

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/31/2025 5:27:51 AM

First name: Peter

Last name: Frenzen

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I offer these comments in an effort to improve the outcome of the proposed Spirit Lake Tunnel repair project by protecting key Monument objectives. A key objective is to 'allow natural processes to continue substantially unimpeded' while fostering discovery and a sense of wonder for generations of students and volcano visitors.

During my 30 year career as Monument Scientist I had the opportunity to work with and learn from creative scientists, engineers and emergency managers. By working together we navigated our way through seemingly intractable situations in a way that benefited visitors and downstream communities.

Option 2 and Option 7 Input:

I have serious concerns about the necessity and resulting consequences of lowering the level of Spirit Lake by 40 feet. Given that you are already proposing to add the capability of controlling lake level as needed, and adding a siphoning pump capability, it occurs to me that lowering the lake level by 40 feet is both overkill and unnecessary.

The proposed 40 foot reduction in lake level will have the consequence of catastrophically lowering the level of groundwater in the Spirit Lake basin and, as a result, greatly altering its vegetation composition.

This will also create a very large, smelly and unsightly area on the lakeshore in the prime viewsheds North and East of the volcano. It will also alter the lake's aquatic system by destroying significant aquatic habitat. By substantially lowering the lake you will also create a very large area around the lake for noxious weeds to establish. As a result, a very large, long-term noxious weed control effort will be necessary following this unnecessary action.

Note: Sorry to start off on such a negative note, but my 30 year career as a Forest Ecologist and Monument Scientist requires that I say something about this incredibly destructive and apparently unnecessary proposed action:

On a more positive note:

With the exception of the proposed 40 foot lowering of lake level I am in favor of Option 7.

My most important proposed mitigations for this project result from my 30 years experience as Monument Scientist during the roller coaster ride of the Monument's brightest and most challenging moments. Through it all what carried us through trying good times and bad was the vision and realization that we were the fortunate caretakers of a globally important laboratory, classroom and tourist destination.

Proposed Mitigations for Spirit Lake Tunnel Repair:

A vital ingredient for project implementation and public relations will be the establishment of Dedicated Funding to support a collaborative Tunnel Repair Monitoring Program involving scientists and students actively engaged in research in the Spirit Lake Basin.

Monitoring of Spirit Lake and the Pumice Plain and Spirit Lake Tunnel Basin is a learning opportunity which is consistent with the monuments history as a Living Laboratory.

Funding and logistical support will not only help sustain struggling research, it will help continue the monument's reputation as a Living Laboratory.

End of DEIS comments.

Peter Frenzen
Monument Scientist (Retired)