

**From:** [Judith Akins](#)  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Concerning the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry proposal (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, BP19-0070)  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 7:58:56 AM

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Concerning the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry proposal (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, BP19-0070)

Dear Skagit Planning and Development Services,

After rereading my letter I saw that I made one error on the time line on the Corps' Columbia River project. It should read, "beginning in 4 months and ending in 4 years, 2023" and so I have put this in a correction below. Please accept this as a corrected version to my letter submitted on May 12.

As a frequent traveler to the Skagit River area and the natural beauty which it holds I am very alarmed by the proposal of Kiewit Infrastructure Co. to open a mining operation in the beautiful small town of Marblemount. I travel over Highway 20 many times during the year for hiking, bicycling, eagle viewing, kayaking, camping and visiting the small businesses in the area; including the great food stops. All this of course is enhanced by the flora and fauna present there. It is the gateway for those of us who live in the northwest to the wonders of the North Cascades National Park. Highway 20 is where you can hike, bike, paddle, ski, fish and camp from Marblemount, starting in Sedro Woolley, all the way to Mazama, Winthrop and beyond. I am concerned all of this will be heavily impacted by the blasting noise, air quality, water quality, and road use of this proposal. This project would add significant additional traffic congestion to an already busy corridor. I have seen the congestion steadily increase during the weekdays, not to mention the weekends, during the last 10 years or so that I have traveled this road.

Since learning of this project I have been following the news and have visited the mine area. I have also researched where this rock will be used. I have read the many comments being made, especially by Re-Sources for Sustainable Communities and concur with all their environmental concerns. However, I would like you to consider also a few concerns that might not have been mentioned.

There are many concerns about the rock being taken for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects for the repair and reinforcement of the jetties at the mouth of the Columbia River. (While we are not commenting on why the hard armoring is still being done when recent science is proving that soft armoring is more effective for shoreline stabilization. [http://www.psp.wa.gov/vitalsigns/shoreline\\_armoring.php](http://www.psp.wa.gov/vitalsigns/shoreline_armoring.php)) The fact that 80% - 90% of the rock will be left behind is a major concern. It seems that we are blowing up one mountain to make another one. The "leftover" rock will be piled on 28 acres of land 50-100 feet tall. This will be owned by Cunningham Trust to be sold for use on smaller projects in the area. Meanwhile, if this project goes forward, we have effectively polluted at least 2 salmon habitat streams and the Skagit River, destroyed habitats for unknown amount of species including mammals (yes man included), birds, insects, and reptiles. The "small" pile has no proposed use at this moment in time. There are a few rock piles already sitting at the present mine and in Marblemount which have not been used or even touched in awhile (which is obvious by the amount of grass and/or brush growth surrounding them). There is

absolutely no benefit of this proposal of the Kiewit Mining Company to anyone in the near or extended area of Marblemount including Skagit, Whatcom, and Okanogan Counties. No new jobs will be created for the area residents (There are 25 proposed miners on site and 15 truck drivers, presumably already employed by Kiewit since this Corps of Engineer project has to be started over the next 4 months and completed in 4 years, 2023) no benefit to the local citizens that live a few hundred feet and beyond from the driveway of the mine.

I am requesting that you look seriously at this project and request an Environmental Impact Study be conducted after the land use has gone through the necessary prerequisites for the development of the mine. Kiewit has not procured all the procedural paths to the Mineral Rights Overlay and so I would hope that you would also consider denying this project as a first option because all the applications have not been properly submitted. It seems that the negative impacts to this watershed far outweigh whatever economic benefits to Skagit County this project would generate.

Thank you for extending the commenting period and reading all the concerns.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

**From:** [Erika](#)  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Mining  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 7, 2019 4:56:36 PM

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To whom it may concern,  
I just wanted to give my opinion that I do not want mining in this area.  
Sincerely,  
Erika Baxter  
Everett, WA

**From:** [Author Pamela Beason](#)  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Comment on Kiewit Infrastructure Co. application for 100-year mining permit for Marblemount Quarry  
**Date:** Monday, May 6, 2019 7:23:39 PM

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May 6, 2019

Dear Skagit County Planning Commission,

I urge you to deny the Kiewit Infrastructure Co. applications for a Mining Special Use Permit (PL19-0033), Forest Practice Conversion Permit (PL19-0047), and Grading Permit (BP19-0070) for the Marblemount Quarry application for a 100-year mining permit. Outdoor recreation is a primary source of income for Washington State, and especially for Whatcom and Skagit Counties, and allowing this project would create major barriers for hikers, hunters, cross-country skiers and snowshoers, kayakers and other boaters, fishermen, and vacationers to enjoy North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake, Baker Lake, several county parks, and the surrounding national forests. This would also have an impact on traffic to and from the North Cascades Institute.

Highway 20 is a narrow two-lane highway with very few areas safe for passing, and the estimated 260 daily vehicle trips, many by giant trucks carrying large cargos of rock, would create major safety hazards for a road already heavily traveled by recreational campers, motorcycles, bicycles, and personal vehicles. Many popular campsites and hiking trails would be made much more difficult to access. The towns of Rockport, Marblemount, Concrete, and Sedro Woolley would be severely and negatively impacted, and the cost to the state and county for road repairs from such heavy truck traffic would be exorbitant.

Blasting and heavy truck travel would damage sensitive habitats for plants and wildlife. I am a board member of the Mount Baker Club, an outdoor recreation club of more than 200 members centered in Bellingham, and our club frequently hikes in both the North Cascades National Park and the areas that border the proposed mine site. I am also a member of the Sierra Club and WAKE kayak club, all of whom use this area for recreation.

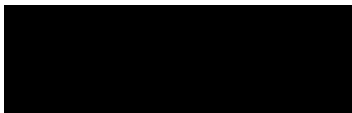
Granting any permit for 100 years for such a destructive operation would be an unconscionable act that would affect generations of outdoor recreation enthusiasts who are not yet even born.

This project would result in much more financial and reputational damage to Skagit County than financial benefit to Skagit County. There are many quarry sites closer to major highways that would be more appropriate.

Please deny this application and preserve Skagit County as a haven for wildlife and an attractive place for outdoor recreation.

Sincerely,

Pamela Beason





**From:** [Matt B.](#)  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Sustainable River Valley  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 1:25:06 PM

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*Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,*

*Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.*

*I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.*

*Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.*

*Thank you for considering my comment.*

*Sincerely,  
Matthew Buckmaster*

**From:** [Monica Crosson](#)  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Marblemount Quarry  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 9:07:18 AM

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My name is Monica Crosson and I live near the proposed site of the Kiewit Infrastructure mine. I am deeply saddened that this would be allowed to happen in our area. This wild and scenic country has been home to my family for generations and I am sickened by the thought of the destruction of our natural resources and important habitat for local wildlife.

Increased noise, dust and falling debris in an area that has increased in population over the years is a concern, as well as the possible release of asbestos - which is a major health concern.

Thank you,  
Monica Crosson

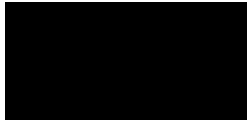
**From:** [Dawn Erickson](#)  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry Operation near Marblemount  
**Date:** Saturday, May 11, 2019 11:44:11 AM

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Skagit County Planning Commission members,

I have been coming to Marblemount and the Skagit Valley for decades to work and to recreate. I have lived in Concrete, Sedro Woolley, Marblemount, Rockport and New Halem and am now a homeowner in Darrington. As a parent I have gone on many field trips to places along the Skagit River, many to Howard Miller Steelhead Park, to learn about eagles, but also to area farms and to NCI's Mountain School. I believe a quarry in this location would be a tragically wrong installation in the wrong place and could irreversibly damage the ecosystem and negatively impact recreation. Some concerns include impact to air and water quality, impacts to fish and wildlife, including endangered species like salmon and it appears no new local jobs would be created through this project and may in fact cause a loss in jobs due to a decrease in recreation visits. I believe a project of this scope could have detrimental impacts wildlife and to endangered salmon. As a former blaster for the US Forest Service on the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, I am aware of the environmental review that was required to blast stumps and rocks for trail construction and for road building projects. It seems a project of this scope is much grander in scale and demands to be reviewed under an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) so the above concerns and many more could be given their proper review.

Thank you,  
Dawn Erickson



**From:** [Bee Faxon](#)  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Marblemount Quarry  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 5:13:35 PM

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Dear Planning Commission,

Thank you for reopening the public comment period on the Marblemount quarry. I appreciate the recognition that this is a big decision with ramifications for our valley.

I also appreciate the support Commissioners have expressed in the past for the rural character of our valley. As a former resident of both Rockport and Concrete, and a frequent traveler up valley on Highway 20, I can attest to the rural beauty of that area—of the abundance of wildlife, of the working farms that line the valley edges, of the peace offered to residents and visitors, and of the area's attraction to tourists who make up an ever-increasing segment of our valley economy.

I can also say that the winding, often steep Highway 20 can already be a challenge in patience and safety for both residents and visitors. The idea of loading it with gravel trucks is a frightening and disturbing prospect. The additional load—in weight, potential speed, and number of trucks--to more local roads (like the Rockport Cascade Road and SR 530) sounds even more reckless. I currently live just off Cook Road east of I-5. I imagine this would be the route trucks would travel. The impact of this mining operation will affect all of us on this corridor.

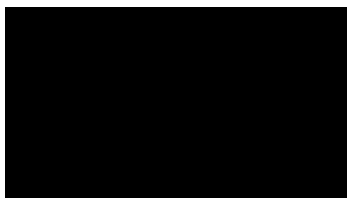
But the impact will be greatest for our up valley neighbors—who will bear the brunt of noise, traffic, and health risks from mining dust, vehicle exhaust, and possible aquifer contamination. Our Skagit River, a wild and scenic river that draws visitors and supports residents just like the tulip fields do, will also be at risk.

I do believe that our county government supports the health of this valley, and the right of rural residents to live in clean, safe environments where their livelihoods and their property are not assaulted. This project seems to benefit the few at the expense of the many, and at the expense of values that all of us in the valley hold dear.

Thank you for considering this issue with due care, and please include an EIS as part of any decision-making process.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Beverly Faxon



**From:** [Karen Fitchett](#)  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry operation near Marblemount, Permit PL19-0033  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 2:42:08 PM

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We are frequent visitors to the Marblemount area and heard of the proposed quarry project and wanted to say we are opposed to it. We often travel to this area and fish the Cascade and Skagget rivers and are very concerned that this would negatively effect this beautiful area and watershed.

We discussed and will likely not return if this project moves forward.

Sincerely,



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Comment Proposed Marblemount Quarry  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 7:31:32 AM

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To Who this may concern:

Hello, my name is Lawrence Franks. I own property In Rockport, WA, and I am highly against this Quarry proposal.

This Quarry would be a horrible mistake and a detriment to our upriver communities.

It would have a very negative impact on our wildlife, our wildlife restoration efforts, our forests, and our pristine and most valuable water ways. It would upset the serenity of the upriver communities, and most likely have a negative impact on the air quality in this area, and possibly beyond.

The upriver Skagit County area relies heavily on tourist participation and fiscal input throughout most of the year, and especially during the warmer months. This Quarry would definitely have a negative impact on this. Who would want to escape to the peace and quiet of our upriver Skagit parks, hiking, and other peaceful locals to the sound of blasting rock? Who would want to be stuck behind large trucks moving the massive quarried rocks that will be crowding our upriver narrow highways should this venture be approved?

Finally, the Quarry would provide no sustainable benefit for any parts of Skagit County, nor any of the surrounding community. This Quarry represents a business entity that would only take from our county and give nothing back. You cannot take minerals from our precious soil, then replant to replace what has been taken.

This Quarry will improve nothing for our communities, only profit Kiewit Infrastructure Co.

Please do not let this happen.

Thank you with much regard and respect,

Lawrence Franks

**Lawrence Franks**

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Comment: Proposed Marblemount Quarry Project  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 8:48:43 AM

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To Who this may concern:

Hello, my name is Lawrence Franks. I own property In Rockport, WA, and I am highly against this Quarry proposal.

This Quarry would be a horrible mistake and a detriment to our upriver communities.

It would have a very negative impact on our wildlife, our wildlife restoration efforts, our forests, and our pristine and most valuable water ways. It would upset the serenity of the upriver communities, and most likely have a negative impact on the air quality in this area, and possibly beyond.

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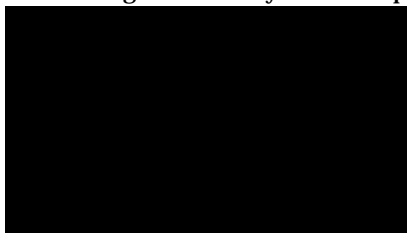
This Quarry will improve nothing for our communities, only profit Kiewit Infrastructure Co.

Please do not let this happen.

Thank you so very much, with regards and respect,

Lawrence Franks

**Lawrence Franks**  
**Little Big Man Handy Home Repair Service**



**From:** [Bill and Julie GRIFFITH](#)  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Marblemount Quarry  
**Date:** Monday, May 6, 2019 4:05:23 PM

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My name is Julie Griffith



I am greatly concerned about the Marblemount quarry and the huge expansion the owners wish to pursue and the fact that there is no EIS regarding this big project when it is in a wild and scenic area in the North Cascades. There are many homes nearby as well as many tourists and hikers and skiers who frequent this beautiful, quiet area.

We had a taste of a small quarry operation at this same site a few years ago and it was so noisy with almost constant pounding for many hours a day so that everyone who was able vacated their place for some peace and quiet elsewhere. I cannot imagine what the proposed expansion will be like---so there absolutely must be an EIS!

Imagine if your house was near to (like less than half mile) all the blasting, logging trucks, rock breaking, rock loading and rock hauling, dust, road damaging mess that would be. going on 6days/wk, 12 hrs a day, from 6am to 6pm. Frankly, it just won't work at that spot--especially when there are several quarries in more suitable, not so scenic, less populated areas where you can get the same type of rock.

Thank you for your time reading this, and please at least require an EIS, unless you can veto the expansion altogether.

Sincerely, Julie Griffith,  
Marblegate homeowner

;

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**From:** [Ellen Jacobs](#)  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Kiewit quarry  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 8:43:48 AM

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*Skagit County Planning & Development Services,*

*Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.*

*I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.*

*Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.*

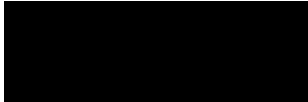
*Thank you for considering my comment.  
Ellen Jacobs*

**From:** [Linden Jordan](#)  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Marblement Rock Quarry  
**Date:** Monday, April 29, 2019 12:24:01 PM

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I live east of the proposed quarry site on Diobsud Creek Road. I have lived here for 33 years and have watched the steady economic decline of our community from logging to only the park service. Tourism is the lifeblood of this area. The businesses suffer every time the highway has to close because of a slide. The money lost is real consequences to our families up here. We have a high rate of poverty, and our children do not have the advantages of many other communities. Anything that affects tourism will be felt in our homes. This quarry has the potential to send tourists to other areas. The beauty and peace of our area is not just for the locals' benefit. People from all over the world come here to see a degree of beauty that is hard to find elsewhere. The environmental impact of this proposal will be devastating to this community. We have no idea how far reaching those impacts will be. We rely on our county administrators to have our interests at heart, not the interests of corporations from outside who will not even employ our people in any substantial way. The burden on this company is extraordinarily high given the risks proposed. This application must be denied.

Linden G. Jordan



From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [PDS comments](#)  
Subject: Re: PERFECT response to the !#\$% quarry proposal  
Date: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 8:14:04 PM

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Hi Karen,  
I sent it to the email address [pdscomments@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:pdscomments@co.skagit.wa.us)  
and I also sent a copy of that same email to you.  
DO NOT LOSE HOPE!!!  
Love  
Julie

-----Original Message-----

[REDACTED]  
Sent: Apr 24, 2019 9:45 AM

Subject: Re: PERFECT response to the !#\$% quarry proposal

THANK YOU SO MUCH

THIS IS PERFECT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Cheers, ( have to stay positive somehow)

Karen

-----Original Message-----

[REDACTED]  
Sent: Tue, Apr 23, 2019 10:06 pm  
Subject: Draft response to the !#\$% quarry proposal

Dear Karen, Thank you!

Here is a draft of my comments based on your info. I hope if there are things you can improve you will please do so

**Permitting Keiwit's quarry project in Marblemount, WA**

**Husband and avid fisherman Jim Potter & I are very familiar with the natural beauty of the Upper Skagit, Marblemount, Marblegate region.**

**A blasting quarry industry is not in keeping with the tranquil nature of this area! The idea that Kiewit proposes 100 years of wreckage near Marblemount/Marblegate areas give us Washington residents and guests (tourists), not to mention the property and homeowners in this area, a giant incentive to speak out in protest!**

**Impact on the pristine beauty of this area of Washington for Washington residents and visitors seeking to continue to enjoy for many generations MUST be considered in the Skagit response.**

**This proposed quarry plan would be a huge disruption of the area, for people, and for the environment.**

**It is not Skagit County values nor is it Washington values to permit industry in non-**

**industrial areas!**

**1. We strongly request an EIS to take place soon!**

**2. This Kiewit quarry project proposal is not in keeping with the Skagit Comprehensive Plan:**

**Their proposal material clearly attempts to bypass Comprehensive Plan amendment procedure! Outrageous! Consideration of permits for the entire quarry site require following the RULES!**

**3. Their gravelled road is outside the Mining Resource overlay and would cause further damage in creating access to the site—unaddressed in their plan. Where is that consideration?**

**4. How does the project propose to mitigate the horrendous noise level of 12 hours per day, 6 days per week plus industrial traffic and regional damage?**

**Most importantly, the process must not be allowed to sidestep Skagit's Comprehensive Plan!**

**All of us who care about preserving the beauty of this natural region must be given a voice!**

**Thank you for the opportunity to respond, we look forward to supporting Skagit County's reasoned decision regarding this permit process to ensure protection of the area from heedless industrial development.**

**JPMarx**

**From:** [Rena Larsen](#)  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Marblemount Quarry  
**Date:** Monday, May 6, 2019 7:04:31 PM

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Melrena Anne Larsen  


I am vehemently opposed to the proposed Marblemount Quarry!

I have lived in Skagit County my entire life. I am now a wife, mother and Mt Vernon School District busdriver. My husband is Operations Manager of the Sedro Woolley Helping Hands Food Bank. We work hard, pay our taxes and try to be good stewards of the land God has allowed us to enjoy.

As long as we can remember, our vacations and down times has been spent with our two sons, one of which will be an Eagle Scout, around the Skagit River and Upriver camping/picnicking/hiking spots. The upper Skagit is clean, pristine, God's country. There are billions of people who will never experience this beauty in their lives.

I believe that eventually the runoff from diesel, blasting chemicals, fertilizers, and even asbestos will enter the ground water, area well water, the streams and of course the Wild and Scenic Skagit River. This permit is for 100 years! This would be a crime against the citizens of Skagit County and beyond. Once this happens, how can it ever be fixed?

It is much easier and cheaper to prevent it than to fix it. It is absolutely necessary to do an Environmental Impact Statement, in order to fully grasp the magnitude of this horrible proposal.

Thank you for your time


**From:** [Virginia Malmquist](#)  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** PLEASE! No quarry!  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 12:00:59 AM

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A quarry up high in the Skagit Valley would endanger health of salmon and therefore the orcas. Please protect the Earth.

Thanks.

Virginia Malmquist, LMHC



**From:** [Bob Mierendorf](#)  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** comment on proposed Marblemount rock quarry  
**Date:** Monday, April 29, 2019 11:47:39 AM

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To: Skagit County Planning Office ([pdscomments@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:pdscomments@co.skagit.wa.us))  
Planning and Development Services  
1800 Continental Place  
Mount Vernon WA 98273

April 29, 2019

Please consider the following review comments regarding the project proposal for expansion of the Kiewet rock quarrying and mining operation near Marblemount. As a resident and property owner in Marblemount for over 20 years, it's important to me for you to know that the scope of this project far exceeds the planning effort and environmental review that it has received. The project's implementation will have far-reaching direct and indirect negative effects to the river, the community, the natural setting that makes Marblemount attractive, and quality of life for all those who live here and travel through.

This proposal for industrial development is incompatible with its proposed setting, and as a result, it will eliminate Marblemount as a gateway community to North Cascades National Park and adjacent protected lands enjoyed by visitors from around the world. It will also undermine progress made over decades to promote collaboration among parties with a goal of long term economic sustainability.

A short list of project effects includes:

1. Visual intrusion. A quarried mountainside will be a prominent visual intrusion not just for the Marblemount vicinity, but for higher points of the landscape for miles around. For example, hikers on the trail to "Cow Heaven" and Helen's Butte will be confronted with the vision of an alien rock scar in the verdant upper Skagit River valley below them. Any bright night lights required by this project will pollute the night sky, negatively altering the entire feel and character for the Marblemount vicinity at night (see 4. Below).
2. Audio intrusion. The volume of industrial noise pollution will be excessive and incompatible with the serene mountain setting of the Marblemount community and its environs, and these effects are both direct and indirect.
3. Traffic hazard. Due to the large size of the quarry trucks and the volume of associated traffic, it's clear that this project is incompatible with the small county road (runs between SR-530 on the west and the Cascade River Rd. on the east) providing access to the project area. Furthermore, the junction of SR-530 with SR-20 is currently well-known as a difficult turn for logging trucks and this will only be exacerbated with the much larger trucks associated with this project.
4. Traditional Cultural Setting. I have reviewed the cultural resources report by Baldwin et al. 2019, titled "Cultural Resources Assessment of a Proposed Marblemount Quarry Project, Skagit County, Washington" and submitted pursuant to this project. Based on my 40+ yearlong professional career in cultural resource management, I assess this report as woefully inadequate for several reasons:

- the area surveyed for cultural resources covers only a small portion of the project footprint, leaving open the possibility for their presence elsewhere in the project boundaries,

- for any project of this scope, adequate field coverage cannot be achieved in two partial days, indicating that the cultural resources reconnaissance effort fell far short of the proposed project

scale,

- the literature review fails to acknowledge that not far from the project is the Big Eddy, a notable hydrologic feature of the Skagit River; located north of the project area, it was an important traditional fishery of Upper Skagit Indians, particularly for those who lived in the village before Marblemount existed; any effects to this resource remain unassessed,

- the literature review fails to acknowledge the visual intrusion that the project will create at "Cow Heaven", the historic local settler name given to the alpine prominent meadows that are a traditional berry gathering grounds of Upper Skagit people; any effects to this resource remain unassessed,

These issues might be resolved by full areal-coverage of the field inventory and by a thorough, rather than superficial, review of the cultural significance of the project area and its effects to traditional cultural resources, both direct and indirect.

5. Loss of environmental qualities. Effects of the proposed project to wildlife (large and small mammals, eagles), fish in the Skagit River, clean water, clean air (vs. rock dust), mountain scenery, and mountain stillness, are potentially significant and need to be assessed in a thorough manner-- the present effort fails. At stake is the long term economic viability of Marblemount, which is clearly not served by a resource extractive industry of the kind proposed in this project.

Thank you for considering these comments,

Robert R. Mierendorf





**From:** [Douglas Mills](#)  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Marblemount Quarry Proposal Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 5:52:06 PM

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Dear Skagit Planning Department and Commissioners,

Re: Marblemount Quarry Proposal

The prospect of mining rocks in Marblemount and then sending them on trucks on SR 530, Hwy 20 and Cook Road fills me with dread. More traffic, more abuse of the roads, more deforestation on a National Scenic River, and a giant pit mine on the Cascade/Skagit watershed just seems like a bad idea.

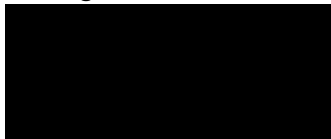
With salmon runs in decline and climate concerns much in the news, this seems to degrade the integrity of both wild and rural Skagit County.

This will be a nightmare for many of our up-valley friends in terms of noise, dust, and traffic. It seems like another project for the profit of the few, at the expense of the many.

I trust you will refuse this project.

Respectfully,

Douglas Mills



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Comments on Kiewit Quarry Proposal, Marblemount/Marblegate, Skagit County, WA  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 24, 2019 8:11:09 PM

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Husband and avid fisherman Jim Potter & I are very familiar with the natural beauty of the Upper Skagit, Marblemount, Marblegate region.

A blasting quarry industry is not in keeping with the tranquil nature of this area! The idea that Kiewit proposes 100 years of wreckage near Marblemount/Marblegate areas give us Washington residents and guests (tourists), not to mention the property and homeowners in this area, a giant incentive to speak out in protest!

Impact on the pristine beauty of this area of Washington for Washington residents and visitors seeking to continue to enjoy for many generations MUST be considered in the Skagit response.

This proposed quarry plan would be a huge disruption of the area, for people, and for the environment.

It is not Skagit County values nor is it Washington values to permit industry in non-industrial areas!

1. We strongly request an EIS to take place soon!

2. This Kiewit quarry project proposal is not in keeping with the Skagit Comprehensive Plan:

Their proposal material clearly attempts to bypass Comprehensive Plan amendment procedure! Outrageous! Consideration of permits for the entire quarry site require following the RULES!

3. Their gravelled road is outside the Mining Resource overlay and would cause further damage in creating access to the site—unaddressed in their plan. Where is that consideration?

4. How does the project propose to mitigate the horrendous noise level of 12 hours per day, 6 days per week plus industrial traffic and regional damage?

Most importantly, the process must not be allowed to sidestep Skagit's Comprehensive Plan!

All of us who care about preserving the beauty of this natural region must be given a voice!

Thank you for the opportunity to respond, we look forward to supporting Skagit County's reasoned decision regarding this permit process to ensure protection of the area from heedless industrial development.

JP Marx and J Potter

J. Potter Marx and Jim Potter

[REDACTED]

U.S.A.

**From:** [Nancy Quackenbush](#)  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Marblemount Quarry  
**Date:** Monday, April 22, 2019 1:41:51 PM

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In reference to the Marblemount Quarry: Kiewit Infrastructure Co. has a poor environmental and safety record. In the past, just one of their infractions required them to pay \$5 Million for Clean Water Act Violation. The fine in no way returns the environment to its previous healthy state!

In the case of the Marblemount Quarry, the headwaters of the Skagit River are in jeopardy. We cannot condone the risk that Kiewit or any other mining operation poses. We need to stop these polluting practices now to insure a healthy local community--economically and in physical well-being, as well as for the right for Clean Water for fish and humans alike.

Thank you for saying NO, not here and not on our watch.

Nancy Quackenbush



**From:** [Wendy Schramm](#)  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Marblemount Quarry  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 10:02:03 PM

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May 12,2019

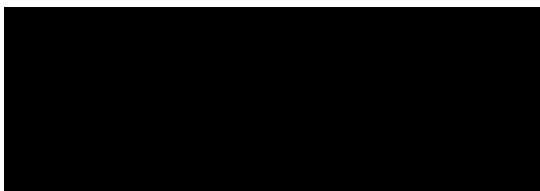
Dear Skagit County Planning Dept.,

We were recently made aware of the proposal for a massive rock quarry near the town of Marblemount. The impact that a proposal of such magnitude would have on the residents and community of Marblemount is astounding. We live in Chelan county, but love visiting the upper Skagit valley. The hiking, fishing, and biking opportunities in this beautiful setting are what keep bringing us back.

We strongly urge that an Environmental Impact Statement be done and that the proposal be denied. The environmental effects of such a project would harm the fragile ecosystem of one of the most beautiful valleys in the country.

Thank you for listening.

Wendy and Mike Schramm



**From:** [Ina Bonds](#)  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Marblemount Quarry  
**Date:** Monday, May 6, 2019 7:27:58 PM

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April 25, 2019

To: Skagit County Planning Office

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I have reviewed the project proposal for expansion of the Kiewet infrastructure for rock quarrying and mining in Marblemount 59252 Rockport Cascade Road, Skagit County. I am deeply alarmed and question the justifications for allowing this proposal to pass. Based on my review of the proposal, I cannot find anything beneficial to justify this proposal going through.

First, due to the impact on the wildlife, and the inadequacy of a study conducted in the middle of winter stating the wildlife population is minimal and would not be impacted, I urge an EIS be conducted immediately to prove Kiewit's claims. I personally have seen many deer and cougars crossing the roads, along with eagles and other birds flying at this time of year. We have also had bear sightings in our neighborhood last Spring. Just as important, someone recently saw a wolf pack near the mountain that the proposal says has little wildlife. I have understood that the wolves might be an endangered species that could have migrated south to our area. In addition, people in both Marblemount, and tourists (vital to our economy) come to our area to fish for salmon and steelhead in the Skagit River. Blasting between 6 am to 6 pm six days a week would definitely drive these animals and fish away along with devastating our quality of life and our property values due to the noise pollution.

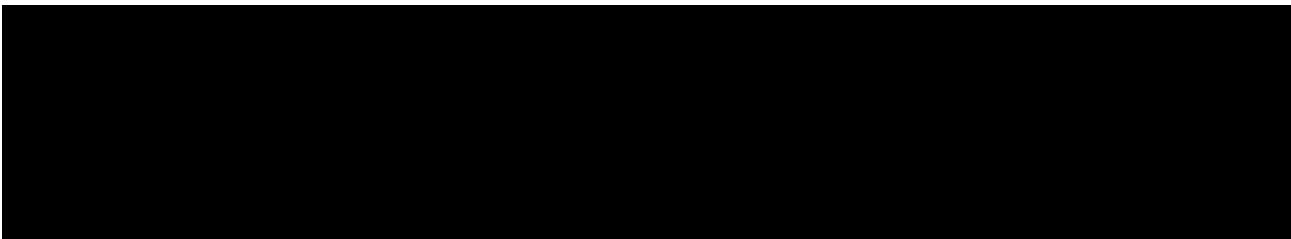
Next, I would like to dispute any claims that this would benefit the economy in Marblemount. It is my understanding that this mine would employ approximately 25 people. These are highly specialized jobs, and the people of Marblemount most likely would not be qualified to do these jobs. I would also

argue that none of the employees of this quarry operation would be interested in living within earshot of the mine, thus they would not be benefitting our tax base or local economy.

Last, the impact on our roads would be devastating and we would end up being taxed to pay for the upkeep of roads necessary to a project that is NOT benefitting our local community in any way. The proposal originally said up to 75 trucks on the road between 6 am and 6 pm up to 6 days a week. I would highly recommend someone from Skagit County comes out and attempts to drive a truck the size of the ones they are proposing along the proposed route. There is a very narrow 2 lane bridge at Rockport on Highway 530 that could not accommodate one of those trucks and any other log truck or passenger truck simultaneously. There are also very sharp turns in other areas of this route, that in the past have required large trucks to back up repeatedly to try and make these turns.

We moved to Marblemount last August from Camano Island. Our reasons were: low population; low traffic; clean air and water; beauty of the landscape and peaceful quiet lifestyle. Everything about this proposal is a direct threat to our way of life in Marblemount. We are vested in this community and hope to be able to retire in peace and quiet in this beautiful area. Living within 4 miles of the blasting site would cause great distress to my husband and I and our pets. I highly doubt anyone considering approving this proposal or Kiewit management would volunteer to live in my neighborhood or take the hit on our property values if this proposal does go through.

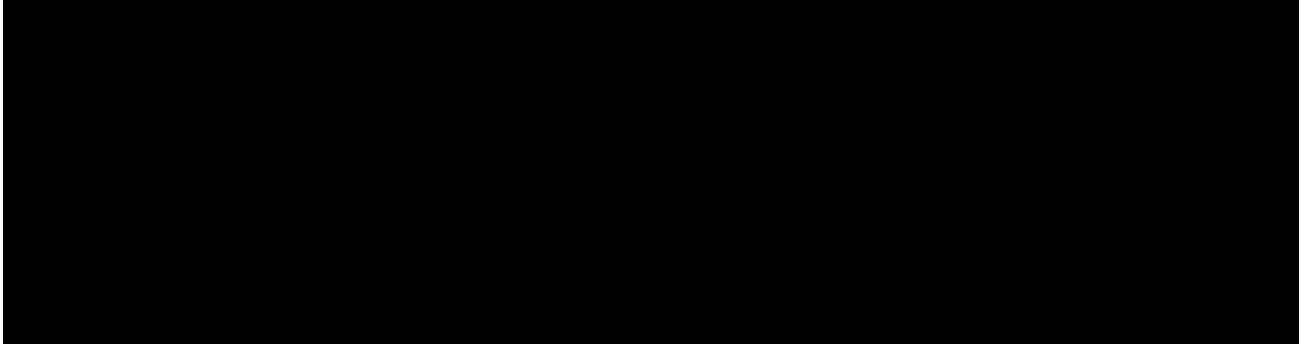
Again, I urge Skagit County to deny this permit, OR at the very least require an Environmental Impact Study this Spring AND do a test run with a semi truck and trailer along the proposed routes.



Sincerely,

Ina and Glenn Schultz

Cascade River Park (Full Time) Residents





**From:** [Judith Akins](#)  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Concerning the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry proposal (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, BP19-0070)  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 7:58:56 AM

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Concerning the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry proposal (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, BP19-0070)

Dear Skagit Planning and Development Services,

After rereading my letter I saw that I made one error on the time line on the Corps' Columbia River project. It should read, "beginning in 4 months and ending in 4 years, 2023" and so I have put this in a correction below. Please accept this as a corrected version to my letter submitted on May 12.

As a frequent traveler to the Skagit River area and the natural beauty which it holds I am very alarmed by the proposal of Kiewit Infrastructure Co. to open a mining operation in the beautiful small town of Marblemount. I travel over Highway 20 many times during the year for hiking, bicycling, eagle viewing, kayaking, camping and visiting the small businesses in the area; including the great food stops. All this of course is enhanced by the flora and fauna present there. It is the gateway for those of us who live in the northwest to the wonders of the North Cascades National Park. Highway 20 is where you can hike, bike, paddle, ski, fish and camp from Marblemount, starting in Sedro Woolley, all the way to Mazama, Winthrop and beyond. I am concerned all of this will be heavily impacted by the blasting noise, air quality, water quality, and road use of this proposal. This project would add significant additional traffic congestion to an already busy corridor. I have seen the congestion steadily increase during the weekdays, not to mention the weekends, during the last 10 years or so that I have traveled this road.

Since learning of this project I have been following the news and have visited the mine area. I have also researched where this rock will be used. I have read the many comments being made, especially by Re-Sources for Sustainable Communities and concur with all their environmental concerns. However, I would like you to consider also a few concerns that might not have been mentioned.

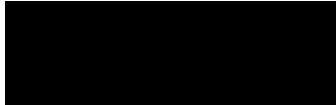
There are many concerns about the rock being taken for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects for the repair and reinforcement of the jetties at the mouth of the Columbia River. (While we are not commenting on why the hard armoring is still being done when recent science is proving that soft armoring is more effective for shoreline stabilization. [http://www.psp.wa.gov/vitalsigns/shoreline\\_armoring.php](http://www.psp.wa.gov/vitalsigns/shoreline_armoring.php)) The fact that 80% - 90% of the rock will be left behind is a major concern. It seems that we are blowing up one mountain to make another one. The "leftover" rock will be piled on 28 acres of land 50-100 feet tall. This will be owned by Cunningham Trust to be sold for use on smaller projects in the area. Meanwhile, if this project goes forward, we have effectively polluted at least 2 salmon habitat streams and the Skagit River, destroyed habitats for unknown amount of species including mammals (yes man included), birds, insects, and reptiles. The "small" pile has no proposed use at this moment in time. There are a few rock piles already sitting at the present mine and in Marblemount which have not been used or even touched in awhile (which is obvious by the amount of grass and/or brush growth surrounding them). There is

absolutely no benefit of this proposal of the Kiewit Mining Company to anyone in the near or extended area of Marblemount including Skagit, Whatcom, and Okanogan Counties. No new jobs will be created for the area residents (There are 25 proposed miners on site and 15 truck drivers, presumably already employed by Kiewit since this Corps of Engineer project has to be started over the next 4 months and completed in 4 years, 2023) no benefit to the local citizens that live a few hundred feet and beyond from the driveway of the mine.

I am requesting that you look seriously at this project and request an Environmental Impact Study be conducted after the land use has gone through the necessary prerequisites for the development of the mine. Kiewit has not procured all the procedural paths to the Mineral Rights Overlay and so I would hope that you would also consider denying this project as a first option because all the applications have not been properly submitted. It seems that the negative impacts to this watershed far outweigh whatever economic benefits to Skagit County this project would generate.

Thank you for extending the commenting period and reading all the concerns.

Sincerely,  
Judith Akins



**From:** [Monica Crosson](#)  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Marblemount Quarry  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 9:07:18 AM

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My name is Monica Crosson and I live near the proposed site of the Kiewit Infrastructure mine. I am deeply saddened that this would be allowed to happen in our area. This wild and scenic country has been home to my family for generations and I am sickened by the thought of the destruction of our natural resources and important habitat for local wildlife.

Increased noise, dust and falling debris in an area that has increased in population over the years is a concern, as well as the possible release of asbestos - which is a major health concern.

Thank you,  
Monica Crosson

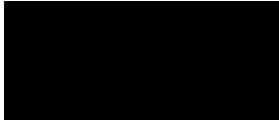
**From:** [Dawn Erickson](#)  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry Operation near Marblemount  
**Date:** Saturday, May 11, 2019 11:44:11 AM

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Skagit County Planning Commission members,

I have been coming to Marblemount and the Skagit Valley for decades to work and to recreate. I have lived in Concrete, Sedro Woolley, Marblemount, Rockport and New Halem and am now a homeowner in Darrington. As a parent I have gone on many field trips to places along the Skagit River, many to Howard Miller Steelhead Park, to learn about eagles, but also to area farms and to NCI's Mountain School. I believe a quarry in this location would be a tragically wrong installation in the wrong place and could irreversibly damage the ecosystem and negatively impact recreation. Some concerns include impact to air and water quality, impacts to fish and wildlife, including endangered species like salmon and it appears no new local jobs would be created through this project and may in fact cause a loss in jobs due to a decrease in recreation visits. I believe a project of this scope could have detrimental impacts wildlife and to endangered salmon. As a former blaster for the US Forest Service on the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, I am aware of the environmental review that was required to blast stumps and rocks for trail construction and for road building projects. It seems a project of this scope is much grander in scale and demands to be reviewed under an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) so the above concerns and many more could be given their proper review.

Thank you,  
Dawn Erickson



**From:** [Bee Faxon](#)  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Marblemount Quarry  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 5:13:35 PM

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Dear Planning Commission,

Thank you for reopening the public comment period on the Marblemount quarry. I appreciate the recognition that this is a big decision with ramifications for our valley.

I also appreciate the support Commissioners have expressed in the past for the rural character of our valley. As a former resident of both Rockport and Concrete, and a frequent traveler up valley on Highway 20, I can attest to the rural beauty of that area—of the abundance of wildlife, of the working farms that line the valley edges, of the peace offered to residents and visitors, and of the area's attraction to tourists who make up an ever-increasing segment of our valley economy.

I can also say that the winding, often steep Highway 20 can already be a challenge in patience and safety for both residents and visitors. The idea of loading it with gravel trucks is a frightening and disturbing prospect. The additional load—in weight, potential speed, and number of trucks--to more local roads (like the Rockport Cascade Road and SR 530) sounds even more reckless. I currently live just off Cook Road east of I-5. I imagine this would be the route trucks would travel. The impact of this mining operation will affect all of us on this corridor.

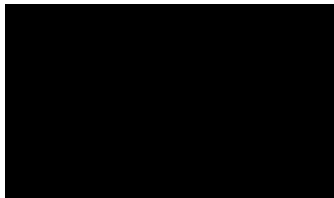
But the impact will be greatest for our up valley neighbors—who will bear the brunt of noise, traffic, and health risks from mining dust, vehicle exhaust, and possible aquifer contamination. Our Skagit River, a wild and scenic river that draws visitors and supports residents just like the tulip fields do, will also be at risk.

I do believe that our county government supports the health of this valley, and the right of rural residents to live in clean, safe environments where their livelihoods and their property are not assaulted. This project seems to benefit the few at the expense of the many, and at the expense of values that all of us in the valley hold dear.

Thank you for considering this issue with due care, and please include an EIS as part of any decision-making process.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Beverly Faxon



**From:** [Karen Fitchett](#)  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry operation near Marblemount, Permit PL19-0033  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 2:42:08 PM

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We are frequent visitors to the Marblemount area and heard of the proposed quarry project and wanted to say we are opposed to it. We often travel to this area and fish the Cascade and Skagget rivers and are very concerned that this would negatively effect this beautiful area and watershed.

We discussed and will likely not return if this project moves forward.

Sincerely,  
Richard and Karen Fitchett



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Comment Proposed Marblemount Quarry  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 7:31:32 AM

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To Who this may concern:

Hello, my name is Lawrence Franks. I own property In Rockport, WA, and I am highly against this Quarry proposal.

This Quarry would be a horrible mistake and a detriment to our upriver communities.

It would have a very negative impact on our wildlife, our wildlife restoration efforts, our forests, and our pristine and most valuable water ways. It would upset the serenity of the upriver communities, and most likely have a negative impact on the air quality in this area, and possibly beyond.

The upriver Skagit County area relies heavily on tourist participation and fiscal input throughout most of the year, and especially during the warmer months. This Quarry would definitely have a negative impact on this. Who would want to escape to the peace and quiet of our upriver Skagit parks, hiking, and other peaceful locals to the sound of blasting rock? Who would want to be stuck behind large trucks moving the massive quarried rocks that will be crowding our upriver narrow highways should this venture be approved?

Finally, the Quarry would provide no sustainable benefit for any parts of Skagit County, nor any of the surrounding community. This Quarry represents a business entity that would only take from our county and give nothing back. You cannot take minerals from our precious soil, then replant to replace what has been taken.

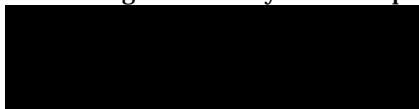
This Quarry will improve nothing for our communities, only profit Kiewit Infrastructure Co.

Please do not let this happen.

Thank you with much regard and respect,

Lawrence Franks

**Lawrence Franks**  
**Little Big Man Handy Home Repair Service**



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Comment: Proposed Marblemount Quarry Project  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 8:48:43 AM

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To Who this may concern:

Hello, my name is Lawrence Franks. I own property In Rockport, WA, and I am highly against this Quarry proposal.

This Quarry would be a horrible mistake and a detriment to our upriver communities.

It would have a very negative impact on our wildlife, our wildlife restoration efforts, our forests, and our pristine and most valuable water ways. It would upset the serenity of the upriver communities, and most likely have a negative impact on the air quality in this area, and possibly beyond.

The upriver Skagit County area relies heavily on tourist participation and fiscal input throughout most of the year, and especially during the warmer months. This Quarry would definitely have a negative impact on this. Who would want to escape to the peace and quiet of our upriver Skagit parks, hiking, and other peaceful locals to the sound of blasting rock? Who would want to be stuck behind large trucks moving the massive quarried rocks that will be crowding our upriver narrow highways should this venture be approved?

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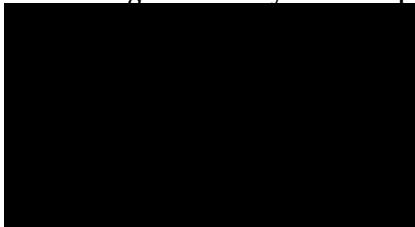
This Quarry will improve nothing for our communities, only profit Kiewit Infrastructure Co.

Please do not let this happen.

Thank you so very much, with regards and respect,

Lawrence Franks

**Lawrence Franks**  
**Little Big Man Handy Home Repair Service**





**From:** [Douglas Mills](#)  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Marblemount Quarry Proposal Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 5:52:06 PM

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Dear Skagit Planning Department and Commissioners,

Re: Marblemount Quarry Proposal

The prospect of mining rocks in Marblemount and then sending them on trucks on SR 530, Hwy 20 and Cook Road fills me with dread. More traffic, more abuse of the roads, more deforestation on a National Scenic River, and a giant pit mine on the Cascade/Skagit watershed just seems like a bad idea.

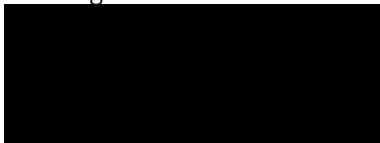
With salmon runs in decline and climate concerns much in the news, this seems to degrade the integrity of both wild and rural Skagit County.

This will be a nightmare for many of our up-valley friends in terms of noise, dust, and traffic. It seems like another project for the profit of the few, at the expense of the many.

I trust you will refuse this project.

Respectfully,

Douglas Mills



**From:** [Wendy Schramm](#)  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Marblemount Quarry  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 10:02:03 PM

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May 12,2019

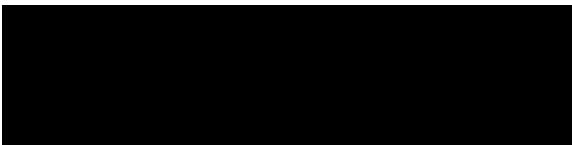
Dear Skagit County Planning Dept.,

We were recently made aware of the proposal for a massive rock quarry near the town of Marblemount. The impact that a proposal of such magnitude would have on the residents and community of Marblemount is astounding. We live in Chelan county, but love visiting the upper Skagit valley. The hiking, fishing, and biking opportunities in this beautiful setting are what keep bringing us back.

We strongly urge that an Environmental Impact Statement be done and that the proposal be denied. The environmental effects of such a project would harm the fragile ecosystem of one of the most beautiful valleys in the country.

Thank you for listening.

Wendy and Mike Schramm



**From:** [SuJ'n Chon](#)  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Proposed Quarry in Marblemount, WA (PL19-0032 and PL19-0033, PL19-0046, and BP 19-0070)  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 7:44:49 PM

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Re: Proposed Quarry in Marblemount, WA (PL19-0032 and PL19-0033, PL19-0046, and BP 19-0070)

To Whom it may Concern:

I oppose the proposed quarry development in Marblemount, WA. The full environmental impacts are not known but almost definitely be *significantly* more harmful and long-lasting than what is suggested in the proposal by Kiewit Infrastructure. Findings from a comprehensive study should be the minimum threshold for further consideration.

There are many reasons to oppose this proposal. Many that you have already heard, and I will just focus on one: Marblemount's economic vitality.

Marblemount and the surrounding upper Skagit communities heavily depend on tourism. Marblemount is the gateway community to the North Cascades National Park; hundreds of thousands of visitors pass through Marblemount to their way to experience the majestic beauty of the North Cascades. Many stop for a night or two; many more stop for parts of the day. They spend money at the cafes, gas stations, overnight cabins, the winery. They take photos of the area, and share them with their loved ones. They entice others to visit. Without the assets that draw people to our small community, we risk deteriorating the residents' livelihoods.

Please do not move forward with approving the quarry proposal. Please help us preserve the precious lands that have been cared for by its residents and lovers since time immemorial.



**Subject:** PL19-0033 Comment Letter  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 23, 2019 12:36:19 PM

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From Dept email

**From:** website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2019 11:50 AM  
**To:** Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Subject:** PDS Comments

Name : Brenda Aardema

PermitProposal : Marblemount quarry

Comments : Easter Sunday was a relaxing beautiful day. We went to church in the early afternoon. When we returned home our little grandchildren searched for Easter eggs in the back yard as we relaxed in our lawn chairs around a fire in our fire pit. We sat relaxed looking up at our mountain. I say our mountain, as we own about 2/3 up it. I am sure our neighbors feel the same feeling about owning part of this mountain. How pretty will it be when part of it is stripped of all trees, then drilled, blasted, and carried away? How pretty will it be will part of it dropping off and becoming a gravel pit? I think of summer through fall on our road. Lots of bicyclists. Lots of motorcyclists. I think of the antique car rides where there is a long line of old cars cruising past and honking their old time horns. How will these look with big semi trucks interjecting every 3-4 minutes? Hmmm. How much does Skagit County pay out a year for tourism? How much does Washington state pay out? We are part of the Cascade Loop that is advertised to bring in tourists. If you make anything in taxes from this quarry, I would think you will be paying it out in the tourism budget to help with the decrease that will happen. I see the outdoor touring groups stopping and supporting local businesses.

From Host Address: 174.216.22.15

Date and time received: 4/23/2019 11:46:38 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:20:01 AM

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Name : Laine Adame



PermitProposal : PL 190032, PL 190033, 0046, BP 19-0070

Comments : I strongly oppose the rock quarry in Marblemount. The environmental devastation this would cause would be irreversible. We need to protect the rivers and wildlife. Please strongly consider this request. Thank you.

From Host Address: 50.34.175.42

Date and time received: 5/1/2019 10:19:26 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 9:50:01 PM

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Name : Judith Akins

PermitProposal : PL 19-0032, PL19-0033,PL19-0047, p19-0070 Kiewit Quarry Expansion  
Comments : Concerning the Kiewet Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry proposal (PL19-0032, PL19-0033,PL19-0047, BP19-0070)

Dear Skagit Planning and Development Services,

The Mount Baker Group of the Washington State Chapter of the Sierra Club (MBGSC) represents over 2500 members in Whatcom, Skagit and Island counties, and opposes the permitting of the Kiewit Infrastructure Company's plans for the Marblemount Quarry (KIMQ). Since we first commented in March, during the first comment period, there have been many excellent comments made raising the issues of truck safety, truck pollution, mining pollution, the disturbance of the local citizens' rural way of life and the disturbance of the local fauna. Recently, three of our members visited the site and observed a pair of nesting peregrine falcons on the cliffs of the mountain slated for destruction. These birds are Federal Species of Concern and are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. They need to be protected from this mining operation. There also have been well written letters detailing the regulatory errors in the KIMQ's applications, involving the Mineral Resource Overlay areas, the Growth Management Act and the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan. The MBGSC urges Planning and Development to apply its regulations to this project and make the applicant follow Skagit County's proper procedural paths and conform to its rules.

