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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hi, I am writing today to express my concern regarding the Lake Tarleton area.

Please do not allow the Lake Tarleton area to be logged.

I live in the Mid-Atlantic region but continue to make the drive to NH regularly to camp and visit the area of Lake Tarleton because it is one of the most beautiful places east of the Mississippi River.

In 2000, citizens of NH saved this area from outside threat, and they believed it was for good. Republican U.S. Senator Judd Gregg said in 2000, "Many of us here today have worked hard for a number of years to reach the point we are at today where we can proudly say that this pristine New Hampshire wilderness has been saved."

The targeted area threatens much more than just the landscape around the Lake itself. This contiguous landscape affecting a significant portion of the Appalachian Trail is among the most scenic in the Granite State. And yet, the White Mountain National Forest has failed to designate any Scenic Areas west of I-93.

A brutal decision is being proposed, dishonestly being presented as an alternative between 2 possible options, when a range of options exist. The option being presented is to either log 900 acres of publicly-owned land in one of the most scenic watersheds in New Hampshire's White Mountains AND do important restoration and maintenance work for recreation sites and cultural resources; OR do nothing at all. There has been no good faith effort to come to a reasonable compromise.

The local population would appear to be against this decision but we do not know since no Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been conducted. The Town of Piermont Planning Board, in 2004, surveyed the opinion of Town residents and found that 90% of respondents were in favor of preservation and conservation. Please do an EIS. There will be a significant impact. To say that there will be no significant impact is completely dishonest.

Finally, if the proposed 17% of the forest is logged ($900/5300 = 17\%$), once these maturing trees are cut down, the opportunity to develop old-growth forests will be irreversibly set back at a time when scientists are making it clear that we have only a short period of time to stabilize the climate. Scientists believe that we can avoid the worst effects by drastically reducing our use of fossil fuels and, at the same time, stopping logging and allowing forests to mature on our public lands.