

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/15/2020 4:27:47 AM

First name: Sarah Burr

Last name: Arnold

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I oppose the construction of a gravel road across the Pumice Plain, a Protective Class 1 Research Area, of Mt. St. Helens. I understand the importance of ensuring public safety by managing Spirit Lake water levels however at the moment there is a low risk of outflow failure giving time for the situation to be assessed in other than crisis mode. There are other less damaging alternatives to transport the necessary equipment and personal to the lake to perform the assessment. The proposed road will negatively impact recreational use of the area closing one trail and damaging others and creating noise pollution. It will destroy some long term research projects and damage others. It will harm the ecological integrity of the plain, and harm wildlife. Constructing a road across the streams flowing into Spirit Lake could cause erosion and result in sedimentation in the Lake. In addition there is an invasive snail living in the Lake which could spread out of the Lake in response to the disruption of the construction. I urge that the decision about constructing the road be delayed until environment assessments of the impacts of the construction can be done and completed and the decision about the road can be made with better information and time for deliberation.