

February 14, 2016

Secretary Sally Jewell  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Chief Thomas Tidwell  
U.S. Forest Service  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1111

Jim Peña, Regional Forester  
Pacific Northwest Region (R6)  
U.S. Forest Service  
1220 SW 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
Portland, OR 97204-3440

Mike Williams  
Forest Supervisor  
Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest  
215 Melody Lane  
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Re: Business Community Support for Withdrawal of Land from Mineral Entry in the  
Headwaters of the Methow River in the North Cascades of Washington State

Dear Secretary Jewell, Chief Tidwell, Regional Forester Peña, and Supervisor Williams:

We the undersigned business owners write to express our opposition to the exploratory drilling activities proposed on Flagg Mountain in the Methow Valley. We believe exploratory drilling and any industrial-scale mining will directly and negatively impact our local businesses and the overall economic health and well-being of the Valley. Instead, we urge you to immediately commence the process to withdraw this area from any further mineral entry in order to protect the many irreplaceable qualities of our Valley.

Our local economy is dependent on the quality of our natural environment —clean air and water, pristine views, quiet sounds of nature, healthy fish and wildlife, and truly wild places. Our livelihoods and our families depend on the protection and enhancement of these assets; they are what make the Methow unique and worth protecting.

The prospect of an industrial-scale mine on Flagg Mountain threatens the very values that are at the heart of our success as a community, including our economic health.

Polluted waters, disturbed land, negative impacts on fish and wildlife, and noisy industrial activity could literally erase the very reasons many of our customers and employees have chosen to visit or relocate to the Methow. It could also threaten the foundation of our agricultural economy—clean and abundant water. Destruction of these assets will hurt our businesses and reduce the economic viability of our community as a whole. Moreover, these losses will extend beyond the Methow, affecting all of Okanogan County by threatening our amenity-driven property tax valuations, sales taxes, and hotel/motel taxes.

As local business owners and citizens, we are very concerned about any action, now or in the future, that would negatively affect our natural resources, most notably the Methow River

and its tributary streams and creeks. We ask you to protect the economic capital of the Valley—its natural resources and clean water—for current and future generations.

Specifically, we respectfully ask that you use your administrative authority to immediately commence the process to withdraw Flagg Mountain and appropriate surrounding national forest lands in the Upper Methow Valley from mineral entry under the general mining laws in order to safeguard the natural environment of the Methow and support our strong legacy of conservation.

Thank you for your consideration—and leadership—on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Hannah Cordes  
Aspen Grove  
Winthrop, WA

Cathy Upper  
Backcountry Horsemen, Methow Chapter  
Winthrop, WA

Jake and Alexa Whipple  
Beaver Creek Well Services, LLC  
Winthrop, WA

Larry Miller  
Big Picture Construction  
Winthrop, WA

Sam Lucy  
Bluebird Grain Farms  
Winthrop, WA

Meg and Dan Donohue  
Blue Star Coffee Roasters  
Twisp, WA

Jeff Brown  
Brown's Farm  
Winthrop, WA

Jeff Lyman  
Carlton General Store  
Carlton, WA

Brian and Amy Sweet  
Cascades Outdoor Store  
Winthrop, WA

Kathleen Jardin  
Central Reservations  
Winthrop, WA

Katie Bristol  
Cinnamon Twisp Bakery  
Twisp, WA

Dan and Sally Kuperberg  
Chewuch Inn  
Winthrop, WA

Dave Thomsen  
Coldwell Banker Winthrop Realty  
Winthrop, WA

Leia Hansen, Shiah Lints, Liam House-Doyle,  
Sol Gutierrez  
Copper Glance Restaurant and Bar  
Winthrop, WA

