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Comments: I've been visiting Lake Tarleton for several years because of the beauty, solitude, and unblemished wilderness experience it provides. Many people, including me, believe it is among the most beautiful lakes in New Hampshire. I did review the Environmental Assessment, but only saw a very brief few sentences in the "Hydrology Report" section. I am very concerned that this much logging in the Tarleton watershed will harm not only the views, but the lake's water quality, which is pristine- and is a big reason why I come here. I cannot reconcile the notion that what is planned here is a timber sale. I cannot imagine the views I see as I dip my paddle in the water- and the sense of untarnished nature- to be diminished in any way by Forest Service logging activity. Why here of all places?

My kids even developed a passion for hiking because of our time at Lake Tarleton. Some of our first hikes were on the historic trails around the lake and up Mt. Piermont. The trails are great and have a lot of potential. The view from the summit of Mt. Piermont is glorious; I imagine that would be heavily impacted by the proposed logging as well. In this, there is an economic value to leaving the area the way it is. I come from across the state to get there, for example. I'm not sure I could bear to see this area post-harvest. I have seen forests post-harvest, and the aesthetics are heartbreaking. We probably would not be back.

I am not opposed to responsible forestry, including logging; but this is a special setting which is currently serving its highest purpose and best use: as a place for people to connect with the natural world away from the chaos and overstimulation of the modern world. I was under the impression that this area was already protected and had been so for the past 20 years approximately. I am very sorry to learn that that is not the case; I hope it is not too late to confer some kind of special protected status on this extraordinary place.