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Comments: I grew up in Nepal surrounded by majestic mountains and snowy peaks. I left my country for a chance at a better life but with a heavy heart because I would innately miss the serenity and calmness the mountains and forests offer. Never did I imagine I would find a home away from home at the foothills of the White Mountains in New Hampshire of all places! I have been fortunate enough to spend the last 13 summers of my adult life basking in the glory of Lake Tarleton and Mount Moosilauke while the White Mountains engulf me in its glory. Having recently heard of forest management plans across Lake Tarleton, I could not help but ask why are we intent on destroying that which provides so much without asking for anything in return?

Logging for timber in the alleged designated areas will undoubtedly do immeasurable harm to the pristine flora and fauna both in the short and long term. The old pines and other trees lining up the shores of Lake Tarleton and beyond have been infallible for centuries preserving the stunning ecosystem in the area. These silent reservists have ensured the integrity of Lake Tarleton by doing everything from keeping run-offs in check to ensuring water quality. To me, it is crystal clear that clearing the forest for financial benefit is akin to poisoning the well and I will not support nor stand by as plans are formulated to designate this wondrous area as MA 2.1. I cannot fathom the reasoning behind forgoing natural beauty and preservation of this beautiful ecosystem over fleeting financial gains at a time when the need for the opposite is of the utmost importance. Do the people behind this effort not understand the basic nature of nature itself? Destroying this mature forest will no doubt create problems of erosion which will ultimately lead to issues of water quality. New trees will take tens if not hundreds to years to perform the duties the old forest has been shouldering all this time. Far from just being an eye-sore if it comes to pass, this decision will create an environment where the forest, the lake and everything in and around the area will not have time enough to recuperate and die a slow death.

I am astonished that this scenic area is not already classified as MA 8.5. With the bounty this area offers, who in a sane frame of mind would want to destroy it? This land has history that should be honored, preserved, and cherished. The forests are a large, if not the largest, part of this history. We should be grateful for what is right in front of us instead of some transitory feeling of success, which will unequivocally mean the destruction of heritage.

Sincerely,
Baibhav Acharya