The Sierra Club was formed in 1892 and supported the establishment of the National Park Service in 1916. It has been instrumental in the creation of Yosemite, Sequoia/King's Canyon, and Mt. Rainier National Parks. The Club was the leading force in keeping dams out of Grand Canyon and Dinosaur National Parks. In 1968 the Sierra Club led the campaign to establish the North Cascades National Park (NCNP). The park has the most extensive glacial system of any area in the lower 48 states, and the highest degree of flora biodiversity of any American park. Almost all the NCNP is designated as the the Stephen Mather Wilderness (SMW). The western boundary of the NCNP and the SMW are just a few miles from the KIMQ site. The concept of National Parks as stand-alone islands of preservation of particular outstanding features has evolved into recognition that the ecosystems that the parks preserve extend beyond their surveyed and man-made boundaries. Many parks and monuments have been expanded to include the watersheds and mountain ranges that are the central geographic hearts of the parks. Other parks have been protected by the banning of extractive industries around them. Arches National Park was thus protected early in the Obama administration when the Interior Dept. halted the destructive seismic exploration for gas and oil around its edges due to the real concern the vibrations from the seismic thumping could weaken and ruin the many arches that the park is famous for. The KIMQ poses a similar existential threat to the integrity of the wilderness qualities of the NCNP. The treasure that is the NCNP cannot be measured

against the profits of a multinational company that has no honest interest in the value of the natural resources of the Park and the Skagit Valley, and the lifestyles of the citizens who have chosen to live near their beloved Park. The area around Rockport and Marblemount have the same features as found within the NCNP. The Skagit River pristinely flows out of the park within 1000 feet of the mine site. Old growth Douglas Fir forest is preserved in Rockport State Park. The rare and protected species that make the Park their home, such as the Canada Lynx, the fisher (recently re-introduced by WDFW in the KIMQ area), wolverines and wolves make use of the National Forest, Washington State and private lands adjoining the NCNP. This last category of course, includes the KIMQ, and its property must not be allowed to become an extractive sacrifice zone that will degrade the NCNP and the Skagit Valley beyond repair. The NCNP belongs to all Americans, it is truly a national treasure and irreplaceable. The uncertainty of climate change is already having adverse effects upon the Park and its glaciers. We must not allow a private for profit with plans for 100 years of blasting, mining and hauling to destroy the the North Cascades National Park and the Skagit Valley.

Due to the extensive list of health, safety, and environmental impacts from this project we are again requesting that an Environmental Impact Study be conducted. The SEPA checklist as well as th the environmental assessments conducted thus far by KIMQ do not address all of our concerns. We believe that this permit should be denied or in the least suspended until due diligence has been performed.

Sincerely,

Mt Baker Group  
WA Chapter Sierra Club

Chairperson  
Judith Akins

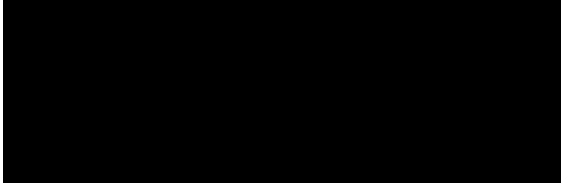
From Host Address: 76.28.209.195

Date and time received: 5/12/2019 9:47:31 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 12:55:01 PM

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Name : Teresa Allen



PermitProposal : Teresa Allen

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Teresa Allen

From Host Address: 24.17.165.183

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 12:50:48 PM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, May 3, 2019 12:05:01 AM

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Name : Lyndsi Rochelle Danai Applegarth

PermitProposal : PL-190032

Comments : Mining this Quarry will hurt not only the beautiful, sacred land we were given to cherish and respect. But it will take away from those who have grown up on this land. I grew up swimming in rivers and streams in Marblemount, Rockport, and Concrete. I grew up fishing for salmon and seeing bears. Children have the right to a future of enjoying all of the things we as children got to enjoy. The hard working people of Skagit County whom created their lives and decided that this place was heaven on earth deserve to be heard. They are the reason why this place is still so great. Making a quick buck - to destroy the livelihood of so many is sickening. This land is something you cannot find anywhere else. It is a place people come to because it is so special and so unique. Because it is taken care of and loved and protected. Because no one else in the world stands up for their land and their wildlife and their livelihoods like those who have grown up in the foothills of the North Cascades. I grew up there, I go back there, I was raised there, I was raised to love the land I was given, to cherish the live around me, to remember that money comes and goes, but what land we have now cannot be gotten back, animals don't come back, lives don't come back. Creating this quarry and allowing large trucks to haul our land away would be a shame to our past our present and our future. No person in their right mind, who has witnessed the awe of this destination would give it up for a quick buck. I say no quarry and you should stand by me.

From Host Address: 174.254.192.162

Date and time received: 5/3/2019 12:04:47 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, May 3, 2019 12:10:01 AM

---

Name : Lyndsi Rochelle Danai Applegarth

PermitProposal : PL19-0033

Comments : Mining this Quarry will hurt not only the beautiful, sacred land we were given to cherish and respect. But it will take away from those who have grown up on this land. I grew up swimming in rivers and streams in Marblemount, Rockport, and Concrete. I grew up fishing for salmon and seeing bears. Children have the right to a future of enjoying all of the things we as children got to enjoy. The hard working people of Skagit County whom created their lives and decided that this place was heaven on earth deserve to be heard. They are the reason why this place is still so great. Making a quick buck - to destroy the livelihood of so many is sickening. This land is something you cannot find anywhere else. It is a place people come to because it is so special and so unique. Because it is taken care of and loved and protected. Because no one else in the world stands up for their land and their wildlife and their livelihoods like those who have grown up in the foothills of the North Cascades. I grew up there, I go back there, I was raised there, I was raised to love the land I was given, to cherish the live around me, to remember that money comes and goes, but what land we have now cannot be gotten back, animals don't come back, lives don't come back. Mining this quarry and allowing large trucks to haul our land away would be a shame to our past our present and our future. No person in their right mind, who has witnessed the awe of this destination would give it up for a quick buck. I say no quarry and you should stand by me.

From Host Address: 174.254.192.162

Date and time received: 5/3/2019 12:08:26 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, May 3, 2019 12:15:01 AM

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Name : Lyndsi Rochelle Danai Applegarh



PermitProposal : PL19-0046

Comments : Mining this Quarry will hurt not only the beautiful, sacred land we were given to cherish and respect. But it will take away from those who have grown up on this land. I grew up swimming in rivers and streams in Marblemount, Rockport, and Concrete. I grew up fishing for salmon and seeing bears. Children have the right to a future of enjoying all of the things we as children got to enjoy. The hard working people of Skagit County whom created their lives and decided that this place was heaven on earth deserve to be heard. They are the reason why this place is still so great. Making a quick buck - to destroy the livelihood of so many is sickening. This land is something you cannot find anywhere else. It is a place people come to because it is so special and so unique. Because it is taken care of and loved and protected. Because no one else in the world stands up for their land and their wildlife and their livelihoods like those who have grown up in the foothills of the North Cascades. I grew up there, I go back there, I was raised there, I was raised to love the land I was given, to cherish the live around me, to remember that money comes and goes, but what land we have now cannot be gotten back, animals don't come back, lives don't come back. Creating this quarry and allowing large trucks to haul our land away would be a shame to our past our present and our future. No person in their right mind, who has witnessed the awe of this destination would give it up for a quick buck. I say no quarry and you should stand by me.

From Host Address: 174.254.192.162

Date and time received: 5/3/2019 12:10:15 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, May 3, 2019 12:15:01 AM

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Name : Lyndsi Rochelle Danai Applegarth

PermitProposal : BP19-0070

Comments : Mining this Quarry will hurt not only the beautiful, sacred land we were given to cherish and respect. But it will take away from those who have grown up on this land. I grew up swimming in rivers and streams in Marblemount, Rockport, and Concrete. I grew up fishing for salmon and seeing bears. Children have the right to a future of enjoying all of the things we as children got to enjoy. The hard working people of Skagit County whom created their lives and decided that this place was heaven on earth deserve to be heard. They are the reason why this place is still so great. Making a quick buck - to destroy the livelihood of so many is sickening. This land is something you cannot find anywhere else. It is a place people come to because it is so special and so unique. Because it is taken care of and loved and protected. Because no one else in the world stands up for their land and their wildlife and their livelihoods like those who have grown up in the foothills of the North Cascades. I grew up there, I go back there, I was raised there, I was raised to love the land I was given, to cherish the live around me, to remember that money comes and goes, but what land we have now cannot be gotten back, animals don't come back, lives don't come back. Creating this quarry and allowing large trucks to haul our land away would be a shame to our past our present and our future. No person in their right mind, who has witnessed the awe of this destination would give it up for a quick buck. I say no quarry and you should stand by me.

From Host Address: 174.254.192.162

Date and time received: 5/3/2019 12:11:57 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, May 10, 2019 10:05:01 PM

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Name : Brenda Bailey

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I just found out about this project and I am commenting because I'm greatly concerned about how a quarry of this size and scope would impair the efforts to save the orca and the salmon that feed them. There is also the question of legality of these permit applications.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Brenda Bailey

From Host Address: 64.119.7.178

Date and time received: 5/10/2019 10:02:48 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Saturday, May 11, 2019 5:40:01 PM

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Name : Simon Bakke

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

I am also concerned about the air and water quality impacts (not to mention carbon emissions) of hundreds of additional vehicle trips per day -- through communities and their drinking water, and near salmon habitat that Washington State has spent lots of taxpayer money protecting.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? All of these impacts and more must be studied and mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

Simon Bakke  
Bellingham

From Host Address: 172.56.42.228

Date and time received: 5/11/2019 5:35:14 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 7:45:01 AM

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Name : Susan I Bakke

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

Susan Bakke

From Host Address: 75.172.65.77

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 7:41:32 AM



Anne Banks

RECEIVED

MAY 13 2019

SKAGIT COUNTY  
PDS

May 9, 2019

RE: Marblemount Quarry

John Cooper  
Planning and Development Services  
1900 Continental Place  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Dear Mr. Cooper:

The proposed quarry in Marblemount is of a scope so far-reaching and long-lasting that I feel the only way to truly evaluate the impact would be the completion of an Environmental Impact Statement.

My concerns are many:

- the disruption to our community caused by noise, dust, and vibrations caused by operations.

- Habitat disruption of local wildlife, I have seen deer, elk, bear, bobcat, coyote, weasel, countless small mammals and many, many birds in my neighborhood. It's impossible to believe Kiewit's claim on the SETA checklist that there is 'no wildlife' in the proposed site.

- Run-off to streams leading to the Skagit. Millions have been spent fostering salmon habitat just downstream at Illabot Creek - why threaten salmon with this project?

- The potential hazard of repeated blasting in close proximity to a known fault line.

- Light pollution caused by illumination of the site during early morning and evening operations.

→



- Wear and tear on our small (taxpayer funded) roads and bridges caused by heavy truck traffic.
- Increased pollution from those trucks.
- Wildfire danger caused by operations during our increasingly dry summers.
- Added strain on our dedicated VOLUNTEER fire department and EMTs.
- Dwindling property values of homes near the site and along Rockport-Cascade Road.
- Negative impact on recreation in an area where businesses depend on tourist dollars.

This project is a big deal, with the potential to leave a permanent scar on the area. I've called Marblemount 'home' for the past 18 years, and I care deeply about this community. It's not a pristine wilderness... but it's quieter, slower, and more scenic than most. We can hear birds in the morning and see stars at night. A project like the proposed quarry is a threat to the unique character of our Upriver community.

I'm not an expert in wildlife habitat, geology, seismology, fish biology or traffic flow patterns. But I love this place, and the people here. With such a deep and lasting impact, I believe the proposed quarry warrants an Environmental Impact Statement. I'm urging you to do what you can to make that happen.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Anne Banks



Anne Banks

May 7, 2019

RE: Marblemount Quarry

Lisa Janicki  
Commissioner District 3  
1800 Continental Place, Ste 100  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Dear Commissioner Janicki:

I am writing to strongly encourage you to require an Environmental Impact Statement be completed for the proposed quarry in Marblemount. The scope of this project is so large and long-lasting that I feel the only way to truly examine the impact to our community is through an EIS.

My main concerns about the proposal are as follows:

- The disruption to our community caused by noise, dust and vibration caused by operations.
- Habitat disruption of local wildlife (which DO exist, regardless of Kiewit's claim on the SEPA checklist.)
- Negative effect on salmon caused by runoff to streams and the Skagit caused by operations.
- Impact to recreation in an area where local businesses depend on tourists.
- Dwindling property values of the many properties close to the site and along Rockport-Cascade Road.
- Impact of oversize trucks on our small roads and bridges, maintenance of which is paid by taxpayers.
- Potential negative effects of repeated blasting in close proximity of a known fault line.
- Light pollution caused by illuminating early morning and evening operations.
- Air pollution caused by quarry operations and rock delivery trucks.

- Added strain on our dedicated VOLUNTEER fire department and EMTs.
- Wildfire dangers caused by operations during our increasingly dry summers.

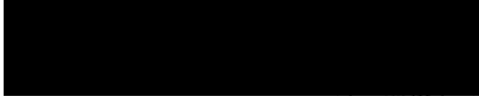
This is a big deal. I'm not an expert in wildlife habitat, fish biology, seismology, or traffic flow patterns. But I do deeply care for the Upper Skagit community I have called home for the past 18 years. The scope of a project this large calls for expert evaluation, and I think an Environmental Impact Statement is the only way to do that.

As I have seen you (or reports of your presence) at various meetings and events over the years, I believe you care about our community as well. I hope you can please do what you can to press for an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed quarry.

Sincerely,

*Anne Banks*  
Anne Banks

Anne Banks



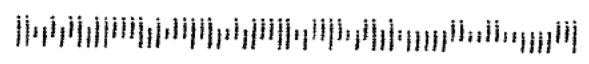
LE WA 980



PROPERTY USA

Lisa Janicki  
Skagit Co. Commissioner, Dist 3  
1800 Continental Place, Ste 100  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

273-562500



RECEIVED

MAY 13 2019

SKAGIT COUNTY  
PDS

May 8, 2019

Comments on the Proposed Marblemount Quarry  
Planning and Development Services

1800 Continental Place

Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Skagit County Planning Commission Members,

I have been coming to Marblemount for decades to hike, climb, and camp. I even came up this winter for the Eagle Festival, when there were no eagles! But I love this area and I believe in preserving its beauty and history.

A quarry in this location would be a tragically wrong installation in the wrong place. No mining or quarry activity should be allowed on the Skagit River. I urge you to deny this massive rock quarry's intrusion into a fragile and important ecosystem.

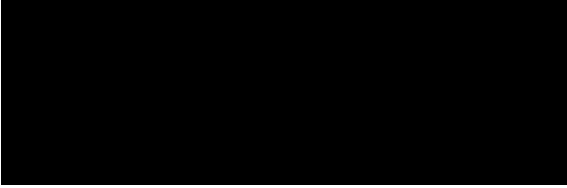
Jean Burton,  
author

Best Hikes with Kids in Washington

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 7, 2019 9:50:01 AM

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Name : Robin K Bass



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : I have strong concerns about the environmental, financial, and traffic impacts this proposed project would have on the Upper Skagit Valley. I am concerned that the project is being pushed forward without regard to existing regulations which would render it illegal and unacceptable. I would urge the decision makers to require an Environment Impact Statement developed by a third-party who has no stake in the proposed project, to examine exactly how this project would impact the geography, wildlife, ecosystem, and the residents of Eastern Skagit County. Please don't allow financial interests to override common sense and conscientious investigation as to the obvious probable negative impacts which would severely affect our beautiful valley. Thank you.

From Host Address: 73.225.56.254

Date and time received: 5/7/2019 9:47:06 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2019 8:25:01 AM

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Name : Laurie Baumgartner

PermitProposal : Marblemount mine

Comments : I vehemently oppose the permit for mining Marblemount. Mining would destroy the beauty of the area. The people who live there do so because of the beauty of nature and the serenity only found in places off the beaten path. Explosions, large equipment is noisy, and massive trucks rumbling through the highway, will destroy their quality of life and the value of their properties.

Environmental surveys NEED to be done before consideration of such a project. Our state prides itself on environmental conservancy this project is a blight on that reputation.

The roads used by such heavy trucks will break down, negatively impacting all Skagitonians. Freeway access at Cook Road is already wickedly poor, large trucks will cause even more congestion and mayhem. The loggers have already figured out a way around the truck weigh station to avoid paying fees to support the roads, these truck will too. Our surface streets will be destroyed.

It is not in the best interest of Skagitonians to allow destruction of our county by new mining. Please do not allow this travesty to occur.

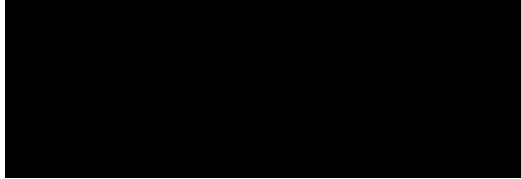
From Host Address: 99.196.62.193

Date and time received: 4/12/2019 8:21:26 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 24, 2019 4:55:01 PM

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Name : Donovan Belford



PermitProposal : PL19-0033

Comments : I don't want the traffic I don't believe the proper environmental impact statements have been filed or even been done it's fairly devastating to the environment impacts should be dealt with red gone through

From Host Address: 174.216.31.110

Date and time received: 4/24/2019 4:53:24 PM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 7:35:01 AM

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Name : Ken Bennett

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070

Comments : Hello Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting my comment on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

As a frequent visitor to the North Cascades, I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Ken Bennett

From Host Address: 97.126.104.243

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 7:31:43 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 9:20:01 AM

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Name : Darin Berdinka



PermitProposal : Marblemount Query PL19-033

Comments : The development of a large scale rock quarry along the boundary of any community should not be approved without a full EIS and without real consideration for the negative impacts it will have on surrounding residents and visitors alike. It should go without saying that industrial noise, blasting, large truck traffic and environmental degradation will severely impact both the quality of life as well as property values of citizens in the surrounding community.

Tourism and tourism dollars will definitely be impacted. I live in Whatcom County but am a frequent visitor to the Skagit River Valley. I routinely bike on the quiet highways alongside the south side of the Skagit River . The addition of 200+ heavily loaded trucks to these roads will absolutely decrease my desire to bike (and spend money) there. Furthermore it seems hard to believe that the Rockport-Cascade Road or the South Skagit Highway are built to handle the frequency and weight of what must be incredibly heavy loads. (And how will these trucks handle the traffic circles in Sedro Woolley?)

While I can appreciate our societies need for raw materials the fact is Shuksan Greenschist is an extremely wide spread rock in the northwest cascades. The property owner should have considered purchasing land in a more suitable (less populated) area if their intent was to quarry.

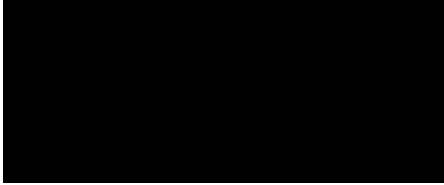
From Host Address: 67.168.92.228

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 9:17:44 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 6, 2019 9:15:01 PM

---

Name : Karin Bigelow



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : Please create an Environmental Impact Study before allowing the proposed Marblemount Quarry. I am concerned about the effects of dynamiting on Straight Creek Fault near Corkindale, slightly downriver from me. "In this great chain of causes and effects, no single fact can be considered in isolation." Alexander von Humboldt.

From Host Address: 50.34.179.181

Date and time received: 5/6/2019 9:14:46 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 6, 2019 9:55:01 AM

---

Name : Karin Bigelow

PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : Please provide an Environmental Impact Statement for this project. I only heard of this project weeks ago and now I see 'as soon as this summer' to clear this project for go. We need an EIS. Thank you for your diligent attention to this potential long term change to our upper river quality of life.

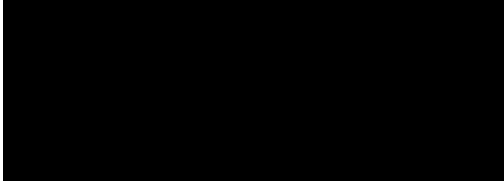
From Host Address: 50.34.179.181

Date and time received: 5/6/2019 9:50:21 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 6, 2019 10:00:01 AM

---

Name : Karin Bigelow



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : Please provide an Environmental Impact Statement for this project. I see "Trucks hauling the stone are likely to use Highway 20 and Cook Road to get to Interstate 5. The analysis concluded the increase in traffic on that route from the proposed mine would be negligible." With all the necessary traffic holdups for each truck trying to enter Hwy 20, this is sure to affect eagles, fish, water, deer, recreation and tourism in the area.

Negligible? Noted: up to 260 vehicle trips in and out of the Marblemount Quarry each day, according to a Traffic Impact Analysis.

An EIS is necessary. Please insist on this lacking study, so important to the vision of Skagit County.

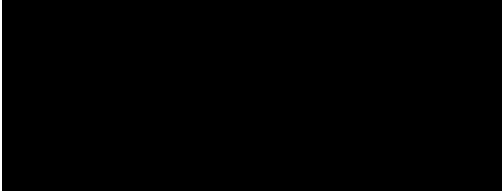
From Host Address: 50.34.179.181

Date and time received: 5/6/2019 9:59:58 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 6, 2019 10:20:01 AM

---

Name : Karin Bigelow



uarry

Comments : Please demand an Environmental Impact Study on this proposed project. The sound alone, tho the noise pollution noted in the project application as negligible, will surely be compounded by the amphitheater shaped work site and is not taken into account. After 35 years here, influenced to the move by the 1984 World's Fair theme, The World of Rivers: Fresh Water as a Source of Life, I would seriously have to think about moving away. This entire project does not help the community, only diminishes the appeal for retired, locals and people who enjoy this gem of the United States. The enormity of this 90 year project deserves an EIS.

From Host Address: 50.34.179.181

Date and time received: 5/6/2019 10:17:26 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 6, 2019 10:20:01 AM

---

Name : Karin Bigelow



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : Please provide an Environmental Impact Statement for this project. I only heard of this project weeks ago and now I see 'as soon as this summer' to clear this project for go. We need an EIS.

From Host Address: 50.34.179.181

Date and time received: 5/6/2019 10:19:06 AM

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

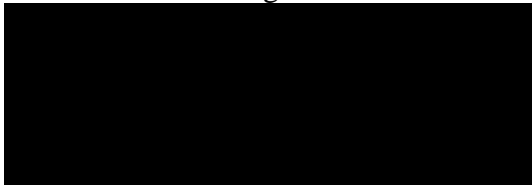


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From dept email

**From:** website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2019 10:55 AM  
**To:** Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Subject:** PDS Comments

Name : Karin Bigelow



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : I request an Environmental Impact Statement be prepared for the Marblemount Quarry Project. Any reasonable evaluation will show there's no way to avoid the harm from the proposal and that the only safe, lawful course of action is to create an EIS.

From Host Address: 50.34.179.181

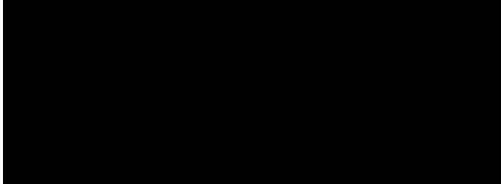
Date and time received: 5/7/2019 10:53:32 AM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Saturday, May 11, 2019 10:35:01 PM

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Name : Karin Bigelow



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : Please be sure to require an Environmental Impact Statement for this project that will have long term effects on my life in Marblemount.

From Host Address: 104.235.163.49

Date and time received: 5/11/2019 10:31:28 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 9:55:01 AM

---

Name : mignonne m. Bivin

PermitProposal : Proposed Marblemount Quarry-Kiewit Infrastructure Co

Comments : pdscomments@co.skagit.wa.us

Subj: "Kiewet Infrastructure Quarry operation near Marblemount, Permit PL19-0033"

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in regard to the proposed expanded quarry on Rockport Cascade Road. I have been a Marblemount resident for 18 years.

I am concerned about the storage of blasting explosives and fuel (10,000 + 3,000 + 1,500 gallons) in a rural and forested environment in the Upper Skagit. Should an accident happen, it would fall on the Rockport Volunteer Fire Department and Marblemount Volunteer Fire Department to respond. The level of training and equipment required for such a response is above and beyond what is currently available in the community. Furthermore, the siting of the explosive storage is near a forested property line. In the event of a forest fire, the storage of explosives and fuel will put wildland fire fighters at undue risk, as well as distract from their true task of protecting life and property.

I am concerned about the haul route for this quarry. This route is commonly used by local and regional bicyclist as a bike route. It represents an important recreational opportunity. This was not address in the information analyzed.

The turn from Hwy 530 to westbound Hwy 20 is a difficult intersection. Motorist and motorcyclist use 530 throughout the spring, summer and fall. Add to that the endless caravan of tourists and RVs, I see either long delays at the intersection, or worse, a traffic accident at a high-speed highway. In 2018 there were 14 traffic accidents within Ross Lake NRA, 3 of which resulted in fatalities. Safety improvements are need to insure that this project does not result in more fatalities. Should the trucks use an alternate route to avoid the difficult 530/20 intersection, they would be travelling over the Cascade River Bridge and Marblemount Skagit River Bridge Who will pay for the up keep and repairs of the Rockport Cascade Road?

I am concerned about the effects of blasting. The noise and the effects on the neighbors, residents and visitors was highly under estimated. The idea of having quarry activities 6 days a week for 10 hours will ruin any quality of life here in the valley

With regard to visual impacts. The description in the documents was ridiculously under represented where the site would be visible from. I have done my own surveys around the valley and it was quite clear from the documentation that the survey was a quick drive by. The SEPA Recreation analysis is significantly lacking in depth and scope as it limits the description of recreation to fly fishing. There is also a good deal of visitation and recreation on the river. Bird and eagle watching, river rafting, summer canoeing and kayaking, fall foliage scenic drives, and scenic drives in general. The SEPA states that no recreational uses will be displaced. Do we know this to be true?

This project is should be required to do an EIS to analyze the effects of the project on the whole ecosystem it is going to effect. The biological assessment was poorly written and extremely inadequate. The documentation of rare species is highly in adequate. No plant

species, vascular or non-vascular were mentioned nor were invertebrate animals addressed in this document.

For a company whose net worth is over 8 BILLION this SEPA document is lacking. Surely this company could have done a more accurate and complete document.

I encourage the county planners to consider this proposed quarry carefully to avoid the lasting of these actions for our children's children.

Thank you

Mignonne Bivin

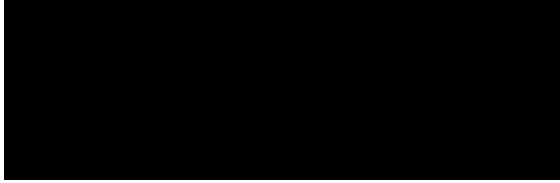
From Host Address: 165.83.47.253

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 9:50:27 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 6:30:01 AM

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Name : Vic Bostock



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

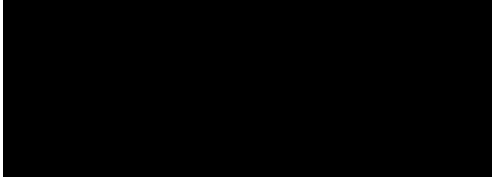
From Host Address: 81.154.134.202

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 6:27:22 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 2:05:01 PM

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Name : Walter C Boyd Jr



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry Proposed on Rockport Cascade Rd.

Comments : Letter of concern. I see no EIS done on this project. Being a retired equipment mechanic. I know that with this heavy equipment there will be oil leakage and you have to grease excavator daily, meaning there will be excess grease. there will be carcinogens running off to the Skagit River. Which has endanger species and is a wild and scenic. Also Highway 20 is all ready a mess from Sedro Woolley to Concrete, it will not handle the extra traffic of more heavy trucks.

From Host Address: 50.34.160.12

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 2:02:03 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 1:10:01 PM

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Name : Kathy Bradley



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : I am concerned about the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

From Host Address: 70.236.172.147

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 1:08:16 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 8:00:01 AM

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Name : Laura Leigh Brakke

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting my comments on the Kiewit Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that if allowed to be permitted our County will be dismantled rock by rock, inconvenienced by large trucks and equipment traffic, and turned into a gravel mining wasteland. Compounding Miles Sand and Gravel hold over this County's governing boards Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading.

At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). How in the world would they think this permit could pass through the County PDS, Planning Commission, and County Council? I would think at the very least the applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction, before even beginning the permit process. I believe of course that conversion of land near the Skagit river, and the fragile Hwy 20 corridor should not be allowed.

It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future. Our future should not include eliminating large land masses for distant projects.

How many miles of roads will be impacted along the way from one river to the next? Are they serious? There are so many horrible parts to this application I shall name a few, no local jobs created, cutting trees and road building in forests not zoned currently for industrial uses, eliminating Big Bear Mt to a pile of rubble after most is trucked far away, all the toxic fuels used in mining and transporting this jetty rock, and the obscene amount of diesel fuel to accomplish the task of destroying land masses and carrying rock hundreds of miles away, and added congestion and road destroying heavy trucks all along Hwy 20 to I-5.

Please I implore you to just deny this hairbrained plan now, but at the very least a full EIS is needed to explore all the crewel parts of this permit and the ripple effects it will have on our local environment and the greater effects of loss of trees, heavy use of fossil fuels, and impacts to our river systems. What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be

from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

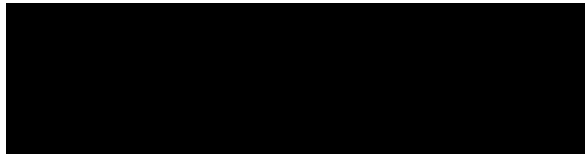
Sincerely,  
Laura Leigh Brakke

From Host Address: 97.126.86.228

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 7:58:45 AM



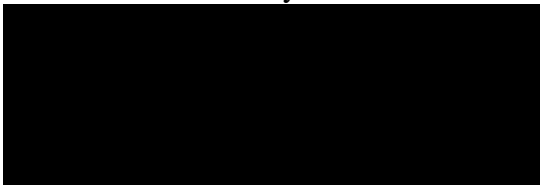
**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**



From dept email

**From:** website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 9:10 AM  
**To:** Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Subject:** PDS Comments

Name : Adam Brayton



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : I write because I find the proposed quarry project problematic for those living near the site, but also for the surrounding areas. In bullet form, my problems with Kiewit's quarry are as such:

- With such proximity to peoples' homes, there is an increased risk for a slide (think Oso) that could be damaging to personal property as well as human life
- I'm not sure what analysis is available to say that the dust caused by the blasting at this mine wouldn't be detrimental to air quality, or present pulmonary risks to the residents of Marblemount. What is the mineral content, and what are the effects of inhaling the dust?
- Beyond the anthropocentric factors, what would be the environmental impacts of this quarry? What habitat would be destroyed?
- With proximity to the river, would runoff from the quarry sully the water? What would that do to fish populations? And what would that, then, do to fishing tourism in the area, as well as indigenous claim to healthy fish populations?

While it seems like my arguments rest on the snowball effect, when you're dealing with things that literally run downhill by their own enormity and gravity it's not too much to imagine how things might not snowball, but rockfall. I believe that before further action is taken, that the process be halted and further reflection and analysis be pursued; Lest the community be crushed by the sheer weight of this action.

From Host Address: 50.197.76.57

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 9:08:44 AM

RECEIVED

MAY 13 2019

SKAGIT COUNTY  
POD

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed Marblemount quarry.

I was told to use facts and figures, but I am sure you have seen the proposals, and are aware of the facts. It seems that after anyone has looked at the facts it would be very clear that the people living this side of the mt. would lose everything we value about living here, clean air, quiet, beauty, and gain nothing.

I live on highway 20 west of Concrete. The plan for the quarry operation includes 200 industrial size trucks a day. That works out to one truck every 3 min. The traffic now can be 10 vehicles, long and will get heavier as the summer progresses. How will I even get on to the highway with a steady stream of huge trucks passing my house. I will have no quiet at all and no chance to hear the birds. The traffic will quickly break down the roads, and the chance for disaster when the vibrations from the traffic and the blasting causes falling rock and cave-ins will increase immensely.

I am very concerned that the operation is going to need 100s of tons of fresh water. It can't come from here. We have been fighting over the water for years. We are facing the third year of low snow pack and already have received warning for water rationing.

I am very concerned about the location of the mine so close to the river. The only river that still supports life for the 5 species of salmon we have left. This project will, without fail, damage the purity of the river.

There has been a concerted effort in this area to make our rivers able to sustain fish, and for very good reason. Fish are critical to the survival of many life forms. Include the forest and include human life.

The noise, and the posing from the blasting and "treated" water will not be limited to the property site. The disruption to the people and animals will be many miles afield from the site. All the towns this side of the Mt's, will become ghost towns. Tourism will die out. Nobody will want to stay some place where there is a blast every few min. and the air is filled with toxic fumes.

We will want to move, but property values will disappear. We who were drawn to this area because of its beauty and purity, will end up living in a hell that is proposed to last for 100 years not counting the time it will take for the earth to recover from her wounds.

There are more people living from Concrete on up river that are creative artists than one would expect to find in an area three times the size. We have authors novelists, poets, painters, photographers, ceramics, musicians, gardeners, all here because of the beauty of the magical corner of the world where we live.

It is imperative that we insist in an environmental Impact statement. The conclusions drawn by the quarry inspection was that there was no wild life, and no fish, no need for anything else to help or benefit the area.

If This were to be considered, it should include ear protection of the same quality that the quarry employees get for each and every citizen in the area and everyone down river. Also, the constant blasting dirty air, traffic and general frustration will cause a great deal of tension and sickness, so there should be health protection for all citizens. In addition, any delay caused by the operation, holding up traffic for an hour, will compensate Those delayed for their time, also, damage to the road caused by their operation would be repaired and paid for by the quarry co.

*Donna Rae Boehmann*



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 11:35:01 AM

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Name : Richard Brocksmith, Skagit Watershed Council

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry Operation Near Marblemount

Comments : Thank you for extending the public comment period on the proposed Marblemount quarry by Kiewit Infrastructure Company and for your time considering public comments. The Skagit Watershed Council is writing to express our concern about unaddressed and/or mischaracterized potential impacts of the project on salmon within the Skagit watershed and to request that remaining questions be fully analyzed before making final permit decisions.

The Skagit Watershed Council is a community partnership for salmon with 42 member organizations all committed to our mission of understanding, protecting and restoring the productivity of healthy ecosystems in order to support sustainable fisheries. We've invested well over \$100M into hundreds of habitat projects and implemented tight regulatory controls to balance natural resources and economic development within the watershed, including along 8800 feet of the proposed project boundary. While other watersheds within Puget Sound are seeing continued declines in threatened wild Chinook salmon, the Skagit watershed is one of only a few watersheds that have an upward trend in recovery. Additionally, NOAA has identified North Puget Sound Chinook as a critical food source for the Southern Resident Killer Whales, and the majority of Northern Puget Sound Chinook come from the Skagit River watershed. Additional, unmitigated impacts to these species that are under threat of extinction cannot be allowed if recovery is to succeed.

We are concerned about potential impacts to threatened Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, and other salmonids that use the off-channel and mainstem habitats immediately downstream and adjacent to (if not within) the proposed quarry. The current documentation and assessment provided appears incomplete or inadequate to determine the true scale of the likely or potential impacts from the proposal. After review of provided assessment materials (e.g. SEPA checklist, hydrogeologic site assessment, critical areas application, and biological assessment), several statements seem unsupported or partially incomplete. Examples include:

- the definition of the action area or area of potential affect should be expanded to include downstream floodplains and channels receiving water from the project area, road networks (and associated water courses they cross) receiving traffic and associated noise and fugitive dust and pollutants, and adjacent areas subject to increased noise from mining operations;
- the determination that bull trout (and including the lack of any analysis of impacts on Chinook salmon and steelhead) were not feasibly present onsite or in the potential action area, currently or historically, and that no critical habitat had been designated in areas of potential affect;
- reference to bull trout needing channel gradients less than 2% when many studies show their existence up to 30% gradient, which includes much of the project area; and
- statements that changing hydrologic courses for more than 30 acres of new impervious

surface from Watercourse A to Watercourse B would have no appreciable effect on downstream water courses or groundwater and groundwater seeps that feed off-channel and mainstem habitats during critical summer and fall rearing periods.

The current level of documentation in the SEPA does not answer our questions about potential impacts on salmon this project might have. Given the role the Skagit River plays as a cornerstone of Southern Resident Killer Whale, Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout recovery under the federal Endangered Species Act, we should make every effort to address the real potential for these downstream effects.

The Skagit Watershed Council requests that Skagit County make a threshold Determination of Significance and require a full Environmental Impact Statement to more fully evaluate potential impacts the Marblemount quarry might have on salmonids and their habitat on-site and downstream before any permit decisions are made. We'd suggest further assessment to include water quality impacts, water quantity impacts, habitat impacts, impacts to protected species, impacts to cultural resources, and impacts to the Skagit and Illabot Wild and Scenic River.

If we can be of assistance in your efforts, please feel free to contact us.

From Host Address: 23.25.130.169

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 11:33:12 AM



Wednesday April 10, 2019

RECEIVED

APR 15 2019

SKAGIT COUNTY  
PDS

Dear Mr. Cooper

I am a resident of the upper Skagit River valley.

I am opposed to the proposed quarry expansion near Marblemount.

I think to characterize this as a quarry is misleading. This looks more like a strip mine to me.

Here we are, facing an emergency of climate change with rising sea levels, wild fires, hurricanes, tornadoes, droughts, and floods and we are considering whether or not to use fossil fuels to strip off the forest vegetation, blast out big boulders and truck them hundreds of miles away.

This is the wrong way to go. Instead we should be rezoning land away from resource extraction toward zoning which reflects the goal of reducing carbon emissions.

Please do not approve the strip-mining of our valley.

Sincerely yours

John C Bromet  
Peace Wiyard at age 79.



Spring Terrace,

Peace Love Joy Truth Good Health Happiness

Kindness Generosity

Gratitude Compassion Empathy Fairness

Justice Patience Serenity

Forbearance Forgiveness Freedom Beauty

Wisdom Contentment Consciousness

Courage Respect Responsibility

Enlightenment of Humanity

John C Bromet Peace Wizard at age 69  
Photo by Richard Lewis. May 14, 2009  
Thanks to Copy Source Bellingham

Winter Walking Wizard.  
Peace Love Joy Truth Good  
Enlightenment of Humanity  
John C Bromet  
Peace Wizard at age 68.  
December 2008.

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, May 10, 2019 12:05:01 PM

---

Name : Anne Bromwell

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

From Host Address: 50.34.132.164

Date and time received: 5/10/2019 12:01:43 PM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 8:30:01 AM

---

Name : Michael E Brondi

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry operation near Marblemount

Comments : Attention: Skagit County Planning Department May 13, 2019

I'm writing to express concerns about the proposed Keiwi mining operation near Marblemount. Specifically, I strongly urge you to act in accordance with our State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and require a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be completed before you permit such a dramatic increase in quarry operations at this site.

My wife, Anne Schwartz and I have lived and operated a business in Rockport for 40 years.

We are volunteer EMTs and firefighters on the local fire department and very active in school and other upriver community activities. We live at [REDACTED]

Since last writing to you I have attended several community meetings at which subject matter experts including geologists, archeologists, wildlife biologists and hydrologists have commented on relevant sections of the "Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry operation near Marblemount" document found on the Skagit County Planning Department website. In each case the document dismissed environmental concerns based on very cursory surveys by individuals who did the very minimum investigation of the site for Keiwi.

My first comment to you on this issue focused on the negative impacts of increased noise and truck traffic. I am still deeply concerned about the increased danger to drivers, cyclists and pedestrians on our roads as well as the dramatic decrease in our quality of life from the increased noise of mine operations and traffic. I am now also deeply concerned by:

- The water pollution that will result from the lubricants and other chemicals used in the blasting process, especially since this process could continue for 100 years during which time contaminated tailings will remain on site.
- The disturbance of sensitive species of wildlife; a much more thorough survey must be completed.
- The potential threat from rockfall to our neighbors in the site area; visit the site, note the house size boulders that have fallen off of the nearby cliffs, and think for yourself if years of blasting might dislodge some of those boulders still perched above homes on the Rockport Cascade Road.
- the destruction of sensitive archeological sites; 9 shovel pits in easily accessed areas of the site is not an adequate archeological investigation.
- The loss of jobs in our area; most of the workers at the mine and people driving trucks will be from out of this area and there will be a tremendous negative impact on our businesses which depend on tourists and outdoor recreationists.
- Kiewit was sued for \$5,000,000 for violating the Clean Water Act because employees had been diverting toxic waste into the San Joaquin River for three years before being caught. We can trust them to maximize profits by minimizing environmental responsibility.

Please, at least, require Keiwi to submit a full Environmental Impact Statement before you decide to permit this 100 year operation. Your great grandchildren will thank you.

Respectfully,  
Michael Brondi  
Blue Heron Farm and Nursery



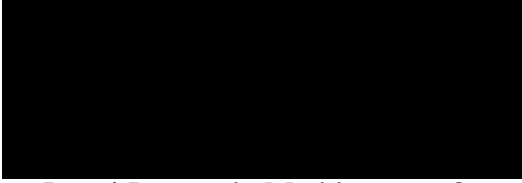
From Host Address: 50.34.203.118

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 8:29:02 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, May 10, 2019 8:25:01 PM

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Name : Frederick Brune



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry - PL19 - 0032

Comments : To whom it may concern: I want to go on record as opposing the proposed jetty rock mining operation in Marblemount. I think the county needs, at a minimum, to require a more stringent EIS for this project given the potential impacts on both water and air quality in the area, and in particular, on the Skagit River. Furthermore, the project would almost certainly have a negative effect on nearby residents, both humans and wildlife. Please consider putting a hold on this permit until a more thorough review is completed. Thanks.

Fritz Brune

From Host Address: 73.83.37.102

Date and time received: 5/10/2019 8:24:24 PM

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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From dept email

**From:** website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 4:20 PM  
**To:** Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Subject:** PDS Comments

Name : Elma Burnham

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)  
Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

As a Whatcom County resident and Alaska fisherman (Bristol Bay), I am all too familiar with risky mining proposals and unwilling to see them thrive at home or in AK.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Elma Burnham

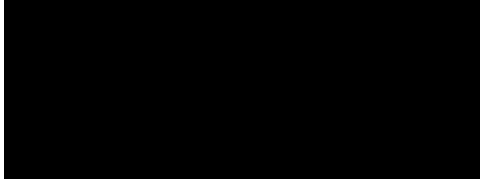
From Host Address: 73.254.20.83

Date and time received: 5/10/2019 4:16:18 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, April 22, 2019 11:50:01 AM

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Name : Cathleen Burns



PermitProposal : rock mine in Marblemount area by the Kiewit Infrastructure Co. MBG  
Comments : Please deny all permits related to this proposed project as this will destroy and pollute the area and the dangerous runoff will pollute the Skagit river and therefore further impact the dying Southern Resident Killer Whales, and endangered species.

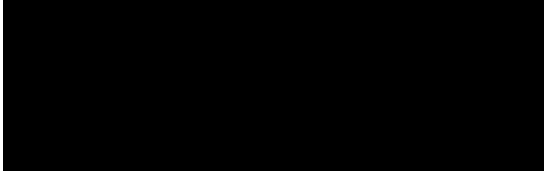
From Host Address: 172.56.42.189

Date and time received: 4/22/2019 11:49:49 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 3:00:01 PM

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Name : Nancy Burrows



PermitProposal : Kiewet Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry Proposal  
Comments : May 13, 2019

Dear Sirs and Madams,

Re: Kiewet Infrastructure Marblemont Quarry proposal (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, BP19-0070)

I am a mother and grandmother who has visited Skagit Valley for years to visit and explore. Our son and family are some of the many who live a mile or less from the proposed site. I am deeply concerned about the effects this proposed mining operation would have on the people, wildlife and land.

The Skagit Valley has regional and national significance. I would ask the county to request an Environmental Impact Statement as is required By the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

Major concerns are the impact of noise pollution, groundwater pollution, damage to the salmon habitat in the Skagit, land living wildlife / birds and asbestos laden dust due to the continual blasting.

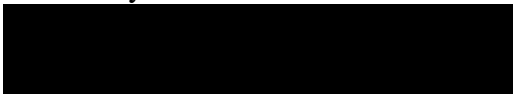
Further

the proposal of 260 vehicle transits a day, 75 truck loads of massive boulders brings with it safety and pollution issues. All of this on the scenic roads not only traveled by locals but tourists visiting some of the most pristine areas in the state (state and county parks, Mount Baker – Snoquaimie NF and North Cascades National Park).

What is the benefit to the residents and visitors? The tranquility, clean air, and peace of the area cannot be retained if this major operation goes forward. The proposal should simply be denied.

Sincerely,

Nancy Burrows



From Host Address: 73.34.16.86

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 2:56:21 PM



Skagit River Alliance

By web portal and hard copy

May 13, 2019

Skagit County Planning and Development Services  
1800 Continental Place  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

RE: Kiewit Infrastructure Co. Applications for Mining Quarry - SEPA Checklist (PL19-0032), Mining Special Use Permit (PL19-0033), Forest Practice Conversion Permit (PL19-0047), and Grading Permit (BP19-0070)

Dear Skagit County Planning and Development Services:

Skagit River Alliance is a newly created non-profit corporation created to oppose the Kiewit Marblemount Quarry Permit Application. More affirmatively we represent the values, concerns, and overall sentiment of eastern or "upriver" Skagit County community members, particularly in and around Marblemount, Rockport, and Concrete.

If approved the Marblemount quarry would have a significant adverse impact on the local environment, particularly due to the local context. The absolute quantitative effects (the amount of rock removed, the number of truck trips, quarry operations, rock crushing and blasting impacts, etc.) would be large regardless of context. But, whereas a similar development in an industrialized region might be considered less disruptive, the introduction of such immense changes in activity, noise, and the landscape itself will be highly significant in what is now a tranquil corner of a remote part of the County. It is clear to us and should be clear to the Director of Skagit County's Department of Planning and Developmental Services that a quarry in Marblemount would have significant adverse environmental and economic impacts and this proposal requires impartial third party assessment through an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess these impacts. Thus, the County must issue a Determination of Significance (DS) and begin scoping the project's likely impacts as part of the EIS process. In addition, the application describes a project that would impose impacts that cannot be mitigated to meet legal requirements and performance standards for surrounding land use, and any quarrying activity will not align with the values of surrounding community members (as in evidence of the large volume of comments by community members submitted in opposition to the proposed quarry).

**RECEIVED**

**MAY 13 2019**

**SKAGIT COUNTY  
PDS**

As explained below, the application for Special Use Permit PL 19-0033 requires an EIS, and should also be denied.

### **The Proposal Requires an EIS**

The SEPA Checklist shows that the proposal warrants a Determination of Significance (DS) under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and an EIS before any of the permits for mining, grading, or forestry can be approved. SEPA's basic purpose is to "require local government agencies, including counties, to consider total environmental and ecological factors to the fullest extent when taking 'major actions significantly affecting the quality of the environment.'" *Sisley v. San Juan County*, 89 Wn.2d 78, 82, 569 P.2d 712 (1977) (citing RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)). To determine whether an environmental impact statement will be required, the government must perform a threshold determination that assesses whether: (1) a major action has been proposed; (2) that will significantly affect the quality of the environment. *Id.* Washington courts have stressed the importance of the initial threshold determination -- an incorrect threshold determination, made in the absence of complete information, thwarts the SEPA purpose to ensure that the full disclosure of environmental information informs the government's decision-making process. *Id.* at 84.

The proposed rock mining quarry is a major action that will significantly affect the quality of the environment. *Id.* at 83. "[A] governmental agency's approval of private projects by the granting of permits constitutes an 'action' within the meaning of SEPA." *Id.* And the scope of the proposal here, to mine up to 9.6 million cubic yards of rock across 120 acres of land, is a major action. *Id.* That major action calls for substantial amounts of blasting, rock removal, and traffic that will adversely affect the quality of the environment for our upper Skagit Valley residents and visitors.

Consequently, we call on Skagit County to issue a DS and require an EIS, consistent with the SEPA policy to "[a]ssure for all people of Washington safe, healthful, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings." RCW 43.21C.020(2)(b). The following sections identify deficiencies in the Mining Special Use Permit and SEPA Checklist that can be corrected with that EIS.

## **Critique of Mining Special Use Permit**

Kiewit's current Special Use Permit application materials (PL 19-0033) are incomplete at best and misleading at worst and do not meet the applicant's burden of proof required to demonstrate the proposed activities will not create undue noise, vibration, heat, glare, and air and water pollution, intrusions on privacy, and conflict with the health and safety of the community and public as required by SCC 14.16.900 (1)(b)(v). The proposed mining is not compatible with existing and planned land use nor does it comply with the Skagit County Code as is required to be demonstrated in the application materials (SCC 14.16.900 (1)(b)(v)(A) and (B)). This has already been enumerated by Loring Advising in the May 11, 2019 letter on behalf of Skagit River Alliance for parcels P128574 and P45548 that have Secondary Forest - Natural Resources Lands zoning outside of the mineral resource overlay (MRO).

### Incompatible with Existing and Planned Land Use

As required by (SCC 14.16.900 (1)(b)(v)(A)) Kiewit has not demonstrated the proposed use is compatible with existing and planned land use for the adjacent Rural Reserve zoning district (RRv; SCC 14.16.320) because the application materials and related studies are incomplete. In addition some preliminary research (outlined below) indicates that the impacts could not be mitigated sufficiently to ensure compliance with regulations. The primary use in the RRv district to the north and west are single family dwelling units, people's homes. There are ~30 homes within 3/4 mile. The RRv district also includes permitted uses such as co-housing, family daycare provider, home based business, and agriculture. In addition administrative special uses can include bed and breakfasts, campgrounds, home based business, kennels, temporary manufactured homes, parks, trails and trailheads, and others. Despite the inclusion of a mineral resource overlay in this location we believe Skagit County is in error by allowing RRv zoning to directly abut the MRO and allow residential development within the ¼ mile buffer assigned to the MRO. A massive quarry in this location with its particular geographic setting is not compatible with the existing and planned use of RRv.

Likewise for the parcels to the northwest and south that are zoned Public Open Space of Regional/Statewide Importance (OSRSI; SCC 14.16.500); Kiewit has not demonstrated the proposed use is compatible with existing and planned land use because the application materials and related studies are incomplete. In addition we believe that the impacts could not be mitigated sufficiently to ensure compliance with regulations and the intent of these lands.



