarleton Club and friends of the Jacobs family who owned and managed much of the property on Lake Tarleton, which is now part of the forest tract. I grew up hearing about this unique environment

My connection to this land now dates back about 65 years.

I have walked, skied, bird walked, bush-whacked through much of the property; climbing most of the hills, exploring most of the streams and rivers, got bitten by many of the ticks and mosquitos and explored the 100 year old trails of the old Lake Tarleton Club.

It is an historic, picturesque, wildlife-filled area that has been logged, regrown, and nurtured for the preservation of its habitat for decades. It is uniquely wild for undeveloped property, located so close to large population.

I was active in promoting the initial development of the land with the hope and expectation that it would be enhanced, protected and allowed to evolve to its natural state after years of periodic deforestations through logging.

My review of the project scope and direction left me feeling surprised and uneasy in many respects:

The plan is not what was represented to us when we supported the Land acquisition and subsequent transfer to the Forest Service.

The management of the Land as an opportunity to preserve trees and encourage "sustainable yield of high quality forest material" was not in the scope or intent of the original proposals.

The plan was to revert to "forever wild" with carefully managed public access.

Other than restorative forest work to preserve existing natural evolution;, the removal of acres of trees, understory, overstory, is a threat to the recent progress of gradual rehabilitation of the Lake and forest through 'benign neglect.' Wouldn't it be better to engage in only minimally intrusive restorative work, that would only be restricted to insure the health of the Lake and adjoining rivers, streams and lakes....and be a benefit to wildlife.

There currently are beautiful streams surrounding and feeding the Lake, that would be destroyed (not mentioned) in the forest service logging plans. There are unique bird habitats which are home to various species of migrating birds.....Canada Warblers, Chestnut sided Warblers, Black throated blue warblers, etc, that would be destroyed in the adjoining land when it is cleared.

The serenity and quiet that draw visitors would be disrupted by continual logging noise and destruction.

The promise of improving non exploitative public access is not even mentioned in the report.

Historic trails have been allowed to deteriorate. Stream crossings for public access need to be improved and maintained. Three primitive camping sites established by boaters need to be maintained with attention to garbage and sewage disposal and a plan instituted of managed utilization.

This is a prime and unique area, close to population centers, with a history of farming, recreational use and

ancient trails that are now falling into decline.

Can we preserve this land as a scenic and low impact recreational area....fishing, hiking, boating, nature watching rather than a "farming" area for timber harvesting at the expense of the wonderful scenic/recreational use for all?

Please do not advance a logging operation that would disrupt this evolving natural habitat.