

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/6/2020 2:45:10 AM

First name: David and Ann

Last name: Cordero

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The proposal to build a road across the Pumice Plain at Mt. St. Helens National Monument is directly in opposition to the mandate for the Monument, which is to protect the area within its boundaries for research on succession after the volcanic eruption of May 18, 1980. A road would artificially introduce plants to the area, as shown by the vegetation differences at the edge of roads throughout the country. Furthermore, the Pumice Plain is a distinctive scenic feature of Mt. St. Helens' volcanic landscape and a road would mar its integrity.

We have been rangers in the National Park Service at several national parks and have found that when a park goes against its mandate the result is usually regretted at future dates. Practices such as feeding bears in Yellowstone, building the Old Faithful Inn too close to the geyser basin, or introducing fish into Crater Lake have not only harmed the parks but have also harmed the trust that the public places with the agency to keep these areas protected. We urge you to keep the experiment of observing the ecological changes in the vicinity of Mt. St. Helens vital and unimpaired.

Thank you.