We understand that the landowners' primary intent is to restore and preserve wildlife and fish habitat (consistent with SCC 14.16.500(3)(d)). Nearby examples include parcel [P45303](#), O'Brien Riggs State Park and Illabot Creek Restoration Area (parcels [P45561](#) and [P45570](#), downstream of the proposed quarry).

Directly across the Skagit River from the proposed quarry is an area zoned Master Planned Resort (MPR) which includes several parcels owned by the Outzen Trust. This resort was established for a wide range of recreational users to enjoy the natural features and amenities of the area (SCC 14.20.010). The siting of a large scale quarry in such close proximity to facilities meant for people to relax in a tranquil natural setting are at direct odds with the intent of such an area. Again the applicant's materials fail to evaluate impacts to this special and historic resort and we are dubious that the impacts could be mitigated sufficiently to ensure compliance with regulations and the intent of these lands.

The Skagit River, along with its tributaries the Sauk, Suiattle and Cascade Rivers, were the first rivers in Washington to be included in the National Wild and Scenic River System. The Kiewit Marblemount quarry proposal is located in the overlapping corridors of three wild and scenic water systems: the Skagit River, the Cascade River, and Illabot creek. This fact alone would demand site specific evaluation through an environmental impact statement.

Skagit River Alliance stands in opposition to the quarry along with local area tribes that have expressed that the proposed quarry would be incompatible with their treaty resources and culturally important places. The Sauk-Suiattle, Swinomish and Upper Skagit Tribes have submitted formal letters to this effect as has the Skagit River System Cooperative which includes Sauk-Suiattle and Swinomish membership.

These current and potential uses reflect and rely on the special rural character, landscape, and lifestyle of this area, which requires a high degree of tranquility, privacy, and exceptionally clean air and water (surface and groundwater).

#### Undue Noise and Glare

The applicant contends that the quarry would not create undue noise that contravened the limitation in SCC 14.16.900 (1)(b)(v)(C), however their study is incomplete and deficient in several areas:

1. Washington State noise pollution regulations have requirements not only for long-term ambient noise levels ( $L_{eq}$ ) but also short-term intermittent noises ( $L_{max}$ ; WAC 173-60-040). However, the Sound Analysis report contains no analysis or simulation of

$L_{\max}$  noise levels. All of the simulation data presented (table 6-3 and 7-1) only discuss  $L_{\text{eq}}$  noise levels. As such, further analysis is required to determine if the proposed mitigation plans are sufficient to comply with noise pollution regulations for short-term intermittent sounds.

2. Page 14 of the Sound Analysis states, *"With Level II mitigation in place, projected sound levels during all proposed phases of operation are within 5 dBA or less of baseline sound levels at the Rural-Residential Analysis Locations. As presented in Section 3.1 of this Analysis, a sound-level increase of 4 to 5 dBA is near the threshold between an imperceptible and a noticeable effect and therefore does not constitute a significant noise impact."* A community member who has obtained a degree in the field of audio and acoustics and previously been professionally employed in that field, confidently states that there is not sufficient evidence presented in the Sound Analysis report to make statements like this. Analyzing sound levels without accounting for spectral distribution may be adequate for demonstrating compliance with relevant noise pollution laws and ordinances, but it is not sufficient methodology to make claims about whether noises will be noticeable or perceptible. Sound masking and perceptibility of combined sounds is closely tied to the difference in frequency between the combined sounds, so a frequency-spectrum analysis of the combined sounds is required to make such claims. The Sound Analysis should either be expanded to include such methodology and evidence, or such statements lacking in evidence should be purged from the analysis to avoid influencing the judgment of decision-makers without acoustical expertise to critique these unfounded claims.
3. The reference sound levels reported in Table 5-1 on page 8 of the Sound Analysis are obtained from "the BRC Acoustics database". The specifics are absent from this document. For example, the Operations Proposal specifies three CAT 988 Front End Loaders during ongoing operations. These are listed as 109 to 111 dBA by the manufacturer under ISO 6395 testing procedures. The CAT D10 Dozer is 115 dBA - the Sound Analysis uses 81 dBA as reference for the Dozer. Manufacturer's specs reference specific conditions such as sound measurement at mid-gear for the CAT 773 60 Ton Haul Truck. Not measured is the sound produced by heavy equipment climbing and descending a 12.5% grade heavily loaded. It is doubtful that the CAT 773 is in mid-gear traversing this grade. The sound produced from scraping, loading, splitting and other stone manipulation is significant, but also not mentioned. The Sound Analysis specifies nothing about the conditions of measurement, nor the assumptions made in calculations.
4. The Operations Proposal identifies 19 pieces of equipment for ongoing mining operations, excluding equipment used for site preparation and road building. 12 are heavy equipment off-road vehicles. There are additional sound producing equipment that are stationary. Table 6-1 of the Sound Analysis identifies three modeling scenarios, of which 02 and 03 are related to ongoing mining operations. The sound sources do not match the equipment identified in the Operations Proposal. Though it is likely that many sound sources are concurrent in practice, there is no indication of how many sound sources are concurrent in the modeling. Though multiple sound sources are additive using logarithms, it is also true that a 10 dB increase in sound is perceived as doubling.

So 90 dBA sounds twice as loud as 80 dBA. The impact on human and wildlife are ignored in the analysis. The scenarios imply that a lot of equipment remains idle during operations. There is no analysis of the noise echoing up and down and across the valley. When DNR used explosives to create a fire break on B&W mountain, residents 10 miles down valley remember the moment of fright and concern upon hearing the blasts, though it occurred years ago.

5. The Sound Analysis ignores the sound of hauling trucks on public roads, which it acknowledges is regulated by WAC 173-62. The number and size of such large trucks exposes residences and businesses along the route to unwanted and undue additional noise. The Virginia Department of Transportation determined that one standard load truck is equivalent to the noise produced by 28 cars at 55 mph. It is likely that oversized trucks hauling 105,000 lbs or more of rock would create even more noise and vibration.
6. Effects on Bald Eagles on Skagit River and in area in winter: According to the US Forest Service, in 2018, 111 eagles were sighted on one day of weekly counts along the river reach between Marblemount and Rockport. In 2017 the count reached 117. The annual Skagit River Eagle Festival occurs each January on a river that hosts the highest migratory eagle population in the lower 48 states. The bald eagle continues to be protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668c; 50 CFR 22.3). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service defines "molest or disturb" among prohibited activities. The application fails to address the impact of noise and vibrations from explosions, drilling, rock splitting and other mining activities on this annual migration. Noise and vibration sources range from 0.48 to 0.68 miles line of sight distance to trees along the Skagit River where eagles congregate every year.
7. Effects on wildlife: Seattle City Light purchased their adjacent property to the proposed quarry as "wildlife lands" with the intent to preserve ecosystem connectivity to balance out loss of habitat in other industrial areas. Seattle City Light, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and local residents are tracking several species in recovery or species at risk including peregrine falcons, eagles, fishers, lynx, red fox, and wolves. Mature trees in the proposed development area show potential for spotted owl habitat yet potential effects to such habitat is not even considered in the quarry proposal or the SEPA checklist, nor has a spotted owl survey been conducted. All five species of anadromous salmon spawn in the Skagit River, downslope of the proposed quarry site. Potential impacts of a mining operation to these recovery efforts are unknown and of great interest to the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group who worked in partnership with Skagit County on successful and award-winning restoration on Illabot Creek.
8. The Sound Analysis recommends noise mitigation via a 12 foot berm (Level I) or 20 foot berm with restricted operation hours (Level II). The Mitigation Plan ignores Level II mitigation and identifies Level I or delaying daytime operations by one hour - an option that is not a stand alone measure recommended by the Sound Analysis. In other words, the Mitigation Plan provides the option to ignore the findings of the Sound Analysis. It is also unclear how a 12 foot or even a 20 foot berm will mitigate noise sources 600 or more feet above the berm. Further, the hours of operation as included in the Special

Use Permit application do not reflect the mitigation recommendations in Mitigation Plan or the Sound Analysis report.

9. Although the applicant mentions the possibility of night operations (which we strongly oppose) they make no mention of lighting nor reducing glare and light pollution from the site. On a ridge above the valley bottom, bright lights from moving vehicles and stationary lighting would be quite difficult to mitigate.

These numerous concerns amply demonstrate the need for an EIS to properly study the noise effects of the mining operation.

#### Undue Vibration

The applicant contends that the quarry would not create undue vibration that contravened the limitation in SCC 14.16.900 (1)(b)(v)(C), however their study is incomplete and deficient in that they do not consider the following:

1. Vibration from two large drill rigs drilling 5", 40' deep holes in solid bedrock.
2. Vibration from Komatsu 2000 front shovel handling extremely large rock (28 tons or greater) at the top of the rock face, dropping them onto the bedrock, dropping them onto the loading piles, and dropping them into the off- road dumptrucks
3. Vibration from large off-road and on-road hauling trucks.
4. Vibration from rockfall during blasting
5. Blasting within ¼ mile of current and future suitable northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet habitat could result in "take" of these Threatened species and Critical Habitat as they are protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (particularly on parcels P45307 and P45303). These species have particularly sensitive ears and the US Fish and Wildlife Service has identified a ¼ mile buffer for blasting to arrive at a "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" determination through Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

These impacts must be studied in the EIS.

#### Undue Odor and Air Pollution

The applicant contends that the quarry would not create undue odors and air pollution that contravened the limitation in SCC 14.16.900 (1)(b)(v)(C), however their study is incomplete and deficient:

1. A quick informal survey of residents that live in close proximity of the proposed quarry indicated that they find the smell of diesel exhaust and spent powder from blasting caps offensive. Such smells would be common to nearby residents in the adjacent RRv district when carried via daily afternoon winds from the south in the summer and during times of an inversion at the valley bottom that would trap and concentrate exhaust and odors in the local vicinity.
2. The Skagit County "Performance Standards" as listed in SCC 14.16.840 are silent on odor and air pollution. However, there are applicable state and federal requirements for air pollution that should be addressed.



3. The SEPA Checklist does not appear to identify or evaluate the carbon emissions required to construct a new 60-foot-wide mining road, mine 9.6 million cubic yards of rock, and transport rock nearly 300 miles to the installation site. See SEPA Checklist, at 9-10. Given the Department of Ecology's finding that transportation accounted for 42.5% of the state's greenhouse gas emissions in 2015, and the Washington legislature's goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, this omission must be rectified.
4. Kiewit's Fugitive Dust Plan quotes environmental particulate regulations but gives no information on the production of particulate matter resulting from blasting and or other operations. They give wind data from the Marblemount Ranger Station but this valley location is not representative of the operations site on the ridge especially if a large block of timber is removed. How much fine particulate matter from blasting would not settle out over the operations site but be carried by wind to the surrounding countryside and residences? The composition of the dust produced is not addressed. Greenschist commonly has serpentine and amphibole minerals which can be asbestiform, particularly the mineral actinolite. The Shuksan Greenschist is known to have an "interlayering of actinolite-bearing greenschist assemblages with blue amphibole-bearing rocks" (Dungan, Vance, and Blanchard 1983). They intend to rely heavily on using trucked in water to keep the dust down, but we doubt they can't abate it all. All the quarry blasting videos we can find produce large amounts of dust. There is no mention of abatement for that except to avoid blasting when winds are greater than 15 mph. Where these winds would be measured is not mentioned.

The EIS should be used to evaluate the odors, exhaust, and greenhouse gas impacts and to identify applicable government standards for air pollution.

#### Undue Water Pollution

The applicant contends that the quarry would not create undue water pollution that contravened the limitation in SCC 14.16.900 (1)(b)(v)(C), however their study is incomplete and deficient:

1. The Skagit County "Performance Standards" as listed in SCC 14.16.840 are silent on water pollution. However, there are applicable state and federal requirements for water pollution that should be addressed. In addition we have the following concerns:
  - a. For Washington state, RCW 90.48.080 stipulates that discharge of polluting matter in surface or underground waters of the state is prohibited.
  - b. We are concerned about pollution from fuel, oil, antifreeze, other chemical spills from accidents, equipment leaks and failures, tank leaks and failures, fueling and equipment maintenance failures, etc... all the things that can and do happen in a large scale industrial operation. Except for mention of minimal mitigation measures, no risk management for these hazards is addressed, particularly during seismic events.
  - c. The location of the stormwater pollution prevention catchment ponds does not make sense as the road and large rock piles would be situated between them



and upslope areas. There is no clear path for runoff to the ponds. Further, except for high intensity or long duration rain events it is likely most runoff will infiltrate before it reaches these ponds as is in evidence by the infiltration points of Watercourses A and B. Runoff that will be polluted.

- d. The Blasting Impacts Report for the proposed project indicates that leached ammonia and nitrates could penetrate groundwater or be washed into waterways from the project but then falsely goes on to conclude that there would have no impacts on the Skagit River or other area water resources. Additionally, the HydroGeo report states that the groundwater aquifer at the site is connected to the Skagit River. These chemicals can leach into the aquifer and contaminate the river. This report is incorrect and biased.
  - i. The "Assessment of Rock Blasting Impacts and Recommended Practices" states if the best industry standards are used, losses of nitrates and ammonia (ANFO Residues) would not be even measurable (page 15). This is difficult to accept according to sources cited below and especially considering our wet climate (~80 inches of precipitation per year). From this information it is clear there will be a significant amount of blast residue which cannot be restrained from entering the groundwater or steam flows. The detonation of ammonium nitrate-fuel oil (ANFO) is often incomplete in a wet environment leaving behind toxic and water soluble products. The use of more self-contained packaged ANFO/emulsion is only acceptable in very dry conditions (Bailey et.al 2012). A major drawback of ANFO is its hygroscopic nature and moisture content as low as 5% can cause detonation failure (Bailey et.al 2013). Further, explosive residue in cases in the form of unexploded material is detected even in cases of complete detonation. Keller J.D.et.al(2002). It is important to recognize any residue polluted water collected in sediment ponds cannot be restrained from entering the aquifer. This is acknowledged in the Hydrogeologic Site Assessment which states the groundwater within the alluvium/outwash unconfined aquifer is hydrogeologically connected to the Skagit River (pages 8&9). HydroGeo Report it states that Watercourse B has a shallow aquifer that slowly feeds into it, and that it occasionally flows over the road. This could carry these chemicals offsite and into the river during flood events. The cumulative effects of ammonia nitrate and other toxins cannot be mitigated. This being the case the risk to the watershed and Skagit River is too great and this permit should be denied. Keller j.d. Explosive residue origin and distribution Forensic Science Communications Vol. 4 No 2 (2002) Bailey B.L., Smith L.s., Rtacek C.J., Smith L., Segó D.C. (2013) Diavic Waste Rock Project Applied Chemistry 36, 256-270
- e. The Assessment also states three potential but unconfirmed springs are located within the project area. This would need to be confirmed as their proximity to blasting, operations, hazmat storage, and undersized stockpile/waste rock areas

is important to identify ongoing mobilization and transport of pollutants that would lead to aquifer recharge and downstream surface flows with contaminated water. During recent past fall and winter storms with heavy rain, standing water has been observed covering the old sand and gravel quarry site to the south and has flowed over the Rockport-Cascade Road nearby. With most vegetation removed from this site, flow would be even greater. Flooding would be a risk as well as overflow of the sediment ponds.

- f. The location of the stormwater pollution prevention catchment ponds does not make sense as the road and large rock piles would be situated between them and upslope areas. There is no clear path for runoff to the ponds. Further except for high intensity or long duration rain events it is likely most runoff will infiltrate before it reaches these ponds as is in evidence by the infiltration points of Watercourses A and B. Runoff that will be polluted.
2. This area appears not to be designated a critical area for aquifer recharge. SRA contends that it is and Skagit County needs to do an aquifer recharge areas site assessment (SCC 14.24.330) and likely designate this area as an aquifer recharge critical area.
3. As mentioned above the rock type desired for extraction by the applicant on this site, contains actinolite, a asbestos mineral. Blasting and earthmoving/rock moving are activities that create airborne dust and dust abatement typically involves wetting it down. Spread of asbestos as airborne particulate dust or as a liquid would put water quality at risk as well as human health. This would not align with Special Use Criteria G – i.e. “the proposed use is not in conflict with the health and safety of the community.” Skagit County identifies naturally occurring asbestos as a geologic hazard. is needed in land development and allowable operations to reduce the hazard. The proposed worksite is steep, hazardous and unstable, and the asbestos content of the type of rock also identifies the area as a geologic hazard. As a Skagit County critical area (SCC 14.24.400-430), a critical areas checklist for this site should consider movement of asbestos particulate and waterborne asbestos that would be triggered by development in addition to known visible site features. SRA contends that, due to these natural features, this area is not suitable for development because of susceptibility to erosion, sliding, rock fall and spread of asbestos to residences and the broader public and ecosystem through the air and water.
4. The applicant does not address increased spills risk due to transport of liquid chemicals (e.g. vehicle and blasting fuel, tool/machinery lubricant, etc.), an unstable County Road road not designed for the load weights and frequency as proposed. In addition, spill response would be complicated by pinch points in access and spill risk areas over and next to water (i.e. the Skagit River).
5. Relatively small concentrations of ammonia in water are very detrimental to fish. ANFO (see Appendix A for more information on ANFO) can cause deleterious environmental effects in both detonated and undetonated states. In high-moisture settings, detonation of ANFO can be inefficient, leading to incomplete combustion and toxic residuals. The undetonated ammonium nitrate (AN) is highly water-soluble and can result in releases of

nitrate, nitrite and ammonia into the environment, including both surface water and groundwater. Dissolution of AN is a common issue affecting the detonation performance of ANFO and, depending on site-specific conditions, can lead to environmental issues from the releases of nitric oxide (NO), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO) and methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) due to poorly detonated ANFO. According to some literature sources, this dissolution can happen very quickly, as 25% of nitrates can leach from the explosives after 6 minutes of exposure to moisture, and 50% after a one-hour exposure. Following the loss of 25% of nitrates, the ANFO will not be able to properly detonate.

6. Page 8 of the Hydrogeologic Site Assessment states, "The Shuksan Greenschist bedrock that occupies the eastern portion of the Project Area is hypothesized to essentially be an aquitard that restricts groundwater movement. The Shuksan Greenschist in the area is not extensively fractured, leading the analysis to conclude that hydraulic conductivity for this groundwater system is low and de minimis for the overall recharge and groundwater flow." We have concerns about drawing conclusions from this report since the bedrock to the east is "hypothesized" to be an aquitard admits that this is an untested assumption. It is also an untested assumption that the Shuksan Greenschist is not extensively fractured. Or at least fractured enough to harbor a significant aquifer of its own. More detailed structural characterization of the bedrock structure here is important to understand where contaminated surface water would go besides where it is assumed it would go for stormwater pollution prevention. Also, what unforeseen impacts could this lead to? Later the report states, " The Shuksan Greenschist within the Project Area has a relatively small amount of fracturing as observed in the field. This implies that it has low hydraulic conductivity and was estimated at 0.022 ft/day for this site." What areas were observed in the field that leads to this conclusion? How was the 0.022 ft/day arrived at?
7. Page 8 of the Hydrogeologic Site Assessment states, "Some of the Ecology water well report locations were found to be somewhat inaccurate and site locations were estimated using the best available information at the time of the report." We believe these locations should be confirmed for best data analysis. In addition a number of residential wells are not shown within a mile of the project area. Likely a search of the Skagit County Assessor's property records would identify them. This would place other wells in the alluvial aquifer within 1000 feet from the project area.
8. Finally there are problems with Figures 7 and 8 in the Hydrogeologic Site Assessment. Figure 7 should show the same area that Figure 8 does. Figure 8 has no explanation of what the WPA red circles are and what they have to do with the analysis.

These concerns should be evaluated in the EIS.

#### Intrusions on Privacy

The applicant contends that the quarry operations would not generate intrusions on privacy of surrounding uses as required to be demonstrated by (SCC 14.16.900 (1)(b)(v)(D)). However their response is incomplete and deficient. Much of the quarry operation would be elevated above the trees and any constructed berms on the north boundary. The quarry would abut Parcel [P45305](#) and is in proximity to several other homes (particularly [P45271](#)) that are in the

Rural Reserve (RRv) zone, the presence of workers and heavy mining equipment up on the ridge and hillslope working the quarry would generate visual and audible intrusions of privacy to these and other nearby residential properties.

The EIS can be used to evaluate how the mining of rock and removal of a hillside several hundred feet above ground level will intrude on neighbors' privacy.

#### Adverse Impacts on Health, Safety, and Welfare

The applicant contends that the quarry operations would not create potential adverse effects on the general public health, safety, and welfare as required to be demonstrated by (SCC 14.16.900 (1)(b)(v)(E)) and would not conflict with the health and safety of the community (G). However, these important factors have not been considered:

1. Given the rock is drilled and blasted into fine dust, mobilization and transport of fine asbestos crystals likely above background would be a significant impact on workers' onsite and residents' and animals' health downwind. There should be an analysis to identify risk and hazards from this hazardous fugitive dust that would be released into the community. Even with best practices we question that all dust will be able to be abated on the site. Exposure to asbestos can cause health problems such as asbestosis, lung cancer, and mesothelioma and according to the Environmental Protection Agency, no amount of visible dust is safe to inhale.
2. The surface mining act (Chapter 78.44 RCW, Chapter 332-18 WAC) also addresses surface to ground water quality which would be at increased risk from this type of development, in particular related to potential residues and chemical contaminants spread through blasting as well as naturally occurring asbestos dust putting water quality at risk.
3. The applicant does not address auditory or non-auditory health effects on workers or nearby residents from noise. A starting reference can be found here: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3988259/>
4. Potential for blasting and vibration to unnaturally loosen and knock rocks from cliffs that are part of the same rock formation that would be quarried down onto residential properties below (particularly Parcels [P45305](#), [P45271](#), [P45269](#), [P45267](#), [P45250](#), and [P45265](#)). The geohazards report does not address anything outside of the project area, however homes below are clearly at risk.
5. We don't expect that every blast will go perfectly. There is no discussion of a margin of safety in case blasting mistakes to send fly rock onto Rockport Cascade Road and nearby residential properties.
6. There are several families that live within 3/4 mile of the quarry, including children aged 2-12. In addition there are two nannies that provide daycare for these and other children in the community. We have read about the negative impacts that loud and persistent noise can have on the development of children and concerned about this for our neighborhood children. Then there is the practical issue of getting a baby to nap with unpredictable blasting and banging nearby. One child in the neighborhood has Down's

syndrome who is stimulus/noise sensitive, has airway/breathing issues, and a heart condition.

7. Many of the local residents within  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile of the proposed quarry have chosen to retire here, are elderly, and have health issues that would be exacerbated by the noise, air, and water pollution.

These issues should be addressed in the EIS.

Thank you for your attention to these important issues.

Sincerely,

*Robert A.S. Burrows*

Robert A.S. Burrows

President

Skagit River Alliance





**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 4:30:01 PM

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Name : Robert Burrows

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry operation near Marblemount

Comments : I am writing to express our deep concern and opposition for a recent proposal, the "Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry operation near Marblemount". My wife and I are raising our daughter (who is now 2) on our property, which would be just 1600 feet from the proposed quarry. We chose to live in Marblemount because of the peace, tranquility, clean air, clean water, rural lifestyle and proximity to wild natural areas. I can confidently say that the majority of my neighbors also value these things and strongly oppose the quarry here.

I have had a chance to review some of the application materials. I have a M.S. in Geology and further graduate coursework in physical geography, just the sort of background to make an informed review and assessment of the application materials. Unfortunately, the demands of working full-time and managing a toddler have prevented me from reviewing them in as much depth as I would like. However, there are a few patterns that are apparent to me:

- 1) The impacts of a quarry in this location would have significant adverse environmental impacts as it pertains to a SEPA threshold determination, which requires Skagit County to issue a Determination of Significance. My understanding is that the SEPA Rules state that significant "means a reasonable likelihood of more than a moderate adverse impact on environmental quality". It involves the physical setting, and both the magnitude and duration of the impact. The severity of the impact must be weighed as well as its likelihood of occurring. An impact may be significant if its magnitude would be severe, even if its likelihood is not great. In determining if a proposal will have a significant impact, the responsible official may consider that a number of marginal impacts may together result in a significant impact. Even one significant impact is sufficient to require an environmental impact statement. This impacts that make this proposal significant include those from:
  - a) Blasting (noise and vibration, blasting induced rockfall onto our and our neighbors' properties, groundwater contamination, fly rock, and dust).
  - b) Drilling, hauling, and general quarry operations (noise, dust, local air pollution, light pollution from night operations).
  - c) Traffic
  - d) Nuisance and hazards from the above infringing on our property rights
  - e) Potential health effects on elderly and children and the well being of all ages.
- 2) Most of the studies that inform the SEPA Checklist are quite cursory in nature and don't consider many of the site specific details of this geographic location. Further study needs to be done to assess risks, hazards, and impacts to air, water, wildlife, health, safety, and well-being. I'm particularly concerned with the local effects of undue noise, potential rockfall induced by vibration from blasting and quarry operation, asbestos dust causing undue contaminating of air and water (surface and ground), blasting chemicals and residue causing undue water pollution, and exhaust causing undue local/neighborhood air pollution and unpleasant odors.
- 3) Finally this has been eye opening as to what is in Skagit County Code. Some of it doesn't

seem to live up to the ideals for property rights identified on page 16 of the Comprehensive Plan.

Please deny this application immediately or issue a Determination of Significance.

From Host Address: 174.216.7.205

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 4:28:25 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 10:35:01 PM

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Name : Kelly Bush

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry operation near Marblemount  
Comments : May 9, 2019

John Cooper

Skagit County Planning and Development Services  
1800 Continental Place Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Re: File # PL19-0033, PL19-0047, BP19-0070 & PL19-0032

Dear Mr. Cooper and Skagit County Planning and Development Services,

I am a resident of Rockport; my property lies near the area that the proposed rock quarry would blast a mountain apart and transfer material by truck if the application of Kiewit Corporation is allowed to proceed. I wrote with initial comments prior to the first deadline and thank you that an extension for comment was given so that others of my community would have time to review the materials. I have done that more completely myself and wish to add and reemphasize the following:

- 1) I have seen that the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan states, "Planning, land use regulations and zoning protect individual and community rights" in the following ways:
  - by avoiding nuisances through ensuring against incompatible neighboring land uses; ...
  - by protecting and conserving the natural resources that provide us with clean air and water;I am asking that the Skagit County Planning Office as well as our Commissioners adhere to these stated goals. It is inconceivable that the allowance of all the Kiewit stated activities can be compatible to the neighboring land uses of private property, recreational activities (personal and commercial) and an increasingly tourist and service based economy that is largely founded on intact natural resources and a quiet rural environment.
- 2) The sections of Kiewit's application that address impacts to natural resources, especially state and/or federally listed wildlife species, is inadequate. Throughout the application any effect or need for mitigation is down-played or stated that "no state species requiring special consideration were observed on the site". I feel this is a premature conclusion (little data on how surveys by Element Solutions of Bellingham were conducted) in which little information is given to conclude the project "is not likely to adversely affect" wildlife. Just since I wrote my first comment letter, the WDFW has determined that what was one gray wolf in the area in recent years is now a small pack. Similarly the conclusions by Element Solutions regarding Marbled Murrelets are insufficient, disregarding the flight patterns and needs of this state-listed Endangered (and federally Threatened) bird. There is no mitigation stated for what could be highly disruptive for this protected species. Additional comments could be made for the Fisher and the Peregrine Falcon, neither even mentioned in the assessment. A great deal of effort by multiple agencies has been recently undertaken to restore the Fisher to the Cascades.
- 3) Affect on Sensitive Areas: Again the proposal has minimized very likely impacts to sensitive areas such as parks and wilderness areas. The proposal states: The proposed MRO expansion would not directly use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated



for governmental protection. There are no parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains or prime farmland within the proposed expanded MRO area. While the mining area is not IN a wilderness or park or other sensitive area, it is actually nearby almost ALL of those listed descriptors. I would encourage all of Skagit County government to recognize the fact that a large national park exists here, and that the west-side entrance to this park is near Marblemount. I ask that the planners recognize that this is a special thing. This is a real gem that exists in Skagit County. Please recognize this and your role in protecting the surrounding “gateway” proximity towns of Marblemount and Rockport and the associated quiet, rural environment.

4) Property Values: It is an easy assumption that if the impacts of this proposal come to fruition as stated in the proposal, no one will want to live within miles of it. Actual property values (whether assessed by Skagit County as such or not) – will plummet. Many of us will not want to live where we now enjoy a relatively quiet part of Skagit County, but given that no one else will either, the ability to sell and relocate will be difficult.

In conclusion, my overall request in consideration of the above is that an EIS should be required. This project is requested to be long-term and is of a scale to affect residents and visitors alike in the upper Skagit valley. There are many potential adverse effects on wildlife and other natural resources. The possible controversial action by Skagit County Planning and Development Services to approve this project which violates the direction of its own County Comprehensive Plan, would seem advised to undergo the evaluation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

Thank you for this consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelly Bush



From Host Address: 104.235.174.183

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 10:34:27 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 6:35:01 AM

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Name : Tiffany Bye



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry, PL19-0033

Comments : I'm concerned about the increase in the amount of traffic on this stretch of 20. It is already a highly travelled highway in the summer and the number of accidents will go up!

This project could drive away the wolves that have newly called this area home and could also be a detriment to other wildlife. We need an Environmental Impact Statement for this project!

From Host Address: 184.21.247.96

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 6:34:35 AM

Mr. Arnold Byron

960

15 APR 2019 1463

POSTCARD TO 300

Skagit County Planning  
and Development Services

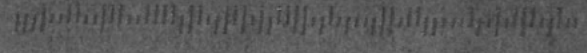
1800 Continental Place

Mount Vernon WA 98273

RECEIVED

APR 18 2019

SKAGIT COUNTY  
PDS



Dear Planning Commission,

Mark me as opposed to  
the rock mining project in  
Marble Mount, the external  
expensives will far outweigh  
any benefits to the  
inhabitants of the County.

Think Carefully,

Arnold J. Byron

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 2:50:01 PM

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Name : Martha Campbell

PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry (PL-19-0033)

Comments : I am writing in opposition to the proposed Marblemount Quarry. I have been a seasonal resident of the Skagit Valley since 2017, and my work is in educating about the unique ecological and cultural history of this place in the hopes that those who visit it are inspired to become stewards of this and other wild places. I believe that the proposed Marblemount Quarry would have a detrimental impact on the Skagit River, the wildlife that rely on the forests both in and around the National Park for habitat, the quality of life for those who call the Skagit Valley home, and the safety and enjoyment of all those who visit the Skagit Valley and the North Cascades each year. In addition, this quarry is proposed on land that is the traditional homeland of the Upper Skagit people, and is being pursued without their consent or involvement. I strongly believe that an Environmental Impact Statement should be required for this proposed project. Please consider the safety, health, and future of the Skagit Valley.

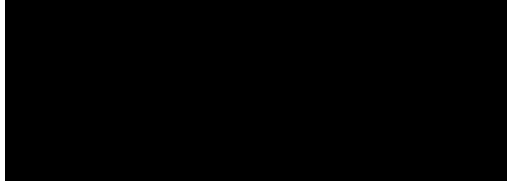
From Host Address: 50.125.100.236

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 2:46:35 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 5:10:01 AM

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Name : Clara Jean Carmean



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : The idea of leveling a mountain top to truck stone at the rate of 70+trucks a day along Rte. 520 is almost unimaginable to me. This highway is a major tourist route into the North Cascades, and the damage to the narrow roads, the air in the area, and wildlife, both from the blasting and from the carbon footprint of the transportation make the only winners the mining company. The Skagit is still a relatively healthy salmon stream. At a time when the governor, the tribes, and a majority of citizens are trying desperately to save the salmon and the orcas, the damage that this project will cause to the river is totally unacceptable.

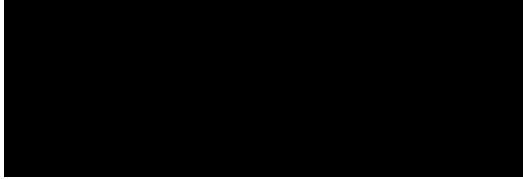
From Host Address: 94.66.220.124

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 5:08:49 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:20:01 PM

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Name : Alisse Cassell



PermitProposal : Proposed Marblemount Quarry  
Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning and Development Services,

The proposed large scale quarry outside of Marblemount is a concern to me for environmental and human impacts it would have on this part of the county. I strongly encourage the county to require and supervise an environmental study for an Environmental Impact Statement on this proposed quarry. This quarry should only be built if a thorough and honest impact study is carried out, and if the county will support the establishment of the quarry, then steps must be taken to mitigate the harm done to the ecology of the area (wildlife, plant life, humans), the traffic and traffic safety (particularly the intersection between Highway 20 and Highway 530), and the noise created from such a large operation that could be in operation for so many years.

As a lifelong Washington resident whose primary hobbies include rock climbing and mountaineering, I pass through Marblemount on my way to the North Cascades National Park and environs approximately 10 times per year, and I would hate to see such a beautiful area devastated by the sounds of heavy machinery, drilling, blasting, semi trucks grinding gears up the hill.

Thank you for considering my statement and I hope that the county will only go into this project once as much knowledge and data as possible about the potential consequences is gathered, and take action to minimize the harm done to this amazing area.

From Host Address: 50.35.56.157

Date and time received: 5/2/2019 8:15:44 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 10:35:02 AM

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Name : Deborah Chapman

PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry Mine

Comments : No to Marblemount Quarry Mine.

They, are trying to rush, a mining operation past us, that will affect us negativly for endless generations to come.

Most importantly, their's no turning back, to what once was.

To build a road so large, for this mega monster company to navigate it's beyound hugh machinery, is just the beginning.

You would be allowing oils and toxic fuels to saturate our clean eco systems, which will have, lingering consequences.

Having two hundred and sixty runs a day, by enormously large trucks hauling rock slowly down our roads, is a traffic jam that won't end for 100 years.

The roads will be torn up within a week.

The wind shield damage will be constant. And the air pollution from diesel fuel and oil will climb so high and leave us locals, and generations of familys to come, living with continuous lung damage.

The explosions daily you can't imagine will tare this world apart. No peace for 100 years?

To smash rocks containing asbestosis into our air and our water ways and covering our world in layers of toxic waste, unforgivable.

To say, their is not a living things on that mountain is so ridiculously, insane, what they meant to say, once they move in, then their won't be any living thing left.

They will stock pile thier waste (mainly dust particles) allowing it to be distributed through out our beautiful world everyday with the interaction of rain fall, wind, ect.

What about the potential of land slides?

The mountains come down around here every year.

There's alot of family homes below this proposed site.

Mainly why would you let a company come into our little piece of heaven and turn it into hell.

This company had just been sued for leaving their man made hell behind on their recent destructive mission.

After they have taken all they can, whats left is a toxic mess.

But this company dosen't care they just pack up and leave their man made hell behind.

We have got a mega monster breathing down our necks that have already destroyed community's forever.

Please, Choose to keep Marblemount and all of Skagit County Washington the place where people can continue to live

and play, in a clean, natural, beautiful, peace and quite world.

No to the Marblemount Quarry Mine

From Host Address: 50.35.50.212

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 10:31:00 AM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 10:10:01 AM

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Name : Deborah Chapman



PermitProposal : PL-19-0032 PL-19-0033 0046,0046 BP19-0070

Comments : Can you imagine, a hugh truck entering State Route 20 every 3 minutes?

Thats the breakdown with the 240 trucks in a 12 hour shift every single day.

As it is now, from June through September, it's near impossible, to get a break in the traffic, to enter State Route 20.

At the very least there must be monitered stop lights at every cross street from the quarry site and every cross street and intersection from State Route 20 in Marblemount all the way down river to Sedro Woolley and more monitered stop lights to where ever those loads of exploded, crushed rocks are destined.

From Host Address: 50.35.50.212

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 10:05:38 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 12:20:01 AM

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Name : Deborah Chapman

PermitProposal : PI-19-0032 PL-19-0033 /0046,0046/BP19-0070

Comments : State Route 20 in Washington State is called the Cascades Scenic Highway.

If the Marblemount Quarry Mine is permitted, this will no longer be the case.

There will be 240 loads of rock, carried out by hugh trucks, carrying the exploded and then crushed rock, for 12 hour shifts, each day.

That leaves us, the local resident's and tourist to deal with, twenty hugh trucks, on our two lane, tiny highway every hour.

Do you know how much traffic we have up here? Once school's let out and vacation time kicks in it's hectic.

Every day tens of thousands of vehicles travel East, using State Route 20, from Sedro Woolley on up to Marblemount. Most of those people will camp out and eventually turn around and go back home using State Route 20 to do so.

This traffic congestion takes alot of patience and happens every year through out summer and fall.

It takes a long long time to just cross S.R. 20.

My husband and I had a tow truck business up here in Concrete, called Dave's Towing and we know about traffic.

For 12 years we helped rescue or clear up the roads and traffic gets way slowed down to completely stopped, for hours, when some one crashes their vehicle.

Due to this being one of the last places left in America that is considered a Vacation Destination, it's busy.

An accident up here causes a long delay and there is always an accident every day. Imagine how bad it will be having that much more traffic from the Marblmount Quarry mine.

There will be alot more accidents and the tourist trade that keeps us alive will taper off to nothing.

Please take another look at whats happening up here.

We have hunting, fishing, hiking, swimming, snow mobiling, and a whole lot of wild life.

There's a whole lot of better things we could be doing up here for the people, the land and animals then to destroy a beautiful eco system.

Come on up, check us out and do some check finding. You may find that this place is to good to be true, and you may never want to leave. But you may want to leave it alone and beautiful.

Take Care,

Deborah Chapman

From Host Address: 50.35.50.212

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 12:16:31 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 1:00:01 AM

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Name : Deborah Chapman



PermitProposal : PI-19-0032 PL19-0033 0046,0046 BP19-0070

Comments : Just as a heads up. I haven't heard much about the nuclear plant dumping radioactive waste into the Pacific Ocean for the last 8 years. Old Fukushima just keeps on going and we all know our ocean is dying.

So with that said we should do all we can to protect every lake, river, and stream that we have in order to feed our country and help to feed the world.

How can the human race expect to thrive if we keep on destroying that which makes us live.

Save our rivers and water from pollutants before it's too late.

Take care,

Deborah Chapman

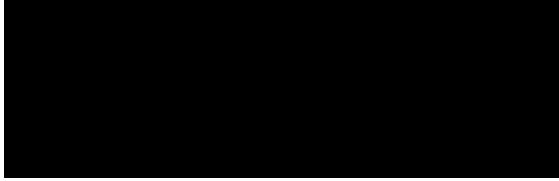
From Host Address: 50.35.50.212

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 12:55:46 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, April 26, 2019 1:30:01 AM

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Name : Cherie Donovan-Smith



PermitProposal : The Quarry Marblemount, Wa

Comments : I am against this!!!!!!

We, the people, who choose (and pay) to live up the Skagit River, away from the noise and the speeding fast-pace of high population areas should have rights whether a project as huge and disturbing as this would be able to actually happen. Noise pollution will be terrible. We have families, (domestic) animals and wildlife that will be greatly disturbed by the blasting. The number of trucks running will be constant noise pollution, as will the number of blasts happening per day! This is our Home! In the tourist/summer season our roads fill up with visitors wanting to get away from the noise and bustle. The tourists are important and so are our local families. We want safe roads. We, including animals, want peace. We want the land above the people who live below the mountain to be safe. Oso, not so far away, in distance or time, reminds us. Be smart, please! How would all this disturbance effect every aspect of this beautiful land we're blessed to be a part of? The River! I know how it would upset my family/ animals, and then...what of those living on the mountain? Please listen to the people who call these mountains and woodlands their home.

Thank You??

From Host Address: 50.34.176.244

Date and time received: 4/26/2019 1:27:55 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2019 7:35:01 PM

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Name : Judy Clark

PermitProposal : Marblemount quarry

Comments : I would not know how this project could pass an EIS. I have friends in the area, and we live near the Skagit and in a mountainous area (raised in Newhalem) & think this project would be a major eco/fauna/foiar disaster to say the least. Is there not a closer mountain to the area the rock needs to go? PLEASE do not let this disecration take place! I would not know how anyone could sleep at night if they approved this atrocity. Thank you for your consideration - would you like it in YOUR back yard?

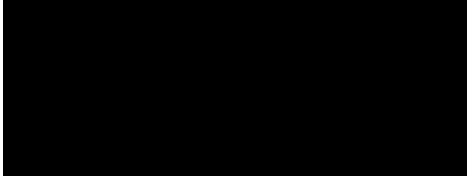
From Host Address: 50.34.203.25

Date and time received: 4/12/2019 7:30:06 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 12:55:01 PM

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Name : Roger B Clark



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Roger B Clark

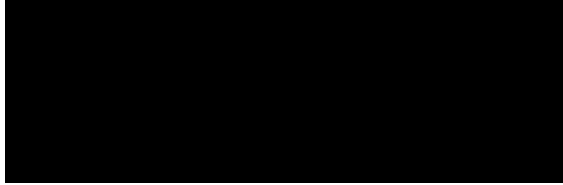
From Host Address: 74.220.250.34

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 12:51:30 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Saturday, May 11, 2019 2:35:01 PM

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Name : Virginia J Cleaveland



PermitProposal :

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Virginia

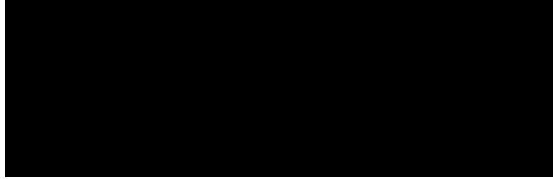
From Host Address: 174.216.6.88

Date and time received: 5/11/2019 2:31:42 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 24, 2019 5:35:01 AM

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Name : Kathy Colton



PermitProposal : PL19-0032 and PL19 -0033, 0046, 0046 BP 19-0070

Comments : Please do not allow the Kiewit Infrastructure Company to develop and operate a huge blast-oriented quarry mine off Rockport Cascade Road!!

The Marblemount Quarry would negatively impact the entire Skagit Valley as it would involve the transport of large jetty stones down the valley from Marblemount to I-5 with well over 100 large trucks a day going in both directions. We estimate that the trucks would travel in excess of 10,000 miles a day just in our valley. We have driven on the narrow, 2 lane Hwy. 20 countless times. It is a major bicycling route, known nationwide and used by people from all over the world. This increased truck traffic would make it impossible to safely bike there, and automobile safety would be compromised as well. The impact on air quality, traffic safety and congestion would be significant.

Our son and his family live and work in this area and we visit there often. The beauty, peace and serenity of the area would be destroyed by the noise of the blasting, mining trucks and delivery trucks.

Please, do not ruin the livelihood of folks who's income depends on those who escape the urban craziness and noise and want to come relax in the peaceful "shadows" of the Cascade National Park, or other nearby mountains! Air quality would be diminished in that area also.

There are SO many reasons why this is a terrible idea!  
Respectfully,  
Kathy Colton

From Host Address: 50.82.178.50

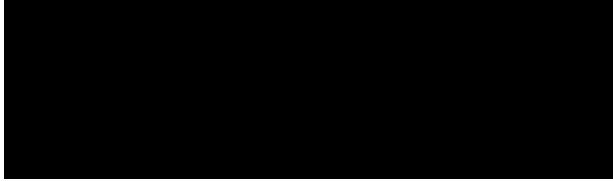
Date and time received: 4/24/2019 5:34:46 AM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, May 10, 2019 11:10:01 PM

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Name : Tim Colton



PermitProposal : Proposed Marblemount Quarry  
Comments : Commissioners:

Thank you for extending the comment period for the proposed Kiewet Quarry in Marblemount. As the Farm Manager at the Cascadian Farm Home Farm trying to get farming done this spring, open the stand, and spend time with my 9 month old daughter, there is a lot on my plate right now. Even so, I have tried to make time to read about the quarry proposal and educate myself on some details because the creation of this quarry would be a drastic change for our community.

Initially I was opposed to this proposal because I think it will harm the reputation that this community has for recreation and tourism. I know, thanks to my employment at Cascadian Farm in Rockport and my own operation of a vacation rental, that people travel from all over the world to visit this region and the reason they come is because of the natural beauty, tranquility and wilderness. During the summer the highway is packed with vacationers and the lodgings are booked. The 75 round trip semi trucks hauling jetty stone and associated traffic would increase the hazards of an already dangerously busy highway. We who live upriver will suffer the most from this traffic because we already spend the most time on Hwy 20, either commuting to/from work or running errands down valley. Congestion, which can already become unbearable during the summer, will get worse and lives will be lost in traffic accidents due to the added traffic. I believe that to address these concerns the state would need to add an additional westbound lane to Hwy 20 to facilitate passing.

The more I have read about this quarry proposal, the more firmly I have become opposed to it.

The "Fugitive Dust Plan" is a slap in the face to rural Skagit County Residents who have had water rights and resources restricted in the past decades. The "Fugitive Dust Plan" says "Fugitive dust is most often controlled by the frequent application of water. Water is available from a publically allocated source....Use a water truck to spray the ground surface of gravel surface roads in the project area regularly to prevent dust from becoming airborne. The surface should be wetted until moist, while controlling excessive water application to avoid concentrated discharge." Where is this publically allocated water source- this is not specified? I can only assume it is coming from the Skagit River watershed. SO. Kiewet's plan is to take water from the Skagit during the dry/low-flow season and spray it on hot gravel in order to keep the dust down...is that a wise use of precious water resources? How can the drilling of wells for residential use be more detrimental to the watershed than this proposed act? Kiewet needs to be clear about where the water would come from, what quantity they anticipate using and how much of that water will be loss due to evaporation.

The Sound Analysis document is grossly inadequate. There is not even a mention of the blasting that would occur some 6 times per day. There is also no mention of what impact this blasting, or the other quieter but more regular noise, would have on wildlife. The quarry site is in close proximity to valuable wildlife habitat that is being conserved by Skagit City Light, the Skagit Land Trust, the Nature Conservancy and WDFW. This adjacent conservation property is suitable home for many important and at risk species including the fisher, marbled murrelet, spotted owl, wolf, bald eagle and others. Kiewit needs to ensure that their activities would not disturb the reproductive success of these species in nearby properties.

Who would inspect Kiewit's operations to make sure that they abide by all of the listed Best Management Practices? Any equipment operation contributes to pollution of the watershed and operator conduct can have a large impact on how much pollution occurs. I propose a resident observer should be on sight at all time making sure that equipment is not operated with leaking fluids, equipment maintained properly and all BMP's followed.

The Biological Assessment is inadequate as well. The valley between Marblemount and Rockport is a critical corridor for wildlife moving between lower Skagit, upper Skagit, Sauk, Cascade creek and Illabot creek valleys. Large mammals such as Elk and grey wolves frequent this area (of which the proposed quarry is part of) and this proposed site is within suitable habitat for Grizzly Bear and fisher populations, which are being reintroduced to the North Cascades. This assessment recognizes that the proposed quarry is within the Finney Spotted Owl Special Emphasis Area, managed for dispersal support. How would this quarry provide any support for dispersing owls? It would not; it would denude the landscape, pollute the land/water and deter wildlife such as the Spotted Owl.

Finally, this region has a long history of balancing resource extraction with the health native ecosystem. Logging, farming and hydro operations have all modified their management practices to best coexist and support the native ecosystem. Examples of this include Seattle City Lights flow control for the benefit of salmon, PSE sockeye hatchery and transport, logging restrictions within critical watershed buffers, and biodiversity fostered through organic agriculture. All three of these natural resource uses can coexist and provide some benefit to certain native species. This proposed quarry would not coexist or benefit any part of our native ecosystem. In fact, due to the increased traffic, water pollution, water withdrawal and noise pollution; this quarry would have significant negative affects to the surrounding community/ecosystem in addition to the quarry land in question.

I strongly encourage the county to reject this quarry proposal outright.

Thank you,  
Tim Colton

From Host Address: 50.34.200.138

Date and time received: 5/10/2019 11:07:54 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 1:00:01 PM

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Name : Norm Conrad

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you.

From Host Address: 76.121.85.0

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 12:56:03 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, May 10, 2019 8:30:01 PM

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Name : rod conrad



PermitProposal : Marblemount quarry

Comments : As a resident of Marblemount and having work experience in larger and smaller quarries as an equipment operator and mechanic I fully support this.

Having attended the "informational" meeting in Marblemount I understand why so many people are against it with the large amount of false information given and no positive comments allowed.

From Host Address: 72.168.145.101

Date and time received: 5/10/2019 8:28:28 PM

**From:** [website@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:website@co.skagit.wa.us)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2019 2:40:01 PM

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Name : ERIC COOPER



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : Good Afternoon, I have made prior comments but want to add some of my main concerns with this project.

1. the record this company has which is on record has multiple environmental violations and not a company we would want in our backyard.
2. The fact that they want to store explosives in a conex with a padlock, not fenced and no security makes it easy for a terrorist organization or extremists to get their hands on explosives. It is also an explosive hazard in a well-known wild fire critical area.
3. This project will be pulling our limited EMS resources, fire departments, and other first responders away from our communities in the event of a crisis, they bring in no assets to handle those issues.
4. This project plans on running 100,000 plus pounds daily on Highway 20 which is barely maintained for our local community during the harsh winter months, not to mention this increased traffic will be a hazard for our necessary tourist season.
5. Skagit County has always taken pride in its beauty, serene mountains, and picturesque views which many people move up here for. Now, you have a company trying to come in and remove that.

I know I already mentioned the wildlife environment which thrives up there, as well as the salmon stream, Illabot Creek, which runs through that parcel and it will decimate that eco-system. You also have the Sauk-Suiattle Tribe to the South which has a good chance of having relics in that area.

