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Organization:

Title:

Comments: April 1, 2023

Dear US National Forest Service,

I strongly object to the ill-conceived implementation of the White Mountain National Forest Tarleton Integrated Resource Project. Even though I am a Boston resident, the designated area is part of a NATIONAL forest. As such, I have the right to request that the WMNF propose reasonable alternatives for the project in its current form.

I spent ten summers as a camper and counselor at Camp Kingswood from 1966 to 76 and have revisited this pristine lake and forest a number of times since then. Lake Tarleton and its surroundings have been a memorable part of my life and provided some of my earliest and most treasured experiences with nature.

I learned to swim, sail, fish and waterski in the pristine waters of Lake Tarleton. I learned about nature and camping in the surrounding forests. Every morning I enjoyed the spectacular views of the forest and Mount Moosilauke.

Over the years, thousands and thousands of people have enjoyed the incomparable beauty and majesty of the largest lake in the White Mountain National Forest and the incomparable scenic view of the virtually untouched forest and mountains. They have enjoyed hiking the Appalachian and other trails.

The WMNFS' Study suggesting that this project would make 'no significant negative impact on this land is ludicrous. The WMNFS' recent proposal for a reduction in logging - from 880 acres to 690 acres "treated" (e.g. logged) and for an expansion of the no-cut buffer around the lake - from 100 feet to 300 feet are steps in the right direction but fall short in their overall assessment of the negative impact which will be caused if the project is permitted to proceed with its present proposal

I respectfully ask the US Forest Service to properly change the zoning of the Lake Tarleton project to properly reflect its importance. The project area should be reclassified from the current MA 2.1 (General Forest Management) designation to be adjusted to a MA 8.5 (Scenic Area), which would prohibit timber extraction, cell towers, wind turbines, and other development that would diminish the area's scenic, cultural, ecological and natural values.

The Lake Tarleton region is a uniquely pristine, beautiful and serene habitat that has miraculously escaped significant shoreline development or other major visible signs of mankind's interference with the natural world. The White Mountain National Forest Service should put in place protections to safeguard this land for perpetuity.

Please do not destroy the pristine and beautiful Lake Tarleton forest area by permitting commercial logging or other purposes on this important public land. The wishes and needs of the people need to be respected.

I trust that you will consider my comments prior to making a final determination on the Lake Tarleton Project. I would like to hear back from the decision-makers stating their case if they proceed with this project as it is presently planned.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Mandeau