Holly R. Green
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RECEIVED
JUL 10 2007
Ravalli County Commissioners

July 2, 2007
Mr. Chuck Oliver, District Ranger
Darby Ranger District
PO Box 388
Darby, Mt. 59828

Dear Mr. Oliver,

I am writing you concerning the proposal to activate the dormant quarry in the National Forest on Lost Horse Road. It is my intent to expand upon some of the issues facing those of us in the valley and the adverse impact that your proposed quarry would have on those of us that live here.

First, the ***safety issue***: Lost Horse Road is a dangerous enough road without burdening it with 129,000 pound trucks in and out 33 times a day on an average of 35 days a year. The road snakes through the valley with blind curves. It is icy in the times you are proposing to use it. It is narrow. All these conditions with the addition of a huge rock truck, spell annihilation for anyone that would happen to collide with your vehicle. Putting a rock quarry at the end of this virtually unmaintained road is a recipe for disaster. This above all else is the reason that the proposal should be rescinded.

Second, the ***recreation issue:*** Lost Horse has become synonymous with the ultimate image of the romantic west. It is a haven for campers, fishermen, snowmobilers, rock climbers, and anyone seeking the peace and serenity of one of the most beautiful rock creeks in the state. This quarry will be located near the campground and underneath the Lost Horse Lookout. It is not an accident that Nature Valley Granola chose Lost Horse Lookout for its national television advertising campaign. It shows a woman on the ledge overlooking the beautiful Bitterroots in their glory saying simply "Nature Valley Granola. Lost Horse Creek, Bitterroot Range, Montana". I'm sure the image would not have been as serene with the sound of rocks being crushed and the dust of those rocks rising to obliterate the breathtaking

panorama. Quite simply, it is a personal affront to the peace and serenity of the area to have it disturbed by the sounds of the quarry. **This is not an industrial park**. This is a recreational and nature park and it should remain a recreational and nature park.

And thirdly, ***the wildlife issue:*** This is closely tied with the recreational issue. If we as humans are disturbed, simply imagine how the animals will feel and react. This canyon is famous for bears, moose, elk, mountain goats and other native fauna. The loud and deafening sound of rocks being broken apart will surely force these creatures to go elsewhere.

In short, I see this proposal as a real tragedy for this area. If someone dies on the road in an accident with one of these gargantuan trucks, it will be tragic. If our ability to absorb the peace and serenity of this valley is compromised in any way, it will be tragic. If the animals leave our valley for a place where they can escape the crunching and pounding of rocks being hammered, it will be tragic. In all, I see this whole proposal as nothing but detrimental to our community and its reputation for the sanctity of the outdoors. Please find and crush your rocks closer to the highway. There are quarries all up and down Highway 93. Locating a quarry on Highway 93 or using an already established quarry on Highway 93 would offer easy access and would not endanger lives or change existing recreation activities and wildlife in the Lost Horse Valley. Please reconsider this proposal to quarry at Lost Horse and find another location for your quarry that will not endanger or threaten anyone or anything

Most Sincerely,

Holly Green

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