I highly encourage you to deny this project based on multiple factors of high risk. Have a wonderful weekend. Eric Cooper

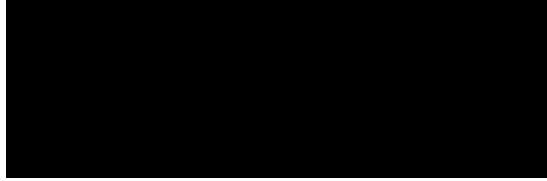
From Host Address: 66.235.39.33

Date and time received: 4/12/2019 2:38:03 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 11:05:01 AM

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Name : Stephanie Cowles



PermitProposal : Mining Special Use Permit (PL19-0033), Forest Practice Conversion Permit (PL19-0047), and Grading Permit (BP19-0070)

Comments : I am a local homeowner in Concrete, opposed to the permitting, construction and operation of this mine. The impacts on the natural beauty and ecosystems of the Upper Skagit Valley are not worth compromising for this quarry, not to mention the increased risk of landslides. Who will pay for the overflow of noise, runoff, heavy machinery, erosion, and degraded ecosystem services? I suspect it would be the animals, plants and local residents.

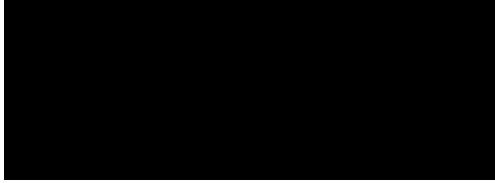
From Host Address: 50.34.208.3

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 11:03:00 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Saturday, April 27, 2019 8:25:02 AM

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Name : Ellen Cross



PermitProposal : Proposed Kiewit Quarry near Marblemount  
Comments : I'm deeply concerned about the Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry operation near Marblemount. I visit there regularly as a tourist, and I believe this will negatively impact the natural surroundings that bring visitors like myself to the area. Thank you!

From Host Address: 73.221.165.36

Date and time received: 4/27/2019 8:22:42 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 6, 2019 3:55:01 PM

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Name : Cheyrl Crowder



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry operation near Marblemount

Comments : I oppose The quarry .I have heard that they plan on truck traffic using the cascade river bridge .The bridge is not suitable for trucks with that much weight being used daily ,and same with bridge over skagit at Marblemount .Has any test been done to see if they would be able to handle heavy truck traffic on a daily bases .We lose a bridge on this side of river were screwed (its our lifeline).

From Host Address: 196.247.50.36

Date and time received: 5/6/2019 3:50:09 PM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 2:25:01 PM

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Name : Brenda Cunningham

PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry - Kiewit Proposal

Comments : According to the Skagit County website, the mission of Skagit County government is to serve “its residents by providing high-quality, efficient services to protect and strengthen its communities and environment.” This is the entirety of the mission statement, not just a section of it.

I ask that you seriously consider the public health risks of the proposed quarry and deny the permits on the grounds that the impact to the health of Skagit residents is not acceptable. The Skagit County Commissioners have stated that public health and safety is a primary concern for them and this proposed quarry is a clear example of how their decisions impact the health of Skagit County residents. Not only will the proposed mine add enormously to the truck traffic on the rural roads of Skagit County, but the mining of this rock will release asbestos-laden dust particles into the upper valley. Both of these factors, industrial traffic and air pollution, will negatively impact the health of Skagit residents.

The Commissioners and their staff are our last line of defense from land use abuses. As both the legislative and judicial bodies of government overseeing the process for special use permits we rely on them to put the county residents first, over the special interests of a mining company. In situations like this we do not have time to wait for another election cycle. The decision to put the health and safety of residents first must be made. At the very least the proponents of this project must address the public safety and health concerns and how they will protect the air quality and road safety of the upper valley. The inadequacy of the original application does not bode well for their ability to address the many issues brought up by concerned citizens. It is the county’s responsibility to scrutinize the applications “to protect and strengthen its communities and environment.”

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,  
Brenda Cunningham

From Host Address: 73.169.232.196

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 2:21:47 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:30:01 PM

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Name : Timothy R. Cuthbertson

PermitProposal : PL19-0033,PL19-0047,BP19-0070

Comments : Dear Sirs,

As a concerned community member, I oppose the application(s) of the above permits.

This is the small gateway community to the North Cascades National Park. The impacts of the 100 year plan submitted by the Kiewit Infrastructure Company will disrupt not only the surrounding areas, but also far reaching by way of air and water pollution.

There are important tourist dollars made in the local economies every year that rely on natural beauty, quiet, wildlife and sensitive environments. The additional traffic, noise and logging imparts a risk that these economies should not have to bare.

Kiewit is a for profit company, and we as tax payers should not be subsidizing the costs to cover the additional damages to county and state highways and roads. In addition, our already stretched emergency services as Kiewit Infrastructure has no emergency contingent plan of it's own in place.

With the aforementioned concerns, it seems odd that there is no Environmental Impact Statement, (EIS) included. At the very least, I feel this should be required before a final decision is made.

Thank you,

Timothy R. Cuthbertson

From Host Address: 66.235.39.112

Date and time received: 5/2/2019 6:26:19 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 8:00:01 AM

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Name : Tim Davenport



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Sir/Madam,

For reasons related to long-term economic health, this region will be benefit far more from healthy water than from gravel.

Please make this decision with an eye toward future generations.

Thank you,  
Tim Davenport  
(born in 1959)

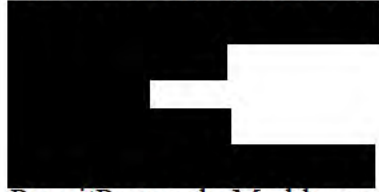
From Host Address: 73.11.137.28

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 7:59:53 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 4:20:01 PM

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Name : Richard and Karen Davis



PermitProposal : Marblemount Jetty Rock Quarry PL 19-0033

Comments : We have owned for 28 years a 5 acre parcel 1/2 mile from the proposed quarry. We have built a house in the Marblegate community and enjoy the natural beauty and tranquility of the area. The proposed quarry is antithetical to this recreational and residential forested environment . The Kiewit Corporation has a negative track record of compliance with environmental law. This project is strongly opposed by numerous environmental and recreational groups. Marblemount is the gateway to the North Cascades and borders a wild & scenic designated river. This project is not aligned with community values, tourism, or lifestyle. It would not create jobs but would create pollution, unsafe traffic conditions along Rockport Cascade Rd, The Rockport area, and Highway 20. Hundreds of oversize trucks on a rural road with out a shoulder or passing lane would go 50 miles a hour and the suddenly stop, slowly turn, and attempt to cross a lane onto SR 20. This makes little sense especially in eagle watching and summer tourist season. Marblemount has limited community EMS services and fire response. Blasting, Hazardous chemicals, and massive industrial scale operation are incompatible a safe community. We strongly request an Environmental Impact Study be performed. The 100 year plan, the 12 hour a day , 6 days a week operation, 200 plus vehicles per day, the destruction of habitat, the blasting away of Bear Mountain are beyond comprehension. We heartily stand in opposition to this horrendous propose project.

From Host Address: 73.59.87.2

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 4:19:44 PM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:45:01 PM

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Name : Karlee Deatherage



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Karlee Deatherage

From Host Address: 67.168.93.158

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 5:44:53 PM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, May 10, 2019 7:35:01 PM

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Name : Joan DeClaire



PermitProposal : Marblemount quarry

Comments : Dear Mr. Cooper, and your colleagues at SCPDS,

I am writing to you to share my many concerns about Kiewit Corporation's proposed hard rock surface mine above Rockport-Cascade Road, just a mile from the Marblemount business district, and just uphill from the south bank of the Skagit River. My husband and I spend the majority of our time at our home at 60787 State Route 20, just two miles north of Marblemount. It has been our plan to live there full-time, as of March 2021. We are deeply distressed to read the details of this proposed mine, at the gateway to North Cascades National Park, and a scant half-mile from an officially designated Wild and Scenic river. We believe this to be a deeply inappropriate location for such a project, and also that Kiewit's submission is faulty to the point of being plainly disingenuous.

I would like to see the application rejected outright, as it is inconsistent with the County Comprehensive Plan. Please see the "Respect Property Rights" section of that plan. This is plainly an "incompatible neighboring land use." There also are procedural grounds on which to reject the existing application. The Comprehensive Plan amendment they need for "Step 3" needs to be deliberated and approved prior to "Step 1." Similarly, the road that they require to perform their mining operation needs to exist within the Mineral Resource Overlay (MRO). The majority of that road does not.

Barring an outright rejection of the application, there is abundant cause for the County--given the cumulative impacts of the project--to find a threshold "Determination of Significance," and per the State Environmental Policy Act, to require that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be prepared as part of their proposal.

The faults of the proposal, beyond the procedural ones I referenced above, are many. And my neighbors have already done a beautiful job of highlighting the shortcomings in Kiewit's paperwork-- regarding everything from their noise analysis, to the traffic and road impacts that were not addressed, to their slapdash wildlife assessment, to their many possible impacts on water quality.

It's especially noteworthy, considering the location of the project, that Kiewit does not have an acceptable record on water quality. At a job in California, they routinely discharged pollutants into the San Joaquin River over a span of at least three years. They were fined five million dollars for this activity. Now they want to build a quarry next to the Skagit. Quoting from Skagit County's own "Salmon Strategy" webpage: "The Skagit River ... is often called the 'last, best hope' for salmon recovery in Puget Sound."

Aside from its impact on a priceless resource, our environment, there will be only negative impacts from the project on our local tourist-based economy, and zero offsetting economic benefit.

I join my neighbors--and many stakeholder organizations: Seattle City Light, the National Park Service (NOCA), the North Cascades Institute, the Upper Skagit Tribe, the Sauk/Suiattle Tribe, the Swinomish Tribe, the Skagit River System Cooperative, Conservation Northwest, Wild Steelhead Coalition, American Rivers, American Whitewater, Sierra Club WA, Mt. Baker Group Sierra Club, Cascadian Home Farm/General Mills, and the Skagit Audubon Society--in expressing my deep concern about the recklessness of this proposal. It's the wrong project, in the wrong place, and I urge you to reject it.

Thank you,  
Joan DeClaire

From Host Address: 24.19.134.105

Date and time received: 5/10/2019 7:31:58 PM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 3:50:01 PM

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Name : Casey Defoer



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Casey Defoer

From Host Address: 67.171.31.210

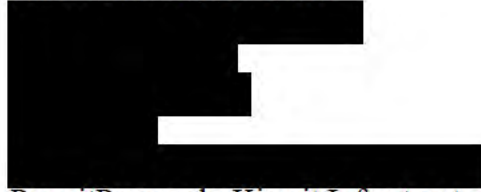
Date and time received: 5/9/2019 3:47:13 PM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 2:55:01 PM

---

Name : Lizbeth A Dewitt



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry PL19-0032/0033/0047 and BP19-0070

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

I live in this region because of the natural beauty and outdoor recreation opportunities, and I don't want to see mining in this area, or deal with the traffic congestion it will bring. I'm especially concerned about the impact on already endangered salmon.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Lizbeth Dewitt

From Host Address: 73.35.136.197

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 2:50:58 PM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Saturday, May 11, 2019 10:40:01 PM

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Name : Deborah DeWolfe



email : [djdewolfe2@gmail.com](mailto:djdewolfe2@gmail.com)

PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : The Upper Skagit and surrounding mountains have increasingly become a destination for touring nature lovers, campers, hikers, motor cyclists, long distance bicyclists, fishermen, eagle watchers and rafters. Visitors come to see the splendor of the North Cascades and the Skagit River from all over the world. Federal, State and Local governmental agencies, Native American Tribes and numerous non-profit conservation, environmental and wildlife organizations have deemed the area a priority to protect and restore where required, to conduct research and to celebrate the returning endangered species. Millions of dollars have been invested in salmon habitat restoration and the protection of pristine waterways and watersheds that feed the Skagit River.

The Skagit County Planning Department is tasked with reviewing the over 1000 pages of Kiewit Infrastructure's Quarry proposal and to determine if adequate research has already been completed to evaluate potential environmental impacts. It is my hope that the Planning Department will seriously consider the plentiful comments and letters submitted - many carefully researched, and require a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement.

The proposed 100-year project poses a sufficient probability of significant damage to area roads and bridges, water quality, wildlife habitat, the local tourism economy, the cultural and natural resources important to Treaty Tribes, and the safety, health and well being of local residents to warrant an Environmental Impact Statement. It is incompatible with the County's own Comprehensive Plan.

The violations of existing zoning and land use designations described in the project raise additional questions. The reality that 80% of the blasted rock material will be left in huge piles on site forever so that 20% can be trucked away for jetty rock is disturbing. The constant noise of trucks, blasting and rock crushing would be heard for miles in the valley - the Upper Skagit would no longer be the tranquil destination and home where bird song and flowing water are what one hears.

In addition, Kiewit's operational and citation track record suggests that they follow the "damage now, fight in court and pay the fine later" business model. History is the best predictor of future behavior. The likelihood of Kiewit's cutting corners and hiding waste runoff or other violations with such a complex and inaccessible project is high.

I appreciate the challenges faced by the Skagit County Planning Department. I hope that the Department will come to a decision to thoroughly evaluate potential environmental impacts before approving this project.

From Host Address: 72.168.144.65

Date and time received: 5/11/2019 10:36:46 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 1:50:01 PM

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Name : Kristen Dietz

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely, Kristen Dietz

From Host Address: 168.156.1.178

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 1:45:38 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 8:50:01 PM

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Name : Phyllis Dolph

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a FULL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward. It certainly looks as if there could be no permits issued with all the impacts listed above. We MUST take climate change VERY SERIOUSLY.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
PHYLLIS DOLPH

From Host Address: 24.113.155.135

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 8:48:35 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:00:01 PM

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Name : Jamie K Donaldson



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry  
Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

Jamie K. Donaldson

From Host Address: 24.18.94.96

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 2:59:17 PM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 12:25:01 PM

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Name : Skagit Land Trust

PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry (Proposed Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry Operation Near Marblemou

Comments : To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for extending the public comment period on the Marblemount quarry operation proposed by Kiewit Infrastructure Company.

Skagit Land Trust is writing to request that Skagit County make a threshold Determination of Significance on this project and require a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to more fully evaluate impacts the Marblemount quarry might have on:

- Water and air quality in the Upper Skagit area;
- Wildlife including the numerous threatened and endangered species whose life cycles, primary food stocks, prey species and foraging areas would be influenced by the project implementation and associated activities;
- Local communities and associated tourism, recreation, conservation and resource economies;
- National, state and locally designated areas of significance including Skagit and Illabot Creek's Wild and Scenic River Corridors; North Cascades National Park and adjacent Recreation Areas; U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service Wilderness Areas; and the North Cascades Scenic Byway.

Skagit Land Trust is a non-profit organization with over 1500 family and business members. We conserve wildlife habitat, wetlands, agricultural and forest lands, scenic open space and shorelines for the benefit of our community and as a legacy for future generations. We are a major landowner in the Upper Skagit area. Numerous conservation values on land we own or on which we hold permanent protection agreements in partnership with private landowners, could be impacted by the quarry expansion proposal.

Our request that a full Environmental Impact Statement be done rests on these concerns:

- We have spent millions of dollars conserving and stewarding properties in the Upper Skagit for the benefit of current and future generations of people and wildlife. It is our deepest responsibility to our members and the larger community to ensure the perpetual protection of these lands' natural and community values. Therefore, it is imperative that we have a clear picture of the impact this proposal would have on our lands and their conservation values.
- The Upper Skagit is a key focus area for Skagit Land Trust because of its rich biodiversity. As part of the North Cascades Ecoregion, it contains one of the largest expanses of wilderness in the Lower 48 states. This area is significant habitat for threatened and endangered species

including the recently reintroduced Pacific fisher, marbled murrelet, Canada lynx, northern spotted owl, North American wolverine, Oregon spotted frog, and gray wolf. The submitted proposal was extremely weak on addressing impacts to listed species' primary food stocks, prey species and foraging areas in all areas that would be influenced by the project. It did not thoroughly address impacts from the project activities and implementation such as increased noise and light levels on wildlife, ecosystem disruption, impact to wildlife of increased human activity on site and via road use; and loss or degradation of wildlife corridors. An EIS should look at potential disturbance to listed species and/or their avoidance of areas, not only at the project site but in nearby locations that could be impacted by noise, dust, etc. and along the transport route which trucks carrying the quarried rock would follow.

- The Skagit Watershed is critical for the recovery of salmon and species such as Southern Resident Killer Whales that rely on salmon as a primary food source. The majority of endangered Northern Puget Sound Chinook come from the Skagit River watershed with Illabot Creek being of noted importance. Federal, state, and local governments, private citizens, and organizations have invested tens of millions of dollars to reverse the decline in salmon populations. Without a thorough EIS being undertaken, we are concerned about potential impacts to salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, and other salmonids that use the mainstem of the Skagit River and off-channel habitats downstream and adjacent to the proposed quarry. The submitted SEPA assessment did not adequately address real, short and long-term impacts for a project of this scope and scale. The area of potential effect should include impacts to downstream floodplains and channels receiving water and runoff from the project area, associated water courses, and transportation routes.

- Many community members, businesses and organizations rely on recreation, tourism and conservation activities in this area. The full impact to local communities must be studied. Hwy 20 east of Sedro-Woolley is not simply a transport route. It is the North Cascades Highway - a state designated Scenic and Recreational Highway. It is often referred to as "the Most Beautiful Mountain Highway in Washington". The Rockport Loop, which passes by the proposed quarry, is a popular part of the Mountain Loop Highway. Degrading tourism and recreation opportunities at this Gateway to the North Cascades is not an acceptable trade-off for the cited additions to the local economy which the quarry would represent. The impacts to communities and to tourists who come to this area must be fully studied. Lights, noise, traffic, and air quality could all negatively impact the unique attributes of this part of the Skagit Valley

Finally, 100 years, the potential duration of this project, is an extremely long time. There is no methodology we know of that can adequately assess impacts to the environment, or on local communities and people, for anywhere near a century. The 100-year permit request makes all conclusions of the SEPA weak as it is hard to understand long-term and cumulative impacts from this proposal. We ask that a realistic permitting timeframe be studied. Please require rigorous Environmental Impact Statement assessments of the cumulative adverse impacts over the life of the project on: water and air quality; wildlife; local communities and their associated economies; and on national, state and locally designated areas of significance.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our concerns.

Sincerely



Molly Doran  
Executive Director,  
on behalf of Skagit Land Trust

From Host Address: 73.221.190.122

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 12:22:52 PM



RECEIVED

MAY 13 2019

SKAGIT COUNTY  
PDS

Attention: Skagit County  
Planning and Development Services  
1800 Continental Place  
Mount Vernon WA 98273

May 10 2019

RE: Marblemount Quarry (Proposed Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry Operation Near Marblemount)

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for extending the public comment period on the Marblemount quarry operation proposed by Kiewit Infrastructure Company.

Skagit Land Trust is writing to request that Skagit County make a threshold Determination of Significance on this project and require a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to more fully evaluate impacts the Marblemount quarry might have on:

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- Wildlife including the numerous threatened and endangered species whose life cycles, primary food stocks, prey species and foraging areas would be influenced by the project implementation and associated activities;
- Local communities and associated tourism, recreation, conservation and resource economies;
- National, state and locally designated areas of significance including Skagit and Illabot Creek's Wild and Scenic River Corridors; North Cascades National Park and adjacent Recreation Areas; U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service Wilderness Areas; and the North Cascades Scenic Byway.

Skagit Land Trust is a non-profit organization with over 1500 family and business members. We conserve wildlife habitat, wetlands, agricultural and forest lands, scenic open space and shorelines for the benefit of our community and as a legacy for future generations. **We are a major landowner in the Upper Skagit area.** Numerous conservation values on land we own or on which we hold permanent protection agreements in partnership with private landowners, could be impacted by the quarry expansion proposal.

**Our request that a full environmental impact statement be done rests on these concerns:**

- We have spent millions of dollars conserving and stewarding properties in the Upper Skagit for the benefit of current and future generations of people and wildlife. It is our deepest responsibility to our members and the larger community to ensure the perpetual protection of these lands' values. Therefore, it is imperative that we have a clear picture of the impact this proposal would have on our lands and their conservation values.
- The Upper Skagit is a key focus area for Skagit Land Trust because of its rich biodiversity. As part of the North Cascades Ecoregion, it contains one of the largest expanses of wilderness in the Lower 48 states. This area is significant habitat for threatened and endangered species including the recently reintroduced Pacific fisher, marbled murrelet, Canada lynx, northern spotted owl, North American wolverine, Oregon spotted frog, and gray wolf. The submitted proposal was extremely weak on addressing impacts to listed species' primary food stocks, prey species and

foraging areas in all areas that would be influenced by the project. It did not thoroughly address impacts from the project activities and implementation such as increased noise and light levels on wildlife, ecosystem disruption, impact to wildlife of increased human activity on site and via road use; and loss or degradation of wildlife corridors. An EIS should look at potential disturbance to listed species and/or their avoidance of areas, not only at the project site but in nearby locations that could be impacted by noise, dust, etc. and along the transport route which trucks carrying the quarried rock would follow.

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- Many community members, businesses and organizations rely on recreation, tourism and conservation activities in this area. The full impact to local communities must be studied. Hwy 20 east of Sedro-Woolley is not simply a transport route. It is the North Cascades Highway - a state designated Scenic and Recreational Highway. It is often referred to as "the Most Beautiful Mountain Highway in Washington". The Rockport Loop, which passes by the proposed quarry, is a popular part of the Mountain Loop Highway. Degrading tourism and recreation opportunities at this Gateway to the North Cascades is not an acceptable trade-off for the cited additions to the local economy which the quarry would represent. The impacts to communities and to tourists who come to this area must be fully studied. Lights, noise, traffic, and air quality could all negatively impact the unique attributes of this part of the Skagit Valley.

Finally, 100 years, the potential duration of this project, is an extremely long time. There is no methodology we know of that can adequately assess impacts to the environment, or on local communities and people, for anywhere near a century. The 100-year permit request makes all conclusions of the SEPA weak as it is hard to understand long-term and cumulative impacts from this proposal. We ask that a realistic permitting timeframe be studied. Please require rigorous Environmental Impact Statement assessments of the cumulative adverse impacts over the life of the project on: water and air quality; wildlife; local communities; their associated economies; and on National, state and locally designated areas of significance.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our concerns.

Sincerely



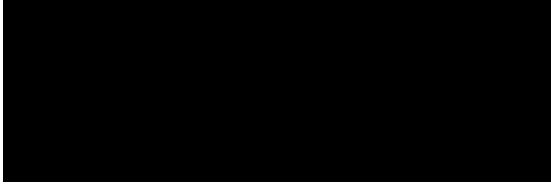
Molly Doran  
Executive Director, Skagit Land Trust



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 12:55:01 PM

---

Name : Eleanor Dowson



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry  
Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
[First and last name]

From Host Address: 5.62.47.131

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 12:50:24 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 11:35:01 AM

---

Name : Marianne Edain

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Good Lord! There are already more than enough environmental insults to the Skagit River, the north Cascades, and the entire Skagit ecosystem. This proposal will push that system beyond its breaking point. It will also have major adverse impacts on human use of the area. As it is, Hwy 20 is at the stretched limit of its capacity. The number of large trucks proposed to use that highway will end up costing the state's taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars in maintenance, reconstruction, and widening. All of which will, of course, impact the river and the salmon who live in that river. There needs to be full cycle environmental review of this proposal, including climate change and biodiversity loss, but there also needs to be full cycle economic review of the externalized costs which will fall on residents and taxpayers. How many tourist oriented businesses along the Hwy 20 corridor will fail? How many communities will lose basic services? How many people will die for lack of access to emergent health care because of the clogged highway?

Where in the process is this proposal? At what point will scoping for an EIS be performed? At what point may we, the public, submit scoping comments?

Here is the canned "suggested comment". Please consider this a part of my comments, but only a part.

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

From Host Address: 209.166.88.161

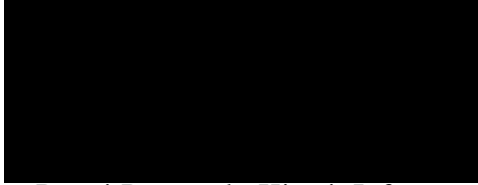
Date and time received: 5/9/2019 11:34:52 AM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 11:45:01 PM

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Name : Sean Edmison



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Skagit County Planning and Development Services:

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

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Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full and thorough Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) based on the best available science. What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,  
Sean Edmison

From Host Address: 73.181.149.170

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 11:41:21 PM



Additional comments from River Elderholly concerning the re-opening and expansion of the Marble mount Quarry by Kiewit/ Sierra Pacific/ and others

I have not read the County Comprehensive Plan, but I have been told there is nothing in it that includes doubling traffic and congestion, ruining agriculture, wildlife and game habitats, the tourist business and environment for the economic health of Up-river, Skagit Valley, and Washington State to fill the pockets of organizations that will give nothing back to the local population except remnants of desolation that left the Silver Valley of Idaho Panhandle almost uninhabitable for 30 years through pollution of water, air and soil. My father took me there when I was 8 years old: no trees, bushes, birds, wildlife, just rock covered hills. The water wasn't drinkable they were shipping it in. The towns were almost dead, Wallace, Kellogg and couple others. The Brothels were still in occasional business – but no economics, no tourism, no lumber, no building. White Supremacists, Klu-Klux Clan, farming wasn't possible... and you're talking about a hundred years here. My God! No!

It is possible to produce conscientious mining in very small short term mineral over-lays in Skagit Valley, but this



is not one of them or even in a meaningful or safe mineral body. Most of this mineral zone is dangerous and contaminated with sodium amphiboles that contain asbestos and other toxic elements. Why do you think Annacortes has such a high cancer rate? Contaminates come down the water systems and get stuck in the ground water as they go through tidal systems as well as ground water on the way out to the Pacific. I am Hydrology Tech trained, have a BA in Geology and curated the minerals of Eastern Washington University and Gonzaga, when they were given to Eastern. I collect, research and sell minerals. Mining is a way of life for me. The Marblemount Quarry will negatively affect Skagit County and Washington State for generations of inhabitants and wildlife for scores of years to come.

I live in Skagit County because it is not "the City." I live Up-River because it is on the edge of the mountains and forests – where wildlife has food for living. Most residents are here for similar reasons, a place to live more connected to our origins – nature. This nature according to the environmental impact statements of Kiewit about the quarry site – doesn't exist. The site, as a crow flies, is just 1.5 miles from my house. Last early winter, after all the deciduous tree leaves fell, there were literally dozens of

flock of a 100 or more birds flitting through the forest up the one mile hike I go several times a week. Pine Siskins or Bushtits or both, that stay all year. Other year around birds are the towhee, blue Stellar's Jay, raven Bald Eagle, grouse. The large Canadian robins are here before and after the smaller robins migrate.

In spring of 2018 there were a flock of 44 golden Eagles spinning and flying around our house. We were sitting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and they would dip below us and then fly around the house before leaving their aerie for the day. This year there are one or two pairs nesting in place. We also have one or two nesting pairs of Eagles and several Great Horned owls that pester my Pyrenees at night. Other birds including the Crow, Turkey Vulture, Song Sparrow, Junco, Violet Green Swallow nesting in our eaves, Tanigers, White Crowned Sparrow, Varied Thrush, Bewicks Wren, Nuthatch to name a few. I'm not certain of the spelling of the names or of the migrations of all of these but many of them are around all through the winter.

Regular visitors along our hiking trail within 1.5 miles of the quarry are at least 2 species of bear, black and Grizzly. Experts say that it's the Cinnamon Bear but admit it is bigger and more dangerous than the Grizzly and they are sub-species of each other. There is bear sign all

through spring, summer, and late fall and early winter. Most years here it is not really cold enough for them to hibernate, so they are often up in February, heading for the hatchery across the street from our house. There are many deer that bed down and lay down the grasses on our property above the house. Raccoons used to be real pests until we got the Pyrenees, but they eat them so the raccoons are being kept at bay as well. On our walk the dogs will take off, we will hear a squeal and they come through with a raccoon that they stash until the way down, and then eat it as after we pass towards home.

This area we live in is such a beautiful area we want to share it. We are planning and are in the building stages of a Resort and Brewery on Jordon Creek just 1.5 miles from the quarry site. The commercial kitchen/Brewery Building and our apartment in it is already up. We are securing the property next door for a field for the grain and hops on the hillside, with a small cross country/hiking park above and hiker/bicycle camping park along the road. Listening to continuous blasting, equipment and truck traffic, blasts blowing dust and asbestos onto the grounds and trees to be sucked into the lungs of bicyclists, campers, our lungs and all the animals as well as us will disappear.

One early morning, about 8 am, I was returning home after staying at my son's house to stay with my Granddaughter I saw an amazing site on the road. It was about 2 miles west of the quarry site and in the middle of road was the largest Elk I had ever seen. It's antlers were within inches of the limbs of the trees on both sides of the road and it was standing bathed in sunlight, literally connected to each side of the road via its antlers. I stopped and called by brother in Lewiston, just to tell him about it; it stood there about 10 minutes, all warm in the sunlight, and then jumped off into the trees to the left, toward the Skagit River. Amazing.

We've had huge bear prints on our truck windows, black bears coming down the logging road as I was going up and with 5 feet of me turn around and high-tail it back up into the woods. Tens of bear sign each month during summer hikes up both logging roads on either side of Jordon Creek. Wolf sign is different from coyote, and there are both on the logging road toward the quarry, and within a few tens of yards from our property line We live here and have our sheep here and the rest of our animals to be within the wildlife – the human way to live – our way to live. Within a half mile of our property in either direction, both towards and away from the quarry, cars line



up along the road to fish in the Skagit. Sherriff deputies say they park across from our place because the know our dogs will keep the two footed pests away from their car and truck when they come to enjoy what they are protecting.

The Marblemount Quarry/Kiewit project will ruin our lives, the quality of everyone's lives, in Skagit County and beyond. This project must be stopped. I would like to see the otherwise unused mineral overlay designations be put on hold: that only small specialized projects be allowed that are truly unique to this area and would directly benefit local homes, trade, agriculture, and tourist development. The Kiewit project does just the opposite and more. I feel because of the toxicity of the rock formation in the Marblemount quarry it should be removed from the mineral overlay use designation, as well as any other areas within these green schist zones and into the Darrington Schists as well.

River Elderholly



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "River Elderholly".

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:55:01 PM

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Name : Anne Elkins



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry  
Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? What effect will there be on the bald eagles who live along the Upper Skagit? Many, many tourists and photographers come to see them, and the Eagle Festival is a big attraction every year. All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

From Host Address: 50.34.146.240

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 5:53:22 PM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 8:55:01 PM

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Name : Lori Erbs



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

I live in this bioregion - this area is expanding and government agencies need to carefully regulate expansion/development of sensitive and fragile natural resource systems.

Sincerely,  
Lori Erbs

From Host Address: 76.175.134.183

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 8:51:02 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 2:10:01 PM

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Name : Adele Eslinger



PermitProposal : Pl 19-0032 Pl 19-0033 0046,0046 BP 19-0070

Comments : I would like to express my concern about the proposed Marblemount Quarry Mine. While I recognize the potential of the proposal to bring additional jobs to the area, I believe there are other, much more environmentally-friendly, sustainable, and forward thinking ways to do so. The Skagit Basin is an extremely biodiverse area, known for its natural beauty, which attracts many visitors each year. Such a proposed mine, though bringing economic gains in the short term, would do long term damage of a potentially grave nature to an already sensitive ecosystem, creating increased risk of uncontrollable runoff and landslides, not to mention the increase in pollution (both particle matter as well as noise and traffic pollution) to the valley.

Additionally, the types of jobs that this mine would generate are not the types of jobs that will most likely address the grave socio-economic challenges facing the Concrete, Rockport, and Marblemount areas. As the world around us continues to choose short-term gain over long-term responsibility, turning down this proposed mine would be one way to take a step back and consider solutions that benefit not only this generation, but also those to come.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration for East Skagit County.

Regards,  
Adele Eslinger

From Host Address: 194.96.161.229

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 2:06:46 PM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 11:30:01 PM

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Name : Matt Ethridge



PermitProposal : Skagit County PL19-0032, -0033, -0047; BP19-0070

Comments : I oppose Kiewit's application until a real EIS is done, there are too many holes in their application as many have documented.

Thank you,  
Matt Ethridge

From Host Address: 71.63.251.78

Date and time received: 5/12/2019 11:29:02 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 2:40:01 PM

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Name : Marian Exall



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : As a hiker, an environmentalist and a frequent traveler on Highway 20 from I-5 through Marblemount, I strongly urge Skagit County to deny the permit to blast a quarry into Big Bear Mountain.

The predicted oversized truck traffic along 24 miles of twisting narrow roads to I-5 poses serious safety, road maintenance and congestion issues.

The blasting on steep slopes close to homes would cause noise and air pollution threatening the health of residents and wildlife, including the Skagit River salmon population and the largest migratory eagle population in the lower 48 states.

Please do not allow the destruction of this beautiful natural area, which does not create any local jobs.

From Host Address: 67.171.28.249

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 2:39:04 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 10:50:03 AM

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Name : Dagmar Fabian



PermitProposal : Kiewitinfrastructure Proposed Marbelmount QuarryPL19-0032,0033,0047

Comments : Hello, Skagit CountyPlanning &Development Service,

Thank you for accepting comments on the above cited proposal.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage Kiewit's application (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Before permitting the project it requires a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the impacts of rock blasting and mining to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe! What will be the impacts from 260 vehicle trips six days a week up to 100 years (!!!) on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source and also transportation from Marbelmount to Bellingham ?

All these questions and many others must be studied and their impacts mitigated (!) before this project can move forward.

Thank you for considering my comment .

Sincerely,  
Dagmar Fabian

From Host Address: 73.97.122.165

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 10:49:10 AM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 9:45:01 AM

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Name : Matthew J Ferrell



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry" PL19-0033

Comments : I am writing in opposition to the proposed Marblemount Quarry PL19-0033 by Kiewit Infrastructure. As a frequent visitor to the North Cascades Ecosystem, I am gravely concerned that the proposed Quarry could cause SIGNIFICANT harm to the people, wildlife, water and air quality of this special place.

The North Cascades Ecosystem is a crown jewel of our country and Washington State with unique and undeniable biodiversity and recreation opportunities that should be protected against dangerous and ill-conceived proposals like this one. This place has regional and national significance and the highest values of peace, tranquility, clean air, clean water, and fish and wildlife habitat.

Marblemount has a budding tourism economy as a gateway community to public recreation lands (State and County Parks, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, & North Cascades National Park) and the noise, groundwater contamination, asbestos-laden dust, truck exhaust, and traffic on this quiet community and the scenic North Cascades Highway would wreck on both visitors and residents of this area, human and non-human alike.

I am also gravely concerned that the blasting of rocks and deforestation of this area could precipitate landslides, and rock-slides that could inadvertently, yet significantly impact local homes and landowners within a mile of the proposed Quarry.

Please acknowledge that this proposed Quarry poses SIGNIFICANT risk of harm to this special area, and consider it for Environmental Impact Review.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

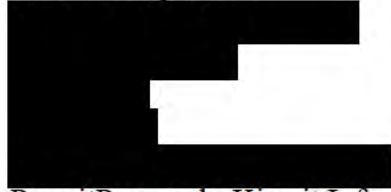
From Host Address: 50.197.76.57

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 9:41:40 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, May 10, 2019 6:45:01 PM

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Name : Varya Fish



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry PL19-0032, PL 19-0033, PL 19-0047, BP 19-0070

Comments : I do not believe the proposed rock-mining area is currently zoned for mining. Also, a full EIS should be completed before permits are approved.

Although I live in Bellingham, I travel 3-4 times per week to Sedro Woolley to visit family, so I have a good sense of vehicle volume traveling through SW. Huge, rock-hauling trucks will bring SW to a crawl, if not a standstill. And what about the impact on salmon in the Skagit River and carbon emissions from trucks on air quality?

Please consider all possible impact upon the community and the environment before allowing this project to move forward.

Thank you.  
Varya Fish

From Host Address: 73.140.156.91

Date and time received: 5/10/2019 6:40:34 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 17, 2019 11:10:01 AM

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Name : Kevin Fitchett



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : I'm a writer living in Marblemount.

I strongly oppose this planned quarry--such a myopic vision that will compromise one of the premier international wilderness destinations.

The jobs created won't outweigh the loss of tourism and the ignominy of having an immense quarry in such a pristine natural area.

Imagine a scenario where a Seattlite has a choice to hike/fish/boat for a weekend, the Olympics, the various Cascade passes, Oregon all within a 3 hour drive. Would any of them opt for Highway 20 and Marblemount and Concrete with quarry traffic and a quarry at the gates of the North Cascade National Park? Let's just head west to the Olympics, or head to Snoqualmie or Leavenworth--Marblemount, Concrete, Newhalem aren't the same since the quarry went in.

As a Provincetown Fine Arts Fellow, and a spouse to a Continuing Studies writing instructor at Stanford, I have the wherewithal and contacts and open doors through which to take the bete noir of this project to the most prestigious media outlets.

Kevin Fitchett

From Host Address: 47.6.60.43

Date and time received: 4/17/2019 11:08:40 AM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 7:40:01 AM

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Name : Rebecca Fletcher

PermitProposal : PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, BP19-0070

Comments : Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Kiewit Quarry in Marblemount.

My husband and I have lived in the Skagit Valley for 35 years and we are proud to be part of this community – a community proud of the River that named and shaped our valley - proud of the rare designation it yet holds as a Wild & Scenic River and proud to support the ongoing intent to maintain it as such.

The development of a quarry in Marblemount could not help but have a severe impact on this place that has been called “The Valley of the Spirits”. As highway 20 is the one narrow corridor following the Skagit into the mountains it is important to keep it and the river’s watershed open to the needs of its residents, including the wild ones and the native systems with which we have vital relationships.

Already we see increasing density along Highway 20. The impacts of an additional 260 vehicle trips, six days per week would be extra burdensome. It is hard to imagine any plan that could possibly mitigate the negative impacts of the quarry’s assault on our air, water, ears and collective spirit.

Please defend our “Magic Skagit”. Please do not approve permits for Kiewit without a thorough EIS.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca A. Fletcher

From Host Address: 172.92.210.194

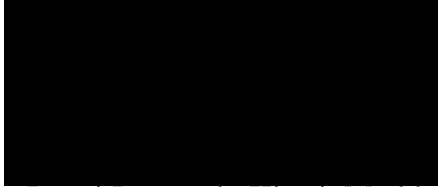
Date and time received: 5/12/2019 7:35:55 AM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Saturday, May 11, 2019 9:55:01 PM

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Name : NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL- David Fluharty



PermitProposal : Kiewit Marblemount Quarry Mining Special Use Permit Application (PL19033), Forest Practice Conversion Application (PL19-0047), Grading Application (BP19-0070) and SEPA Application (PL19-0032) – File # PL19-0033, PL19-0047, BP19-0070, and PL19-0032 [Skagit County Planning and Development Services Notice of Development Application 59252]

Comments : Skagit County Planning Department  
Planning and Development Services  
1800 Continental Place  
Mount Vernon WA 98273 May 11, 2019

Additional comment submitted by David Fluharty, Board Member on behalf of North Cascades Conservation Council (NCCC)

Re: Kiewit Marblemount Quarry Mining Special Use Permit Application (PL19033), Forest Practice Conversion Application (PL19-0047), Grading Application (BP19-0070) and SEPA Application (PL19-0032) – File # PL19-0033, PL19-0047, BP19-0070, and PL19-0032 [Skagit County Planning and Development Services Notice of Development Application 59252]

Thank you for the extended opportunity to comment on this proposed expansion of a rock and aggregate mining operation for the area defined as Section 24, Township 35 North, Range 10 East, Skagit County, WA (Parcels P45543, P45541, P45548, P55552, P45550, P45548(sic) P128574, & P120304). NCCC appreciates the availability of documents for this proposal on the Skagit County Planning and Development Services website as well as the access to prior comments on this project from which we have learned a lot.

Based on our further review of project documents as well as comments from apparently knowledgeable other parties we have been alerted to the following:

1. This project is not the unique solution to the stated needs for special type of rock for construction of jetties and breakwaters in the Pacific NW. In fact, this project is in direct competition from a variety of other sources of rock material based on assessment by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The fact that the present project is portrayed as a unique solution should call into question the veracity of other claims by the applicant.
2. It is apparent that the existing Skagit County Planning is not capable to respond to this project request. There appears to be nothing that allows for the scale and type of development proposed in the Marblemount planning area. Thus, there needs to be a revision of the County Management Plan before such a use can be considered.
3. It is also apparent that a full environmental impact assessment should be required. This is a

huge project and should not be considered just on the basis of the first smaller scale project. In the federal context it is not permitted to segment projects – especially when they are just the start of potentially a 100-year development. Does Skagit County benefit from this proposed project when the cost of additional road infrastructure is required, that existing plans are torn up despite individual property owners making decisions based on those plans, and the potential tourism economy is confronted with a non-conforming visual and operational problem.

Sincerely,

David Fluharty on Behalf of NCCC



From Host Address: 75.172.161.195

Date and time received: 5/11/2019 9:54:28 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 2:25:01 PM

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Name : Nicola Follis



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed quarry in Marblemount, Washington. The proposed quarry would be detrimental to the human and more-than human communities in the upper Skagit watershed. It is disturbing that as a society we continue to fall into the misconception that land can be parceled into seemingly disconnected swathes of land that is isolated from the ecosystem. I urge that we do not fall into the same mistakes that have been so common throughout history and let capitalistic greed mask the importance of environmental impact statements and community support. The Marblemount quarry WILL impact the integrity of the Wild and Scenic Skagit River and the communities, human and non-human, that rely on the health of the ecosystem for survival and livelihood. Although an environmental impact statement could give us clues on how these communities are influenced, the risks associated with the Marblemount quarry are so extensive that denial is imperative. Marblemount is the gateway to the North Cascades National Park. Visitors flock to the upper Skagit for recreation on the multitude of trails, the fishing and the reprieve that peaceful locations bring to our otherwise busy lives. I am concerned about the noise levels that quarry generators and truck traffic will bring to the solace of the North Cascades. Noise is a type of pollution that can be detrimental to many of the residents of the upper Skagit, decrease the number of visitors that support tourism in Marblemount, and disturb wildlife that is already compromised by human development in our region.

It is narrow minded to assume that impacts of the Marblemount Quarry will not negatively influence the National Park and the federally protected Wild and Scenic Skagit River. Many of the animals, including bobcats, bears, cougars and the Diobus wolf pack, have ranges that overlap with the propose quarry location. The noise, truck traffic, water contamination and removal of forested areas will negatively impact these creatures. In a time where climate change science is urging us to shift to a more sustainable way of life to create a future for these animals and ourselves, I find it absurd that we can justify the emissions that come from logging and truck traffic in an area so close to federally protected land and so far from where the rocks will be transported.

The Skagit River already experiences such low water levels during the summer that residents cannot install new well water systems on their properties partly because the Skagit River supports all five species of Pacific Salmon. I find it incredibly concerning that water used in the quarry and surrounding infrastructure will threaten the water rights of the human and non-human communities. Water contamination from increased sediment, asbestos and run-off are side effects from mining in this location that would further impact groundwater and the freshwater ecosystem of the Skagit River.

Pacific Salmon are important culturally, recreationally and provide ecosystem services to the ecosystems in which the salmon interact. Any activity that continues to negatively impact dwindling salmon populations should be heavily researched and vetted. Activities upstream, impact downstream communities. The salmon populations in the Skagit River are in the

homelands of the Upper Skagit, Sauk-Suiattle and Swinomish Tribes and fall into the usual and accustomed fishing grounds. Recreational fisherman value the Skagit River as one of the last great Steelhead rivers in Washington. Finally, salmon provide energy to marine and freshwater ecosystems. Spawning salmon provide food for animals such as Orca whales, resident freshwater fish communities, eagles and bears. The marine derived nitrogen brought to the soil from decaying salmon is important in vegetative growth as well. I list these ecosystem services to emphasize that when one part of the ecosystem changes, as in water levels and contamination in a river, it is most certainly going to influence other aspects of the ecosystem.

The Marblemount Quarry is another example where humans are blinded by greed and fail to notice the interconnectedness between systems. The noise, traffic, contamination and water levels will have lasting negative effects on residents, tourists and wildlife. An environmental impact statement, at least, is necessary in giving us clues to what systems might be impacted. However, in reality, negative impacts tend to only be recognized once it is too late. The compromised integrity of the communities and ecosystems that rely on the Skagit River are not worth the risk. As a result, I request the denial of the Marblemount quarry permit.

From Host Address: 50.34.201.176

Date and time received: 5/12/2019 2:20:58 PM

**From:** [Maureen](#)  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Marblemount Quarry  
**Date:** Friday, April 19, 2019 8:56:13 PM

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NO QUARRY OF THIS MAGNITUDE SHOULD BE FORCED ON THIS SMALL COMMUNITY. WE WILL FOLLOW THE MONEY TRAIL ON THIS ONE. COMMISSIONERS BE ADVISED!

Maureen Ford



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2019 8:55:01 AM

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Name : Justin Forrest



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : Let me start by telling you I grew up in the Skagit Valley, my wife as well. MVHS class of '95 for me and Concrete High school class of '97 for my wife. I currently work for Seattle City Light and have to travel up to The Skagit Project on a regular basis. I have been a Trades worker since I got out of High school and moved to the Seattle area. Having worked on several Kiewit projects over the years I feel confident in saying they do not and will not care to do this in a respectful or reasonable way. I'm sure on paper they can come across as a safe company and they can claim that it will help promote growth to the local economy. The reality is they will import most of the people that will work their, the rest will go to the lowest bidder who more than likely will not live in or care about the local community. Hwy 20 can be dangerous at several points throughout the year and adding the congestion of a commercial mine will only add to this. with the closest local emergency services being the Skagit project Fire Brigade, I believe this adds to great of potential for things to go bad. In the work I do and the work that Kiewit does you HAVE to plan for the "what if's" and only a fool does not. This is just what has come to mind after reading an article this morning . I will continue to watch this as it goes forward.

Thanks,

Justin Forrest

From Host Address: 156.74.249.243

Date and time received: 4/12/2019 8:53:34 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 1:50:01 PM

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Name : Mats Fredrickson

PermitProposal : Kiewit Quarry near Marblemount

Comments : I urge you to reject Kiewit Corporation's permit for a quarry near Marblemount. At the very least, make a threshold determination of significance. There would be several detrimental effects of the quarry such as:

- noise pollution from blasting, use of heavy equipment, and truck traffic
- contamination from the use of ammonium nitrate fuel oil, which would likely end up in the Skagit River
- use of trucks too large and too heavy for permitted highway use.

There are many important omissions from Kiewit's permit application that need to be considered, such as:

- controlling the spread of asbestos particulate from blasting asbestos bearing rock such as Shuksan green schist
- use of oversize trucks for transport with no details furnished regarding how these vehicles would navigate the several traffic circles in Sedro Woolley to reach I5
- risks of contaminating the Skagit River ecosystem
- effects to surrounding land/home owners, the tourist economy, and fish and wildlife.

The above issues need to be studied in order to make an informed decision and the county should choose a threshold determination of significance if the permit is not outright rejected. Thanks you.

From Host Address: 73.221.182.53

Date and time received: 5/12/2019 1:48:37 PM



**From:** [Arlene French](#)  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Marblemount Quarry  
**Date:** Saturday, April 20, 2019 11:00:17 AM

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Commissioners:

I want to add my name to those in **opposition to proposed Marblemount Quarry.**

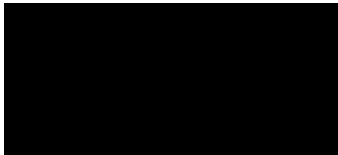
Why does someone from Anacortes care about this? Because **we should all care about the environment no matter if in my backyard or someone else's backyard.** This oversized, destructive project is literally in the backyard of many residents and *their concerns should have equal standing* with the Kiewit Co. Their quality of life should not be tossed aside just because a business decides they can make a lot of money by *blowing up a mountain.*

Another reason is that I belong to a hiking group which drives out Highway 20 all through spring, summer and fall to enjoy the many hiking trails from Baker Lake , to Rockport , to Newhalem and beyond. The road is full of tourists, vacationers, and locals and is a tricky drive under normal conditions. *To add an estimated 260 trucks loaded with huge boulders into the equation is asking for an accident to happen.*

**Please deny this proposal.** *Please listen to the objections raised by area residents, tribes , environmental groups who are pointing out the many impacts of this project.*

Thank you,

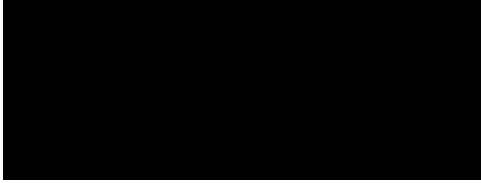
Arlene French



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 7:10:01 PM

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Name : Jayne d. Freudenberger



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : It is hard to believe this project is even being considered.

At a time when all our parks are under attack, we must preserve all we can. That goes for access to the park. How on earth can those narrow roads handle all that traffic..how are people supposed to enjoy the park much less drive over to central WA.

This is the wrong project in the wrong place. My family and I drive across this road many times during the year--we will be taking our selves and our tourist dollars elsewhere if you make the drive even longer and less scenic.

Jayne Freudenberger 1704 Euclid Bellingham WA 98225

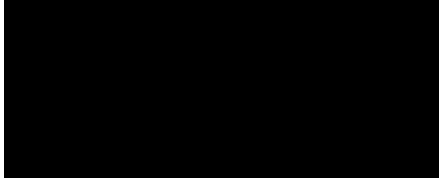
From Host Address: 67.161.112.246

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 7:09:47 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 4:10:01 PM

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Name : Wayne Gerner



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : Please say "NO" to a permit to Keiwit Corporation to expand mining on Bear Mountain. To allow such an expansion would be criminal in more ways than one. It's a form of exploitation with no respect for the people who live in the Marblemount area, no respect for the wildlife, no respect for the ecosystems, no respect for the quality of life unique to this area. It would severely stress this area and kill the very SPIRIT of a beautiful part of Washington State, whether one lives there or visits there.

It is paramount to require full Environmental Impact studies that can be thoroughly reviewed and ample time allowed for citizens to submit their comments. Ultimately, I sincerely urge you not to allow this quarry expansion to go forward.

