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First name: Ken
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Organization: Easter Oregon Mining Association
Title: President
Comments: Dear Supervisor Richardson:

As President of the Eastern Oregon Mining Association, I provide the following

comments on the proposed Restoration Project.

Mine owners within the boundary of this project area, have a private property right in the minemls. Since the area where the restoration activities are planned, and many of the claim areas overlap, it is important that stakeholders (miners) be informed about each project. The Forest Service may not materially interfere with mining operations (Public Law 167) and discussing activities with the mine operators will help to alleviate conflicts.

Each miner must be fully informed about the specific activities that will be taking place. The Granite Mining EIS analyzed the effects of each of the mining operations in the Granite watershed. Approved Plans of Operation are in place. Many mining sites currently have minimal risk of sediment input into the streams because of the high mounds of tailings that line the streams. If these tailings are removed, the effects of these operations on the waterways could change dramatically, adversely affecting the mining operation.

Relocating roads that run near waterways is a good plan, however, the roads within the riparian area that provide mining access must not be closed to the miners who use them. The effects of using hardened fords was analyzed in the Granite Mining Projects EIS. These fords provide important access and must not be eliminated.

Any increases in Wilderness, Roadless and Wild and Scenic Rivers in minemlized areas is not supported by the Eastern Oregon Mining Association. Minerals are an important resource and access to all mineralized areas must be maintained.