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First name: rand

Last name: Schenck

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

I have backpacked around Mt St Helens, taken family members there, hiked with my daughters and cross-country skied there on many, many occasions. This Monument is a treasure unlike any other in the US. Recently I wrote a book about forestry in the Northwest and one of the insights that resulted in a highly important understanding of landscapes here in the Northwest and of forest ecology in general was developed by Jerry Franklin - that of "biological legacies." This insight came directly through the research and observations that resulted after the eruption. So much research has resulted because the decision was made to allow natural processes of recovery to happen without human intervention. I urge you not to build a road into Spirit Lake as this will inevitably interfere with the natural recovery process that continues to unfold.

Rand Schenck