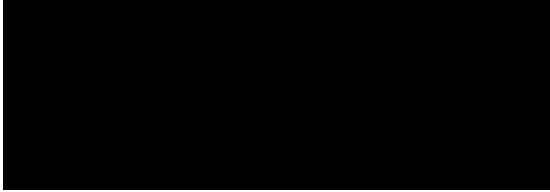
From Host Address: 174.21.140.189

Date and time received: 5/12/2019 4:09:43 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Saturday, May 11, 2019 4:50:01 PM

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Name : Anthony Gervais



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Anthony Gervais

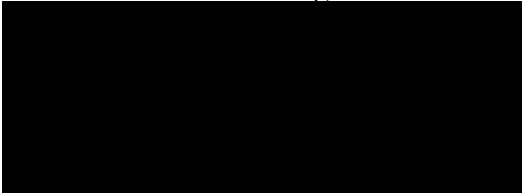
From Host Address: 174.216.26.109

Date and time received: 5/11/2019 4:45:35 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 1:45:01 PM

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Name : Nicholas Giguere



ry

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Nicholas Giguere

From Host Address: 23.135.128.228

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 1:41:03 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, May 10, 2019 12:20:01 PM

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Name : Hal Glidden

PermitProposal : KIEWIT INFRASTRUCTURE MARBLEMOUNT QUARRY  
Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

From Host Address: 67.168.93.254

Date and time received: 5/10/2019 12:18:10 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 9:05:01 AM

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Name : Laura Goldberg



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry

Comments : Please be very careful to have a full EIS before starting dangerous destructive projects like this. Our environment is soooo important!

As Wendell Berry said "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children."

From Host Address: 50.34.159.82

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 9:01:14 AM



**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

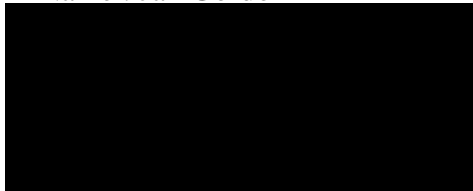


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From dept email

**From:** website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2019 9:50 AM  
**To:** Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Subject:** PDS Comments

Name : Jan Gordon



PermitProposal : marblemount quarry

Comments : thank you for opportunity to comment. i think this is a very bad idea for many reasons.

260 very heavy trucks on an already dangerous road, hwy 20, that has many accidents and washouts, will contribute to road damage and accidents. it will ruin life for people who live on rockport cascade road and destroy the reason people live and recreate there, having a huge pit with trucks and blasting next to homes will destroy property values and way of life.

runoff could kill endangered salmon. noise will affect human activities and upset wildlife, potential for rockfall accidents is possible, i havent had time to look into the details for further comments but i vote a strong no on this project, as a 30 property owner in skagit county  
thank you

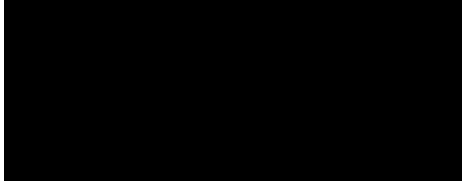
From Host Address: 72.168.144.106

Date and time received: 4/26/2019 9:46:38 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, May 10, 2019 11:35:01 AM

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Name : Lise Grace



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

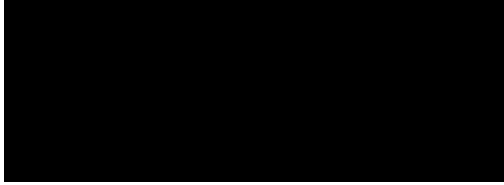
From Host Address: 24.18.94.209

Date and time received: 5/10/2019 11:32:54 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2019 4:10:01 PM

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Name : thomas james grant



PermitProposal : proposed gravel permit in marblemount wa.

Comments : the entire permit seems to be nothing but destruction to all the people in the valley the traffic alone will be will be a disaster to highway 20 the blasting noise will be the two hard on the animal population. Please deny this permit

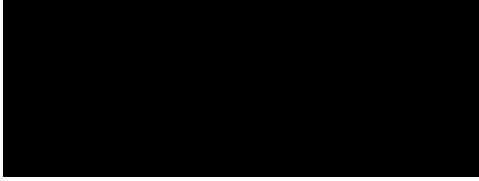
From Host Address: 50.34.203.40

Date and time received: 4/12/2019 4:05:26 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 16, 2019 9:25:01 PM

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Name : Earl Gray



PermitProposal : Proposed Marblemount Quarry

Comments : This entire proposal is preposterous. The existing environmental study says that no wildlife was witnessed on the site, when in fact the area is home to the only pair of Grey Wolves on the Western Slopes of the Cascades, Peregrine Falcons, Marbled Merlettes, Elk, Black Bear, and countless birds frogs and mammals. If they didn't see life, the weren't looking, or were walking around banging a drum. We need a REAL EIS from a disinterested third party.

From Host Address: 71.227.238.8

Date and time received: 4/16/2019 9:23:24 PM

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

From dept email

**From:** website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2019 10:35 AM  
**To:** Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Subject:** PDS Comments

Name : Dana Greeley

PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry, PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047  
Comments : I have a cabin on the Swinomish reservation, West of La Conner on Skagit Bay.  
In a few years I hope to make it my permanent home.

Please do not let Kiewit Infrastructure put the final nail in the coffin of one of the biggest fresh water inputs to Puget Sound(1).

The Skagit is designated as a Wild and Scenic River! Nearby cliffs are home to nesting peregrine falcons, which are federally protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. There are other locations where this sort of large rock can be mined without destroying a river, ecosystem, and one of the last remaining wilderness areas in this state.

The project application omits or inadequately addresses potential adverse impacts to local residents, wildlife, air and water quality, etc. There is no mention, for example, of the fisher(2), a state-listed species being actively restored not far from the project site. The application significantly downplays the presence of the state and federally-listed gray wolf. As WDFW recently announced, the documented existence of a male and female wolf in the Diobsud Creek drainage near Marblemount constitutes a pack(3), the newest in Washington State and the first west of the Cascades in modern times.

This project, if allowed, would be in direct conflict with Jay Inslee's proposed protection of Chinook Salmon and Orca(4). Not to mention the gray whales that stop by for the summer in Saratoga Passage(5).

The permit is requesting up to 75 loaded trucks traveling round trip to the site daily, Monday through Saturday! Any idea what the cost of this would be to Skagit County? I don't speak just in terms of the impact to the tourism, but who will pay for the maintenance of Highway 20? Not Kiewit.

I have friends who own a place on Willow Lane off the Rockport Cascade Road. That is one of the nicest pieces of nature in Skagit County where one can sit on the river and exist with the wildlife.

I plan to make my cabin a full time residence downstream off Skagit Bay. From its headwaters

in the rugged North Cascades down to its confluence with the saltwaters of Puget Sound, the Skagit River drains a huge amount of land – 3,200 square miles, which is twice the size of Rhode Island. The river carries water, but also considerable sediment: the sand, mud, and pebbles that were once solid rock. In fact, the USGS estimates that the Skagit River transports 2.8 million tons of sediment every year. For example, much of the drinking water in Skagit County comes directly from the Skagit River. Every year, enough sediment is removed, just for drinking water, to cover a football field 11 feet deep in dirt(6)!

Can you imagine what this mine would add to that sediment load?

Please do not bow to the almighty dollar and consider the future generations or people and animals in this region.

Thanks,  
-Dana Greeley

I cannot submit urls, but in support of the above documentation...

- 1) salish-sea dot pnml dot gov backslash SSM backslash projects backslash habitat-restoration backslash skagit-shdm dot stm
- 2) blog.ncascades.org backslash naturalist-notes backslash restoration-of-fishers-to-the-north-cascades-begins backslash
- 3) www dot opb dot org backslash news backslash article backslash western-washington-new-wolf-pack
- 4) www dot governor dot wa dot gov backslash issues backslash issues backslash energy-environment backslash southern-resident-orca-recovery
- 5) www dot orcanetwork dot org backslash nathist backslash graywhales dot html
- 6) www dot skagitclimatescience dot org backslash skagit-impacts backslash sediment

From Host Address: 161.55.82.56

Date and time received: 5/3/2019 10:30:21 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 4:25:01 PM

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Name : Edwin Gregg

PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry Proposal

Comments : I am totally concerned and somewhat outraged at the very idea of the Marblemount Quarry proposal. The amount of damage to the local roads, bridges, wildlife, air and water is immense. Who is going to pay for all the damage done to our local roads and bridges done by the incredibly heavy loads driven over them? You are going to risk Illabot Creek and Skagit River with asbestos and dust. Quality of life will be destroyed by the constant blasting and heavy traffic. Why is there not an Environmental Impact Study being conducted. This project is insane. Who were the knuckleheads who thought this was a good idea? Shame on you.

From Host Address: 172.92.206.14

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 4:24:20 PM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:35:01 PM

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Name : William Gregory

PermitProposal : BP19-00700, PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047  
Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

This proposal would have direct and multiple negative impacts on me, and everyone on Sedro-Woolley and adjacent areas served by Highway 20. This is already a very dangerous stretch of road; the volumes of traffic they propose represent a clear and present risk to all of us who must use this road daily to commute, go to doctors appointments, and just get groceries. The negative impact of the environment is almost unimaginable, with potential horrific consequences. I thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

William Gregory

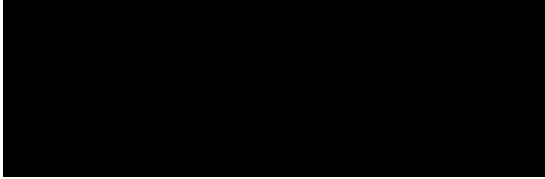
From Host Address: 24.18.1.116

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 5:32:08 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 6, 2019 12:50:01 PM

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Name : Jon Gross



PermitProposal : Proposed Marblemount Quarry

Comments : I am a property owner very near to the proposed mine site.

I am pretty concerned that the Marblemount Quarry project will have a negative impact on many aspects of the Marblemount area, including quality of life for nearby residents, as well as damage to the Skagit river and watershed.

I do not see an Environmental Impact statement in the proposal, but I think executing and Environmental Impact assessment is critical to ensuring that the Skagit remains scenic and the area minimally impacted.

Thanks.

From Host Address: 204.134.187.144

Date and time received: 5/6/2019 12:48:45 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 7:35:03 PM

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Name : Kira Hannum

PermitProposal : Proposed Marblemount Quarry

Comments : Hello. I am a Rockport resident. I love the peace and quiet of upriver living. I love the tourists it brings in the summer. I love the wildlife we are so blessed to live among. I LOVE the water in our well.

What I do not love is the idea of 260 trucks rumbling up and down nearby roads and causing more traffic on highway 20. What I do not love is the worry that my 1 year old daughter will have to get used to the sound of blast explosions echoing in the valley.

This proposal needs an Environmental Impact Statement please.

It will kill jobs, animals and, I have a feeling, people that live upriver. Opening a mine so close to so many people's homes is terrifying. One of the homes has an in home daycare that I often bring my daughter to. Please reconsider this proposal. Please insist on an EIS.

Thank you.

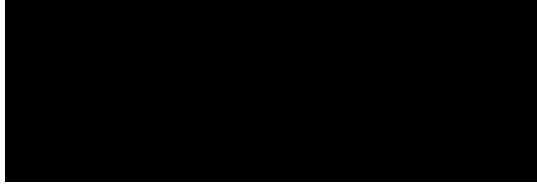
From Host Address: 97.73.244.175

Date and time received: 5/12/2019 7:33:32 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 2:40:01 PM

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Name : Cindy Hansen



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : Thank you for extending the commenting deadline on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry.

I have many concerns about this project, the foremost being the potential environmental impacts to the Skagit River, and the fact that this is a culturally significant area to the Upper Skagit Tribe.

I am concerned about the potential for degraded water quality in the Skagit River from this mining procedure, as well as from the increase in traffic from transport trucks, and building of new roads. All of this activity will make the river vulnerable to increased dust, sediment and heavy metals. The Skagit River is home to all five species of Pacific salmon as well as steelhead and bull trout, three of which are listed under the Endangered Species Act. The critically endangered Southern Resident orcas, a genetically, culturally and acoustically distinct population are struggling to survive and they rely on salmon to sustain them.

Due to the concerns for the health of the Skagit River, the salmon and the orcas, as well as the tribal cultural significance I urge you to initiate an Environmental Impact Statement in order to fully understand the impacts of this proposed project.

Thank you,  
Cindy Hansen

From Host Address: 67.42.99.199

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 2:39:16 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 10:05:01 PM

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Name : Amy Hansen



PermitProposal :

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Hello there. I am a mother who cherishes our region's scenic places. Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining. I support protecting our region's breathtaking ecosystems, not allowing mining in them. How many of us love recreating and fishing in the Skagit River region? Dozens and dozens of us locals!

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment. Have a lovely evening.

Sincerely,  
Amy Hansen

From Host Address: 192.211.21.238

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 10:03:50 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 3:30:01 PM

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Name : Deb & Mike Hansen



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : Thank you for extending the comment period.

Kiewit recently purchased property on Big Bear Mountain that borders a small, abandoned quarry and requests permits for clear-cutting, staging, storage, and operations of a brand new, large-scale industrial mining operation WITHOUT an Environmental Impact Statement and a Determination of Significance. Kiewit's proposals are misleading, inaccurate, and insufficient. Providing minimal on-site observation and testing, desktop environmental and wildlife research, and inadequate traffic pattern studies to determine the 100-year impact of literally moving a mountain to the ocean, is not only insulting, it's appalling. Kiewit claims the need to quickly obtain jetty stone and hypothesizes Greenschist will meet the USACE standards. Yet Kiewit fails to mention the stone contains talc, an OSHA regulated mineral due to possible asbestos contamination, and actinolite, one of six known forms of asbestos. Kiewit's proposals conflict with numerous areas of Skagit County's 20-year Comprehensive Plan. This should be an ethical, if not legal, red-flag and Skagit County needs to deny any permits and authorizations. Kiewit also requests the Mineral Resource Overlay REVISED and Comprehensive Plan AMMENDED. This should also be denied. In fact, Skagit County should review the Mineral Resource Overlay for any property within several miles of the Skagit River system, including Illabot Creek, and consider revisions to further protect the "outstandingly remarkable values" of the culture, history, recreation, wildlife, and picturesque beauty of this area.

It is not economically feasible or viable to robustly support an industrial mining operation that offers little in return. Kiewit provides no new local jobs or economic growth, little tax stimulus, and will not promote a healthy or appealing environment for nearby homes, communities, and tourists. Kiewit insists that no wildlife was observed in the area but admits to anecdotal accounts of wildlife existing nearby. The area has hosted the Skagit Eagle Festival since 1987 and is famous for salmon and trout fishing, multiple elk herds, endangered grey wolves, and scenic wildlife viewing areas. Kiewit claims no adverse impacts from increased traffic but admits WSDOT does not have traffic counters on the planned routes. The proposal used data gathered from US2 peak summer hours and peak local volumes on 12/18/18 to create their year-round traffic statistics. The proposal also notes two bridges on Rockport Cascade Road but does not mention the fact Kiewit's truck traffic will be a 1000% increase to those bridges. Kiewit provides no mitigation for existing roadways and bridges, little mitigation for affected nearby properties, and does not address possible impacts to volunteer fire departments and emergency services. Kiewit will put an unreasonable burden on strained budgets and sparse community resources; leaving County residents to deal with the consequences. Kiewit needs to include additional mitigation options such as resources or funds for extra local law enforcement and State Patrol, fire departments and EMS, road and

bridge maintenance and improvements, ongoing air quality monitoring (including noise levels), ongoing water quality monitoring (including the existing on-site well), ongoing asbestos testing and abatement, reduced working hours and truck traffic, and surety bonds.

Kiewit has been fined for violating the Clean Water Act, and other wastewater and safety violations:

FBI - SAN FRANCISCO "Kie-Con, Inc. pled guilty... to one count of negligently violating the Clean Water Act and was sentenced to pay \$5 million and enter into a comprehensive environmental plan. According to the plea agreement, Kie-Con (Kiewit Pacific Co) employees routinely discharged or caused others to discharge concrete process water, a pollutant, directly into the San Joaquin River in violation of its Clean Water Act permit."

"...Peter Kiewit Infrastructure Co., which got \$1.4 million from Ontario's transportation ministry, promotes its "environmental stewardship," and in 2012 released e coli into the environment at 8,500 times the permitted limit — refused to comment. The company had a total of 68 Ontario industrial wastewater violations, most of them in 2012 and 2013."

"The highest penalty in 2011 was imposed against Peter Kiewit Infrastructure Co. for an incident in which a worker was fatally struck by a rock estimated to be over 1.5 m in diameter. The firm had allowed work to proceed without clearing loose material uphill. Unstable material had been identified in risk assessments; and the firm had failed to adequately train workers for the land clearing work. Peter Kiewit Infrastructure was fined \$250,000."

"A 13,000-pound counterweight snapped off its cable while being lowered from a crane, nearly hitting two workers in the Highway 520 pontoon construction yard at Grays Harbor, state investigators learned in June [2014]. That incident, led to a citation and \$170,500 in fines against the Kiewit General Joint Venture, the state Department of Labor & Industries announced..."

"State workplace regulators issued two citations and fines totaling \$36,000 against Kiewit Infrastructure West Company following an investigation after one of its workers was fatally crushed by a steel beam while working on the 405 Freeway in West Los Angeles on Oct, 11 2012."

Skagit County is poised to make a mountainous decision that could change the landscape forever and influence future generations. Allowing an industrial mine near the Skagit Wild & Scenic River system and Illabot Creek has the potential to destroy the environment and reverse years of restoration efforts, pollute the air and groundwater, seriously impact endangered/protected wildlife and fisheries, and affect tourism. Skagit County needs to remember what happened to the cement city of Concrete, the Skagit River Hydroelectric Project controversies, and the recent Oso landslide. And weigh the facts of climate change and reality of extinction; how the smallest decisions made now will be felt worldwide in our lifetime. Kiewit is a multi-billion dollar business that has the ability, and responsibility, to do their part in conservation and preservation by obtaining jetty stone from a pre-existing source closer to the Columbia River instead of potentially destroying a nationally recognized treasure and its ecosystem. Please deny authorizations and permits to Kiewit; our grandchildren and their children will thank you.

Your support is appreciated... Deb & Mike, Content in Concrete

From Host Address: 70.0.128.211

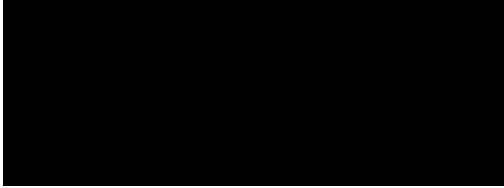
Date and time received: 5/13/2019 3:27:15 PM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, May 10, 2019 4:10:01 PM

---

Name : Greta Hansen



PermitProposal : Surface Mine near  
Comments :

From Host Address: 162.72.161.184

Date and time received: 5/10/2019 4:07:11 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, May 10, 2019 4:15:01 PM

---

Name : Greta Hansen



PermitProposal : Marblemount area mine expansion

Comments : Please take care of the eagles and other creatures who were living there before humans ever ventured in. We can't make more land. Let's preserve what we have before it's too late!

From Host Address: 162.72.161.184

Date and time received: 5/10/2019 4:11:29 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 2:40:01 PM

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Name : Greta C Hansen



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : Please , I request an Environmental Impact Statement for the Marblemount Quarry!

From Host Address: 174.216.17.209

Date and time received: 5/12/2019 2:38:47 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 10:00:01 PM

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Name : Art Hanson

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Art Hanson

From Host Address: 76.20.146.59

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 9:58:37 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 4:15:01 PM

---

Name : Jeane Harrison



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Jeane Harrison

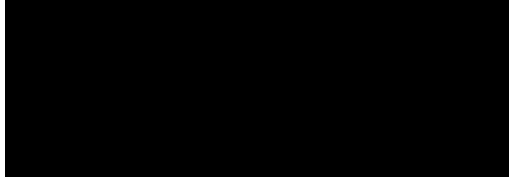
From Host Address: 50.83.189.127

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 4:12:11 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 4:30:01 PM

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Name : Jeremy Harrison-Smith



PermitProposal : Proposed Marblemount Quarry

Comments : I'm writing to oppose the Kiewit quarry proposal. This project with negatively impact tourism in the Skagit Valley and even more so, be harmful to the environment in the surrounding areas.

The trucks used for hauling jetty stone would be oversized, clogging or roads and making unnecessary congestion in the area.

The noise from the equipment and blasting would negativity impact wildlife and the surrounding community as well.

Please do not give away the peacefulness and beauty of our valley to a corporation to make profits on!

It's not worth it!

Thank you for your consideration.

From Host Address: 172.92.233.80

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 4:29:38 PM

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**



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From Dept email

**From:** website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 8:40 AM  
**To:** Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Subject:** PDS Comments

Name : Elli F Harron



PermitProposal : Kuwait Infrastructure Proposal Marblemount Quarry

Comments : We are very concerned about the environmental impact of this proposal. At a time when the UN report states we are at the brink of extinction for many species to allow this to happen is outrageous. We need to save our environment not destroy it. We come through this area many times a year for camping and recreational activities. These trucks alone would have such a negative environmental impact let alone what it would do to tourism. Please allow a full environmental review. This proposal is frightening in its impacts to community and species.

From Host Address: 109.77.58.35

Date and time received: 5/10/2019 8:38:37 AM

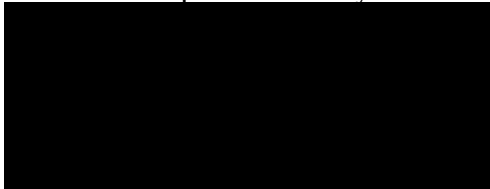
**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**



From dept email

**From:** website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 10:35 AM  
**To:** Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Subject:** PDS Comments

Name : Jacqueline Hartley



PermitProposal : PL19-0033

Comments : This is in response to the Kiewit Infrastructure permit application for expanding the quarry on Rockport-Cascade road for a 100 year mining plan and to be renamed, "Marblemount Quarry". I absolutely oppose the plan as described in the SEPA checklist and other information referred to from that starting point.

My opposition comes as nothing new already written by many others. My concerns are deep and varied as well.

This goes far beyond love for a particular place and the beauty that people go to enjoy there. It includes many adverse implications and will have negative impacts and cumulative damages spreading out from the site for many years. There is no denying that the benefits do not substantiate the permanent damage caused directly from this expanded site and future contracts. I encourage you to join the growing numbers who oppose this plan and deny this permit.

Thank you,  
Jacqueline Hartley

From Host Address: 66.235.39.112

Date and time received: 5/2/2019 10:34:47 AM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 9:05:01 AM

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Name : Corey J Havens

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

Corey Havens

From Host Address: 174.21.82.136

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 9:02:13 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 3:45:01 PM

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Name : Cherish Hemenway

PermitProposal : MarbleMount Quarry

- Comments :
- 1) The Marblemount Quarry is full of asbestos.
  - 2) Asbestos will flow in to the Sauk, Suattle, Skagit Rivers.
  - 3) These rivers will carry this asbestos, and these are the rivers that animals and fish live in and drink out of, so their goes the wildlife. But in the same breath every one is so proud of our wildlife and we do everything we can to protect it. Asbestos in the rivers/streams is not protecting the wildlife. Again contradiction.
  - 4) These rivers are peoples water supply and asbestos is very dangerous and will harm people.
  - 5) It has been said that people need to get asbestos out of their homes and schools because it is dangerous and causes many health problems and yet asbestos is going to be released into the rivers and the drinking supply.
  - 6) Contradicting what you are saying about asbestos.
  - 7) Highway 20 is not made to carry 70 or more dump trucks per day loaded with huge rocks. The Highway is not made for that much weight continuously.
  - 8) Highway 20 carries a few log trucks maybe in a day and they are not as heavy as the loaded dump truck and they do not run down the road one right behind the other.
  - 9) Look at the history of Libby Montana when they had their quarry and all of the damage that was caused by the asbestos. Many people and wildlife suffered and passed away from the asbestos. History repeats itself. Did we not learn from that ?
  - 10) A lot of business will close their doors due to lack of tourists.
  - 11) Who would want to come and visit a place that is now damaged and destroyed ?
  - 12) Tourists would rather come to a place that is beautiful and peaceful.
  - 13) The asbestos will flow into rivers/streams and humans and wild animals drink from and that includes pets. Think about the farm animals that are raised for our food again not healthy.
  - 14) That leaves no healthy animals pets/or animals so there goes the food supply.
  - 15) The asbestos will be in the water that waters our gardens/ there again there goes the food supply.
  - 16) We all eat and the asbestos will be in our foods. That makes us sick or pass away.
  - 17) The asbestos will be in our water system, the water supply would be very unhealthy. The last time I checked we all bathe in water, the water gets on our skin and hair . MMM makes us sick.
  - 18) Read about Libby Montana look at the statistics of people getting sick and people moving away.
  - 19) Can not drink the water due to the asbestos , mmm ok you do not drink water, everything has water in it, juice, coffee, teas, etc. We cook with water, it is what sustains our body.
  - 20) All of the dynamite that is going to be used will scare off one the major attractions: We call them Eagles and many tourists come to see them. Eagles eat fish /fish are in our rivers and lakes. With the asbestos flowing into the water there goes the eagles and fish. Eagles will leave due to the loud noise and lack of fish. Eagles follow the food chain, no food no eagles.

That leads to lack of or no tourists.

21) Kids/adults will no longer be able to play in the rivers/streams because of the Asbestos.

Cherish Hemenway



Sent from Outlook

From Host Address: 73.221.191.77

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 3:44:44 PM

May 8, 2019  
Full Name: Gretchen H. Hewitt

RECEIVED  
MAY 10 2019  
SKAGIT COUNTY  
PDS

Proposal Name or Permit Number: PL 19-0033 Marblemount Quarry

To: Skagit County Planning Office  
Planning and Development Services  
1800 Continental Place  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Re: Proposed Quarry in Marblemount, WA (PL19-0032 and PL-0033,  
PL19-0046  
and BP 19-0070

To Whom it may Concern:

I have taken time to learn about the notice of development at 59252 Rockport-Cascade Road in Marblemount. East Skagit County. The word that comes to me is assault. Assault on all life, families that choose to live, learn, develop in care and knowledge of the land and all it holds.

Wildlife would be sacrificed, displaced.

The land and the Skagit River right at the base will suffer from chemicals from the massive use of the trucks and lubricants, the left rock filled with toxins draining everywhere with the heavy rains helping that along.

The roads not at all built to withstand the forces brought on by this project. The essence of life changed by noise. And for 100 years.

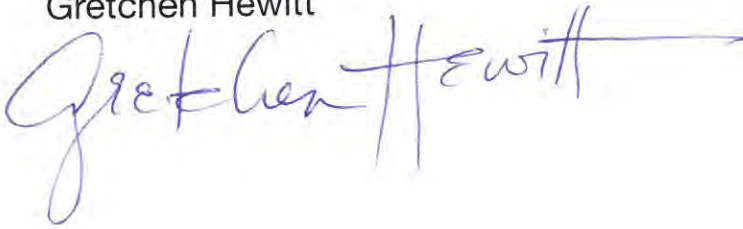
Treaty Tribes have responded and must be heard. It is time for them to be regarded and respected.

This will have massive negative impact on the homes in the area, including unpredictable danger from flying rock. And what a devastating blow to the economy, to the choices made to stay away from the area by guests, and tourists, and those who might have considered making this their home, sanctuary.

I live in Concrete, and visit Marblemount often. My purpose for moving here was to learn from the natural environment and experience peace with those to care about our natural world here. The heartbreaking possibility of the assault on the land and waters must not happen.

You are receiving succinct letters with great detail showing the devastating result of this project. I add my voice to theirs.

Sincerely,  
Gretchen Hewitt

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gretchen Hewitt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.



Bernadette Hillson

5/13/2019

RECEIVED

MAY 13 2019

SKAGIT COUNTY  
PDS

subject: "Marblemount Quarry"

As a resident of Marblemount and a homeowner at 61018 Rockport Cascade Road I am opposed to the pending application by Kiewit Infrastructure Co. to develop, expand and mine rock on Rockport Cascade Road, Marblemount.

My concerns are as follows:

- Decrease in my property value and quality of life
- Environmental impact on air quality, water quality, wildlife - especially salmon, eagles, and other wildlife
- Unacceptable noise level, due to blasting and <sup>traffic</sup>
- Increased traffic and deleterious effect on Highway 20, 530, and Rockport-Cascade Road
- Danger of blasting - especially for residents located near the site.

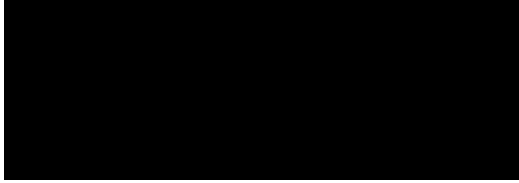
Safety is a primary concern!

Thank you for your attention to my concerns.  
Bernadette C. Hillson

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 8:10:01 PM

---

Name : Annette Holcomb



PermitProposal : PL19-0033, PL19-0047, BP19-0070 & PL19-0032

Comments : I am concerned about the Marblemount Quarry Project due to potential contamination of the Skagit River water, noise in Marblemount and congestion on a popular, 2-lane scenic highway. I frequently travel by bike and auto through the quiet area enjoying the drive along the river. The potential impacts to animal habitat, water, livability and traffic flow are potentially so great this project should be put on hold until a thorough EIS can be completed and the public has an opportunity to weigh in.

From Host Address: 73.59.64.197

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 8:07:39 PM

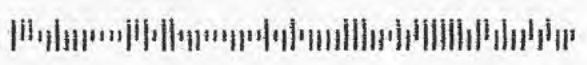
RECEIVED  
APR 17 2019  
SKAGIT COUNTY  
PDS

I am writing to let you know I oppose the permitting of a rock mining project in Marblemont by Kiewit Infrastructure and Cunningham Crushing. This proposed project would create adverse impacts to water quality and wild life, including salmon. It ~~will~~ would cause scenic degradation and the heavy truck traffic proposed should not be allowed as it will not only adversely affect local residents but also tourism in the area. The proposed project is completely unacceptable in a rural residential neighborhood. Please deny the permits and don't allow this disastrous project.

Thank you,  
Mary Ruth Holder



Skagit County Planning &  
Development Services  
1800 Continental Place  
Mt. Vernon, WA 98273





**From:** [website@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:website@co.skagit.wa.us)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2019 12:15:01 PM

---

Name : Henry S. Houghton MD



PermitProposal : "Marblemount Quarry"  
Comments : April 12,2019

Dear Planning and Development Commissioners: re "Marblemount Quarry"

I am writing in opposition to the proposed mining of rock southwest of Marblemount. I consider it to be a disastrous and an almost inconceivable idea for at least three reasons.

1. It hastens the degradation of a beautiful and natural habitat area of the North Cascades. The blasting, noise, diesel fumes, dust, and trucking would all interfere with whatever wildlife inhabits the area.
2. The traffic of large trucks would not only be dangerous on Highway 20(which is dangerous enough) but it would be horrible if going through towns such as Sedro Woolley and Concrete.
3. It would contribute to wear and tear on the interstate highway as well and trucks bearing such loads could be susceptible to accidents of a major nature. It would be better to use a source closer to where it is needed or consider other technology to remedy the problem.

I am sure if you were a resident upriver you would not likely wish this to occur. Any financial benefit to Skagit County is far outweighed by the disruptive and environmentally insensitive aspects of this activity. I urge you to decline this with consciousness of a long-term poor outcome.

Sincerely,

Henry S. Houghton MD



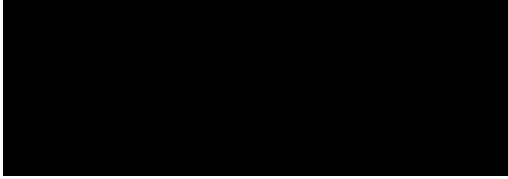
From Host Address: 172.92.221.201

Date and time received: 4/12/2019 12:10:31 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 12:45:01 PM

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Name : Jared Howe



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

Jared Howe

From Host Address: 174.21.93.56

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 12:42:52 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 7:05:01 PM

---

Name : Henry Hughes



PermitProposal : Marblemount quarry

Comments : Along with many of my neighbors in Marblemount, I've been shocked at the proposal to permit Kiewit to operate a large quarry and mine in the Marblemount area. I'm also shocked at the approval process, or lack thereof, that Skagit County has managed.

Contrary to that process's preliminary conclusion, the traffic impact of the quarry will be terrible. The intersection of State Routes 530 and 20 alone will be an unprecedented mess, with scores of massive trucks rolling through there every day. This will slow down not only tourist traffic that is vital to the economy of Skagit County, but also the trips that many workers make downriver and back each and every day.

That intersection already sees too many accidents and near misses: I myself once witnessed an accident there. We cannot withstand decades of such deleterious impacts on State Route 20 traffic all the way from State Route 530 down to Interstate 5.

Much worse is the potential for environmental degradation. The dirty mining operation required for this proposed quarry may well impact air quality for humans and animals, the Skagit River, the creeks, the aquifer, and the land that serves as home for so many people and countless wild animals. The nascent Diobsud Creek wolf pack has been spending time around Jordon Creek; those animals deserve a pristine habitat, as do all the birds, fish, and many mammals in the area.

For this reason, the County must implement a process that results in a full \*Environmental Impact Statement.\* Kiewit's mining operation will leave behind a massive pile of rock contaminated with explosives and drilling oil. This pile will remain there for hundreds, if not thousands, of years, polluting the ground and water. This is unconscionable for an area adjacent to a Wild and Scenic River and its watershed.

Please do not approve this mine and quarry operation. The impact to life and the fragile economy of an already challenged region will be too much.

Thank you for your consideration.

- Henry Hughes

From Host Address: 50.34.166.222

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 7:04:03 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2019 3:45:01 PM

---

Name : TRAVIS R HUISMAN

PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : Hello -

Thank you for accepting my comments on the proposed Marblemount Quarry.

I have grave concerns and am against this quarry.

Of top concern is the location of this proposed quarry within our Skagit River, Cascade River and Sauk River watersheds. These are already watersheds that have suffered under heavy natural resource removal and general human encroachment for the past 100 years.

It is time to choose our magical Skagit River valley over profit and stripping of natural resources.

I urge the planning committee to reject this proposal.

Thank you,  
Travis Huisman

From Host Address: 172.92.222.233

Date and time received: 4/12/2019 3:42:12 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 3:45:01 PM

---

Name : Gwen Hunter



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : This is a terrible idea!! A SEPA study isn't even necessary but if required in order to protect us from this proposal then please do a SEPA and hold public hearings on the results.

From Host Address: 174.216.28.110

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 3:42:24 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, April 26, 2019 7:35:01 PM

---

Name : John Hurd



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : While I know we have a need for gravel, I do not believe the proposed quarry expansion is a good idea.

The noise pollution in Marblemount would be distracting for residents and tourists.

The increased truck traffic on Highway 20 would be a huge safety concern. This is a small, winding highway with lots of passenger car traffic,

From Host Address: 172.92.219.225

Date and time received: 4/26/2019 7:32:03 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 8:20:01 AM

---

Name : Julia Hurd

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I live in Alger and even here am concerned about negative traffic and environmental impacts, in addition to negative impacts to the town of Marblemount.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Julia Hurd

From Host Address: 172.92.219.225

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 8:16:35 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Saturday, May 11, 2019 11:15:01 AM

---

Name : Wayne M. Huseby

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

I have hiked and fished in this area since I was a boy, over 60 years. This project could have a significant impact, not only to the people who live in the area but also to the fish and other wildlife that call this pristine area home.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

Wayne Huseby

From Host Address: 50.35.44.119

Date and time received: 5/11/2019 11:11:58 AM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 12:45:01 PM

---

Name : Lilya Jaeren

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry  
Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

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Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Lilya Jaeren

From Host Address: 67.168.93.158

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 12:43:40 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 7:50:01 AM

---

Name : Dena Jensen

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

I live in Birch Bay, WA, and feel your permitting decision will have a significant effect on the connected ecosystems, waterways, habitat, and public lands that people and life forms of our entire state rely on.

I fully support the following points in this email. In addition, it is unacceptable that a permit would be granted for such invasive action near various critical areas, wilderness, and public lands, for the extended period of 100 years. If current permitting allowances have a standard of 100 years for such activities, I believe you should review that code and make sure that the permit length be more on the order of 10 to 20 years, with the ability for the company to reapply if they wish to continue operating in the same area. If critical ecosystem function and access to vulnerable areas worthy of preservation are not detected then renewal can move forward.

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

Dena Jensen

From Host Address: 73.53.8.240

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 7:45:10 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 8:40:01 AM

---

Name : Julie Johnson

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : I am writing to oppose the proposed quarrying operation in Marblemount. The North Cascade site under proposal is heavily used recreationally, and also the home of abundant wildlife. My family and friend regularly hike, camp and celebrate the beauty of this area.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you fir accepting my comments,  
Julie Johnson

From Host Address: 97.126.73.181

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 8:38:01 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 7:45:01 PM

---

Name : Michael Johnson



PermitProposal : Kiewit Quarry

Comments : Please do not approve this proposal. It makes no sense to mine jetty rock in Skagit county. Let Kiewit find a quarry or quarries closer to its targets and one not so close to critical spawning stream for Chinook. Thank you for your time.

From Host Address: 73.53.10.220

Date and time received: 5/12/2019 7:43:52 PM

Regarding: PL19-0033 PL19-0047  
PL19-0032 - BP19-0070  
Kiewit Infrastructures proposed  
quarry in Marblemount

John Cooper

May 1st

1800 Continental PLACE

2019

MEADLAND WA 98273

RECEIVED

MAY 13 2019

SKAGIT COUNTY  
PDS

Dear John,

I am against you blowing up  
any properties in Marblemount!

Thank-you for your time

General delivery Marblemount

Mary Johnston / Mary Johnston

**Kathy Jewell**

---

**Subject:** FW: Marblemount quarry proposed expansion project  
**Attachments:** Letter about marblemount quarry.docx  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential



**CAUTION: This email originated from an external email address. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, you are expecting this email and attachments, and you know the content is safe.**

Good afternoon Mr. John Cooper,

My name is Benjamin Joseph, Chairman of the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe located six miles north of Darrington Washington. Please see the attached letter that I had sent off to Garth Baldwin but then realized I was suppose to send my comments of concern to you. I apologize for not having the correct information to send my comments to but I am providing feedback from the Sauk-Suiattle Tribes now for you to review and also to let you know I did send off a copy of my concerns to DAPH.

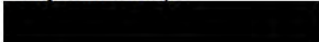
I am requesting that the Skagit County Planning and Development Services enter into consultation with the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe about the proposed project so that we may meet on a government to government basis. My Tribal Historic Preservation Office also sent in a letter to comment on the Sauk-Suiattle Tribes concerns. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

I look forward to hearing from you.

I also wanted to let you know that a few representatives will be present at the Marblemount town meeting about the project this evening but we do not consider that to be formal consultation with the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe. Formal consultation is Government to Government and on my side that would be meeting with my Tribal council, Tribal Historic Preservation Office staff, and Natural Resource staff. Have a wonderful day.

Thank you,

Tribal Council Chairman  
Benjamin Joseph







Tribal Council Chairman  
Benjamin Joseph



March 29, 2019

Garth Baldwin Principal Investigator Drayton Archaeology PO Box 782 Blaine, WA 98231-0782

Re: Marblemount Quarry Project CRM

Dear Garth Baldwin,

We, the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe (SSIT), are grateful for the opportunity to comment. In the weeks following our initial response, and upon reviewing the related SEPA documents, our Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Natural, and Cultural Resource Departments have additional concerns regarding the application by the Kiewit Infrastructure Company, LLC for rock mining and quarrying in Marblemount (at location 59252 Rockport-Cascade Road, Skagit County, within a portion of Section 24, Township 35 North, Range 10 East, Skagit County, WA – parcels P45543, P45541, P45548, P45552, P45550, P45548, P128574, and P120304). In particular, our comments focus on the quarrying project's associated permits PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0046, BP 19-0070, as well as on the cultural resource report produced by Drayton Archaeology.

**Audible Impact:** We suspect that the noise bearing on local cultural sites, including those on, or eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places was not fully considered. There was no mention of auditory impacts on the cultural environment within the Cultural Resources report provided. Residential houses in the immediate vicinity are similarly within the range of potentially enormous noise disturbance (due to, e.g. removal of rock, crushing, blasting, waste hauling, etc.).

**Cultural Impact:** Within a two-mile radius of the proposed quarry there are several cultural sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places, several more sites potentially eligible for the National Register, and numerous other archaeological sites, including at least one known cemetery. The SSIT use area would be further affected by quarrying operations as the project's location is a frequently visited locale for both Sauk-Suiattle and Upper Skagit tribes. The affiliation of this locale to the tribes' history is well known and therefore likely to contain culturally important features that can be identified only after a detailed consultation process with the tribal members.

**Air-Quality Impact:** As the extraction may be permitted for the period of one hundred years, the projected disturbance cannot possibly be assessed at this stage, thus the sheer distance in mileage Tribal Historic Preservation Office 5318 Chief Brown Lane Darrington, Washington 98241-9420





is a poor indicator of the cumulative effect on life over the long term. Related, we would also like to examine any additional studies of the air quality impacts on neighboring cultural settings in comparable extracting operations.

Biological Impact: We raise concerns based on recent findings regarding Federally-listed wildlife species that need to be further addressed in the project's Biological Assessment. Skagit River system ("a wild and scenic river") is an eminent case of ecological awareness and environmental concerns are at the forefront of the local demographic, native and non-native alike. There has not been enough time allotted for impacted Tribal entities to review the project plans and make adequate responses. The Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe would like to request more time to address all the potential biotic impacts of this project. Similar cases in the area (e.g. Beaver Lake Quarry from 1995-200) suffered from insufficient consultation with relevant stakeholders in the process.

For the above reasons, SSIT request to be informed immediately of any anticipated and unanticipated ecological and/or cultural discoveries. We kindly ask to obtain copies of any additional archaeological site surveys and reviews, and environmental studies that may be conducted for this project in the future. We recognize the necessity of supplying the mineral material for the Army Corps of Engineers operations, and wish to be of assistance in the matter.

Thank you for your willingness to keep in touch with the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe and for our inclusion as a consulting party on this undertaking. We look forward to continuing to work with you in a collaborative manner.

Should you have any further questions or should you need to get a hold of us, please feel free to contact us at our office telephone: [REDACTED]

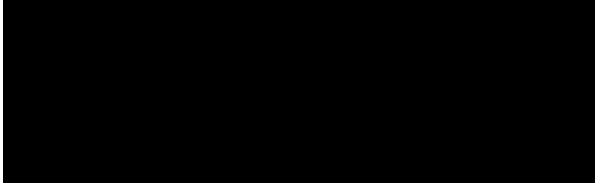
Sincerely,

Benjamin Joseph, Chairman  
Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 24, 2019 11:35:01 AM

---

Name : Kevin Joseph



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : The Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe THPO office and Tribal Council are requesting a government to government consultation with the lead agency to go over our concerns of the Marblemount quarry.

From Host Address: 199.191.123.227

Date and time received: 4/24/2019 11:31:14 AM

RECEIVED

MAY 13 2019

SKAGIT COUNTY  
PDS

Regarding: PL19-0033 - PL19-0047  
PL19-0032 - BP 19-0070  
Kiewit Infrastructure proposed  
quarry in Marble Mountain

John Cooper

May 1st 2019

1800 Conterutaw place

MT DERRON WA 98273

Regarding:  
Kiewit Application

Dear John

Constant blasting will shake the  
surrounding mountain sides & very possibly  
cause slides that could be disastrous  
like what happened to the community of  
Oso, this is a no brainer.

Josiah Hancock



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 8:55:01 PM

---

Name : Debra Kaukol



PermitProposal : Marble mount Quarry

Comments : First, why isn't an EIS being done. Why would you allow a mine that pollutes and degrades the rivers of endangered species of Salmon. This should not even be considered.

Who is benefiting under the table of this corruption?

Please DO NOT CONTINUE TO BE LEAD BY GREED.

Thank you.

Please do not allow this mine to open and operate.

We lose the salmon and the whales, we lose humanity....no mine is going to save us.

Thank you for your time.

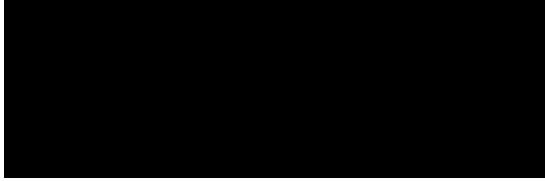
From Host Address: 67.40.11.60

Date and time received: 5/12/2019 8:52:23 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 12:15:01 PM

---

Name : Deborah Kaye



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

On behalf of the North Cascades Audubon Society I write to express my strong concern regarding the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in areas close to North Cascades National Park.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. We understand that Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

We are also greatly concerned that there may be an ill advised, factually incorrect and artificial urgency being asserted to justify inappropriate haste with regard to this project which we have been told involves a supplier contract with the US Army Corps of Engineers. This project will undoubtedly be detrimental to endangered and threatened bird and other wildlife species in proximity to this site. It is essential that the extent of the environmental impact be fully investigated through the required environmental review process irrespective of any timing constraints pertaining to any other projects or governmental agency timelines.

We strongly urge you to consider the fact that there are alternative sources readily available to provide the rock that would be produced by this proposed mining project.

Please do not approve permits or take any other action that will advance this damaging proposal without first conducting a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham?

All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before any permit process can even begin.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

Deborah Kaye

From Host Address: 73.53.10.251

Date and time received: 5/12/2019 12:10:48 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, May 10, 2019 2:50:01 PM

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Name : North Cascades Audubon Society

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

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All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before any permit process can even begin.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

Robert Kaye  
Chair, Conservation Committee  
North Cascades Audubon Society

From Host Address: 73.53.10.251

Date and time received: 5/10/2019 2:48:39 PM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 12:10:01 PM

---

Name : Robert Kaye



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

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All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before any permit process can even begin.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

Robert Kaye

From Host Address: 73.53.10.251

Date and time received: 5/12/2019 12:07:40 PM



Patricia Kipple

## Comments on Marblemount Quarry.

No to this proposed plan because

- ① the area involved - The people, the animals, the beauty of the area.
- ② The effect on the communities involved - Traffic, the highway already has heavy traffic, and what will happen to the little roundabouts - !!  
And getting onto and off I-5 -  
Come on - Already a traffic tie-up
- ③ The Noise - blasting - trucks  
And all other noise tied to  
Such a project.
- ④ And 100 years - This is just too much. 6 months would be way too much destruction to this area, the people, the animals and birds to say nothing of the landscape itself.

This is RAPE !! Please turn it  
Patricia Kipple Down.

APR 18 2019

SKAGIT COUNTY  
PDS

April 16, 2019

In response to: Kiewit's Marblemount Quarry Applications (Skagit County PL19-0032, -0033, -0047; BP19-0070) the proposed project is located on Rockport-Cascade Road, Marblemount, within Section 24, Township 35 North, Range 10 East, W.M., Skagit County, WA (Parcels P45541, P45543, P45548, P45550, P120304 & P128574).

To whom it may concern;

We live on parcels of land directly across from the proposed Quarry application in two separate houses. The other house is presently not lived in.

One is at [REDACTED] situated 850 feet from the existing and purposed quarry.

The other is at [REDACTED] (situated 1500 feet directly across from the existing and purposed quarry).

The other is [REDACTED] (situated approx. 900 feet from quarry)

We have lived on and cared for this property for over 28 years.

This property is listed under Skagit Assessor parcels which lie directly across from the application sites and are: [REDACTED] contains approximately 158 acres.

1. The Kiewit Application does not take into effect that there are (4) four Seattle City Light Towers and lines not even 1000 feet from the blast site directly across from their proposed mining operation as well as these towers are right next to our homes. Four of these towers or power lines are on our property however there are many more along the power line road which would or could be affected by, but not limited to blasting, dust and any other mining activities.

There are four towers on the property that are less than 1000 feet from the quarry and one tower that is directly across from the quarry and approximately 850 feet away.

When the towers were put on this property in a Lis pendons, Seattle City Light obtained the right to put the towers on this land, at that time there was not a study done that would include the vibration, dust and other mining operational forces that could affect the towers and wires and endanger all that is living in this area.

Previous SCL stated that even one wire down would devastate the whole area and reports claim that not only vibration but mining dust can create serious dangers.

2. As Snoqualmie Native Americans we join in the concerns, but not limited to the concerns, of the Sauk Suiattle Tribe, Swinomish Tribe, Stillaguamish Tribe, Lummi Nation and Upper Skagit tribes and add that we consider the wildlife, including the newly collared wolf that was collared on this property and appeared on its own is endangered. (See insert #1) This wolf, we named Sanawa is part of the newly documented Skagit Wolf pack. He was not planted here and is special in that it is the first recorded wolf in over 100 years. We have documentation of his continued use of this property. He now has a mate and it is a Felony to endanger the lives of



these wolves. We have intimate knowledge that this wolf travels in the vicinity if not on the property included in the application by Kiewit as well as we have intimate knowledge and proof that the wolf as well as other endangered animals exist on this property. We are willing to submit that information and documentation if needed.

At the same time, we honor the Eagles every year with the well known and popular Eagle Festival where we share the wealth and beauty of the natural Eagle habitat. The Eagle and Red Tailed Hawks are seen through out the upper valleys.

3. Water is a main topic in Skagit County. Recently in a town meeting at Concrete School we were informed that water needs to be trucked in to facilitate the schools due to contamination. We clearly see the large trucks parked in Concrete daily sending water from the fire hydrant to bottling companies as well as others. We see the signs along the highway, were as water rights are taken away from those who wish to get wells on their property and are denied due to limited water. After a recent small earthquake, many of us were aware of the sediment that appeared in our wells. Mining and blasting could cause considerable problems for water tables and our wells.

Who could imagine that anyone would allow mining or even consider mining in any degree in such an endangered area that facilitates not only Marblemount and Rockport but all villages and cities along the Skagit River and into the Salish Sea where three major salmon are considered endangered including the King Salmon that is considered a Felony if one is caught.

