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Title:
Comments: I am writing to strongly support selection and implementation of the "No Action" alternative in the White Mountain National Forest-Pemigewasset Ranger District's revised environmental assessment for the Tarleton Integrated Resource Project, as described on the project web site: https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56394.

Lake Tarleton provides a unique wilderness setting that offers the very restorative environment that I need, and that so many people cherish. It is truly a sacred place, and no one wants their sacred place damaged and compromised. The forest management activities outlined in the 'proposed action' by the White Mountain National Forest will damage and compromise this place and set a precedent for continued compromise and damage for decades to come.

Lake Tarleton is one of the most spectacular lake settings I know. When I am in my canoe paddling its calm waters or walking a shoreline trail-always taking in the view of my favorite mountain, Moosilauke-I am at peace. All is well. Life is good. Lake Tarleton has this effect-it is a sacred place.

And I am not alone. Lake Tarleton has drawn people to its shores and bordering woodlands for Millenia. It is one of the few places left where one can experience actual quiet. While others go to church, I, and so many others, choose places like Lake Tarleton to restore my soul.

Just last week I took a quiet walk along the perimeter of the lake. When I came to the beach area at the west end, a Common Loon was floating quietly on the calm water near the shoreline-no more than 15 yards from my path. I sat quietly on the beach for about twenty minutes. We rested together-the Loon from its long flight, and me from the ongoing stress of life.

In addition to compromising and damaging the natural and scenic character of Lake Tarleton and the surrounding area, the proposal completely ignores both the impacts to and the perspective of the Abenaki people, who have called this area home for thousands of years. At no stage in the development of this proposal did WMNF staff reach out to representatives of the Abenaki, who may be the most affected by the destructive practices of modern logging.

I have corresponded about the proposed project with John and Donna Moody of the Winter Center for Indigenous Studies, (WCIT), the primary local representatives of Abenaki people, culture, language and history. They confirmed that they were never notified.

The first mandate of the WCIT is "To honor, respect, and protect the Ancestors and Sacred Places." I have been asked by WCIT to share the following comments regarding the proposed project, on behalf of Donna and John Moody and the Abenaki Nation Coalition:

The Lake Tarleton and Lake Katherine area is an extraordinary survivor of the last four hundred years. This area, and the connected areas to the east, are largely forested and undeveloped, and there is an ancient trail system through this area which suggests it is one of the trunk line east/west travel routes dating back thousands of years. So, beyond the lovely, local, fishing and living potential associated with the lakes, this area is likely a national/global historic Indigenous special place dating back thousands of years.

Every part of the Abenaki homeland is full of historic sites and sacred sites. We have no doubt that is true of this entire area. We would need, at the minimum, a full year to quickly survey this area; our time suggestions for any

sacred and traditional site study for a place is five to ten years!

I urge the White Mountain National Forest to do the right thing-to respect the rights of the people who hold Lake Tarleton as a sacred place.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Lovejoy
Lyme, NH