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To: Tom Niemann
Principal Planner, Snohomish County Mineral Lands DSEIS

RE: DSEIS for Snohomish County Mineral Lands Designation

Dear Mr. Niemann,

I am writing this letter to offer my comments on the Mineral Lands Designation Draft Supplemental EIS.

1.) It would appear that the inclusion of mineral resources in an Urban Growth Area will be allowed if the resources are considered to be of high quality/quantity. Yet from Page 11 of the Huckell/Wienman Associates summary, I quote "the designation of resource areas within UGAs conflicts with statutory provisions for urban areas and resource lands. Mining within urban areas would also likely generate significant impacts. We recommend that designated mineral resource areas within the UGAs be removed to eliminate this conflict." I wholeheartedly agree with that recommendation that in no case and under no circumstances shall mineral resources within a UGA be classified/considered/cataloged, regardless of the choice of criteria finally chosen. I would also recommend that resources that are immediately adjacent to a UGA be downgraded in designation as well for this same reason.

2.) The inclusion of traffic and transportation impacts are major factors and should be considered in any ranking formula. I fully support the cities of Granite Falls, Gold Bar, Index, Monroe, and Sultan in requesting that the DSEIS be withdrawn, and an analysis of transportation impacts be included in the ranking criteria, and that an Addendum/Supplement be issued with the opportunity for public and agency comments prior to the issuance of a Final SEIS.

3.) Administrative reviews of projects just because the resource is in a seemingly remote location may not address impacts to smaller communities along haul routes. Like the now withdrawn DNR "Powerhouse" proposal, the impact to the Sultan Basin Road (SBR) and the constant wear and tear on the city portion of that roadway, and the safety issues involved with the intersection of US2 and SBR, as well as the added congestion to an already overburdened Highway 2 were SIGNIFICANT impacts that were not and are still not likely to be addressed anytime soon. I would suggest a conditional use review of ALL mineral projects with the opportunity for public hearings/input.

All factors, environmental, public safety, land use, transportation, and location must be considered when ranking the mineral resources. The idea that just environmental issues or just land use issues will be considered is absurd. We must always keep the big picture in mind. I again would request that the DSEIS be withdrawn and that all of the issues, including transportation issues, be considered in designating mineral resources and future related County policies.

Sincerely,

Jeff Everett