How could we not acknowledge that the chemicals, noise, and vibrations would not directly seriously affect the salmon, as well of the whales and our children who are drinking trucked in water, all living things including our elected leaders?

4. This area is known for its organic lands as well as its tourist and agricultural splendor. Next door is our winery. And not to forget Clarks Cabins, Tootsie, and her cinnamon rolls to open the pass. These are legends for travelers on the Scenic Skagit River and the Cascade loop. Clarks cabins is now under new ownership and the new owners also have the winery which a few years ago won awards for being the best wine in Skagit Valley. They are building along with many others their newly acquired businesses and homes much needed to facilitate growth in the area. This will be hurt if the mining operation with its blasting, dust, trucking and destruction is allowed.

5. Having been here during the previous fire on the lands that are included in the Kiewit application we are fully aware of the time it took to put the fire out as well as the tiny spark that caused the fire. Since this area borders unlimited scenic and the last remaining old growth we are especially concerned at the fire dangers that come with this kind of operation.

6. Being so close to the blast site the original sounds would be horrible however it has not being considered that there is mountains directly across from the site that would create a serious echo and vibrations that would not be livable. It comes as a threat to all life in the surrounding area.

Road congestion with 270 plus 79 truckloads a day  
Bee businesses contaminated by mining dust

*Marvin Kemp*  
4/18/17  
Marvin Kemp

*Michele Buchanan*  
4/18/19  
Michele Buchanan



APR 18 2019

SKAGIT COUNTY  
PDS

ENDANGERED SPECIES -- DNA tests have confirmed that a wolf captured, tested and fixed with a GPS collar on June 8 is indeed a wolf.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says a GPS collar placed on the wolf captured in June shows the 100-pound black male has remained in Skagit County. It's one of the few wolves known to have set up operations on the west side of the Cascade mountains in northwestern Washington.

It's not clear where the gray wolf came from because DNA samples don't find a connection with known wolf packs in Eastern Washington, Idaho or British Columbia, says Fish and Wildlife spokeswoman Ann Froschauer.

The federal agency lists the wolf as an endangered species in the western two-thirds of Washington and has jurisdiction over the species there. In the eastern third of the state, wolves are protected by state endangered species rules and are managed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

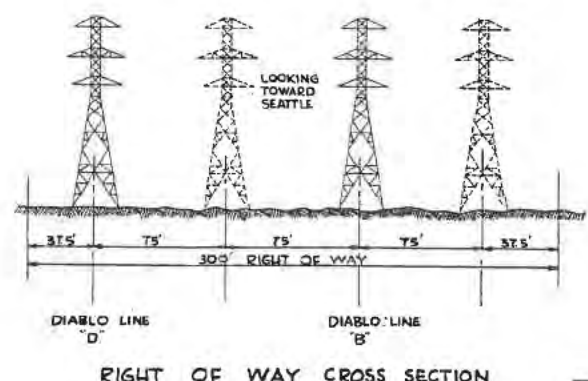
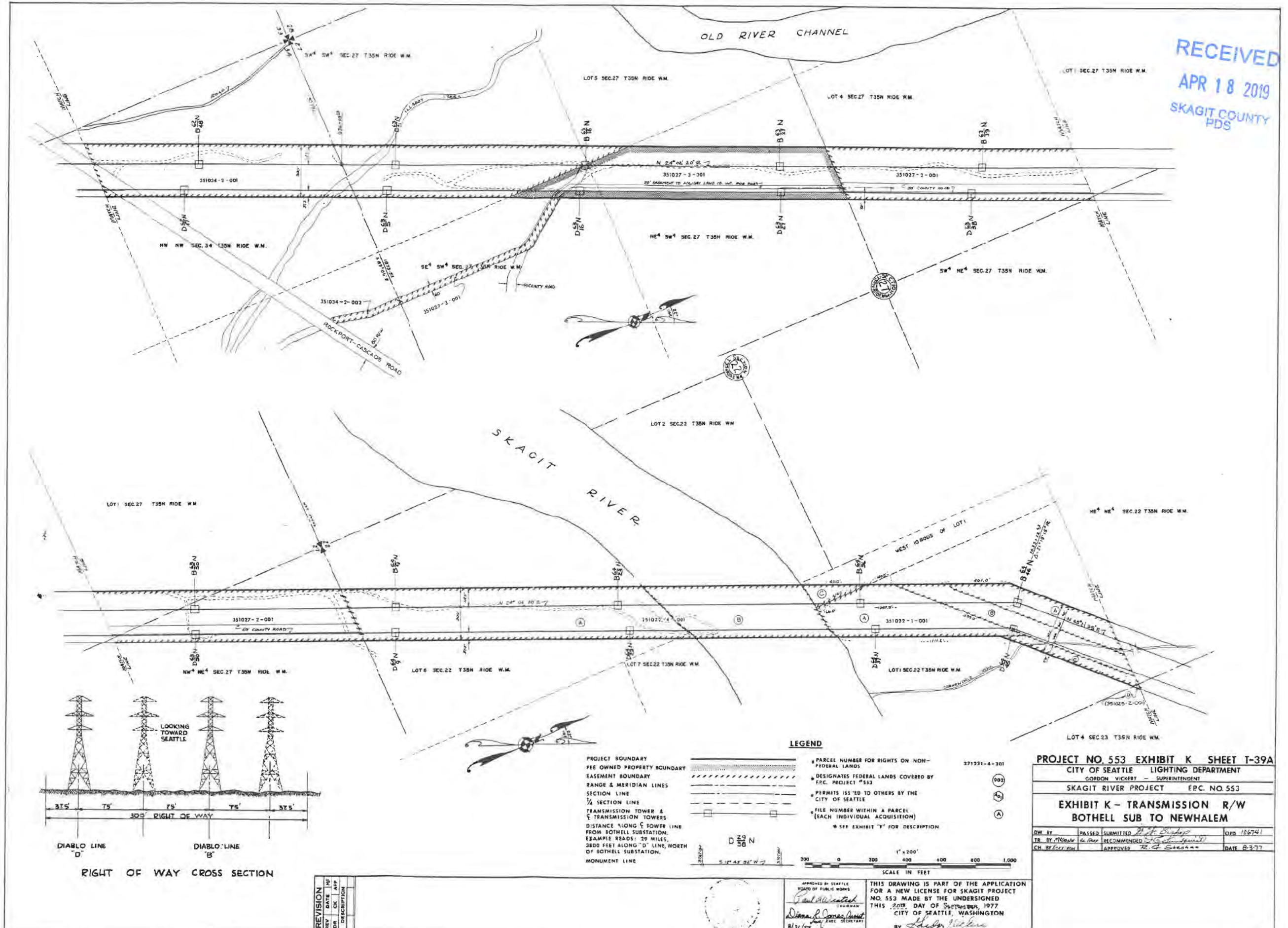
Officials say the Skagit wolf is hanging around the Marblemount area about 100 miles from the nearest known wolf pack and that it has not been associated in conflicts with domestic animals.

Wolves have been documented in Northwestern Washington off and on since 2011 and a wolf was killed by a truck on I-90 in 2015. The highest concentration of wolves in Washington is in the northeastern quarter of the state.





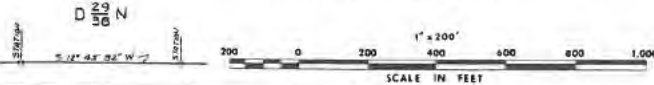
RECEIVED  
 APR 18 2019  
 SKAGIT COUNTY  
 PDS



PROJECT BOUNDARY  
 FEE OWNED PROPERTY BOUNDARY  
 EASEMENT BOUNDARY  
 RANGE & MERIDIAN LINES  
 SECTION LINE  
 1/4 SECTION LINE  
 TRANSMISSION TOWER &  
 TRANSMISSION TOWERS  
 DISTANCE ALONG C TOWER LINE  
 FROM BOTHELL SUBSTATION.  
 EXAMPLE READS: 29 MILES,  
 3800 FEET ALONG 'D' LINE, NORTH  
 OF BOTHELL SUBSTATION,  
 MONUMENT LINE

LEGEND

- PARCEL NUMBER FOR RIGHTS ON NON-FEDERAL LANDS
- DESIGNATES FEDERAL LANDS COVERED BY F.R.C. PROJECT #553
- PERMITS ISSUED TO OTHERS BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE
- FILE NUMBER WITHIN A PARCEL (EACH INDIVIDUAL ACQUISITION)
- \* SEE EXHIBIT "B" FOR DESCRIPTION



REVISION	REV	DATE	BY	APP	DESCRIPTION

APPROVED BY SEATTLE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS  
*Paul W. Seated*  
 CHAIRMAN  
 APPROVED BY SKAGIT COUNTY CLERK  
*Diana L. ...*  
 CLERK  
 3/21/17  
 DATE

THIS DRAWING IS PART OF THE APPLICATION FOR A NEW LICENSE FOR SKAGIT PROJECT NO. 553 MADE BY THE UNDERSIGNED THIS 20th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1977  
 CITY OF SEATTLE, WASHINGTON  
 BY *Heber Vickers*  
 SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTING

PROJECT NO. 553 EXHIBIT K SHEET T-39A  
 CITY OF SEATTLE LIGHTING DEPARTMENT  
 GORDON VICKERT - SUPERINTENDENT  
 SKAGIT RIVER PROJECT F.P.C. NO. 553  
 EXHIBIT K - TRANSMISSION R/W  
 BOTHELL SUB TO NEWHALEM

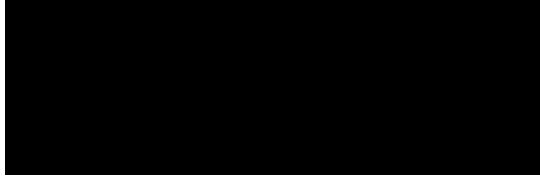
DW. BY	PASSED	SUBMITTED	DATE
TR. BY	RECOMMENDED	DATE	DATE
CH. BY	APPROVED	DATE	DATE



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, April 14, 2019 3:05:01 PM

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Name : Jesse Kennedy



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry, Kiewit

Comments : This project should require an EIS due to the overlooked conditions described in the Detailed Project Description. Cultural resource surveys did not fully include the consideration of historic use cultural lands of the associated tribes.

The addition of 260 truck trips per day on Rockport road, and HWY 20 to the I-5 corridor would adversely impact public safety not only because of the road route, but also the induced traffic congestion brought about by slow moving trucks.

Local tourist business' would be adversely impacted by discouraging HWY 20 traffic.

Land and Homeowner property values would be reduced for the duration of the project.

Quarry operations and blasting would adversely impact sound values as well as water and air quality due to dust.

Operation of the quarry could significantly increase the wildfire risk both on the valley floor and the forested valley walls.

All of these impacts should be addressed, along with potential mitigations, to the detail required by an Environmental Impact Statement.

From Host Address: 24.19.60.228

Date and time received: 4/14/2019 3:02:05 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 10:35:02 AM

---

Name : Ellen Kennelly



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,  
I am a frequent traveler on Hwy 20 to hike and visit friends in Winthrop, and am horrified to learn of the proposed quarry.

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

From Host Address: 73.35.168.188

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 10:34:23 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 4:20:01 PM

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Name : Andrea King

PermitProposal : Kiewit Corp/Marblemount Quarry

Comments : It is frightening that a proposal of this magnitude seems to have nearly slipped by without notice. A small yellow sign on a minimally used county road was the only indication of the plan. The proposal fails to address countless problems

1. There is no Environmental Impact Statement in place. It needs to be required.
2. The Rockport Cascade Rd, a chip sealed county road, is not designed for the type of vehicles and cargo that would use it 6 days a week averaging and estimated 240 trips/day. It is not winterized. The entire stretch of Hwy 530 from Rockport to Darrington had to be removed and rebuilt around the year 2000 to handle trucks with heavy loads. Who will bare the cost of maintenance on the road? The citizens of Skagit County?
3. the blasting plan is minimal. The person who did the plan said that problems would be site specific, but he has never been to the site. It is vague about what would be used to blast. Will cost be considered over safety.
4. The noise levels involved in daily running of the operation. What models were the studies done off of?
5. Cultural Resource. 9 2 foot shove holes were dug over 160 acres to determine that there are no cultural resources in that area. REALLY!i

This is only a small list of problems I see with this project. It is your job to make sure that the citizens and resources of the Upper Skagit Valley are protected. This proposal will have a detrimental, irreparable impact on us. It should not be passed.

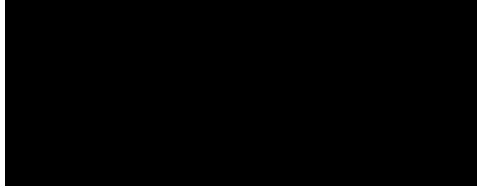
From Host Address: 216.186.48.35

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 4:19:25 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 5:35:01 AM

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Name : Richard Kite



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Richard Kite

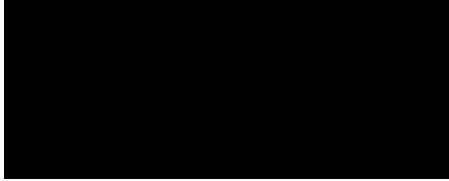
From Host Address: 81.155.81.158

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 5:30:03 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, April 22, 2019 7:10:01 PM

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Name : Robert Klengler



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry, PL19-0033

Comments : The application is woefully incomplete and misleading. Rejection of the proposal, or at minimum EIS is required. One of many examples:

Peak traffic volume near and around the intersection of Hwy 530 and Hwy 20 were measured December 12, 2018 (Appendix I: Traffic Impact Analysis, page 14). That was a cold, windy (35mph) day in the dead of winter when Hwy 20 is closed at Colonial Creek, the bulk of North Cascades National Park is inaccessible, and before the Eagle Festival.

The applicant claims “the December 2018 counts were similar to the volumes recorded on the Skagit County roadways during non-winter conditions.”

The National Park Service reports that in 2016 there were 905,418 visitors to Ross Lake Recreation Area, and 28,646 visitors to North Cascades National Park.

If one were to believe the conclusions of the Traffic Impact Analysis, one would have to conclude that all 934,064 visitors arrived via Winthrop. That would be the only way to accept the Traffic Impact Analysis conclusion that “No mitigation is proposed.” on page 19.

From Host Address: 50.34.173.173

Date and time received: 4/22/2019 7:08:31 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 3:25:01 PM

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Name : Robert Klengler

PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry – Mining Special Use Permit Application (PL19-0033)  
Comments : The noise and vibrations likely from the proposed quarry would change the character of this area, and would be detrimental to the health and well being of residents and wildlife. This is contrary to protections afforded by the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan.

The Sound Analysis is incomplete, and underplays the likely level and impact of noise produced by the mining operation.

The scenarios on page 10 represent theoretical noise volumes based on assumptions that are not identified. Noise levels specified by manufacturers result from testing the equipment under medium load, and applies only to the equipment’s engine, compressors, or other mechanical parts. Excluded is the noise in practice emanating from scraping, splitting, dropping boulders into trucks, and other sources related to the rock handling. For example the manufacturer specification for the CAT D10 Dozer is 115 dBA using ISO 6395 measurements. The sound emanating from fully loaded heavy equipment traversing a 12.5% grade is likely higher. Page 8 identifies “Dozer” at 81 dBA. The assumptions underlying reference sound levels, and how they are used in the scenarios, are not described.

Scenarios 02 and 03 on page 10 model noise for ongoing operations. The equipment described does not match the equipment identified in the Operations Plan. Concurrent noise sources increase the dBA on a logarithmic scale. These scenarios imply many of the 19 pieces of equipment identified lay idle for purposes of modeling concurrent sound sources. The assumptions for modeling concurrent sound are not identified. While calculations of concurrent sound is logarithmic, so is the perception of loudness. A 10 dBA increase in sound is perceived by humans as twice as loud. The loudness perception resulting from quarry operations is also downplayed.

Also ignored is the impact of noise on wildlife, including the largest migration of eagles in the lower 48 states that occurs along the Skagit River every year. The quarry operations would be near the center of this migration, in parts only 1/2 mile from eagles congregating in the trees along the river.

From page 1:

“All the parcels with the exception of P45541 (the northeast area of the site) belong to the County’s Mineral Resource Overlay (MRO).”

This is incorrect. Over 1/2 of Parcel 128574 is outside the MRO. Most of Parcel 45548 is outside the MRO.

From page 17:

“With Level-II sound mitigation measures in place, project sound levels from the project would produce only a slight sound-level increase compared to existing baseline conditions and would not create any significant noise impacts.”

The effectiveness of noise mitigation is unsupported by the analysis presented. The Mitigation Plan does not even refer to Level II mitigation as an option. In fact, the Mitigation Plan contains the option to only restrict operation hours by one hour - which matches neither of the two noise mitigations offered in the Sound Analysis.

The proposed mining operation is antithetical to the culture of this area, where residents respect and actively preserve and enhance the natural environment. I’ve lived in Marblemount for 23 years, surrounded by many neighbors who have lived here 30 to 40 years. This is the biggest threat to the peace and beauty of this area that we have ever experienced. The application must be denied.

From Host Address: 50.34.174.167

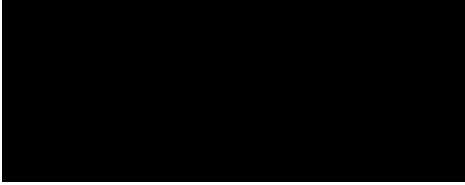
Date and time received: 5/13/2019 3:22:43 PM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 1:00:01 PM

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Name : Nancy Knechtel



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : I used to live in the scenic area of Mt Baker a mile down the road from a quarry. These trucks haul @ss down roads, even windy and narrow ones. Several times, head on collisions were narrowly averted or kids and pets on the shoulders of the road narrowly missed. This project, which undoubtedly is dubbed as a "job provider" for a few and a huge money maker for an even fewer set of people needs to be thoroughly researched as to it's impact on the local environment, including the watershed, wildlife displacement, home value deterioration, effect on tourism beyond Marblemount, including the Winthrop area. Given the traffic volume on highway 20 and the fact it is the most expedient route east for people in Skagit and Whatcom counties as well as a huge tourist draw it's crazy to allow large numbers of trucks on it, which will degrade it, cause traffic backups where people will either get killed trying to get around the trucks or their crazy driving (from my experience) will get us killed. I realize in the grand scheme of things, it all about the money. But this project will harm far more than the few enjoying the money. Do the right thing and protect the voiceless in nature and the existing tourism businesses. There must be other quarries that won't have the impact this one will.

From Host Address: 199.200.28.62

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 12:59:04 PM

Regard: PL19-0033-PL19-0047

PL19-0032-BP19-0070

Crewit Infrastructures  
proposed quarry in  
Marblemont -  
John Cooper

1800 Continental Place  
MT VERNON WA 98273  
May 1st 2019

RECEIVED

MAY 13 2019

SKAGIT COUNTY  
PDS

Dear John,

I have heard about the quarrying operation underway and I am very opposed to it as I see no local benefit whatsoever and I believe that it is a clear cover for a mining operation and we are being subject to some subterfuge concerning the entire scenario.

Edwin Krustof



**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**



From dept email

**From:** website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 6, 2019 12:30 PM  
**To:** Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Subject:** PDS Comments

Name : Karen Krauch



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry  
Comments : Attention project planner:  
Hello,

I am writing again as I have learned more about this proposed project. It is essential that an EIS be done. There are so many safety issues that have not been addressed. People in the area will be negatively affected by this noisy, polluting, eyesore. Marblemount business will suffer as a result of tourists not wanting to stay in an area that is not concerned with the peace and quiet we have here now. Are you willing to let a big company ruin the health and economy of our pristine area up here?

Sincerely,  
Karen Krauch

From Host Address: 50.34.182.59

Date and time received: 5/6/2019 12:28:17 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 1:30:01 PM

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Name : Calvin Laatsch



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : As a Marblemount resident working and living in the Upper Skagit Valley, I object to the proposed Kiewit Infrastructure's quarry proposal (PL-19-0033).

The disturbance and pollution from a quarry of this size, and the impact on the Skagit Valley ecosystem could have severe and far reaching negative consequences that have not been fully addressed the the Kiewit Permit Application. Considering all of the work and legislation done to manage this sensitive environment, the protected wildlife living here, and proximity to North Cascades National Park, it seems prudent to require an Environmental Impact Survey.

The increased noise, traffic, and pollution contradicts the Special Use Criteria, requiring, "the proposed use is not in conflict with the health and safety of the community."

Furthermore, for a small town sustained by the eco-tourism economy, creating a quarry of this scale would hurt not only local businesses, it would negatively impact property values, and quality of life for residents.

Please, consider the objections of myself and the many concerned citizens as you review this permit application. Myself and the hundreds of others that have commented rely on you to act on our behalf, and to protect our health and safety.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Calvin Laatsch

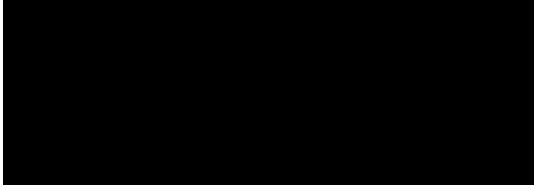
From Host Address: 50.197.76.57

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 1:26:53 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 12:30:01 PM

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Name : Jonathan Lane



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Jonathan Lane

From Host Address: 73.35.247.213

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 12:27:38 PM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 12:40:01 PM

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Name : Sarah Lane



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : I am writing to state my opposition to this project. I have commented already, and as the comment period was extended, am reiterating opposition to this project.

Please do not allow this project to move forward. Headwaters need more protection than ever. Sensitive and threatened species WILL be affected, no mater what protections are planned. The best protection is no disturbance of this scale.

Mining companies have a long history of destruction and broken promises. I oppose this project.

Thank you,  
Sarah Lane

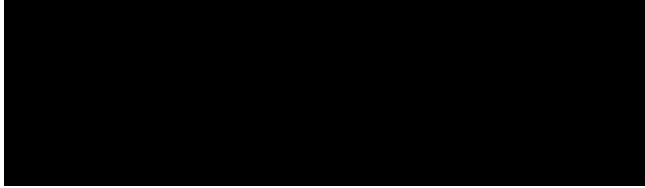
From Host Address: 63.142.207.34

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 12:36:45 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 7, 2019 1:05:01 PM

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Name : rebecca larsen



PermitProposal : PL19-0033

Comments : I am a resident of Skagit County and without a proper evaluation and study of the impact this quarry might have on the Skagit River I have to ask you to deny this project. There is no idea what the real impact is up and down the skagit river.

From Host Address: 76.191.116.166

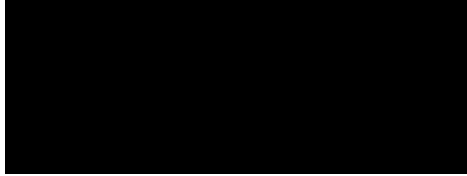
Date and time received: 5/7/2019 1:00:46 PM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 5:55:01 AM

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Name : Karen LaVelle



PermitProposal : PL19-0033, PL19-0047, BP19-0070 & PL19-0032  
Comments : To Whom It May Concern,

My husband and I have owned a home in Marblemount for nearly 30 years and we are extremely concerned about the proposed Marblemount quarry. Our property is on Clark Road on the backside of Big Bear Mountain and we (as well as the rest of the community) will be greatly impacted by this proposed project.

While we don't currently live there (we have long-term renters) we chose not to sell because we love the area and wanted to keep this home in the family for future generations to enjoy the beauty of the area.

If this quarry is allowed to go forward everything we love about the area will be destroyed. The peace and quiet, the beauty of nature, the wildlife that would cross our property (yes, in spite of what Kiewit says there is A LOT of wildlife in the area) the sound of the birds singing the dawn chorus on a warm summer morning and the night sky full of stars (stars that won't be visible because of lights at the quarry).

Our concerns about this project are many. Here are just some of them.

#### WILDLIFE

- \*Kiewit did an incomplete study in the middle of winter and declared that there is no wildlife. As I stated above this is not true. Wildlife abounds in the area. Such as:
- \* The mated pair of wolves. These are the only wolves west of the Cascades and they came here on their own. They are collared and being monitored.
- \* There are bears, coyotes, lynx, peregrine falcons, marbled murrelets as well as countless other species.
- \* Some are on Endangered or Threatened species lists.
- \* There have been spotted owls observed on adjacent property.
- \* This area is home to the largest concentration of bald eagles in the lower 48
- \* The Skagit River is ½ mile away and the only river to contain all 5 species of salmon
- \* If we lose more salmon Orcas will also suffer.
- \* \$5 million was recently spent to enhance salmon spawning habitat on Illabot Creek. This creek is adjacent to the proposed quarry.

#### WATER

- The Skagit is the 3rd largest river emptying into the Pacific
- Toxins will be washed into the shallow aquifers, creeks, and rivers. This will impact not only all the waterways and the wildlife they support, but also the water in the wells that we all

get our drinking water from.

- Kiewit paid a \$5 million fine for diverting toxic waste into the San Joaquin River and knowingly violating the Clean Water Act.

#### AIR

\*The Shuksan Green Schist that they want contains asbestos. The asbestos will be blasted into the air for the next 100 years. It will also contaminate the air of all the communities the trucks travel through.

#### TRAFFIC

- They are proposing 260 daily trips on and out of the quarry. This will be up to 1 truck every 2-3 minutes.
- There will be excessive wear and tear on the roads that the taxpayers will be responsible to repair.
- Kiewit did their traffic study in the middle of winter and declared that there will be no impact. They didn't take into account the summer traffic going over the pass.

#### NOISE

- Blasting will happen 6 times daily to start and then 2 times daily for 100 years .
- 6am to 6pm 6 days per week with the potential for overnight work as needed. Including, but not limited to, vehicle maintenance.
- There will be noise from all of the mining equipment, crushing equipment, traffic in and out, as well as blasting and back up alarms (not included in the noise survey)

#### CULTURAL IMPACT

\*They dug only 9 shovel holes over hundreds of acres to determine whether there are historical artifacts. They declared there is nothing of cultural significance in spite of the fact that there is huge historical significance in this area including a pre-contact site less than 1 mile away.

\* All of the Treaty Tribes have expressed their opposition to this project.

#### ECONOMIC

\*There will be a massive impact to the community that relies on tourism and outdoor adventure.

\* People come to the area to enjoy nature not to listen to industrial noise. Nobody will want to stay in the area.

\* This will not bring jobs to the area...it will destroy them.

\* Property values will also plummet.

#### MISC.

\*Leftover asbestos containing rocks will be left on site. Estimates put it at 28 acres covered with rocks 200-300 feet high. Piled that will be left to leach blasting residue, tool oil, diesel fuel and asbestos into the environment indefinitely.

\* There blasting plan is incomplete and isn't site specific.

\* there is a fault line that runs through the property.

This is a pristine environment that needs to be preserved for future generation. North Cascade National Park and Marblemount are mentioned on pages 211-213 in the book ' 50 Places To

Hike Before You Die'. Cascade Pass is the picture used and listed as the most popular day hike in the park. Think about this...50 hikes in the ENTIRE WORLD and we are one of them. How many people will want to hike Cascade Pass or to stay in Marblemount while hiking thorough the National Park if they have to listen to blasting and other industrial noises or they have to fight the extra traffic to get here.

We need to preserve this area for current and future generations. We need to protect the community and the way to do this is to focus on tourism and nature.

This is a 100 year project with a company that has a record of not complying with environmental laws. The inaccurate and incomplete SEPA is not enough. We demand an Environmental Impact Statement. This project will not benefit the community in ANY way. It will not provide jobs-it will destroy them. It will destroy the environment and the way of life that everyone who lives here or visits holds dear.

Please demand an Environmental Impact Statement and please consider very carefully the massive impact your decision will have for all future generations. Once a community has been destroyed it's extremely difficulty to repair the damage. Once a mountain has been blasted away there is no bringing it back. When an animal is extinct there is no bringing it back. When people are sick from asbestos exposure or from drinking water that is contaminated with blasting chemicals or diesel fuels...it's too late. There are countless reasons to deny this project and no good reasons to allow it.

Thank you for your time,  
Karen LaVelle

From Host Address: 24.17.69.172

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 5:51:58 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, April 14, 2019 5:00:01 PM

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Name : MICHAEL LAVELLE

PermitProposal : Proposed Marblemount Quarry

Comments : I am Commenting again, because my first comment fell between the first comment expiration and the extended period. My wife and I have owned property at 8489 Clark Rd in Marblemount since 1992 and are very concerned with the lack of reasonable impact studies preformed during the permit process, there needs to be additional EIS.

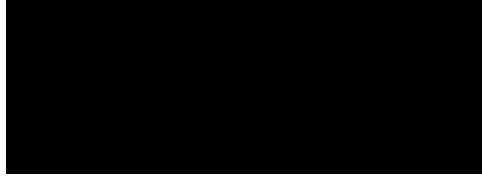
From Host Address: 24.17.69.172

Date and time received: 4/14/2019 4:55:15 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 4:20:01 PM

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Name : Michael Scott LaVelle



PermitProposal : PL19-0033, PL19-0047, BP19-0070 & PL19-0032

Comments : My wife and I have owned 8489 Clark Rd in Marblemount, WA since 1991. We lived there and raised our family there until recently and now is a rental with long term renters. There are many issues that concern me with this project and its effects on our community, it's budding tourism, traffic and tourism throughout the valley, the Skagit River, wildlife, pollution, and the native history and cultural resources at he site.

Only 9 shovel holes were exposed during the cultural fact finding at the site. No evidence of significance was found, yet evidence of a pre-contact village less than a mile away has been documented and no investigation was done on the rock face where shelters and ceremonial sites would be. All three local tribes have voiced their opposition to this project.

The blasting plan is far too generic and does not take into account local weather and it's effects on the project and environment. The blasting chemicals listed are not usable in wet conditions. the chemical residue left on the 800 million cubic yards of estimated tailings to be piled on 28 acres were not taken into account and will most assuredly find there way into the States Waterways.

Grandfathering a Mine onto an existing surface quarry permit is completely unacceptable and should not be allowed under the Mineral Resource Overlay in the Up River Plan. Even if this were covered by the MRO the contractor states the will be going outside of the specified boundaries in phase 4, they also are building a Mining Road to support the large Mining equipment completely outside of the MRO. This alone should disqualify the permit request.

An Environmental Impact Statement is mandated and a Determination of Significance should be found closing this issue completely. This project promises no jobs or economic benefits for the county, only undue impacts on our roads, bridges, traffic and tourism.

From Host Address: 24.17.69.172

Date and time received: 5/12/2019 4:16:21 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 1:25:01 PM

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Name : Michael Scott LaVelle

PermitProposal : PL19-0033, PL19-0047, BP19-0070 & PL19-0032

Comments : I have submitted 2 other comments previously, but after my wife submitted one this morning and the site gave her a time stamp and confirmation which I did not see on my submittals I thought it best if I submit one more with some high lights, I apologize if this is redundant.

We have owned property in the Marble mount area for nearly 30 years at 8489 Clark Rd, This property is directly on the other side of "Big Bear Mnt" from the project. The proximity of the project and 100 year time frame raises great concerns with me:

1. The overall plan and SEPA is out of compliance with the Upper Valley Growth plan; An existing permit from the 1980's for a surface quarry can in no way be "Grandfathered" to another company to preform Strip Mining! The contractors plan itself shows mining operations outside the Mineral Resource Overlay designated area in phase 4, as well as building a road exclusively for mining operations completely outside of the MRO. This alone should stop the project as it is proposed in its tracks!
2. Noise; the SEPA does not sufficiently address the noise that will be directed up the Cascade River Valley and how it will affect the wildlife and residents.
3. Drinking Water; Our well is on the same aquafer that is below the site. Blasting chemicals, industrial lubricants and other pollutants being used have a very good chance of finding their way through the natural cracks in the rock into our drinking water. Blasting, especially so close to a fault line, also has a chance of changing the structure of the aquafer and permanently damaging it requiring new wells to be drilled. None of which is satisfactorily addressed in the SEPA.
4. The fore mentioned fault line; Blasting over an existing active fault is also not addressed in the SEPA. Multiple residence lie beneath the hill sides that will be Mined.
5. Wildlife; The SEPA completely glosses over any wildlife in the area. The upper Skagit Valley as with all the North Cascades is one of the most diverse and vibrant wildlife habitats in the world and it is impossible that NO species were found on the site. It also only includes the direct site and placed "blindners" on to ignore the multiple endangered and protected species that are known to live in the area.
6. State Waterways; Multiple fish bearing waterways are in this area. The DNR map show fish bearing creeks on the site, the SEPA contradicts this. Unless the DNR is willing to change their designation to these streams, their original maps still override the contractors SEPA. This does not even address the major waterways that lie adjacent to the site, including the Skagit River less than ½ mile away, Illabot Creek which just had \$5mil in salmon spawning ground rehab, and Jordan Creek which feeds the State Fish Hatchery.
7. The Damage to the areas Economic Growth; The project on promises 25 jobs, all of which will be filled from out of the area, while creating undue and severe stress on State and Local roadways, creating severe traffic congestion throughout the ENTIRE Skagit Valley, functionally killing a budding tourism trade in Marblemount and restricting access across the

North Cascade Pass, and ultimately reducing property values throughout the Upper Valley.

8. The Mountain of Tailings; The project over its 100 year projected schedule is expected to yield approx. 300 mil cubic yards of armor rock, but this is on 20% of the total rock which will be mined. The remaining 80% will be piled on 28 acres to an estimated height of 200+ft. These tailings will be exposed to weather for generations and the blasting chemical residue along with and lubricant or fuel will be washed into the Skagit, Also not mentioned in the SEPA.

9. Incomplete, Generic Blasting Plan; Mining with explosives requires a very specific detailed plan to ensure the safety of the workers and locals. This plan falls drastically short! It does not take into account local weather and how the proposed blasting method does not work in wet weather and the possible day to day changes in the rock formations found.

10. Dust and Air Quality; The rock found at the mine site has the desired hardness to use as Armor Rock, it also contains Asbestos (or Asbestos like fibers) that will be released into the air during blasting and transportation. This along with the overall dust and exhaust produced during mining will change forever the pristine mountain air in the upper valley.

11. Incomplete Cultural Impact Study; only 9 shovel holes at the bottom of the proposed site were examined for evidence of cultural significance. While no evidence was found, it is established that less than a mile from the site was a precontact village and studies show that rock faces, like the one on site, are common areas for shelters and ceremonial purposes. All 3 ingenious Tribes have voiced their opposition to this project.

I stated previously, this project should not be allowed to advance as proposed due to the facts that it does not comply with the Growth Plan laid out by the County. A Determination of Significance should be levied, at the very least an EIS is mandated.

From Host Address: 24.113.121.146

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 1:23:54 PM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, April 18, 2019 5:00:01 PM

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Name : Jason Lawrence

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry operation near Marblemount, Permit PL19-0033

Comments : As a frequent visitor to the North Cascades, I'm deeply concerned that this 100-year quarry project of the proposed scale will permanently damage the unique and inviting character of the area.

Who wants to drive past the bucolic, pale blue Sauk toward the mossy glen of the North Cascades National Forest stuck behind three oversized rock haulers, with the sound of rock blasting and a deforested, dusty, moonscape vista?

I would ask whether the effects of this project over the coming 100-year period are consistent with the values of the North Cascade region and its most important assets?

On a personal note: if this project moves forward then come June, I'm flying my family to Epcot Center instead of driving to the Cascades.

Sincerely,  
Jason Lawrence

From Host Address: 104.132.78.95

Date and time received: 4/18/2019 4:56:50 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 9:25:01 AM

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Name : John Scott Lee

PermitProposal : Kiewit Quarry Operation near Marblemount

Comments : My name is John Scott Lee, and I have been a property-owner and resident of Marblemount for 34 years. I am completely opposed to this proposal by Kiewit for a quarry operation near Marblemount.

I believe there are multiple reasons for the county to make a threshold determination of significance and REQUIRE an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT for this project.

Among those reasons:

- The project proposes an industrial mining operation "over a projected 100 year period". Only an EIS can fully and truthfully assess the broad impacts of the operation over such a long time period.
- The Traffic Impact Analysis submitted by Kiewit is not credible. The project vehicle traffic numbers in the analysis do not realistically reflect the maintenance costs and safety risks on the roadways affected.
- Kiewit acknowledges that their proposal "is contingent" upon an expansion of the existing Mineral Resource Overlay, and that this means an amendment to the County Comprehensive Plan. The County should absolutely NOT approve the proposal before such an amendment is made, and such a change to the Comprehensive Plan certainly should require an EIS to assess the consequences.
- In general, a careful reading of Kiewit's application materials strongly suggests that their assessment of environmental impacts is superficial and misleading, and the minimal mitigation they propose is completely inadequate. An Environmental Impact Statement is necessary to truthfully determine the scope and consequences of this project's potential impacts.

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For the County to have adequate and credible data to fully assess this proposal, an Environmental Impact Statement is an absolute MUST.

Respectfully submitted, John Scott Lee

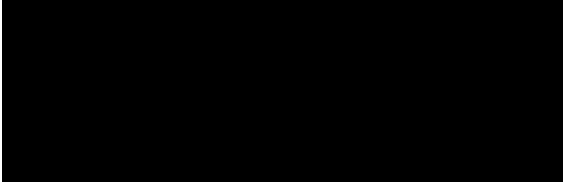
From Host Address: 50.34.174.167

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 9:22:19 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Saturday, May 11, 2019 10:55:01 PM

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Name : Dennis & Elizabeth Lengel



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry  
Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely, Dennis & Elizabeth Lengel

From Host Address: 67.168.71.254

Date and time received: 5/11/2019 10:52:02 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 7:50:01 PM

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Name : Virgene Link-New

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

From Host Address: 50.35.48.166

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 7:47:36 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 9:15:01 AM

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Name : Kyle Loring

PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry MSUP, PL19-0033  
Comments : Loring Advising, PLLC

By web portal and hard copy

May 11, 2019

Planning and Development Services  
1800 Continental Place  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Re: Marblemount Quarry – Mining Special Use Permit Application (PL19-0033)

Dear Skagit County Planning and Development Services,

I am writing on behalf of Skagit River Alliance to request that you deny Mining Special Use Permit Application No. PL19-0033 (“Application”). The Application must be rejected because it contravenes the Skagit County Code (“Code” or “SCC”) by requesting approval to conduct mining activities outside of a designated Mineral Resource Overlay (“MRO”). Those activities consist of the construction and operation of a 60-foot-wide mining road to haul mining equipment and the mined rock on-site rock and possibly to stockpile undersized rock. The Application also requests permission for a future mining operation outside of the MRO subject to speculation that it will be able to convince Skagit County’s (“County”) legislative body to expand the MRO at a future date. Because the Code prohibits mining uses outside of an MRO, the Application must be denied.

#### A. Applicable Project Information

Kiewit proposes to conduct mining activities on approximately 120 acres across six parcels that span approximately 600 acres. The activities involve site clearing, site grading, road building, quarry operations, and reclamation of a bedrock mine. Several of these activities would occur outside of the existing MRO, including immediate construction of a new, 60-foot-wide mining road and hauling of drilling and other equipment and mined rock on that road, possibly a portion of an undersized rock stockpile (although the Application does not identify the expected volume of rock that would be stored in this pile, it is anticipated to be a substantial amount of the projected 3.8 million cubic yards for initial mining, and 9.6 million cubic yards total. In addition, the 13-acre stockpile area is not delineated on maps and the Application does not provide information to determine whether it could actually fit within the MRO portion of Parcel P128574 that will not be covered by the mining road and reclaimed

topsoil area, which may be less than 13 acres), and future rock mining. See Marblemount Quarry – Special Use Permit Drawings, Reclamation Sequence Maps (Jan. 15, 2019). The road would begin in MRO-designated land alongside Rockport-Cascade Road and then leave the MRO and wander for approximately 2/3 of a mile before returning to lands designated MRO. See Marblemount Quarry – Special Use Permit Drawings, Reclamation Sequence Maps. Eventually, as the mining project expands per its plans, the road would be used to access rock mining that would also occur outside of the existing MRO. See Marblemount Quarry – Special Use Permit Drawings, Reclamation Sequence Map – Phase 4, Sheet 7 of 10 (Jan. 15, 2019). During road construction, blasting would be required on the scale of 4-6 blasts each day for approximately 90 days. Marblemount Quarry--SEPA Environmental Checklist, 18 (Jan. 22, 2019).

Although the Application's Reclamation maps clearly depict the construction of a new mining road outside of the MRO, SEPA Checklist statements assert that quarry-related activities would not occur outside of the MRO. For example, the SEPA Checklist opines that "at no time will mining or mining-related activities occur outside the MRO." SEPA Checklist, at 21, section 8.1. Similarly, although Reclamation maps show the mining road extending north on the parcel east of the MRO (Parcel P45541), the SEPA Checklist suggests that "no quarry-related activities would take place on [Parcel P45541] until the MRO is expanded." SEPA Checklist, at 19, section 8.a. This confusion may have arisen because the Application does not appear to acknowledge that the new mining road is a mining use.

The Application characterizes the new project as an expansion of a rock quarry that the County approved in 1976. A review of that approval, however, reveals substantial distinctions between that quarry and Kiewit's proposed operations. The 1976 operation involved small-scale mining of the existing talus field and limited hauling. SEPA Checklist, at 2. The application noted that the project wouldn't involve any pits but would instead remove only loose rock on the level of the existing land. The application also noted that just 2-3 vehicles would operate on site at any given time. And, unsurprisingly, there was little to no opposition. As the Board of Adjustment concluded, the rock removal site was isolated from residential development, adequately screened from the road, and unlikely to impose more than a negligible impact on surrounding properties.

In contrast, the current proposal would be much larger in scope. Rather than gathering existing loose material, it would separate approximately 9.6 million cubic yards of rock from its hillside. It would require a lengthy new mining road to reach the top of the quarry, where Kiewit would blast apart the mountaintop to remove large rocks from the fixed rock structure. And it would involve up to 260 daily single-direction vehicle trips just to and from the quarry, in addition to all of the vehicle traffic at the quarry.

## B. The Code Does Not Allow Approval of the Application

As demonstrated below, neither of the Comprehensive Plan rules for Mineral Resource Overlays or Secondary Forest-Natural Resource Lands allow the proposed mining uses on non-MRO lands.

### 1. The Mineral Resource Overlay rules require denial of the Application.

The Application must be denied because the Code prohibits new mining uses like the proposed mining road construction, rock hauling, likely stockpiling, and mining on the SF-NRLs

outside of the MRO as proposed for parcels P45541 and P45548. Subject to several inapplicable exceptions (E.g., while an exception exists to extract gravel and rock for the purpose of forest road construction and/or maintenance outside an MRO, there has been no suggestion that the mining road is a forest road or that its purpose is to extract gravel and rock for itself. Instead, the Application indicates that it will be constructed as part of Kiewit's mining operations), "no new mining uses shall be allowed outside of the designated Mineral Resource Overlay." SCC 14.16.440(3)(a). Although the Application attempts to characterize the proposed mining as an expansion of existing mining, it fails to explain how mining a different rock (jetty stone rather than talus), in a new location (top of the incline rather than the bottom), on a substantially larger scale (3.8 million cubic yards initially, rather than small-scale) is an extension of the earlier activities rather than a new mining operation. Even if the proposal were to be characterized as the expansion of an existing use, existing permitted commercial mining operations are not expressly permitted to expand outside an MRO. SCC 14.16.440(3)(c).

The prohibited new mining uses include hauling mining equipment to the site of the rock excavation and hauling rock around the site. Although the Code does not define "mining uses," it defines "use" as "the specific purpose for which land or a building is designated, arranged, intended, or for which it is or may be occupied or maintained." SCC 14.04.020. Here, the land outside of the MRO would be used for mining operations required to get equipment in place for mining, moving rock around the site, stockpiling rock, and future mining. Because the land is to be occupied or maintained for the purpose of mining, all of the mining activities must occur within the land designated MRO.

Moreover, the Code expressly includes road use and maintenance in the definition for "mining operations," a synonym for "mining use." The Code defines mining operations as all mine-related activities, including:

- (1) The mining or extraction of rock, stone, gravel, sand, earth, and other minerals;
  - (2) Blasting, equipment maintenance, sorting, crushing, and loading;
  - (3) On-site mineral processing including asphalt or concrete batching, asphalt or concrete recycling, and other aggregate recycling;
  - (4) Transporting minerals to and from the mine, on-site road maintenance, road maintenance for roads used extensively for surface mining activities, traffic safety, and traffic control.
- SCC 14.04.020.

Thus, as a "mining operation" the new mining road and its mineral transportation and maintenance qualify as mining uses that are prohibited outside of the MRO.

## 2. The Secondary Forest-Natural Resource Land rules require denial of the Application.

Although the MRO rules dispositively require denial of the Application, the Secondary Forest-NRL rules also prohibit new mining uses on SF-NRLs outside of a designated MRO. The SF-NRL designation provides for "smaller scale" timber and other resource management activities. SCC 14.16.420(1) (emphasis added). The purpose of the SF-NRL designation is "to provide a transitional area between the Industrial Forest-Natural Resource Lands zone and Rural zoned lands designated primarily for residential use and other nonforestry uses." *Id.* Consistent with this purpose, permitted uses in SF-NRL include development like accessory residential structures, home-based businesses, campgrounds, cultivation of forest products, and small-scale timber activities. None of the permitted uses or administrative special uses on SF-NRLs authorize large-scale quarry mining operations. SCC 14.16.420(2), (3). Such operations like "extracting and processing mineral resources" may be approved only with a



Special Use Permit pursuant to the Mineral Resource Overlay rules and only if they are “located within a designated mineral resource overlay.” SCC 14.16.420(4)(d) (emphasis added).

Although the reference to extracting and processing mineral resources might at first appear to limit the type of mining activities that must occur on land designated MRO, the reference to the MRO rules indicates that those terms should be read more broadly to describe mining operations that include construction of a mining road and rock hauling. For example, the purpose statement for the MRO rules uses the term “mineral extraction and processing activities” to refer to all mining activities that may occur on MRO lands. SCC 14.16.440(1) (“Mineral extraction and processing activities are allowed as a Hearing Examiner special use, and must comply with the Surface Mining Act, Chapter 78.44 RCW”). The rules for continuing and expanding pre-existing mining operations refer to them as “mining operations.” SCC 14.16.440(3). And the specific Special Use criteria expressly indicate that roads qualify as activities limited to an MRO, referring to “activities associated with mining or quarrying operations, including blasting and use of equipment in connection with an extraction operation, maintenance of mineral extraction equipment, maintenance of roads, traffic control, sorting, crushing, cleaning and loading.” SCC 14.16.440(7)(b)(i). Further, the Hearing Examiner procedures refer to “applications for mining operations special use permit” and “mineral extraction operation.” SCC 14.16.440(9). Thus, mining road construction and its subsequent operation for mining purposes cannot occur outside of the MRO and the Application must be denied.

In addition, if Kiewit were to argue that its road construction and use of that road to stage equipment like drill rigs and to shuttle rock down the hill did not qualify as the “extraction” or “processing” that the SF-NRL rules require to occur in MRO lands, then such construction and use of those roads could not occur even with an SUP on the SF-NRLs proposed because the Code does not identify that use as an allowed use. The Code states that “[o]nly those uses listed within a given zoning district shall be allowed,” and “in no instance shall a use specifically identified in any zoning district be allowed in another zoning district where that use is not specifically listed.” SCC 14.16.020(3). And although the mining road construction and use likely qualifies as part of the mineral extraction and processing that must occur in an MRO pursuant to a SUP, to the extent that it does not fall under that rubric, it is an unlisted use in the SF-NRL that cannot occur anywhere in that zone.

3. The Application is inconsistent with the purpose of the MRO designation.

On a final point, it should be noted that the proposed quarry conflicts with one of the primary purposes of the MRO, the County’s recognition that “mineral resources must be in close and economic proximity to the market to be served.” SCC 14.16.440. Here, Kiewit is mining jetty stone to be transported approximately 270 miles from Eastern Skagit County to the mouth of the Columbia River. Rather than preserving local rock for local use, the MRO would be used to justify the extraction of a local resource for a distant community.

### C. Conclusion

The project seeks approval to conduct mining uses on lands outside an MRO, where they are proscribed. Consequently, it must be denied. If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience at 360-622-8060 or [kyle@loringadvising.com](mailto:kyle@loringadvising.com).

Sincerely,

Kyle A. Loring  
Counsel for Skagit River Alliance

From Host Address: 67.40.8.236

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 9:13:16 AM

**RECEIVED**

MAY 13 2019

SKAGIT COUNTY  
PDS

By web portal and hard copy

May 11, 2019

Planning and Development Services  
1800 Continental Place  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Re: Marblemount Quarry – Mining Special Use Permit Application (PL19-0033)

Dear Skagit County Planning and Development Services,

I am writing on behalf of Skagit River Alliance to request that you deny Mining Special Use Permit Application No. PL19-0033 (“Application”). The Application must be rejected because it contravenes the Skagit County Code (“Code” or “SCC”) by requesting approval to conduct mining activities outside of a designated Mineral Resource Overlay (“MRO”). Those activities consist of the construction and operation of a 60-foot-wide mining road to haul mining equipment and the mined rock on-site rock and possibly to stockpile undersized rock. The Application also requests permission for a future mining operation outside of the MRO subject to speculation that it will be able to convince Skagit County’s (“County”) legislative body to expand the MRO at a future date. Because the Code prohibits mining uses outside of an MRO, the Application must be denied.

