

To: Dan Tippey  
BLM Prineville

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MAY 20 2003  
BLM PRINEVILLE  
DISTRICT

Re: Canyon Mountain Project Alternatives 5800.2 EA#OR-054-02-083

Date: May 19, 2003

From: Teresa L. Gardner, Landowner  
P.O. Box 273, Canyon City, OR  
Fred and Vyvyan Gardner, Landowners  
P.O. Box 265, Canyon City, OR

Our major concerns are: Road Safety, Fire Hazard, OHV Uses

Alternative D is the only alternative that addresses the severe safety hazards at present on the main access road to Canyon Mountain. This hazard is extreme enough that the risks need to be addressed at present; if traffic of any kind were to increase the hazard becomes very extreme and invites unfortunate accidents.

The access road is the only access to the USFS trailhead into the wilderness. The road is used by every type of vehicle, truck, truck and trailer and OHV imaginable. It is the access to the wilderness, mining claims, BLM lands, and private property. Traffic occurs day and night; at times, it is the heaviest at night. Alternative D would straighten out a major hazard curve located next to a residence. This curve is located on a steep up and downhill slope, a narrow one way road with no turn outs. A frequently used access by two residences intersects with the BLM road at the curve. The visibility on the up and downhill grades is nearly zero in places. The visual problems are severe. OHV's and smaller cars are at highest risk but visibility is very poor for large trucks as well.

The road is well signed for trailhead access by the USFS. Those following the signs are often unaware of the dangers of the road and the road conditions. Even those who have used the road before cannot compensate for lack of visibility and there have been "near misses" at the curve. The road conditions above the residences is heavily rutted in many places due to heavy use and lack of base and drainage. OHV's and other vehicles looking for a new route have bypassed the one lane road. Alternative D would help establish a road area that is defined and useable. We believe less damage will be done to surrounding areas if traffic is able to use the road and is confined to that road.

The probably of a catastrophic fire is high. It is not a question of if a fire will occur but when. Residences and a city are at risk. Currently roads are left open all summer which increases fire potential. The fuel load must be reduced. Two fires have burned the face of the mountain and a smoldering campfire caused a fire summer before last. Lightning strikes are common in the area. Hopefully the BLM can reach a reasonable solution to fire/fuel reduction. Many private landowners

within and adjacent to BLM lands have taken steps to reduce beetle kill and fire hazard. Alternative D reduces fire potential and helps maximize possible suppression efforts. Alternative D does not address the extreme beetle infestation, but does reduce fire hazard for 2,091 acres.

We support containing and buffering the pit. The pit should be used for OHV recreation due to road and land damage already done and possible continued abuse by OHV's and highway vehicles alike. Until some type of enforcement body is in place to enforce closures, rules, and laws it will be difficult to contain those who do not use respect with recreation. Public and private properties have been abused, vandalized and destroyed in this area. Currently, roads and hillsides are rutted, signs are torn down, gates ripped out, garbage dumped, fires built and left, and more. Alternative D seems to present some positive steps to contain some of the destruction.

For immediate safety we can only support an alternative that provides Road Safety. Alternative D is the only alternative with the plans for this. Alternative D also addresses the reduction of fire hazards and OHV and vehicle use.

Sincerely,



**Teresa L. Gardner**  
Landowner, Canyon Mountain



**Fred M. Gardner**  
Landowner, Canyon Mountain



**Vyvyan M. Gardner**  
Landowner, Canyon Mountain