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May 10, 2016

Mr. Rodney Smoldon Forest Plan Revision 765 South Main St. Colville, WA 99114

Dear Mr. Smoldon,

I was involved in the planning sessions at the Chewelah Peak Learning Center in 2006 with Forest Supervisor Rick Brazell. At that time I suggested that T 32N, R 40E, Sections 17-18 be designated as the Quartzite Special Interest Area. That suggestion was endorsed by everyone present.

(image of map (see hardcopy letter))

The main reason for the unanimous support was obvious; the beauty and prominence of Quartzite Mountain immediately captures one's attention whether entering the Valley from the

Highway 395 Highway 231 intersection south of Chewelah or cresting the hill just north of Chewelah on 395. In addition, participants of the 2006 planning sessions were charmed by the sheer rock face every time they drove east on Main Street on their way toward the Learning Center.

Quartzite Mountain is enjoyed daily by residents of Chewelah and the surrounding valley as well as by passing travelers. Multitudes of visitors enjoy its beauty on their way to the 49 Degrees North Ski Area. Significantly, the Boy Scouts have used the area for decades.

I have personally taken many family, friends and visitors, including foreign visitors climbing and hiking to the ridge atop the cliffs where a one-of-a-kind view leaves one enthralled. Just last week I guided some friends and encountered two women and a half dozen children enjoying the hike. The well-worn trail testifies to its popularity, a popularity that will undoubtedly increase as metropolitan Spokane becomes more acquainted with the unique opportunity.

The considered opinion of many is that this treasure, with its commanding presence over the valley is an inescapable scenic magnet whose visual quality must be preserved. With its rugged terrain it does not lend itself to commercial timber harvesting. It is relatively small at approximately 11/3

sections so would take an insignificant amount of land out of non-recreational use. It is easily accessible via either the Mud Lake Road or the Horseshow Lake Road, in fact the loop from Chewelah around Quartzite on those roads is a beautiful drive or bicycle circuit.

I do hope that you will give serious consideration to designating this priceless real-estate as the Quartzite Special Interest Area. Thank you for this opportunity to participate in the planning process.

Sincerely,

Don E. Johnson

Cc:Amy Dillon  
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