**A. Applicable Project Information**

Kiewit proposes to conduct mining activities on approximately 120 acres across six parcels that span approximately 600 acres. The activities involve site clearing, site grading, road building, quarry operations, and reclamation of a bedrock mine. Several of these activities would occur outside of the existing MRO, including immediate construction of a new, 60-foot-wide mining road and hauling of drilling and other equipment and mined rock on that road, possibly a portion of an undersized rock stockpile (although the Application does not identify the expected volume of rock that would be stored in this pile, it is anticipated to be a substantial amount of the projected 3.8 million cubic yards for initial mining, and 9.6 million cubic yards total. In addition, the 13-acre stockpile area is not delineated on maps and the Application does not provide information to determine whether it could actually fit within the MRO portion of Parcel P128574 that will not be covered by the mining road and reclaimed topsoil area, which may be less than 13 acres), and future rock mining. See Marblemount Quarry – Special Use Permit Drawings, Reclamation Sequence Maps (Jan. 15, 2019). The road would begin in MRO-designated land alongside Rockport-Cascade Road and then leave the

MRO and wander for approximately 2/3 of a mile before returning to lands designated MRO. See Marblemount Quarry – Special Use Permit Drawings, Reclamation Sequence Maps. Eventually, as the mining project expands per its plans, the road would be used to access rock mining that would also occur outside of the existing MRO. See Marblemount Quarry – Special Use Permit Drawings, Reclamation Sequence Map – Phase 4, Sheet 7 of 10 (Jan. 15, 2019). During road construction, blasting would be required on the scale of 4-6 blasts each day for approximately 90 days. Marblemount Quarry--SEPA Environmental Checklist, 18 (Jan. 22, 2019).

Although the Application's Reclamation maps clearly depict the construction of a new mining road outside of the MRO, SEPA Checklist statements assert that quarry-related activities would not occur outside of the MRO. For example, the SEPA Checklist opines that "at no time will mining or mining-related activities occur outside the MRO." SEPA Checklist, at 21, section 8.1. Similarly, although Reclamation maps show the mining road extending north on the parcel east of the MRO (Parcel P45541), the SEPA Checklist suggests that "no quarry-related activities would take place on [Parcel P45541] until the MRO is expanded." SEPA Checklist, at 19, section 8.a. This confusion may have arisen because the Application does not appear to acknowledge that the new mining road is a mining use.

The Application characterizes the new project as an expansion of a rock quarry that the County approved in 1976. A review of that approval, however, reveals substantial distinctions between that quarry and Kiewit's proposed operations. The 1976 operation involved small-scale mining of the existing talus field and limited hauling. SEPA Checklist, at 2. The application noted that the project wouldn't involve any pits but would instead remove only loose rock on the level of the existing land. The application also noted that just 2-3 vehicles would operate on site at any given time. And, unsurprisingly, there was little to no opposition. As the Board of Adjustment concluded, the rock removal site was isolated from residential development, adequately screened from the road, and unlikely to impose more than a negligible impact on surrounding properties.

In contrast, the current proposal would be much larger in scope. Rather than gathering existing loose material, it would separate approximately 9.6 million cubic yards of rock from its hillside. It would require a lengthy new mining road to reach the top of the quarry, where Kiewit would blast apart the mountaintop to remove large rocks from the fixed rock structure. And it would involve up to 260 daily single-direction vehicle trips just to and from the quarry, in addition to all of the vehicle traffic at the quarry.

## **B. The Code Does Not Allow Approval of the Application**

As demonstrated below, neither of the Comprehensive Plan rules for Mineral Resource Overlays or Secondary Forest-Natural Resource Lands allow the proposed mining uses on non-MRO lands.

### **1. *The Mineral Resource Overlay rules require denial of the Application.***

The Application must be denied because the Code prohibits new mining uses like the proposed mining road construction, rock hauling, likely stockpiling, and mining on the SF-NRLs outside of the MRO as proposed for parcels P45541 and P45548. Subject to several inapplicable exceptions,<sup>1</sup> “no new mining uses shall be allowed outside of the designated Mineral Resource Overlay.” SCC 14.16.440(3)(a). Although the Application attempts to characterize the proposed mining as an expansion of existing mining, it fails to explain how mining a different rock (jetty stone rather than talus), in a new location (top of the incline rather than the bottom), on a substantially larger scale (3.8 million cubic yards initially, rather than small-scale) is an extension of the earlier activities rather than a new mining operation. Even if the proposal were to be characterized as the expansion of an existing use, existing permitted commercial mining operations are not expressly permitted to expand outside an MRO. SCC 14.16.440(3)(c).

The prohibited new mining uses include hauling mining equipment to the site of the rock excavation and hauling rock around the site. Although the Code does not define “mining uses,” it defines “use” as “the specific purpose for which land or a building is designated, arranged, intended, or for which it is or may be occupied or maintained.” SCC 14.04.020. Here, the land outside of the MRO would be used for mining operations required to get equipment in place for mining, moving rock around the site, stockpiling rock, and future mining. Because the land is to be occupied or maintained for the purpose of mining, all of the mining activities must occur within the land designated MRO.

Moreover, the Code expressly includes road use and maintenance in the definition for “mining operations,” a synonym for “mining use.” The Code defines mining operations as

all mine-related activities, including:

- (1) The mining or extraction of rock, stone, gravel, sand, earth, and other

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<sup>1</sup> *E.g.*, while an exception exists to extract gravel and rock for the purpose of forest road construction and/or maintenance outside an MRO, there has been no suggestion that the mining road is a forest road or that its purpose is to extract gravel and rock for itself. Instead, the Application indicates that it will be constructed as part of Kiewit’s mining operations.



minerals;

- (2) Blasting, equipment maintenance, sorting, crushing, and loading;
- (3) On-site mineral processing including asphalt or concrete batching, asphalt or concrete recycling, and other aggregate recycling;
- (4) Transporting minerals to and from the mine, on-site road maintenance, road maintenance for roads used extensively for surface mining activities, traffic safety, and traffic control.

SCC 14.04.020. Thus, as a “mining operation” the new mining road and its mineral transportation and maintenance qualify as mining uses that are prohibited outside of the MRO.

## ***2. The Secondary Forest-Natural Resource Land rules require denial of the Application.***

Although the MRO rules dispositively require denial of the Application, the Secondary Forest-NRL rules also prohibit new mining uses on SF-NRLs outside of a designated MRO. The SF-NRL designation provides for “smaller scale” timber and other resource management activities. SCC 14.16.420(1) (emphasis added). The purpose of the SF-NRL designation is “to provide a transitional area between the Industrial Forest-Natural Resource Lands zone and Rural zoned lands designated primarily for residential use and other nonforestry uses.” *Id.* Consistent with this purpose, permitted uses in SF-NRL include development like accessory residential structures, home-based businesses, campgrounds, cultivation of forest products, and small-scale timber activities. None of the permitted uses or administrative special uses on SF-NRLs authorize large-scale quarry mining operations. SCC 14.16.420(2), (3). Such operations like “extracting and processing mineral resources” may be approved only with a Special Use Permit pursuant to the Mineral Resource Overlay rules and only if they are “located within a designated mineral resource overlay.” SCC 14.16.420(4)(d) (emphasis added).

Although the reference to extracting and processing mineral resources might at first appear to limit the type of mining activities that must occur on land designated MRO, the reference to the MRO rules indicates that those terms should be read more broadly to describe mining operations that include construction of a mining road and rock hauling. For example, the purpose statement for the MRO rules uses the term “mineral extraction and processing activities” to refer to all mining activities that may occur on MRO lands. SCC 14.16.440(1) (“Mineral extraction and processing activities are allowed as a Hearing Examiner special use, and must comply with the Surface Mining Act, Chapter 78.44 RCW”). The rules for continuing and expanding pre-existing mining operations refer to them as “mining operations.” SCC

14.16.440(3). And the specific Special Use criteria expressly indicate that roads qualify as activities limited to an MRO, referring to “activities associated with mining or quarrying operations, including blasting and use of equipment in connection with an extraction operation, maintenance of mineral extraction equipment, maintenance of roads, traffic control, sorting, crushing, cleaning and loading.” SCC 14.16.440(7)(b)(i). Further, the Hearing Examiner procedures refer to “applications for mining operations special use permit” and “mineral extraction operation.” SCC 14.16.440(9). Thus, mining road construction and its subsequent operation for mining purposes cannot occur outside of the MRO and the Application must be denied.

In addition, if Kiewit were to argue that its road construction and use of that road to stage equipment like drill rigs and to shuttle rock down the hill did not qualify as the “extraction” or “processing” that the SF-NRL rules require to occur in MRO lands, then such construction and use of those roads could not occur even with an SUP on the SF-NRLs proposed because the Code does not identify that use as an allowed use. The Code states that “[o]nly those uses listed within a given zoning district shall be allowed,” and “in no instance shall a use specifically identified in any zoning district be allowed in another zoning district where that use is not specifically listed.” SCC 14.16.020(3). And although the mining road construction and use likely qualifies as part of the mineral extraction and processing that must occur in an MRO pursuant to a SUP, to the extent that it does not fall under that rubric, it is an unlisted use in the SF-NRL that cannot occur anywhere in that zone.

***3. The Application is inconsistent with the purpose of the MRO designation.***

On a final point, it should be noted that the proposed quarry conflicts with one of the primary purposes of the MRO, the County’s recognition that “mineral resources must be in close and economic proximity to the market to be served.” SCC 14.16.440. Here, Kiewit is mining jetty stone to be transported approximately 270 miles from Eastern Skagit County to the mouth of the Columbia River. Rather than preserving local rock for local use, the MRO would be used to justify the extraction of a local resource for a distant community.

**C. Conclusion**

The project seeks approval to conduct mining uses on lands outside an MRO, where they are proscribed. Consequently, it must be denied. If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience at 360-622-8060 or [kyle@loringadvising.com](mailto:kyle@loringadvising.com).



Sincerely,

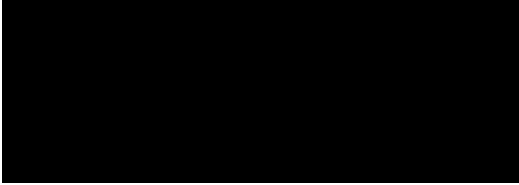
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kyle A. Loring', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Kyle A. Loring  
Counsel for Skagit River Alliance

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 4:10:01 PM

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Name : James Loucky



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry, proposal by Kiewit Corporation  
Comments : I firmly oppose the proposed quarry for jetty stone by Kiewit Corporation.

The proposed quarry would involve massive blasting of most of “Big Bear Mountain” and years of operation that would include unprecedented noise, contamination of air and water by toxins and asbestos particulates, and continuous noise and movement of massive on-site equipment and huge trucks along roads like the Rockport Cascade Road and SR-20 that are not built for such loads.

The worth of beauty, revenues from tourism, and peace of mind of visitors and residents alike are at stake. Wild and scenic rivers, including the mighty Skagit, and its salmon and eagle and other wildlife would suffer enormously, as would families, children, and neighborhood schools.

Your decisions will shape the future of Skagit County for generations to come. Please choose to have full evaluations and ample public review periods, and in doing so commit to protecting the immeasurable value inherent in the natural and community resources that make Skagit such a unique and sacred place.

PLEASE make a threshold determination of significance, in order to require a full Environmental Impact Statement through which to determine the magnitude and cumulative impacts of the proposed quarry. Invite as well time for public education about, and commentary on, the wisdom of this project.

Respectfully,  
Dr. James Loucky



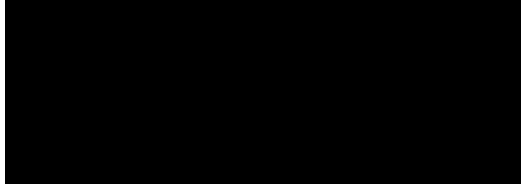
From Host Address: 73.225.40.138

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 4:06:49 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 4:30:01 PM

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Name : Liz Lovelett



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : To whom it may concern:

I wanted to submit comments on the proposed quarry in Marblemount. The County must give the request the most rigorous review possible to ensure that there are no negative impacts to the Skagit River basin where area Tribes, the Legislature, local jurisdictions, and numerous citizen and non-governmental groups, have invested considerable time and funding into restoring salmon runs, riparian habitat, and overall ecosystem health. These efforts, in no small part, are intended to address concerns about the dwindling health and well-being of our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Additionally, many local residents have expressed concern about the impacts to their quality of life.

We must do our best as leaders to prevent unintended consequences to our precious native environment and natural resources.

Thank you for your consideration.

Senator Liz Lovelett

From Host Address: 50.34.152.103

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 4:28:54 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 2:40:01 PM

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Name : Sammy Low



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely, Sammy Low

From Host Address: 24.56.209.87

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 2:36:50 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 7:05:01 PM

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Name : Kathryn Lynch



PermitProposal : Kiewet Quarry Operation Near Marblemount

Comments : Please do not allow this large mining operation to take place. The planned area is wilderness that can never be restored. Plus, the potential environmental impact to area rivers, potential for wildfires in what is turning out to be an increasingly dry area during the spring and summer months will lead to devastation. This is one of the few natural places left in WA state. Do not let it fall into the hands of destruction. Plus the logging that will be needed could leave the land more vulnerable to landslides which are a risk in that area. This is just bad all around.

From Host Address: 73.109.127.115

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 7:02:40 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 4:35:01 PM

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Name : Laura Mackenzie



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : Having just recently traveled over the North Cascade Hwy 20 to Pateros and back last week (May 8-9) with my husband, we really savored the beauty of this whole area, including stops in Marblemount, Rockport State Park and other favorite places along the Skagit River. I read Andrea L. Weiser's disturbing article " A Quarry Quandary" in the 5/8/2019 issue of the Cascadia Weekly and I don't want to imagine the impact of such a mining operation to this cherished place. It's long been a magnet for those of us seeking a quiet, awe-inspiring nature experience. An extensive mining project, such as this one, requires full, comprehensive environmental impact studies so that all impacts can be assessed, reviewed, evaluated and that affected citizens can be allowed ample time to read the EIS and thoughtfully submit their comments. I sincerely hope the final outcome of this process will result in the denial of a permit to Keiwit to expand mining and that this special area and the quality of life it delivers will be sustained.

From Host Address: 174.21.140.189

Date and time received: 5/12/2019 4:34:30 PM

From:

From dept email

**From:** website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 12:35 PM

**To:** Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>

**Subject:** PDS Comments

Name : Charlie Maliszewski

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

Charlie Maliszewski

From Host Address: 73.11.211.234

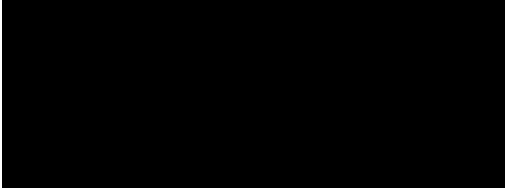


Date and time received: 5/9/2019 12:34:56 PM

**From:** [website@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:website@co.skagit.wa.us)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2019 2:20:01 PM

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Name : Rose Mallon



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : I can't believe it isn't mandatory to have an environmental impact study before a project of this magnitude is even \*considered\* let alone granted permits to proceed. Even if whatever rules are in force that govern this project don't require an EIS, good stewardship of our county resources says one should be completed and thoroughly and impartially reviewed before this project moves forward. Please be good stewards. Thank you.

From Host Address: 76.104.222.35

Date and time received: 4/12/2019 2:16:55 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 4:15:01 PM

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Name : Mark Malone

PermitProposal : Marblemount quarry

Comments : Dear Mr. Cooper,

I'm writing to address the inadequacies of the biology assessment prepared on behalf of Kiewit Corporation's Marblemount quarry project, and to urge that the County reject this inappropriate, misguided project outright.

The biological assessment presents several areas of concern, and many of them relate to a simple fallacy of structure: On page 8, the authors define the "Action Area" as "the area to be affected directly or indirectly by the action," with "the Action Area boundary" being "thus set as the limits of the effects of the proposed action." Then, they define the "Action Area boundary" as the boundary of the 120-acre project. And their assessment, to very large degree, only addresses the effects within that boundary! Of course, the "effects of the proposed action" will radiate far beyond that 120 acres. The mine—and the habitat—does not exist as an island. It's not hermetically sealed.

One obvious example is noise. See the Washington Post article by Sarah Kaplan, January 9, 2018: "Some birds are so stressed by noise pollution it looks like they have PTSD." It describes the important paper in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences that shows a clear link between chronic noise and low breeding success in songbirds. The noise produced by the mine will be heard well beyond the "Action Area," and it will be much louder than Kiewit's noise analysis describes. [For example, the two rock drills that Kiewit will be using are described, per the noise analysis document, as producing 84dB each. Yet the rock drills that they've been using at Beaver Lake, the Atlas Copco Flexiroc T-50, are rated by their manufacturer at 130dB! (Search for the model name and open the manufacturer's PDF that comes up... see the box, last page, lower right.)] The mine will be extremely loud.

Another example is the oddly reckless approach to potential effects on water quality. On page 16, the biological assessment blithely states that, "The Action Area does not include anadromous or marine habitat, so there are no proposed impacts to anadromous or marine species under NOAA's jurisdiction." It is true that the river and its anadromous fish runs don't run right through the 120-acre mine site. But it does not follow that there are no effects on the river from the mining activity. Further down, on page 35, the report states, "Since there is no open water located near the defined rock blasting areas, it is reasonable to conclude that the proposed blasting at the quarry will have no impacts on the Skagit River or other area water resources." Perhaps the author is unaware of how well-drained our soil is out here, or how much it rains, or how high the water table is. The author continues, "Based upon referenced studies and observations of the author at other projects, rock blasting at the Project would have little or no impact on domestic or wild animals near the site or on neighboring properties." I do not share his confidence.

Page 22 of the assessment calls out three Washington State Priority habitats that exist on the project site. One of the three, "herbaceous balds," will be blown up. This habitat potentially provides prey sources for spotted owls and other carnivores. The mitigation plan for the loss of

herbaceous balds is to create “simulated herbaceous balds”—in 100 years, at the end of the project! The loss of the other two priority habitats that exist onsite—snags (to be destroyed) and talus slopes (to be partially destroyed)—will be mitigated more quickly, though the 200 snags they’ll be knocking down will not be adequately replaced with their plan they describe. Their field visit, performed on November 29, 2018, was not productive. (And was probably a very soggy day for them, judging by my rain gauge data!) Among the things they reported not seeing were amphibian egg masses. Not a surprise, since one doesn’t see those until early Spring. And speaking of amphibians, the authors report, “It is conceivable that Oregon spotted frogs [a state endangered species] could traverse the Action Area to access vicinity streams and wetlands; however, the species is very rare.” I think they miss the point.

According to the field visit, marbled murrelet and spotted owl habitat—both federally threatened species—does not exist in the action area. Yet, Seattle City Light, which shares 8,800’ of common border with the project parcels, reports having “a stand of mature coniferous trees within 1/4-mile of the proposed quarry that may be suitable habitat for these species.” And on page 25 of the assessment, the authors state, “Publicly available WDFW ... PHS [Priority Habitats and Species] maps also indicate gray wolf and Northern Spotted Owl could be present in the Action Area.” My neighbors and I could have told them about the wolf. We’ve been seeing the tracks for two years. And now, according to WDFW, we have a pack of wolves, the Diobsud Creek Pack.

I could go on, and on. I’m just scratching the surface here of the inconsistencies and inadequacies of the assessment.

The cumulative predictable and potential effects of this project—not just on wildlife, but on public health and safety, the local economy, public infrastructure, water quality, air quality, the livability of the surrounding neighborhood—clearly surpass the threshold needed to reach a “determination of significance,” to require that an Environmental Impact Statement be prepared per the Washington State Environmental Policy Act.

The community believes this project should be rejected outright. The presentation by Kiewit has been disingenuous. It contains inherent procedural faults, for which SCPDS should hold them accountable. Every potential impact has either been plainly minimized or inadequately analyzed. “Nothing to see here,” seems to be their general stance, and it’s insulting. But beyond Kiewit’s shortcomings, just think about it: A surface mine, looming 800’ over town, immediately uphill from an essential salmon-bearing river, at the gateway to a national park, surrounded by taxpayers’ homes... that is not an appropriate land use. That’s actually a death sentence for Marblemount.

Because it so perfectly captures the spirit of the Marblemount community I know, I’ll leave you with some words from my neighbor Andrea Weiser: “Our future is restoration, outdoor education, and recreation, not extraction, remediation, and mitigation for damage already done.”

Sincerely,?

Mark Malone

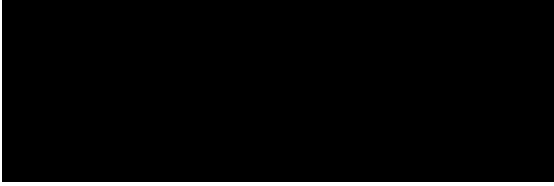
From Host Address: 50.34.179.214

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 4:10:47 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, April 28, 2019 8:00:01 PM

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Name : MELINDA MANN



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed quarry expansion near my home in Marblemount, WA. I am opposed to approval of the quarry at this time for three reasons:

First, the high volume of large trucks will significantly and permanently reduce the quality of life of area residents with constant noise, road hazards such as rock damage to cars and potholes, and landscape alteration.

Second, the increased traffic and above issues will likely impact the number of visitors to the area, negatively affecting the economy. I have lived here for fourteen years and have recently seen an huge increase in people coming to the North Cascade National Park, local campgrounds, lodging, and restaurants. As this area finally starts to realize its potential as a vacation spot, we do not need to alienate visitors with extra noise and traffic.

Finally, and most importantly, we have no idea how this expanded quarry will impact the wildlife in the area, especially our recently arrived wolf pack -- the first on the western slope of the Cascades. We need an environmental impact statement to assess ALL of the impacts of this proposed quarry. Please, do this, report back, and THEN talk to residents about this project, when we have all of the information.

Thank You,

Melinda Mann

From Host Address: 50.34.166.222

Date and time received: 4/28/2019 7:55:12 PM



**Skagit Audubon Society**

RECEIVED

MAY 13 2019

SKAGIT COUNTY  
PDS

May 13, 2019

Comments on the Marblemount Quarry  
Skagit County Planning and Development Services  
1800 Continental Place  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Re: Marblemount Quarry (Kiewit Infrastructure's proposed quarry operation near Marblemount)

File numbers PL19-0033, PL19-0047, PL19-0032 & BP19-0070

To Whom It May Concern:

Skagit Audubon Society submitted a comment letter on March 29, 2019, concerning the Marblemount Quarry proposal. Please accept the following letter as our organization's further comment on this project. We appreciate the opportunity which the second, longer comment period has allowed for more thoroughly studying the proposal. In reading more of the documents posted on the Planning & Development Services website, a number of additional concerns came to light. We discuss those in this letter. The upper Skagit Valley has long been an area of great interest to Skagit Audubon members focused on birds and other wildlife. These members include residents of the general project area and many more who live elsewhere in Skagit or adjacent counties.

These comments are on behalf of Skagit Audubon Society, the local chapter of National Audubon. Our chapter's 259 member families share the Audubon mission of conserving and restoring natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity. The proposed quarry operation has the potential to adversely affect our group's interests in many ways.

**The application materials for this project do not adequately address the long-term potential adverse effects of the proposed project either in its construction phase or during the long span of its proposed operation.**

Skagit Audubon, along with many other organizations and commenting individuals, strongly supports the contention that an environmental impact statement (EIS) should be required for this project. There are, at a minimum, readily foreseeable long-term adverse impacts from noise and dust that should be addressed with a range of alternatives and mitigation measures evaluated, as would be done in an EIS. What will it mean for the people, wildlife, and environment of the area when daily blasting, dust, and truck noise continue for as much as a century?

*~ to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity ~*

**The direct, indirect, and cumulative effects on state and/or federal listed species should be addressed over the proposed lifetime of the project.**

In our comment letter of March 29, 2019, we noted the inadequacy of the project's SEPA Checklist and Biological Assessment in addressing the potential adverse impacts on listed species. In the following paragraphs we offer additional comments related to some of the specially protected species likely to be adversely impacted by the proposed project.

**Gray Wolf**

From Skagit Audubon's March 29<sup>th</sup> letter:

"The *Biological Assessment and Skagit County Critical Areas Report* prepared for Kiewit by Element Solutions of Bellingham states conclusions related to potential impacts on listed species on page 45 of its report. The report states, '...the overall proposed project May Affect, Is Not Likely to Adversely Affect the biological environment of the area.' Element Solutions states this conclusion, for example, for the federal and state-listed Gray Wolf, even though there is, and has for some time been, a WDFW-radio collared wolf in the vicinity, and there could be others. The project's SEPA application, on page 15 under 'Federal Species,' states, 'FWS (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service) data list the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) as an endangered species that may occur in the project site vicinity.' The term 'may' is incorrect."

On April 4<sup>th</sup>, a few days following the close of the first comment period for the Marblemount Quarry proposal, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) issued a press release giving an overview of the state's wolf population. The release notes that in 2018, the collared male wolf in the Marblemount area was observed accompanied by a female, constituting the first wolf pack west of the Washington Cascades in many decades. The person preparing the SEPA Checklist for the quarry project, had he or she contacted WDFW, could have written a more accurate and complete statement about the presence of this protected species in the project vicinity.

On what grounds does the contractor, Element Solutions, conclude that the proposed industrial quarrying activity would not affect this listed species? Clearly the SEPA checklist has been prepared without complete information and careful thought about the effects the proposed project could have on species protected by law. The person completing the checklist was apparently not aware of the readily obtainable information that a wolf was known to be present in the area and has been for several years. While there are a small number of residents and some elected officials determined to undermine wolf restoration, there are a far greater number of Skagit citizens who expect the Endangered Species Act to be upheld and this long absent species to be restored to its former habitat. The SEPA Checklist does an extremely inadequate job of addressing the very real potential adverse effects of the proposed project on this and other federal and state listed species.



### Migratory Birds

The avian information on which the determination of “No Jeopardy” is apparently based is similarly sketchy. As noted in our March 29<sup>th</sup> letter: “Several migratory birds are mentioned, such as Willow Flycatcher and Olive-sided Flycatcher, with the unsupported statement that there would be ‘No Jeopardy’ to these species from this project. No basis is given for this conclusion. From our own experience we can say that particularly for the Olive-sided Flycatcher, the conclusion of Element Solutions is unwarranted. Particularly in migration, it is virtually certain that this species occurs on the project property and would be impacted adversely were it clear cut and quarried.”

The statements in the SEPA Checklist and permit applications ought to be backed up with data of sufficient quantity and quality to support a sound conclusion. The checklist statement about birds referenced above gives the impression that while there may have been one field visit, there certainly was not a survey of birds and other wildlife repeated over months or at least a year, as would be appropriate for a project of this scope and duration, as much as a century. Any reasonably experienced birder knows that May and June are the time when a site such as the Marblemount Quarry should be checked for flycatchers and other species not potentially present year-round. Did qualified biologists or at least experienced amateur birders check for these species at the appropriate time of year when the birds are singing and are most readily detected?

We repeat that these are only a few examples of the insufficiency of the biological assessment, whose conclusions have been incorporated into the SEPA Checklist and which apparently led to the earlier conclusion that an EIS was not needed.

### Marbled Murrelet

In our March 29<sup>th</sup> letter we discussed the inadequacies of the evaluation of the potential project related to the state and federally listed Marbled Murrelet. Subsequently, we have read Seattle City Light’s March 29<sup>th</sup> comment letter concerning the Marblemount Quarry proposal. We note the statement on page two of the letter that City Light’s adjacent Parcel P45307 contains trees which may be suitable habitat for this listed species as well as the also listed Spotted Owl. We support the important point in this letter that any realistic evaluation of the proposed project must consider not only potential impacts occurring on the project site but also on adjacent properties and, furthermore, on any property whose residents, wildlife, or environmental values could be adversely affected by the noise, light, traffic, or dust of the proposed project. The evaluation of trees for Marbled Murrelet and Spotted Owl habitat was apparently done only on the project site itself.

**There are numerous species of fish, some state and federally listed, which could be adversely impacted. Many millions of dollars of public and private funds have been invested in their restoration.**

We support the concerns about protected fish species mentioned in the comment letter by Seattle City Light dated March 29, 2019, and the letter submitted by Skagit Watershed Council dated April 17, 2019.

**Adverse effects to human and wildlife health from potential actinolite asbestos in the quarry rock should be thoroughly examined in an EIS.**

We note that on page 29 of the SEPA Checklist at number 3, it is mentioned that “Shuksan greenschist” is the “source material,” presumably the rock which the project applicant wishes to sell for jetty stone. In the “Marblemount Quarry Geohazard Critical Areas Report”, the map and text at 2.2.2 (page 8) show and describe the Shuksan greenschist, which comprises most of the rock of the proposed quarry according to noted geologists Rowland Tabor, Ralph Haugerud, and others. Page 7 of the “Skagit County Critical Areas Report” states, “This rock face consists of Shuksan greenschist, which is the desired quarry stone source.”

Nowhere in the SEPA Checklist or the accompanying reports is it mentioned that Shuksan greenschist contains actinolite. This important information is, however, readily available. On page 92 of their book *Geology of the North Cascades* (pub. The Mountaineers, 1999), describing Shuksan greenschist, Tabor and Haugerud, state, “The minerals chlorite, epidote, and actinolite color the rock green and are its most abundant constituents.” The significance of this fact is that actinolite is one of the six unique minerals otherwise known as “asbestos” whose drastic health effects have so hugely affected certain communities and workers in the United States. The author(s) of the SEPA Checklist and the project reports did not choose to include any quotation from Tabor, Haugerud, or other geologists knowledgeable about this area mentioning the presence of actinolite in Shuksan greenschist. A search of the application documents turns up no mention of actinolite or asbestos.

The project’s “Fugitive Dust Plan”, Appendix B of the project’s SEPA Checklist, includes no information about the chemical or mineral characteristics of the dust which the quarry operation would generate. Particularly given the presence of actinolite in the rock and the potential for very serious impacts on the health of the project workers and nearby residents, this is a serious oversight. If actinolite asbestos is a constituent of Shuksan greenschist, can the project applicant prove that asbestos will somehow not be in the dust generated by the quarrying activities or that it can be completely abated?

Appendix K, the “Marblemount Quarry Mitigation Plan”, similarly has no mention of the actinolite in the rock to be quarried and describes no measures for mitigating its presence in dust from project operations.

Why is this fact with its potentially very severe health implications related to the proposed quarrying operation nowhere mentioned in the application materials? There should be a thorough study of whether dust from the proposed project would contain actinolite and whether any mitigation is possible that would safeguard the health of area residents, some of whom live very close to the project site, and protect from harm those who might visit the adjacent public and private properties. Further, what would the effects be of asbestos-containing dust on wildlife at the project site or within the range of dust blowing from it?

**There should be consideration of the potential adverse effects on people, wildlife, and the environment from the quarry site all along the transportation route to the ports from which the rock would be shipped.**

A reasonable analysis of the potential adverse effects of the proposed project, as mentioned above, cannot focus solely on the project site. In addition to adjacent and nearby lands, the transportation route along which the many, heavy loads of rock will travel needs to be considered. What direct, indirect, and cumulative effects will those trucks over the century duration of this quarrying operation have on residents along the route, on protected wildlife, air and water quality, and the safety of motorists and bicyclists? An EIS is needed to examine this aspect of the proposed project which will affect so many people and species.

**Conclusion: An EIS should be required.**

The scale, duration, resources at risk, potential effects on health and safety, and the controversial nature of Kiewit Infrastructure's proposed quarry operation all argue for a determination of likely adverse effects and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for this project.

Please keep our organization informed at each stage of the project review, including the opportunities for public oral or written comment. Please use this address for written information: Conservation Chair, Skagit Audubon Society, P.O. Box 1101, Mount Vernon, WA 98274 and this address for emailed notices: [conservation@skagitaudubon.org](mailto:conservation@skagitaudubon.org).

Sincerely,



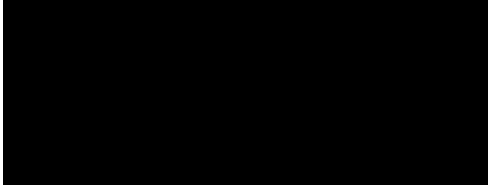
Timothy Manns  
Conservation Chair  
Skagit Audubon Society



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 3:45:01 PM

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Name : Marblegate Property Owners Assoc. BOD



PermitProposal : Marblemount Jetty Pock Quarry PL19-0033

Comments : I am the president of the Marblegate Property Owners Association. I am writing on behalf of the MPOA Board of Directors to express opposition to the Marblemount Jetty Rock Quarry proposed by Kiewit. Since 1973 the 28 property owners of Marblegate have enjoyed the natural beauty and tranquility of land near the Skagit River and along the Rockport Cascade Road. The quarry would directly and negatively impact our community and the Marblemount area. We are located less than 1/2mile from the proposed site. The development would greatly reduce our property values, severely reduce the quality of life and recreation, cause significant noise impacts 12 hours a day, 6 days a week, cause traffic problems, destroy wildlife habitat, increase pollution, destroy the forest environment and pose safety risks due to seismic, blasting, fire danger. A major industrial site adjacent to residential and recreational property is not compatible. The project is in direct opposition to the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan. This is not a simple revision to a inactive, small scale site but a major expansive 100 year massive destructive endeavor that would not benefit the area. We strongly request an Environmental Impact Study and hope for rejection of the project due to all its negative effects.

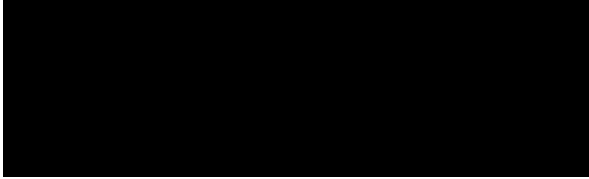
From Host Address: 73.59.87.2

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 3:43:53 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 10:05:01 PM

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Name : Martin Marcus



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Martin Marcus

From Host Address: 75.57.3.31

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 10:02:19 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Saturday, April 13, 2019 9:15:01 AM

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Name : Richard L. Marker

PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : There is a question here to be answered . Is this simply an inconvenience to those affected by the noise and sheer volume of trucks? Or, does this threaten the very nature of the life they chose?

A great many people who live in more remote areas do so because that is the nature of the life they chose.

The greater good may necessitate moving forward in spite of the people of the region who may be harmed by this. To that end, Skagit County Commissioners should be certain this is a necessary choice.

If this is a necessary choice, restrictions should be of paramount consideration. Trucks hauling quarry rocks should be restricted to a narrow window to operate during the day. Compression braking should be prohibited.

Personally, I would require special noise testing on muffler systems and brake noises. A permit could be issued for those trucks and truckers meeting the criteria. The permit could be revoked for violations.

Property owners who are most severely affected should be compensated. Possibly their property should be purchased.

There is an impact from this project. The question is who should bear the brunt of the impact.

Richard L. Marker, Mount Vernon

From Host Address: 24.19.243.248

Date and time received: 4/13/2019 9:13:35 AM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 7:00:01 AM

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Name : Carly Markowitz

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry  
Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

Carly Markowitz

From Host Address: 104.235.184.181

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 6:55:18 AM

RECEIVED

MAY 13 2019

SKAGIT COUNTY  
PDS

K M Marks



Dear John Cooper,  
1500 Continental Place  
Mt. Vernon WA 98275

I am opposed to the Kiewit Infrastructure proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070) and in the following letter I will explain how this proposal is in violation of Skagit County Codes and Federal laws.

WASHINGTON STATE Km

Skagit County was sued in 2006 for arbitrarily interpreting the county codes and in this case should be wary they are doing the same. <https://caselaw.findlaw.com/wa-court-of-appeals/1240706.html>

Skagit County should reject Kiewit Infrastructures plans for their new quarry in Marblemount Washington. Upon a quick inspection it's obvious that the entirety of their applications are riddled with misleading information or lack therein. This is not an expansion as Kiewit contends, but an entirely new proposal since the historical mineral overlay has not shown any DNR permitted quarry on the site for over 15 years.

The Kiewit proposal blatantly forgets to include site specific evaluations in numerous areas, including traffic, noise, blasting, critical areas, and hydrology. It's almost as if Kiewit believes they are not expected to follow county, state or federal procedures, policies and laws. Or as if they believe they can pull the wool over the eyes of citizens, sovereign tribal nations and the county planners.

According to WAC 197-11-355 the DNS optional process should not have been used since there was not a reasonable basis to determine that a significant adverse environmental impact was not likely. But Skagit County chose to use this process so as to limit citizen and tribal right to adequate time to review all the documents. Thirty days is not enough time for the public to be informed on 25 documents submitted to the county, containing; assessments, permit applications, requests, and plans. For a new quarry proposed to be situated in a Wild and Scenic corridor of the Skagit River and gateway to the North Cascades National Park.

Thirty days is not enough time for all concerned parties to review and give educated opinions and evaluations based on laws regarding the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, State water quality laws, the Endangered Species Act and other state or federal environmental policies that protect a wild and scenic rivers corridor.

((In this case the proposed new quarry is situated at the hub of 3 protected Wild and Scenic Waterways.)) These agencies include but are not limited to; the Department of Natural Resources, United States Department of the Interior, United States Parks Systems, Department of Transportation, Skagit County Planning Department, National Forest Service, State Fish and Wildlife, and others. These agencies as well as the public should have been given more time to weigh in so as to protect or mitigate any adverse effects of a proposal of this magnitude.

## MINERAL RESOURCES MUST BE IN CLOSE AND ECONOMIC PROXIMITY TO THE MARKET TO BE SERVED

“The mineral resources of the Marblemount Quarry are not in both “close and economic proximity to the market to be served “as stipulated in SCC 14.16.440. The market to be served by the primary product, jetty boulders, is quite distant from the site and will not serve the economic interests of the surrounding community or Skagit County. While the waste rock (tailings) might be used for local markets, there is not a local need for this material as there are already plenty of established sources for crushed gravel in Skagit County.”

*Because the site permit has been terminated by DNR and has been for over 15 years, there have been no sales of crushed gravel out of the Marblemount quarry site for a number of years. Therefore there is no local demand for 28 acres of 200' high piles of tailings or crushed gravel from this location.*

“SCC 14.16.440 Mineral Resource Overlay (MRO). (1) Purpose. The purpose of the Mineral Resource Overlay (MRO) is to maintain and enhance natural resource-based industries by conserving mineral resource lands, allowing continued operation of existing legally established uses, and by assuring that use of adjacent lands does not interfere with the extraction and quarrying of minerals. A MRO overlays Natural Resource Lands (NRL) zoning districts and imposes regulations in addition to those normally required in the underlying NRL zoning district. Mineral extraction and processing activities are allowed as a Hearing Examiner special use, and must comply with the Surface Mining Act, Chapter 78.44 RCW. The MRO recognizes those areas that are designated to protect long-term, commercially viable mineral Natural Resource Lands and recognizes that **mineral resources must be in close and economic proximity to the market to be served.**”

In short Skagit County resident will not benefit from the extraction of these large jetty stones as they are intended to be shipped outside the county. And there is currently no market for tailings that contain residues from mining practices like drill oil and blasting residues.

## KIEWIT APPLICATION APPROVED BY SKAGIT COUNTY FOR COMMERCIAL DRIVEWAYS ONE IS IN VIOLATION OF SKAGIT COUNTY CODE

Two Kiewit permits have been approved but one should not have been and here is why;  
1. Driveway Entrance D is outside the historic gravel quarry site and Mineral Overlay. 2. Kiewit did not record the correct parcel number on their application in an attempt to



deceive the county. This is in violation of the comprehensive plan and Skagit County Codes. This commercial driveway is outside the Mineral Overlay and thus cannot be approved unless there is a change in the county's zoning laws and or comprehensive plan amendments. And if it is discovered that a permit is issued on incorrect information supplied by the applicant then it should be revoked.

#### **14.44.350 Permit suspension or revocation.**

(1) The Administrative Official may issue an administrative order to suspend or revoke a permit issued pursuant to the Administrative Official's review, only upon:

**(a) Discovery that the permit was issued in error based on incorrect information supplied by the applicant;**

**(b) Applicant's failure to disclose a change of circumstances on the development proposal site if those circumstances render the critical area study inaccurate.**

The two commercial driveway permits approved by Skagit County for commercial driveways are on different parcels but Kiewit claims they are on the same (the mineral overlay quarry) but this is falsified information.

The county told us that these permits were approved because they are not subject to review, (I am assuming that is SEPA) however Kiewit is claiming that they are commercial driveways and on the quarry site. (No construction outside the quarry site is permitted according to law) Approved permit: **AC19-0014**, Commercial access, ENTRANCE D approved 2-21-19, applicant Kiewit Infrastructure>> under parcel number at the top of the permit application it should have read- P45548 not P45543. Under the area- county road access --accepting road access for -- they clicked--> other- and wrote in -->quarry-(P45548 is not a quarry) and unless there is a Comprehensive plan change this is not the quarry but P45548.

Therefore the permit for driveway 2 should be revoked by the county. Consideration should be made from DOT on whether or not Driveway 1 if it's approval remains in place is in a safe location considering Kiewit wants to locate it directly across from Willow Lane a private residential communities driveway.

**KIEWIT'S DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION STATES:**

#### **Entrance Road Loop-**

"The project site will be accessed from Rockport Cascade Road. There are two existing site access points: one to the north and one to the south. The existing access points will be decommissioned and replaced with two new access points (see Exhibit A: Engineering Site Plans."

**No. Upon close inspection of the plans there is only one central driveway at the quarry site. The driveways that Kiewit has received approval from Skagit County is driveway D. Driveway D is outside the footprint of the previous quarry.**

KIEWIT:

"The access road was designed to meet Skagit County standards. Trucks will access the site from the northern entrance and will exit the site through the southern exit. The entrance road loop will be constructed from crushed gravel."

**The second driveway is outside the DNR terminated permit area. All commercial mining activities must be within the footprint of the existing quarry. (all 5 properties have single family homes on them. One has a well some are designated NFL not all of these properties are designated Mineral Overlay.**

Pre-Existing Designated and Undesignated Mining Operations.

(a) Except as allowed in Subsection (3)(b) of this Section, or as allowed as an accessory use, pursuant to SCC 14.16.410(3)(d), 14.16.420(2)(f), 14.16.430(2)(h) and 14.16.430(4)(f), **no new mining special use permits shall be issued outside of the designated Mineral Resource Overlay.**

(b) Commercial mining operations lying outside of a designated MRO that are allowed at the time of adoption of the ordinance codified in this Section may continue to operate on the permitted mining site. Expansion of the existing operations beyond the geographical and/or operational limits imposed by the existing approval is allowed provided the owner applies for and receives a new mining special-use permit issued under this Section that covers the expanded operation area. **Expansion will not extend beyond the legal parcel on which the legally existing use is located.** (*This use may not be legal since it was terminated by DNR prior to 2004*)

The currently approved permits for commercial driveway expansion are in violation of Skagit county codes and as such should be immediately revoked.

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fsbdev7\\_001448.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fsbdev7_001448.pdf)

## KIEWIT'S CLAIM TO THE ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS OF A READY TO PERMIT SOURCE OF JETTY STONE.

Kiewit misled the Army Corp of engineers and the public since 2012 when it claimed that the Marblemount quarry was a permitted mine.

Kiewit's inclusion of the Marblemount quarry on the list of permitable mines for jetty stone back in 2012 approved by the Army Corp of Engineers is proof they have always intended to circumnavigate laws and regulations regarding permit processes in state federal and county governments. And their deception to the Army Corp of Engineers is unlawful.

Jetty stone was never extracted from this site in its history! So how could this be a quick permit process? The following link shows a directory of permitted mines in the state of Washington and this list does not include a Marblemount quarry. In Fact DNR considers the Marblemount quarry's permit terminated and therefore it should be subject to

reclamation efforts by the current owner (Cunningham Trust) who assumes responsibility for the site's reclamation by law from the previous owner if it was not done to the DNR requirements in the past.

[http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/ger\\_ic94\\_directory\\_wa\\_mines\\_2001.pdf](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/ger_ic94_directory_wa_mines_2001.pdf) Pg 67-68

## THE KIEWIT PROPOSAL IS IN VIOLATION OF THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT

The Skagit River, along with its tributaries the Sauk, Suiattle and Cascade Rivers, were the first rivers in Washington to be included in the National Wild and Scenic River System.

The Kiewit Marblemount quarry proposal is located in the overlapping corridors of three wild and scenic water systems: the Skagit River, the Cascade River, and Illabot creek. This fact alone would demand site specific evaluations and EIS and consideration regarding state and federal Clean Waters Acts as well as the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Skagit County cannot issue Kiewit Infrastructures proposed permits for the Marblemount mine because they are in direct violation of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Skagit County has a responsibility to work with federal and state agencies to protect the designated rivers and their corridors .....enjoyment and recreational pursuits ...recreational use. Daily blasting will deter those who come to the Skagit to view Eagles seasonally. Fishermen who use small craft in and around the water will be discouraged to pursue recreational fishing. Tourists and industries built around tourism will be negatively affected due to dust, noise, excessive large truck congestion and diminished watershed quality.

SECTION 10. <https://www.rivers.gov/documents/wsr-act.pdf> "Each component of the national wild and scenic rivers system shall be administered in such manner as to protect and enhance the values which caused it to be included in said system without, insofar as is consistent therewith, limiting other uses that do not substantially interfere with public use and enjoyment of these values. In such administration primary emphasis shall be given to protecting its esthetic, scenic, historic, archaeological, and scientific features. Management plans for any such component may establish varying degrees of intensity for its protection and development, based on the special attributes of the area."

(Public Law 90-542; 16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.)

"Wild and scenic river designation seeks to protect and enhance a river's current natural condition and provide for public use consistent with retaining those values. Designation affords certain legal protection from adverse development, e.g., no new dams may be constructed, nor federally assisted water resource development projects allowed that are judged to have an adverse effect on designated river values. Where private lands are involved, the federal managing agency will work with local governments and owners to develop voluntary protective measures."

*"It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with **their immediate environments**, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic,*



*fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Congress declares that the established national policy of dams and other construction at appropriate sections of the rivers of the United States needs to be complemented by a policy that would preserve other selected rivers or sections thereof in their free-flowing condition to protect the water quality of such rivers and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes. (Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, October 2, 1968"*

#### PROTECTED SKAGIT RIVER:

"Skagit, 1 Washington: The segment from the town of Mount Vernon to and including the mouth of Bacon Creek; the Cascade River between its mouth and the junction of its North and South Forks; the South Fork to the boundary of the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area; the Suiattle River from its mouth to the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area boundary at Milk Creek~ the Sauk River from its mouth to its junction with Elliott Creek; the North Fork of the Sauk River from its junction with the South Fork of the Sauk to the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area boundary."

Where private lands are involved, the river-administering agency works with local governments and landowners to develop protective measures.

What does a river's classification mean? A: Rivers added to the National System by Congress are classified in one of three classes depending on the extent of development and accessibility along each segment:

- i. • Recreation: The **Skagit River segment of the Skagit System is designated as recreational.**
- ii. • Scenic: The Sauk, Suiattle, and **Cascade River segments of the Skagit System are designated as scenic.**
- iii. • Wild: there are no wild segments in the Skagit System.

In addition to describing the type and intensity of development in existence at the date of the river's designation, **classification serves as a framework for future in-corridor land uses on federal lands, and as a guide in working with state and local governments, and landowners on non-federal lands."**

The proposed quarry will visually degrade a mountain that will be seen along the river corridor for 6 miles or more. Blasting noise will harass protected and endangered species including wintering eagle populations and the tourists that view them.

#### Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act:

Title 14, Chapter 1, Section 251.1. Harassment of Animals

"Except as otherwise authorized in these regulations or in the Fish and Wildlife Code, **no person shall harass**, herd or drive any game or non-game bird or mammal or fur bearing mammal. For the purposes of this section, **harass is defined as an intentional act which disrupts an animal's normal behavior patterns, which includes, but is not limited to, breeding, feeding or sheltering.** This section does not apply to a landowner or tenant who drives or herds birds or mammals for the purpose of preventing damage to private or public property, including aquaculture and agriculture crops."



Runoff and toxins from the tailing piles will enter streams and end up in the WSR Skagit River and impact threatened fish species. This is not consistent with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act which proposes to protect the rivers designated and their immediate environments for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Chapter 79A.55 RCW SCENIC RIVER SYSTEM Section 79A.55.040

**“State agencies and local governments to pursue policies to conserve and enhance included river areas—Shoreline management act—Private lands—Trust lands.**

**(1) All state government agencies and local governments are hereby directed to pursue policies with regard to their respective activities, functions, powers, and duties which are designed to conserve and enhance the conditions of rivers which have been included in the system, in accordance with the management policies and the rules adopted by the commission for such rivers.** Local agencies are directed to pursue such policies with respect to all lands in the river area owned or leased by such local agencies.”

Skagit County is obligated by state law to conserve and enhance the rivers and their immediate environments and to comply with the federal wild and scenic rivers act.

#### KIEWIT'S CRITICAL AREA REVIEW

[https://www.skagitcounty.net/PlanningAndPermit/Documents/MarblemountQuarry/004\\_MarblemountQuarry\\_Pre-ApplicationRequest\\_11-21-18.pdf](https://www.skagitcounty.net/PlanningAndPermit/Documents/MarblemountQuarry/004_MarblemountQuarry_Pre-ApplicationRequest_11-21-18.pdf)

In the above document Kiewit Letter dated November 21, 2018 Kiewit's states that **Critical Areas approval are requirements of final submittal**. I cannot find in any site assessment of this property done by Skagit County with regards to Critical Areas.

KIEWIT:

“Dear SCPDS, This memorandum and attached documents are being submitted on behalf of Kiewit Infrastructure West Co. to request a Pre-Application meeting. Kiewit proposes to develop a jetty rock quarry on Rockport Cascade Road in Marblemount, WA understand that a Lot of Record Certification and **Critical Areas Approval are requirements of final submittal**. We are currently in process of obtaining those documents.”

**Has a site assessment been done by the county** and is this a pre requirement of submittal of permits and applications? If it hasn't been done then I believe the county needs to require Kiewit to re-submit all their permits and assessments.

“The following is a copy of the Marblemount Quarry Pre-Application Meeting Request Form for your reference. The Pre-Application Meeting was held on December 6, 2018.”

Request for critical areas review county form:

<https://www.skagitcounty.net/PlanningAndPermit/Documents/forms/Critical%20Areas/CAO%20Review%20Application.pdf>

KIEWIT:

“Skagit County as potentially containing regulated environmental areas as defined under Skagit County Critical Areas Ordinance (SCC 14.24) as detailed in Section 1.4. Pursuant to the review and reporting requirements specified in this code, the objectives of the assessment were to evaluate and describe, to the extent feasible, the 1) existing site conditions, 2) occurrence, functions, and processes of regulated areas, and 3) potential impact from the proposed project action on regulated areas.

