



June 12, 2024

John Anderson
Regional Representative - Southwest Washington
Office of Governor Jay Inslee

Re: Protecting the Green River Valley – No Place for a Mine campaign

Dear John Anderson,

On behalf of The Mountaineers, I'm writing to share why protecting the Green River Valley, near Mount St. Helens, from mining is important to our community of outdoor educators and recreationists and ask that Governor Inslee join us in supporting the No Place for a Mine campaign.

The Mountaineers, based in Seattle, Washington and founded in 1906, is a nonprofit outdoor education, conservation, and recreation organization whose mission is "to enrich the community by helping people explore, conserve, learn about and enjoy the lands and waters of the Pacific Northwest and beyond." 1,200 skilled volunteers lead 3,200 outdoor education trips and courses annually for more than 16,000 members across our seven Puget Sound region branches. We are a passionate, engaged, and knowledgeable community that cares about the outdoors and protects the outdoor experience for current and future generations. We are also committed to ensuring equitable and sustainable recreation access to the Northwest's public lands and waters.

We're proud to be a member of the Green River Valley Alliance (GRVA) and help build support for the No Place for Mine campaign among Washington's human-powered recreation community. Recreationists come from near and far to the Mount St. Helens area and the Green River Valley to enjoy world-class hiking, mountain biking, and many other outdoor activities. A mine in the valley would negatively impact outdoor recreation in several ways.

Construction of a mine in this area would cut off access to a number of trails such as the Green River Trail, Goat Mountain Trail, and Green River Horse Camp, which are beloved by trail users. Furthermore, noise pollution resulting from development and operation of the mine would disrupt the peace and quiet of this natural and remote landscape.

The proposed mine site includes land that was purchased by the Forest Service using the Land and Water Conservation Fund, for the explicit purpose of supporting conservation and outdoor recreation. With so many competing priorities for federal funding, it's important that LWCF-funded projects



continue to protect land for the benefit of local communities.

We join Cascade Forest Conservancy and other GRVA partners in asking Governor Inslee to publicly support these efforts by:

- Writing a letter to the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service requesting an administrative mineral withdrawal for the area.
- Submitting a letter of support for a legislative mineral withdrawal to the Washington congressional delegation.
- Making a public statement of support for the Green River Valley Alliance and the No Place for a Mine campaign.

Thank you for your consideration and for sharing our letter with relevant policy colleagues in the Governor's office. Please let us know if there's anything else we can do to help build support this effort to protect the Green River Valley with the Governor.

Sincerely,

Betsy Robblee
Conservation & Advocacy Director
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