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Comments: To Whom It May Concern;

I have been working with the University of Washington, University of Puget Sound and the US Forest Service for the past three years on research into the recovery of Spirit Lake and the unique ecological function of the floating log mats. I have research collaborations and interactions with numerous investigators working on the lake, the mountain, and the pumice plain. For most of these three years there has been discussion of the intake project. While I understand the concern about the aging tunnel and support the need for updates, I have not seen any adequate work to understand or mitigate the disruptions of this work on the absolutely unparalleled research sites in the area. Neither I nor any of the researchers I work with feel there has been adequate effort to find or fund work-around options using hiking and helicopters to minimize impact. The decision that the only feasible option is to run a road across research plots that have no match anywhere in the regions, and in some cases the world, is short sighted. I hope the leadership exists within the project to find the innovative solutions needed, even if unconventional or costly. In the long run they will be worth it.

I implore you to return to investigation of less disruptive means.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dr. Avery Shinneman

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