

An Update on the US Forest Service's Lake Tarleton Integrated Resource Project

January 26, 2024

In November 2023, The US Forest Service issued their decision to proceed with the forest management project that we have been hearing about for the past several years. This decision follows several public meetings and two comment periods, and their responses to these comments.

The response from the community did result in significant changes to the scope of the logging that will take place, mostly around the far side of Lake Tarleton and along the old Charlestown Road. The no-cut buffer along Lake Tarleton was extended to 300 feet and the number of acres to be affected was reduced from 880 to 690 acres, a reduction of 21.5%.

The project also includes improvements to the boat access to Lake Catherine (non-motorized boats only), opening of some recreational trails, management of invasive species, and restoration of apple orchards along the Charlestown Road.

It is estimated that the logging contracts will be awarded in 2024 and the work would begin in 2025. The forestry activities will happen over the 5 years after the contracts are awarded. Logging is to take place in the winter months which will minimize disturbance to the soil. Measures will also be taken to prevent any impact on the water quality of the lakes. The Forest Service will closely monitor all the activity to be sure standards are closely adhered to.

We have been posting information about this project on our website over the past couple of years. You can also access all the documents concerning the project by going to:

Tarleton Integrated Resource Project

Under Project Documents, drop down to Decision Notice to read a summary of the project.

There is also a group of concerned community members who remain opposed to the scope of the project and have been working with an environmental consulting firm called Standing Trees to pursue a legal challenge to the decision to proceed with the project. Information on these efforts and various news articles can be found at laketarletoncoalition.org.

We will continue to keep you updated with any new developments on this project, and we invite your questions and concerns.

Lynn and Bob Dennison