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First name: Tom

Last name: Hinckley

Organization: UWBG

Title:

Comments: I am concerned about the proposed impacts to the Pumice Plain. I have a long history associated with Mt. St. Helens: first climbed in 1969, last ski toured in 1995, the site of my first research project as a newly hired associate professor at University of Washington (NSF - July 1980), continued research funding from NSF, US. Forest Service, and Weyerhaeuser over the next decade and one half involved research sites associated with the eruption, and as a place where I have taken students, friends, colleagues, professional land managers, and others since September 1980 to learn about and witness the multiple effects of disturbance and responses to disturbance by flora and fauna. Research at Mt. St. Helens has done more to shape our scientific and professional ideas about terrestrial and aquatic disturbances than any other location in North America. I wrote letters, attended public meetings and gave testimony in the process leading to the formation of the Mt. St. Helens National Monument. The Pumice Plain continues to serve this critical applied and basic role in knowledge generation. The impacts in the draft EIS ignore and dismiss too easily this critical place.