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Comments: I have recently been informed of proposals for significant construction activities on the pumice plain of Loowit (Mt. St. Helens). I am not proposing to stop any future work, but ask that you allow for just process, adequate public participation, and a careful look at the environmental impacts.

The risks and potential impacts are considerable, and although the present situation poses long-term risks -- these are not immediate and there is plenty of opportunity to engage the public and address options.

My concerns include disturbance of research activities at the monument, disturbance and contamination of nascent watersheds in the area, interference with recreation at the monument including trail closures, potential dispersion of invasive species including New Zealand Mud Snails, and impacts on fish stocks.

These are issues that need to be thought through with full public participation. Haste makes chaos.