

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/18/2020 11:35:46 PM

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Comments: To the U. S. Forest Service:

I have strong objections to the proposed road across the Pumice Plain of Mount St. Helens (Spirit Lake Tunnel Intake Gate Replacement and Geotechnical Drilling Project #57259).

1. I feel that the ecology of the Pumice Plain would be seriously compromised by a road as proposed. The Forest Service should protect the area, not destroy its integrity. Given the large amount of research carried out on the Plain over the past four decades, it seems obvious to me that the proposed developments are completely contrary to long-range Forest Service and public sentiment: to protect such a rare and valuable resource.

2. Any road built to that shore of Spirit Lake should be private and gated. I want that particular shoreline to be sacrosanct and not a public playground. The draft plan should be revised to recognize both scientist concerns as well as those of the public like myself. I first visited and camped near Spirit Lake in 1954. I think the lake and shoreline should be accessed only by a foot-trail, and carefully protected from human over-use-perhaps a lottery system with very strict rules, such as no power-driven boats of any kind. I believe that only self-propelled craft should be allowed, and also limited in number.

Thank you.

Darryl Lloyd