

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/11/2022 4:00:00 AM

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Comments: I write to urge that the U.S. Forest Service suspend its plan to cut timber on 880 acres of land near Lake Tarleton. The recent revised environmental assessment by the U.S.F.S. asserts that logging this land would have no significant impact on the "quality of the human environment."

Such a conclusion flies in the face of the empirical reality on the ground. As a hiker and member of the Appalachian Mt. Club (NH) and the Upper Valley Ottaquechee Section of the Green Mt. Club (VT), I consider Lake Tarleton and the area surrounding it to be a special jewel that needs to be preserved.

The current plan of the U.S.F.S. would contravene the understanding made more than two decades ago with the Lake Tarleton Coalition. Moreover, clear cutting will have a significant effect on hiking trails in that area—including the Appalachian Trail. It is proposed to leave a 100 foot buffer along the lake; that is completely inadequate. The area of planned logging goes along the lakeshore for almost one mile.

Instead of permitting the proposed logging of this land, I strongly urge the U.S.F.S. to instead categorize the region around Lake Tarleton as a Scenic Area.