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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I object to the lack of due consideration or serious analysis of the impact of the actions on terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems and on the value of the research enterprise. Two of the principle reasons for the Monument's existence are to allow ecological processes to occur unimpeded, and to enable scientists and the public to study and appreciate the regeneration.

I am an undergraduate researcher at The Evergreen State College. The opportunity to do research on the pumice plain of Mount St. Helens has been the keystone of my undergraduate education at a small public arts college in nearby Olympia, Washington. Mount St. Helens Monument is where I learned about ecological recovery, hypothesis testing, field experiments and communicating science. Environmental destruction and human disturbance are common stories, our generation needs places like the Pumice Plain so we can continue learning about this rare story of ecological recovery.

The ecological impacts of this proposed project are severe and must be thoroughly examined. There are several streams that the road will cross. These streams may be the only streams in the world that are 40 years old, these novel watersheds provided a rare opportunity to study stream development and evolution. Mount St. Helens is a unique ecosystem that has provided many ecological insights in the last forty years. This road will destroy that enduring legacy.

For these reasons, I am asking for an objection resolution meeting and an Environmental Impact Statement to be completed.

Signature available upon request