Ann Diamond  
Country Clinic  
Winthrop, WA

Sara Ashford  
Culler Studio  
Twisp, WA

John Willett  
Deer Run Chalet  
Mazama

Ryan Clement  
East 20 Pizza  
Winthrop, WA

Jonathan Baker  
Eqpd  
Twisp, WA

Dwight Filer  
Filer Plumbing  
Twisp, WA

Charlie Wright  
Freestone Inn  
Mazama, WA

Kary Brennan  
Gathered Boutique  
Winthrop, WA

Garth Mudge and Barri Bernier  
Glassworks Studio and Gallery  
Winthrop, WA

Molly Patterson  
Glover Street Market  
Twisp, WA

CB Thomas  
Goat's Beard Mountain Supplies  
Mazama, WA

Kyle Northcott  
Hypnotherapy KAN  
Twisp, WA

Howard Cherrington  
Integrated Design Concepts  
Twisp, WA

Katie Tucker  
Katie T's Cleaning  
Winthrop, WA

Kellen Northcott  
Java Man Espresso Bar  
Winthrop, WA

Steve Kelly  
Kelly's at Wesola Polana  
Mazama, WA

Bob Gamblin and Lori Loomis  
Lariat Coffee Roasters  
Winthrop, WA

Jerry Laverty  
Laverty Construction  
Mazama, WA

John Morgan and Liam Doyle  
Lost River Winery  
Winthrop, WA

Sam Carlin  
Lucid Glassworks  
Twisp, WA

Bill Pope  
Mazama Country Inn  
Mazama, WA

Rick and Missy LeDuc  
Mazama Store  
Mazama, WA

Joe Brown and Julie Muylleert  
Methow Cycle and Sport  
Winthrop, WA

Jerry Merz  
Methow Metalworks  
Twisp, WA

Dolly Stahl  
Methow River Lodge  
Winthrop, WA

Leia Hansen and Shiah Lints  
Methow River Raft and Kayak  
Winthrop, WA

Bill and Sandy Moody  
Methow Suites Bed and Breakfast  
Twisp, WA

Peter Morgan  
Methow Valley Inn  
Twisp, WA

Don Portman  
Methow Valley Ski School  
Winthrop, WA

Rich Milsteadt  
Milsteadt Electric  
Winthrop, WA

Kurt & Melinda Oakley  
Morning Glory Balloons  
Winthrop, WA

Shannon Farnham  
Mountain Paws  
Winthrop, WA

Alison Philbin  
Mt. Gardner Inn  
Winthrop, WA

Leslie Lanthorn  
Nectar Skin Bar and Boutique  
Winthrop, WA

Patrick Hannigan  
Nice Nests  
Twisp, WA

Mark Waechter  
Nordic Ultratune  
Winthrop, WA

Steve and Kim Bondi  
North Cascades Basecamp  
Mazama, WA

Nick Allgood  
North Cascades Builders Supply  
Winthrop, WA

Rick Mills  
North Cascades Construction  
Mazama, WA

Kevin VanBueren  
North Cascades Fly Fishing  
Winthrop, WA

Larry Goldie  
North Cascades Mountain Guides  
Mazama, WA

Audrey Jo Mills  
North Cascades Mountain Hostel  
Winthrop, WA

Paul Butler  
North Cascade Heli-Skiing  
Mazama, WA

Pat Norwil  
Norwil Electric  
Twisp, WA

Casey Ruud  
Old Schoolhouse Brewery  
Winthrop, WA

Anna Kominak  
Pine Near RV Park & Campground  
Winthrop, WA

Olivia Rose  
River Run Inn  
Winthrop, WA

Michael Friedrich  
Rolling Huts & Methow Tents  
Mazama, WA

Patrick and Kathryn Heim  
Rover's Ranch Dog Boarding  
Winthrop, WA

John O'Keefe  
Smokejumper Aviation, LLC  
Winthrop, WA

Bill Tackman  
Tackman's Surveying  
Winthrop, WA

Jason Miller  
Tamarack Electric  
Winthrop, WA

Lance Rider  
The Outdoorsman  
Winthrop, WA

Dave Swenson  
The Wine Shed  
Winthrop, WA

Tom and Lori Triplett  
Triple T Roofing  
Winthrop, WA

Jeff Patterson  
Patterson Company Design Build  
Winthrop, WA

Ben and Virginia Nelson  
Rendezvous Huts  
Winthrop, WA

Julianna Owens  
Riverside Ave Barber and Salon  
Winthrop, WA

Steve Mitchell  
Rocking Horse Bakery  
Winthrop, WA

John O'Keefe  
Sawtooth Dental  
Twisp, WA

Brian Charlton  
Sun Mountain Lodge  
Winthrop, WA

Chris Clark  
Tall Timber Design Build  
Mazama, WA

Shawn Johnston  
The Iron Horse  
Winthrop, WA

Anna Kominak  
The Wash Works  
Twisp, WA

Vicki and Tom Miniajluk  
Timberline Meadows Nightly Rentals  
Mazama

Denise Tompetrini  
Twisp River Inn  
Twisp, WA

Katrina Auburn  
Twisp Feed and Rental  
Twisp, WA

Joe Marver  
Twisp River Suites  
Twisp, WA

Aaron Studen  
Twisp River Pub  
Twisp, WA

Bob Monetta  
Windermere Realty Methow Valley  
Twisp, WA

Don Auburn  
Twisp Small Engine Repair  
Twisp, WA

Gene Westlund  
Winthrop Inn  
Winthrop, WA

Cathy and Eddy Layne  
Windy Valley Landscaping  
Winthrop, WA

Rita Kinney  
Winthrop Mountain Sports  
Winthrop, WA

Jenna & Brett Kokes  
Winthrop Physical Therapy  
Winthrop, WA

Mary Sharman  
Yatta Yatta Yatta Design  
Mazama, WA

Cc: Senator Patty Murray, United States Senator  
Senator Maria Cantwell, United States Senator  
Representative Dan Newhouse, U.S. House of Representatives  
Tom Vilsack, Secretary, Department of Agriculture  
Neil Kornze, Director, U.S. Bureau of Land Management  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
Jerome E. Perez, Washington and Oregon Office, U.S. Bureau of Land Management  
Michael Liu, Methow Valley District Ranger, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest