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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Attn: East Fork South Fork Restoration and Access Management Plan

500 N. Mission Street

McCall, ID 83638

May 11, 2024

Comments to: East Fork South Fork Restoration and Access Management Plan Draft Environmental Assessment (EA)

We are the owners of the private property that surrounds and includes Crater Lake above Red Metals Mine. Currently we have a limited Special Use Permit to use the old Red Metals Mine road to gain closer access to our private property.

We wish to state that we are against any plan that would reopen or allow for expanded the use of the Red Metals Mine road. The conditions of our Special Use Permit limit us 40 crossings on this road per year due to the two year-round streams that flow into Profile Creek (see attached Biological Assessment).

It is our experience that prior to Red Metals Mine road being gated, the public use of this road resulted in a large influx of people whose primary destination was our private property at Crater Lake. We experienced an increased amount of trash, human waste, unauthorized camping, and off-road vehicles damaging sensitive areas. With the gating of this road approximately 5 years ago, these issues have largely abated.

There is currently a good parking area at the junction of Profile Road and Red Metals Mine Road that allows visitors to park and access the mine ruins by hiking the old road to the mine (approximately 20 minutes). If hikers wish to continue on the trail up to Crater Lake we have always allowed this access, as our experience with hikers is that they are respectful of both the environment and private property. In fact, if the US Forest Service is interested in developing hiking trails to connect the several alpine lakes in the area, we would not be averse to a hiking trail crossing our private land.

In conclusion, we do not support any proposed changes to the current use of Red Metals Mine road that would allow for any motorized vehicle use of any type.

Sincerely,

Greg and Diana Vita