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Organization: self

Title:

Comments: Dear WMNF,

Regarding the proposed Tarleton Project as discussed in April 2022 Draft Environmental Assessment report,, I respectfully disagree with Intensity factor Finding #3, i.e. "The project area is not unique in its geographic setting, and there are no unique geographic areas such as parklands, prime farmlands, or ecologically critical areas near the project." Just because Lake Tarleton has not been officially classified as an area that would merit protection from the proposed activities-- which is the justification for Finding #3-- does not mean that the lake and surrounding area is somehow unworthy of the fullest protection. In my humble opinion, such a finding is simply a narrow-minded attempt to ignore the truth of the matter.

I am not fundamentally opposed to the project's goal of improving the forest by means of active intervention, i.e. managed timber harvesting. I would, however, request that the overall intensity of the timber cutting activities be reduced. In particular, I would submit that the large area slated for "Group Selection" (Units 5, 6, 7, 9, and 10 as seen on Figure 2) is better suited for a "Single Tree Selection" treatment, given its proximity to the lake and prominence in the overall viewshed. Although the areas are relatively small,

I also question the need for the proposed clear cutting treatments given the propensity of such areas to regrow with beech.

In closing, I would ask the WMNF to appropriately recognize the importance of protecting the ecological and visual integrity of Lake Tarleton and surrounding areas. In doing so, I believe the project as currently proposed will be scaled back to a large degree, and in a manner that will satisfy many of the concerns that are being expressed by the public.

Sincerely,

Christopher Mumford