**RECEIVED**

JUL 05 2007

Ravalli County Commissioners

July 2, 2007

Chuck Oliver, District Ranger
Darby Ranger District
P.O. Box 388
Darby, MT 59829

Re: Proposed Lost Horse Quarry

I am writing to you to voice my opposition toward the proposed reopening of the Lost Horse quarry.

My husband and I have been residents of the Lost Horse area for 22 years now. Our property borders the Lost Horse Road and our home sits approximately 50 feet from the road. The Lost Horse has been a great recreation area for the whole valley. As you know, the forest service has done a lot to improve and promote the Lost Horse area as a scenic route and recreational area.

The amount of traffic year around on the Lost Horse Road can be very overwhelming at times. Not only is it very busy in the summer months with all the different recreationers , but also in the winter months with snowmobile riders, hunters, and x-country skiers, to name a few. The speed limit on Lost Horse Road is 45 mph reducing down to 15 mph when it becomes forest service road . Adding several dump trucks and heavy equipment to this daily use is unimaginable. Not only will there be more noise, pollution, and wear on a road already in need of repair, but also the added dangers of BIG trucks versus small vehicles on a dangerous and slick road in the winter months.

I am also concerned about the quarry itself. Why, after all these years, would you even consider reopening it? After 30+ years of not being used the landscape has returned itself to the beautiful pristine area that it once was. This whole valley is filled with the needed gravel to upgrade the county roads. There are already proposed gravel pits that we are paying for right now that we are not using. Why don't we start using those pits? And the cost that the County Road Supervisor came up with sounds like another number that he "just threw in the air".

I hope you will reconsider any decisions made on reopening the Lost Horse quarry. To lose such a unique and valuable area would be devastating, not only for the people in the valley, but also the abundant wildlife that roam the area.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns.

Sincerely,

Laurie Matteson Lehr
367 Lost Horse Road
Hamilton, MT 59840
406-363-6292

cc: Ravalli County Commissioners

copy