**Recommendations for avoiding, minimizing and/or mitigating potential impacts as relevant are provided in accordance with the assessment and reporting requirements specified in the regulatory code. 1.2 Proposed Project Action”**

And yet in the Kiewit report there is no assessment from the county of the proposed site.

**From- Critical Areas Assistance Handbook:**

“For every community, there are at least three reasons for protecting critical areas:

- To protect the public from threats to human safety and to protect public and private property from natural hazards. **((The Kiewit proposal is on a seismic fault line but Kiewit does not mention this nor outline its impact in any place in its reports, or what their proposed blasting could do to the mountain that DNR claims needs assessment because of large fractures that it observed many years ago, that as of the current date have still not been studied. No mention.))**

- To meet the goals of the GMA to protect the environment and enhance the state’s quality of life.

- To preserve those environmentally sensitive areas that are valuable to the public and provide ecological function.” (like wetlands)

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/gms-ca-handbook-critareas-2007.pdf>

“Even when maps are locally adopted as “official,” **it is likely that the mapped data is not an exhaustive inventory of the critical areas that exist.** Mapping is often completed at a large scale that makes it impossible to precisely record the location of critical areas. Therefore, it is recommended that counties and cities should clearly articulate that the maps are for information or illustrative purposes only unless the map is an integral component of a regulatory scheme. Users of the maps should be made aware that maps may be continuously updated as new critical areas are identified, that maps are a reference, that they may not show all existing critical USGS Map 11 areas, and that they do not provide a final critical area designation. **The exact location of a critical area should be determined through the performance of a field investigation by a qualified professional.”**

For Washington state and local government GIS data:

<http://www.mrsc.org/byndmrsc/qis.aspx>

Mapping and GIS resources that may be helpful in identifying where critical areas occur include:

- **The National Wetlands Inventory.**
- **Soil maps produced by U.S. Department of Agriculture National Resources Conservation Service.**
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency flood insurance maps.**
- Coastal Zone Atlas (for marine bluff hazards).
- **U.S. Geological Survey landslide hazard, seismic hazard, and volcano hazard maps.**
- **Washington State Department of Natural Resources seismic hazard maps for Western Washington.**
- **Washington State Department of Natural Resources slope stability maps.**
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) tsunami hazard maps.
- **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Priority Habitat and Species Maps.** (Kiewit shows on some maps that the watercourses on the proposed site are fish bearing, yet in other reports they say it is not.)
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources Official Water Type Reference Maps.
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources Puget Sound Intertidal Habitat Inventory Maps.
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources Shorezone Inventory.
- Washington State Department of Health Annual Inventory of Shellfish Harvest Areas.
- **Anadromous and resident salmonid distribution maps contained in the Habitat Limiting Factors Reports published by the Washington Conservation Commission.**
- **Washington State Department of Natural Resources State Natural Area Preserves and Natural Resource Conservation Area Maps.**

Kiewit could have taken advantage of all of the above BOLDDED resources in their report on Critical Areas but they did not. This project is on a seismic fault line, will impact downstream fish, and is adjacent to a State Park and is surrounded by preserved lands, and residential homes. All of this information is important in establishing if the Kiewit proposal is a good use of this land.

#### KIEWIT:

“4.1 Status of Species and Critical Habitat The following species are specifically identified as protected under the Skagit County Critical Area Ordinance (CAO), or have a state or federal listing as a species or critical habitat. State PHS and USFWS ESA-listed species and critical habitats that could be affected by the proposed project are listed below in Table 1. **The web-generated ESA and PHS reports** were generated on December 12, 2018 and are provided in Appendix B and Appendix C, respectively.”

KIEWIT'S CLAIM THAT THERE WILL BE NO NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON WILDLIFE

Kiewit did not take advantage of all of the resources available in order to do a thorough critical areas assessment. ((A collared wolf was recorded on the site by WSDFW and at Illabot creek eating salmon December of this year.)) Illabot creek is a Wild and Scenic river since 2010. And Kiewit has a responsibility to not only do a thorough site evaluation for Critical Areas, they are by law expected to have these done by professionals. Kiewit has not proven that they did the appropriate field assessments nor have they taken advantage of all the resources available to them in order to make an informed decision on the critical areas in their plan. The site assessments must be done and they must be done by qualified professionals as required by law.

## RECLAMATION

Since the Marblemount quarry has a terminated DNR permit the area should be subject to reclamation. The historical watercourses must be restored to their pre-talis quarry state. Are these quarries ever reclaimed or is this just technical jargon for we are going to tear up the earth indefinitely and never reclaim it... **(State law says that if the previous quarry permit holder did not reclaim the site then it is at the burden of the next owner to do so. That puts the burden of reclamation on the Cunningham Trust.)**

Washington state mining regulations require 'segmented reclamation' so the current owners proposal which fails to mention this as part of their reclamation plan that must be initiated the first year after potential mining, is in violation of the mining laws of the State of Washington. Cunningham Trust should be immediately instructed to adhere to the previous permitted owner of the mine's reclamation duties and restore the area to state regulations.

All Watercourses should be restored to original state to enhance fish habitat-and recreate the existing pond on the property site because certain fish species require upland ponds for spawning habitat especially coho salmon, steelhead both winter and summer runs, dolly vardon and bull trout. Less than a mile away is O'Brien and Barnaby Slough as well as Illabot creek, a 5 million dollar state restoration project that received national honors and has verified all of the above mentioned endangered fish species use Illabot creek for spawning. This is less than a mile away from the proposed Kiewit mine. Why I mention this is because if those species are less than ¼ mile away it's obvious that they would utilize the pond on the Kiewit site to spawn if the to the terminated Marblemount Quarry was reclaimed as suggested by law. Fish would have enhanced access to their historical waterways. Restoration of the Cunningham Trust site's watercourses is mandated by law and should be completed.

## RE: KIEWIT'S PROPOSAL TO LEAVE THE AREA IN TERRACED SLOPES OF EQUAL SIZE AND DIMENSION

"(4) All surface-mined slopes shall be reclaimed to the following minimum standards:  
(a) In surface mines in soil, sand, gravel, and other unconsolidated materials, all reclaimed slopes shall:

**(i) Have varied steepness;**

**(ii) Have a sinuous appearance in both profile and plan view;**



**(iii) Have no large rectilinear topographic elements;**

(iv) Generally have slopes of between 2.0 and 3.0 feet horizontal to 1.0 foot vertical or flatter except in limited areas where steeper slopes are necessary in order to create sinuous topography and to control drainage;

(v) Not exceed 1.5 feet horizontal to 1.0 foot vertical except as necessary to blend with adjacent natural slopes;

(vi) Be compacted if significant backfilling is required to produce the final reclaimed slopes and if the department determines that compaction is necessary.”

**RCW 78.44.141 Reclamation—Minimum standards—Waiver.**

“Reclamation of surface mines permitted after June 30, 1993, and reclamation of surface mine segments addressed by reclamation plans modified after June 30, 1994, shall meet the following minimum standards:

**(4) All surface-mined slopes shall be reclaimed to the following minimum standards:**

(a) In surface mines in soil, sand, gravel, and other unconsolidated materials, all reclaimed slopes shall:

**(i) Have varied steepness;**

**(ii) Have a sinuous appearance in both profile and plan view;**

**(iii) Have no large rectilinear topographic elements;**

(iv) Generally have slopes of between 2.0 and 3.0 feet horizontal to 1.0 foot vertical or flatter except in limited areas where steeper slopes are necessary in order to create sinuous topography and to control drainage;

**(v) Not exceed 1.5 feet horizontal to 1.0 foot vertical except as necessary to blend with adjacent natural slopes;**

(b) Slopes in consolidated materials shall have no prescribed slope angle or height, but where a severely hazardous condition is created by mining and that is not indigenous to the immediate area, **the slopes shall not exceed 2.0 feet horizontal to 1.0 foot vertical.** Steeper slopes shall be acceptable in areas where evidence is submitted that demonstrates that the geologic or topographic characteristics of the site preclude reclamation of slopes to such angle or height or that such slopes constitute an acceptable subsequent use under local land use regulations.

**(d) Final topography shall generally comprise sinuous contours, chutes and buttresses, spurs, and rolling mounds and hills, all of which shall blend with adjacent topography to a reasonable extent. Straight planar slopes and right angles should be avoided.**

**(e) The floors of mines shall generally grade gently into post mining drainages to preclude sheet-wash erosion during intense precipitation,** except where backgrading is appropriate for drainage control, to establish wetlands, or to trap sediment.

**(5) Drainages shall be graded and contain adequate energy dissipation devices so that essentially natural conditions of water velocity, volume, and turbidity are**

**re-established within six months of reclamation of each segment of the mine.**

Ditches and other artificial drainages shall be constructed on each reclaimed segment to control surface water, erosion, and siltation and to direct runoff to a safe outlet. Diversion ditches including but not limited to channels, flumes, tight lines and retention ponds shall be capable of carrying the peak flow at the mine site that has the probable recurrence frequency of once in twenty-five years as determined from data for the twenty-five year, twenty-four hour precipitation event published by the national oceanic and atmospheric administration. The grade of such ditches and channels shall be constructed to limit erosion and siltation. **Natural and other drainage channels shall be kept free of equipment, wastes, stockpiles, and overburden.**

7) Revegetation shall be required as appropriate to stabilize slopes, generate new topsoil, reduce erosion and turbidity, mask rectilinear contours, and restore the scenic value of the land to the extent feasible as appropriate to the approved subsequent use. Although the scope of and necessity for revegetation will vary according to the geography, precipitation, and approved subsequent use of the site, **the objective of segmental revegetation is to reestablish self-sustaining vegetation** and conditions of slope stability, surface water quality, and appearance before release of the reclamation permit. Revegetation shall normally meet the following standards:

**(a) Revegetation shall commence during the first proper growing season following restoration of slopes on each segment unless the department has granted the permit holder a written time extension.** (((KIEWIT MAKES NO MENTION OF SEGMENTED RECLAMATION ANYWHERE IN THEIR REPORTS)))

(b) In eastern Washington, the permit holder may not be able to achieve continuous ground cover owing to arid conditions or sparse topsoil. However, revegetation shall be as continuous as reasonably possible as determined by the department.

(c) Revegetation generally shall include but not be limited to diverse evergreen and deciduous trees, shrubs, grasses, and deep-rooted ground cover.

**(i) For western Washington, nitrogen-fixing species including but not limited to alder, white clover, and lupine should be included in dry areas. In wet areas, tubers, sedges, wetland grasses, willow, cottonwood, cedar, and alder are appropriate.**

(e) In areas where revegetation is critical and conditions are harsh, **the department may require irrigation, fertilization, and importation of clay or humus-bearing soils to establish effective vegetation.**

(f) The department may refuse to release a reclamation permit or performance security until it deems that effective re-vegetation has commenced.”

Kiewit's proposal is to leave vertical ridges of equal height and a visually unattractive scar on the landscape. Their revegetation plan is in violation of state law requiring segmented re-vegetation. Their plan does not include appropriate plans to include nitrogen fixing species in any reclamation plan because they don't have one. It completely disregards laws regarding tailing piles and their placement on existing watercourses. It does not take into consideration re-establishing self-sustaining vegetation to reduce sediment runoff and other toxins getting into the Skagit River.

## WAC 173-201A-310

### Tier I—Protection and maintenance of existing and designated uses.

(1) Existing and designated uses must be maintained and protected. No degradation may be allowed that would interfere with, or become injurious to, existing or designated uses, except as provided for in this chapter.

(2) **For waters that do not meet assigned criteria, or protect existing or designated uses, the department will take appropriate and definitive steps to bring the water quality back into compliance with the water quality standards.**

(3) Whenever the natural conditions of a water body are of a lower quality than the assigned criteria, the natural conditions constitute the water quality criteria. Where water quality criteria are not met because of natural conditions, human actions are not allowed to further lower the water quality, except where explicitly allowed in this chapter.

[Statutory Authority: Chapters [90.48](#) and [90.54](#) RCW. WSR 03-14-129 (Order 02-14), § 173-201A-310, filed 7/1/03, effective 8/1/03.]

#### THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) instructs federal agencies to carry out programs to conserve endangered and threatened species (plants and animals) and to **conserve the ecosystems on which these species depend.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in the Department of the Interior and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in the Department of Commerce share responsibility for administration of the ESA. They are responsible for ensuring that government and citizen actions do no further harm to species listed as endangered or threatened, as well as for developing and implementing a plan for recovering the species to a stable population. Generally, the NMFS deals with anadromous fish (fish that migrate from saltwater to freshwater to spawn) and those species occurring in marine environments, while the USFWS is responsible for terrestrial and freshwater species and migratory birds. The ESA requires the publication of 4(d) rules for species listed as “threatened.” These 4(d) rules put “take” prohibition in place and also limit take prohibitions for specific categories of activities that contribute to conserving listed species. The USFWS has enacted a general 4(d) rule applying statutory take prohibitions for endangered species and threatened species. The NMFS does not have a general 4(d) rule and enacts 4(d) rules on a more specific basis. Authority: Threatened and Endangered Species Act;

50 CFR 17, 50 CFR 402–453.06

#### KIEWIT:

“Potential Effects on ESA Species The proposed project would be expected to incur habitat alteration impacts (primarily the removal of Herbaceous Balds, Talus, and Snag Priority Habitat)”

***What about habitat for fishers (fishers recently released in the area), martins and (wolves) <reported on the site this winter?***



“and noise impacts, and temporary impacts to water quality (primarily turbidity) in onsite watercourses. The project is designed to avoid sensitive species and habitats to the greatest extent possible.”

**How?**

“Where avoidance is not feasible, methods to minimize the impacts would be employed.”

***Like what methods? It is insulting to just say you are going to do something about mitigating impacts but not show how you are going to do it.***

“After project reclamation,”

***100 years from now, that's not acceptable the state requires segmented reclamation, that means you reclaim it as you go along, and within the first year after you start blasting.***

“the proposed project would result in an increase in habitat diversity in the mining areas and increased buffer functions”

***Do you mean 28 acres of tailings placed upon it? I think that's more like a dam than a buffer.***

“in the riparian areas of Watercourses A and B. The riparian buffer and water quality impacts to the watercourses would occur during culvert and road placement and would be temporary in nature.”

***But what about later when 28 acre 200' high tailing piles and their toxic runoff are placed upon the footprint of those historic watercourses.***

“Noise and vibration impacts would be ongoing throughout quarry operation. The Priority Habitat alteration would occur during the mining operations; however, the Reclamation Plan proposes mitigation following mining and would ultimately be an improvement upon existing conditions and accounts for temporal loss.”

***100 years of habitat loss that Kiewit is not admitting to.***

The single most important conservation measure for threatened and endangered species is habitat conservation or restoration. Isn't it time Cunningham Trust reclaimed the land where the terminated permit quarry used to be?

**KIEWIT CLAIMS:**

“Although Watercourse A and Watercourse B do not meet the definition of a typed water per WAC 222-27 16-030, these watercourses do appear to have characteristics of WDFW “In stream Aquatic Habitat” and would be a regulated Critical Area per WAC 365-190-080 and SCC 14.24.500. These watercourses likely provide a similar level of habitat and water quality functions when compared to regulated Type N streams. Therefore, we recommend that each water body receives a 50-foot buffer, the same level of protection for Skagit County Type N streams.”

Kiewit's buffer does not exist in their plans, their buffer is placing giant tailing piles 200' high over the historic water courses, severely limiting fish passage. In addition there appears to be a wetlands or pond on the proposed site where the two watercourses drain.

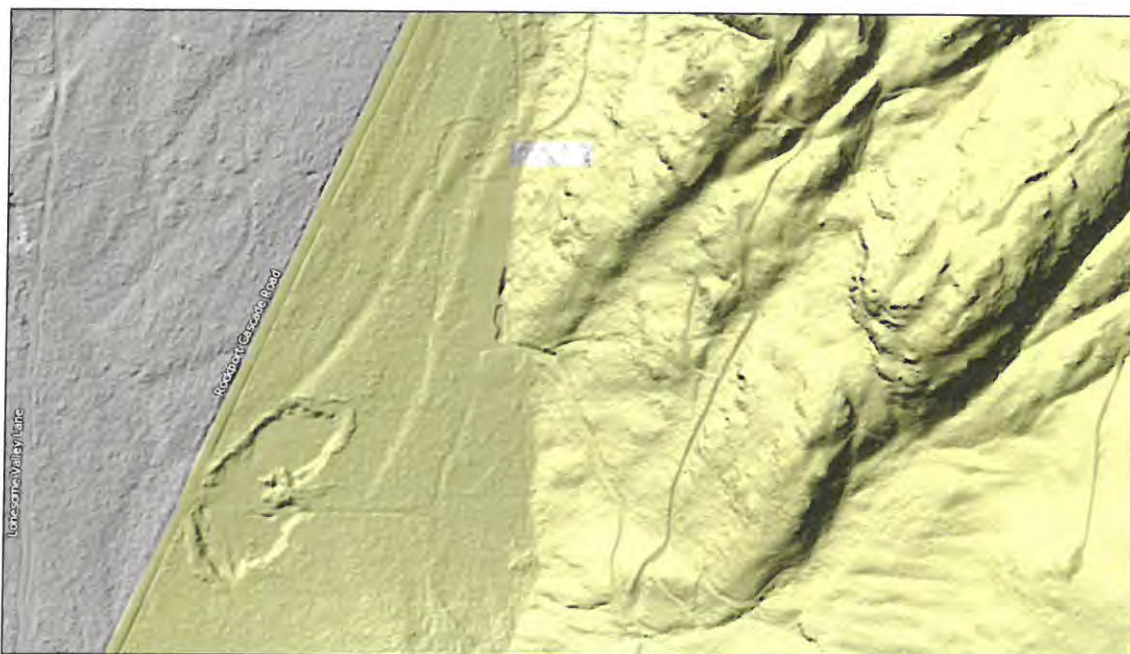
There are discrepancy between DNR mapped streams and those mapped on site.

The Kiewit report indicates the site was walked in October 2018 with no "flowing streams" identified. Two concerns here: first, streams that do not flow year round can still be fish bearing, and are frequently managed as such. Second, Oct is often one of our driest months, so streams may well not have been flowing.

The report includes a DNR base map that shows the section of stream the report suggests does not exist is mapped as fish bearing. Perhaps, but I believe formally making that call will require a formal DNR water type change; DNR typically sends a biologist out to check those, frequently from one of the tribes. Also seems unlikely to me that there would not be seasonal flow, although having said that it is not uncommon that these maps need to be corrected.

As mapped it looks like they are proposing to stockpile undersized material across that fish bearing stream. Even if these streams are not fish bearing I find it hard to believe there would never be flow, and when it does occur that material will likely flush downstream to fish bearing waters.

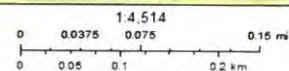
To rule out wetland a determination that needs to be made on the ground. These images do show some fairly pronounced drainages, and given the steepness of the terrain I suspect that even if they are not year round streams they are probably quite "flashy" which means in heavy rains they could transmit surface flows into the undersized materials area. That could rest in WQ issues and/or potentially deliver sediment to fish waters. See up to date Lidar map attached to note large historical pond wetland area.



May 6, 2019

**Legend**

- County Boundary
- City Names
- Road Labels
- Hydro Labels
- Regional Labels



Data Accuracy Warning: All GIS data was created from available public records and existing map sources. Map features have been adjusted to achieve a best-fit registration. While great care was taken in this process, maps from different sources may not agree as to the precise location of geographic features. Map discrepancies can be as great as 300 feet.

Copyright 2016

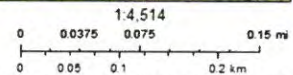




May 6, 2019

**Legend**

- County Boundary
- City Names
- Road Labels
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Data Accuracy Warning: All GIS data was created from available public records and existing map sources. Map features have been adjusted to achieve a best-fit registration. While great care was taken in this process, maps from different sources do not agree as to the precise location of geographic features. Map discrepancies can be as great as 300 feet.

Copyright 2016

There are too many unanswered questions, in the critical area plan of the Kiewit proposal.

**RCW 90.48.010**

**Policy enunciated.**

It is declared to be the public policy of the state of Washington to maintain the highest possible standards to insure the purity of all waters of the state consistent with public health and public enjoyment thereof, the propagation and protection of wild life, birds, game, fish and other aquatic life, and the industrial development of the state, and to that end require the use of all known available and reasonable methods by industries and others to prevent and control the pollution of the waters of the state of Washington. Consistent with this policy, the state of Washington will exercise its powers, as fully and as effectively as possible, to retain and secure high quality for all waters of the state. The state of Washington in recognition of the federal government's interest in the quality of the navigable waters of the United States, of which certain portions thereof are within the jurisdictional limits of this state, proclaims a public policy of working cooperatively with the federal government in a joint effort to extinguish the sources of water quality degradation, while at the same time preserving and vigorously exercising state powers

to insure that present and future standards of water quality within the state shall be determined by the citizenry, through and by the efforts of state government, of the state of Washington.

**KIEWIT'S CRITICAL AREA PLAN CLAIMS:**

6.2.1 "Direct Effects There are no proposed or anticipated direct effects on federally-listed species or critical habitats. The proposed mining activities would occur within a previously-logged and burned area that has been partially impacted by existing resource extraction activities."

***How can Kiewit claim there will be no anticipated direct effects when you did not do adequate research or perform site inspections by professionals? The Jordan Creek fire was more than 15 years ago and the area has become stable and re-vegetated. There are also 3 lakes at the top of this mountain of which have been given no consideration in any area of the Kiewit proposal.***

"Impacts from the proposed Project Action would include temporary turbidity in non-fish bearing watercourses and noise impacts as well as permanent habitat alteration. Bull Trout and Dolly Varden do not likely"

***Do not likely? Did you take a look in the water courses?***

"inhabit Watercourses A and B, which are not connected to larger streams (as described in Section 5.2.2), and the temporary turbidity"

***Temporary turbidity from 28 acres of tailing piles for 100 years saturated with drill oil and residue from blasting and other toxins?***

"impacts are not likely to affect other aquatic species."

***This temporary turbidity will make it to the Skagit River, all water courses eventually make it to the Skagit and beyond, and so will all the toxins from the tailing piles that you forget to mention here. The following is a breakdown of the size and scope of the tailing piles:***



**Proposed Marblemount Quarry Metrics based on Permit Application Materials and Estimates of values not provided**

Step 2	13 acres	43,560 sf/acre	total proposed tailings stockpile area acres on the site in step 2	
Step 2	566,280 sf		total proposed tailings stockpile area square feet on the site in step 2	
Step 2&3	28 acres		total proposed tailings stockpile area acres on the site in steps 2 and 3	
Step 2&3	1,219,680 sf		total proposed tailings stockpile area square feet on the site in steps 2 and 3	
Step 2	3,800,000 cy	27 cf/cy	total proposed cy volume of mountain to be mined in Step 2	
Step 2	102,600,000 cf		total proposed cf volume of mountain to be mined in Step 2	
Step 2&3	9,600,000 cy	27 cf/cy	total proposed cy volume of mountain to be mined in Steps 2 and 3	
Step 2&3	259,200,000 cf		total proposed cf volume of mountain to be mined in Steps 2 and 3	
185 #/cf quarry greenschist		4,995 #/cy	2.50 tons/cy	
10% low range industry average site production of useful armor stone				
20% high range industry average site production of useful armor stone				
<b>90% tailings remaining on site</b>				
		<b>15 ton local haul gravel truck</b>	<b>5 hauls per week</b>	<b>260 Hauls per year</b>
Step 2	92,340,000 cf	3,420,000 cy	8,541,450 tons	<b>2,190</b> years to deplete tailings piles
Step 2&3	233,280,000 cf	8,640,000 cy	21,578,400 tons	<b>5,533</b> years to deplete tailings piles
15% expansion (fluff) factor from bedrock to tailings				
Step 2	106,191,000 cf	3,933,000 cy	Average height of tailings pile on <b>13</b> acres. Slopes and logistics would require areas of greater height. <b>188</b> feet	
Step 2&3	268,272,000 cf	9,936,000 cy	Average height of tailings pile on <b>28</b> acres. Slopes and logistics would require areas of greater height. <b>220</b> feet	
<b>80% tailings remaining on site</b>				
Step 2	82,080,000 cf	3,040,000 cy	7,592,400 tons	<b>1,947</b> years to deplete tailings piles
Step 2&3	207,360,000 cf	7,680,000 cy	19,180,800 tons	<b>4,918</b> years to deplete tailings piles
15% expansion (fluff) factor from bedrock to tailings				
Step 2	94,392,000 cf	3,496,000 cy	Average height of tailings pile on <b>13</b> acres. Slopes and logistics would require areas of greater height. <b>167</b> feet	
Step 2&3	238,464,000 cf	8,832,000 cy	Average height of tailings pile on <b>28</b> acres. Slopes and logistics would require areas of greater height. <b>196</b> feet	

**RCW 90.48.080**

**Discharge of polluting matter in waters prohibited.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to throw, drain, run, or otherwise discharge into any of the waters of this state, or to cause, permit or suffer to be thrown, run, drained, allowed to seep or otherwise discharged into such waters any organic or inorganic matter that shall cause or tend to cause pollution of such waters according to the determination of the department, as provided for in this chapter.

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fsbdev7\\_001448.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fsbdev7_001448.pdf)

**TRAFFIC**

(from mining regulations in Washington)>>TRANSPORTATION OF MINERALS Load limits for trucks are set by the Washington Department of Transportation. **Enforcement is by state, city, or county police.** Local transportation routes may be set by local government. Some local jurisdictions may require access permits for placement of ingress to and egress from the property. Authority: Chapter 46.44 RCW; Chapter 468-

38 WAC; local ordinances Contact: Department of Transportation, Motor Carrier Services (Appendix B) Appropriate county (Appendix D), city, or town authority

(i) "A review from Skagit County Public Works Department or Washington State Department of Transportation demonstrating **that roads or bridges are capable of sustaining the necessary traffic for the proposed mineral extraction operation, and that the proposed operation meets level-of-service, safety, and other standards as outlined in the Skagit County Transportation Systems Plan, the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan, and applicable State and local regulations.**"

*(I don't seem to see it)* Most of the report on Traffic is by a company called, Transportation Inc." The traffic analysis states DOT and Skagit County have reviewed the analysis but I can't see they made an assessment. The analysis noted the bridge over the Skagit on the Cascade Rd. is obsolete.

(iii) The Hearing Examiner shall have authority to order that a special use permit be revoked, suspended, or modified based on a finding that the conditions have not been satisfied by the applicant. The Administrative Official or party of record may request a review by the Hearing Examiner on a special use permit pursuant to a Level II action, pursuant to Chapter 14.06 SCC.

(iv) The approving authority's decision may be to grant or to deny an application.

**(v) The burden of proof shall be on the applicant to provide evidence in support of the application. The criteria for approval or denial shall include the following:**

(A) The proposed use will be compatible with existing and planned land use.

(B) The proposed use complies with the Skagit County Code.

(C) The proposed use will not create undue noise, odor, heat, vibration, air and water pollution impacts on surrounding, existing, or potential dwelling units, based on the performance standards of SCC 14.16.840.

(D) The proposed use will not generate intrusions on privacy of surrounding uses.

(E) The proposed use will not cause potential adverse effects on the general public health, safety, and welfare.

(F) For special uses in Industrial Forest—Natural Resource Lands, Secondary Forest—Natural Resource Lands, Agricultural—Natural Resource Lands, and Rural Resource—Natural Resource Lands, the impacts on long-term natural resource management and production will be minimized.

(G) The proposed use is not in conflict with the health and safety of the community.



(H) The proposed use will be supported by adequate public facilities or services and will not adversely affect public services to the surrounding areas, or conditions can be established to mitigate adverse impacts on such facilities.”

This project will over tax rural emergency resources because they are not adequately prepared to handle mining related accidents. Nor the extra volume of the trucks and potential traffic incidents in compromising areas of the roadways. Including but not limited to the Skagit River Bridge in Rockport and the easement onto Highway 20. Our rural EMT's are run by a volunteer pool of local residents and are already pushed to the limit in order to provide adequate services for the local population.

**(I) The proposed use will maintain the character, landscape and lifestyle of the rural area. For new uses, proximity to existing businesses operating via special use permit shall be reviewed and considered for cumulative impacts.**

Kiewit has not proven that the traffic analysis is in compliance with county laws in that they did not submit an analysis from DOT or Skagit County. Nor that the extra traffic or impact on local business due to visual scarring of the mountain and excessive volume of truck traffic and its impact on tourists, vacationers and local residents.

#### KIEWIT'S CRITICAL AREA ANALYSIS:

“The recommended noise-mitigation measure is to construct a sound barrier on the north shoulder of the proposed haul route near the northwest corner of the project site. The height of the barrier would be 24 feet at its west terminus and would taper off towards the east, as the underlying road profile rises.”

***What about the fact that their proposal is to mine the top of the mountain? How is a 24 foot barrier at the foot of the mountain going to contain sound from the top?***

“Kiewit - Biological Assessment and Skagit County Critical Areas Report January 15, 2019 Page 35 909 Squalicum Way, Suite 111, Bellingham WA 98225 360.671.9172 or info@elementsolutions.org Potential impacts to species addressed in the BA from blasting and operational vibrations were also a concern. Potential impacts from Project blasting were addressed in RAI (2019). This report contained specific recommendations to reduce or eliminate impacts to species addressed in this BA, especially water and air quality as well as impacts on animals and the environment. Since there is no open water located near the defined rock blasting areas, it is reasonable to conclude that the proposed blasting at the quarry will have no impacts on the Skagit River or other area water resources.”

***There are 3 alpine lakes in the area of the proposed Kiewit project. And even though Kiewit claims there will be no impacts on the Skagit River or other area water resources this is a false claim. The project will still create noise that will impact wildlife on the waterways and the people who live nearby and those who recreate on these waterways. Kiewit makes no mention of noise impacts of the haul trucks, nor any mention of all the quarry site truck and loading of rock and associated noise with these mining activities.***



“Based upon referenced studies and observations of the author at other projects, rock blasting at the Project would have little or no impact on domestic or wild animals near the site or on neighboring properties.”

***But what about wildlife and what about fly rock? No mention of fly rock in any section of their blasting plan or how they are going to mitigate it for the homes that are within 800 feet of the proposed quarry site, or its noise when hitting structures or knocking things loose below on the unstable proposal site.***

#### RESIDENTIAL ZONING VIOLATIONS:

Parcels, P45548, P128574, P45543, P45550, and P45541, require a special use Residential Zone permit to convert into other uses. One parcel is zoned NRL.

**14.16.430 Rural Resource—Natural Resource Lands (RRc-NRL).** (1) Purpose. The purpose of the Rural Resource—Natural Resource Lands district is to recognize and encourage the conservation of those lands which have the characteristics of both long-term commercially significant agriculture and forestry either on-site or on adjacent sites. These are lands generally not managed as industrial resource lands, because of less productive soils, parcel size and/or geographic location, but are managed on a smaller scale and provide support for the industrial natural resource land base. It is the intent of this district to restrict incompatible non-resource-related uses and to retain a long-term, commercially significant natural resource land base. The only permitted use for this parcel would be to improve its driveway using gravel from the site. **“Extraction of gravel and rock on 3 acres or less for the purpose of forest road construction and/or maintenance, and the operation of rock crushers, provided the material and equipment is used within the Rural Resource—Natural Resource Lands Zone, or on same forest owners’ property.”**

The above does not include the grading of a commercial roadway.

Skagit County has historically issued building permits for these residences (Parcels, P45548, P128574, P45543, P45550, and P45541) which are less than ½ mile from the terminated quarry site. They are being considered for boundary line adjustments as well as decommissioning a well. These activities are not consistent with the current use.

#### KIEWIT’S BLASTING PLAN:

The blasting plan is not adequate for environmental assessment. The plan states if the best industry standards are used, losses of (ANFO Residues) nitrates and ammonia would not be even measurable. This is not true according to numerous sources (listed below) and especially considering our wet climate. The detonation of ammonium nitrate-fuel oil (ANFO) is often incomplete in a wet environment leaving behind toxic and water-soluble products and the use of packaged ANFO/emulsion is acceptable in very dry conditions. Bailey et.al (2012). A major drawback of ANFO is its hygroscopic nature. Moisture content as low as 5% can cause detonation failure. Bailey et.al (2013). Explosive residue in cases in the form of unexploded material is detected even in cases of complete detonation. Kedlleher J.D.et.al(2002).

## BLASTING AND MINE SAFETY

"Blasting and mine safety at large, long-lived mines are usually regulated by the U.S. Department of Labor Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), and by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) if explosives are imported into the state. The Washington Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) also regulates the use of explosives and amounts of **flyrock and vibrations**. L&I regulates some aspects of mine safety at smaller, temporary operations. Authority: (MSHA) Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 801 and sections following); 30 CFR 1–199 (ATF) 27 CFR 55; 18 U.S.C. 40 (L&I) Chapter 70.74 RCW; Chapter 296-52 WAC Contact: Mine Safety and Health Administration 3633 136th Pl. SE, Room 206 Bellevue, WA 98006 206-553-7037 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms 915 2nd Ave., Room 842 Seattle, WA 98171 206-220-6440 Washington Department of Labor and Industries, Explosive Licensing Section (for any mine) or the agency's regional offices (Appendix B)"

It is important to recognize any residue polluted water collected in sediment ponds cannot be restrained from entering the aquifer. The Plan states the groundwater within the alluvium/outwash unconfined aquifer is hydrogeologically connected to the Skagit River and therefore groundwater within the aquifer would discharge into the Skagit River when the base flow of the river is less than the mean groundwater level. This statement is hypothetical no research stated backs this up.

The Plan also states three potential but unconfirmed springs are located within the project area. This would need to be confirmed as to recharge source and future flow ie would they be adjacent to or under waste rock sites. Are there fractures that would lead to recharge of downstream flows with contaminated water. The waste rock Areas could eventually cover 28 acres up to 200 feet high and would be placed on an impermeable base with probable fracturing. Blast contaminates as well as leached rock materials would enter the base areas of these sites. During the recent past during heavy rain periods standing water has been observed covering the existing quarry site and has flowed over the Rockport-Cascade Road nearby.

With most vegetation removed from this site flow would be even greater. Flooding would be a risk as well as overflow of the sediment ponds. In this regard any removal of water from these ponds should be strictly prohibited. A Kiewit company in California was fined 5 million dollars for pumping contaminated water from sediment ponds into the San Joaquin River.

## NOISE AND ITS EFFECTS ON ANIMALS AND WILDLIFE

The blast noise assessment on wildlife is not adequate or realistic. A comparison of confined Zoo animals conditioned to a noisy unnatural setting to wildlife in the project area would be a joke if it were not such a serious matter.

Keller j.d. Explosive residue origin and distribution Forensic Science Communications Vol. 4 No 2 (2002) Bailey B.L., Smith L.s., Rtacek C.J., Smith L., Segó D.C. (2013) Diavic Waste Rock Project Applied Chemistry 36, 256-270

"Wildlife faces far more problems than humans because of noise pollution since they are more dependent on sound. Animals develop a better sense of hearing than us since their survival depends on it. The ill effects of excessive noise begin at home. Pets react more aggressively in households where there is a constant noise. They become disoriented more easily and face many behavioral problems. In nature, animals may suffer from hearing loss, which makes them easy prey and leads to dwindling populations. Others become inefficient at hunting, disturbing the balance of the eco-system. Species that depend on mating calls to reproduce are often unable to hear these calls due to excessive man-made noise. As a result, they are unable to reproduce and cause declining populations. Others require sound waves to echolocate and find their way when migrating. Disturbing their sound signals means they get lost easily and do not migrate when they should. To cope up with the increasing sound around them, animals are becoming louder, which may further add to the pollution levels. This is why understanding noise pollution can help us lower the impact it has on the environment." <https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/causes-and-effects-of-noise-pollution.php>

From this information it is clear there will be a significant amount of blast residue which cannot be restrained from entering the groundwater or steam flows. The cumulative effects of ammonia nitrate and other toxins cannot be mitigated. There is no mention of flyrock and mitigation of its effects on the surrounding community. Because Kiewit's blasting plan is incomplete as well as risks polluting the Skagit River, this permit should be denied.

### **RCW 90.48.080**

#### **Discharge of polluting matter in waters prohibited.**

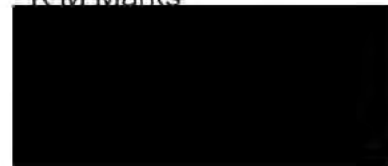
It shall be unlawful for any person to throw, drain, run, or otherwise discharge into any of the waters of this state, or to cause, permit or suffer to be thrown, run, drained, allowed to seep or otherwise discharged into such waters any organic or inorganic matter that shall cause or tend to cause pollution of such waters according to the determination of the department, as provided for in this chapter.

Therefore I ask that Skagit county Planners deny the Kiewit application and protect the river, wildlife and citizens of the upper Skagit County and their livelihood and swiftly reject the Kiewit incomplete plans and assessments, or at the very least demand an EIS because it is clear that this project will have a long lasting effect on the wildlife and people of the upper Skagit valley.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.



K M Marks

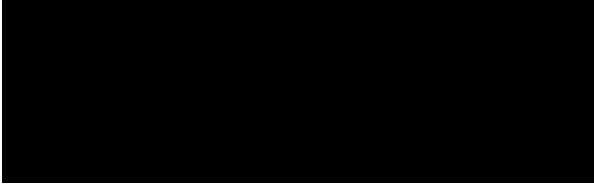




**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, May 10, 2019 2:40:01 PM

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Name : John J McBride



PermitProposal : PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-047, & BP19-0070

Comments : The Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry will have long lasting negative effects on the ecology and wildlife in the upper Skagit River watershed area, to say nothing about the negative effects for the property owners who live in the area. Every winter I go out on the Skagit River between Rockport and Marblemount to photograph the largest concentration of nesting bald eagles in WA. In the summer we are frequent visitors to Baker Lake, the Sauk River area and the Northern Cascades Park.

Boulders can be quarried in many other less sensitive areas and hauled more easily on roads built for heavy loads.

Don't allow Kiewit to circumvent the approval and review process in your county and do lasting damage to this special area.

Thank you.

From Host Address: 76.104.229.7

Date and time received: 5/10/2019 2:37:36 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 9:20:01 AM

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Name : Kirsten McDade



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Planning and Development Services,

Thank you for taking the time to consider our comment on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, national park, and wilderness lands that are not fully zoned for mining.

RE Sources for Sustainable Communities is a local organization in northwest Washington, founded in 1982. RE Sources works to build sustainable communities and protect the health of northwest Washington's people and ecosystems through the application of science, education, advocacy, and action. Our North Sound Baykeeper program is dedicated to protecting and enhancing the marine and nearshore habitats of northern Puget Sound and the Georgia Strait. Our chief focus is on preventing pollution from entering the North Sound and Strait, while helping our local citizenry better understand the complex connections between prosperity, society, environmental health, and individual wellbeing. Our North Sound Baykeeper is the 43rd member of the Waterkeeper Alliance, with over 300 organizations in 34 countries around the world that promote fishable, swimmable, drinkable water. RE Sources has over 20,000 members in Whatcom, Skagit, and San Juan counties, and we submit these comments on their behalf.

Keiwit Infrastructure is requesting mining related permits on land that is not currently zoned for mining. In their application, they are proposing to build a large logging road (to be later used for mining) and to expand their mining operations into areas that are not within a mineral resource overlay (MRO). As dictated by the Growth Management Act, before these permits can even be considered it is necessary to first amend the Skagit County's Comprehensive Plan to expand its MRO to cover all of the areas that are within Keiwit's application.

In addition, the proposed Marblemount Quarry has the potential for directly disturbing 120 acres of land that is nestled within the scenic Skagit River valley that is the gateway to the North Cascades National Park. The disturbance goes well beyond these 120 acres, however, and is likely to have far reaching impacts on the local communities and wildlife for over a 100 years. We strongly feel that the complexity of this project and potential to significantly impact the environment is not encapsulated by the SEPA checklist and limited environmental assessments performed thus far and we are requesting for an Environmental Impact Study (EIS). Here are some of our concerns that we feel warrant an EIS:

Impacts related to 260 daily vehicle trips of which 140 could be trucks:

The carbon dioxide emitted from 140 trucks transporting rock to the headwaters of the Columbia and back is approximately 266 tons which is 12 times the amount an American citizen contributes in an entire year<sup>1,2</sup>. This is a considerable greenhouse gas contribution and will accelerate global climate change.

Non-exhaust particles coming largely from brake pad and tire wear can contribute more than 50% of the particulate matter produced by cars and trucks<sup>3</sup>.

Both brakes and tires contain toxic materials such as copper, zinc, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons that can easily make their way into the Skagit River. As the loaded trucks will be moving downhill, brake pad wear will be particularly heavy. Behavior and growth studies have shown that both copper and zinc are toxic to developing salmonids even in very small quantities<sup>4,5,6</sup>.

State Route 20, known as the North Cascades Highway, is a designated Washington State Scenic Byway; it connects people from the east and west sides of the Cascade mountain range. It is used for recreation, business, and the transportation of goods; it is a very popular bicycle route. Adding 260 more vehicles on this already busy highway will lead to more congestion and accidents and detract from its recreation potential.

SR-20 follows the Skagit River for a large part of its path. This wild and scenic river is used by rafters, fishers, campers, and picnickers. Much of this recreation occurs between the highway and the river. Increasing truck traffic will negatively impact these river-related experiences.

The notoriously tight corner at the junction of the Rockport Cascade Road and SR-20 that the loaded trucks will need to navigate will further exacerbate congestion and safety concerns.

Impacts to community and tribal members:

People choose to live and visit this area because of its tranquility. The noise that will result from using explosives, crushing rocks, moving and transporting rocks will have significant impacts on the people living and visiting the area especially as mining activity is proposed to occur 12 hours a day, 6 days a week.

People also are attracted to the area for its unparalleled beauty. The quarry will turn the now picturesque feature into an ugly scar that can be seen from many angles and from far away.

Mining activity could dissuade visitors from coming to the area which could negatively impact the economy.

Property values could further decline because of decreased aesthetics and increased noise and air pollution.

As only 35 employees are expected to work at the mine; there will not be any significant economic gains.

The mining site is located within the traditional lands of the federally recognized Upper Skagit Indian Tribe and could impact the Tribe's treaty rights.

Only rock of certain size and criteria can be used for the jetty work that is being described as the need for this quarry. Only 10-20% of the rock from this quarry is likely to actually make

its way down to the Columbia river; this leaves 80-90% of the rock left as tailings or huge waste piles that will contaminate the site in perpetuity and jeopardize the aquifer that people rely on for clean drinking water. The rock will be contaminated with fossil fuels, explosives residue, and other materials such as naturally occurring asbestos that becomes toxic when exposed to the environment.

Impacts to environment and wildlife:

The area in which the quarry resides is home to many threatened, endangered, and sensitive species including gray wolf, wolverine, grizzly bear, lynx, red fox, marten, Townsend's big eared bat, marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl, yellow-billed cuckoo, peregrine falcon, bull trout, Dolly Varden, Oregon spotted frog and western toad. This proposed quarry could have adverse impacts on these organism's critical habitat.

Research suggests that noise can have wide ranging effects on wildlife including altering vocal behavior, reducing abundance, changes in vigilance and forage behaviors<sup>7</sup>.

Ground vibrations have been shown to decrease the survivorship of developing salmonid embryos<sup>8</sup>.

This mine could negatively impact Skagit River salmon populations including from toxic runoff, ground vibrations, water withdrawals and more.

The Skagit River has all 5 Pacific salmon species and the Skagit River Chinook salmon population has been deemed particularly important for the endangered Southern Resident Killer Whale that depends on this fish as their main source of food. This could additionally negatively impact the local area with decreased recreational salmon fishing opportunities.

Six fishers were released 5 months ago just north of the proposed quarry and the mining activity could adversely affect the success of the reintroduction of this endangered carnivore.

Fugitive dust created from rock extraction, crushing, and road use is an air pollutant of concern. The applicants plan to mitigate for fugitive dust by spraying water and/or magnesium chloride on the roads. The permit does not specify where this water will come from. The dustiest times will coincide with the driest times and water can be scarce in the summer; we do not want to take water from already compromised salmon habitat. Magnesium chloride is also not a good alternative as it can be damaging to vegetation.

The impervious surface is predicted to be around 543,330 square feet which will increase the mobilization of sediment during rain events. This could lead to unstable slopes, rock fall, and increased turbidity to streams.

In addition to the environmental concerns we also wonder about the practicality of hauling large rocks 270 miles to their destination in the timeframe needed. It was noted that rock will be needed for the emergency repair on the Columbia jetty in 4 months. Is it realistic that this mine will be able to produce this product in such a short time frame? Is this really an emergency repair or is it rehabilitation? Are there closer mines available? Current research is also finding that soft or live shore armoring is often as effective or more effective than hard shore armoring and it has ecological benefits. As we move towards more ecological armoring techniques perhaps there will be a decreasing demand for this type of rock.



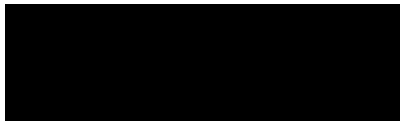
Due to the extensive list of potential impacts we strongly feel that an Environment Impact Study needs to be performed but only after the land has gone through the necessary Comprehensive Planning process. The large scope of this project has not gone through the adequate planning and environmental review. Because of these reasons we request that you deny this permit or suspend it until due diligence is performed.

Thank-you for your time in reading our letter and the many others that have been and will be sent regarding this controversial and impactful project.

Sincerely,

Kirsten McDade, Pollution Prevention Specialist  
Eleanor Hines, North Sound Baykeeper, Lead Scientist  
Ander Russell, Clean Water Program Manager

RE Sources for Sustainable Communities



References:

1Mathers, J. 2015. Green Freight Math: How to Calculate Emissions for a Truck Move. Environmental Defense Fund.

2Environmental Protection Agency. Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions Data.

3Grigoratos, R. Martini, G. 2015. Break wear particle emissions: a review. Environmental Science and Pollution Research International. 22:2491-2504

4Baldwin, D.H., Tataru, C.P., and Scholz, N.L. 2011. Copper-induced olfactory toxicity in salmon and steelhead: extrapolation across species and rearing environments. Aquatic Toxicology, 101:295-297

5McIntyre, J.K., Baldwin, D.H., Beauchamp, D.A., and Scholz, N.L. 2012. Low-level copper exposures increase the visibility and vulnerability of juvenile coho salmon to cutthroat trout predators. Ecological Applications, 22:1460-1471.

6Bowne, L., Werner, I., and Johnson, M.L. 2006. Physiological and Behavioral Effects of Zinc and Temperature on Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), *Hydrobiologia*, 559: 161-168

7Shannon, G., McKenna, M.F., Angeloni, L.M., Crooks, K.R., Fristrup, K.M., Brown, E., Warner, K.A., Nelson, M.D., White, C., Briggs, J., McFarland, S., and Wittemyer, G.. 2016. “A Synthesis of Two Decades of Research Documenting the Effects of Noise on Wildlife.” *Biological Review*, 91: 982– 1005.

8Fisne, A., Kuzu, C. & Hüdaverdi, T., 2011. Prediction of environmental impacts of quarry blasting operation using fuzzy logic. *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment*, 174: 461– 470.

From Host Address: 67.168.93.158

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 9:17:28 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 10:05:01 AM

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Name : Penny McGinty



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : In considering the proposal to greatly expand the Marblemount Quarry, please take into consideration the not just the effects on the environment and the lives of all the residents, human and otherwise) in the area, but also on those who live downstream from the mine. The roads do not appear adequate to withstand the large trucks with heavy loads frequently traveling on those roads and bridges, nor are they wide enough to accommodate the tourists coming to enjoy North Cascades National Park, the National Forest Lands and the designated Wilderness areas and the truck traffic on top of the already existing traffic to the east side of the Cascades. Highway 20, as you know, is the only highway in the U.S. north of the Everett area that allows Whatcom and Skagit county residents and workers access to Winthrop and the recreational areas on the east side of the North Cascades.

Allowing the quarry to expand and so dominate this beautiful part of the world is akin to killing the goose that laid the golden eggs. Whose pockets are lined if this project is to go through? Apparently not the resident population, for few new jobs will be created, and jobs related to the tourism in the area would decrease because of the loss of recreational opportunities.

It appears to me that there are so many unanswered questions connected to this proposal that must be examined before any permits are to granted.

Please take into account the lives of the people in this area as you consider this proposal.

From Host Address: 73.11.212.251

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 10:00:47 AM

**From:** [cc mcguiness](#)  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Marblemount Quarry Proposal  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 16, 2019 9:36:19 AM

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Thank you for extending the comment period.

Contrasted with the quarry on Beaver Lake Road in Clear Lake, this location along Rockport-Marblemount Road for an expanded quarry seems problematic.

I support the objections and concerns of all the local land/home owners.... Vibrations, dust, blasting, noise, traffic, and general disruptions to the peacefulness of this area.

Also have spoken with folks along Hwy 20 who think the impact is excessive.

I would appreciate if the Planning Department would reconsider this application in such a sensitive area.

Sincerely,

~~ Cindy McGuiness



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 10:15:01 PM

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Name : Tina McKim

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Tina McKim

From Host Address: 71.227.222.144

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 10:10:18 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:55:01 PM

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Name : Randy McNea



PermitProposal : 6194900011

Comments : This is an area in need of protection. Everything need to be done to keep pristine lands and water that way.

From Host Address: 172.58.31.195

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 5:54:04 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 8:10:01 AM

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Name : Erin L Meyer



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry Operation Marblemount

Comments : I am writing to OPPOSE this project. This quarry proposal is the wrong land use operation for the area proposed. I have grave concerns about the impacts over a variety of aspects of life in the upper Skagit, from wildlife, to noise, to impacts on tourism, to road use, and beyond. This project needs to be halted. Thank you.

From Host Address: 172.58.43.209

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 8:06:58 AM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Saturday, May 11, 2019 3:45:01 PM

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Name : Lisa Mihm

PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : 1. I demand an environmental impact statement.

2. This does not align with the county comprehensive plan and Washington States commitment to protect and preserve our natural resources.

3. This is in an area full of homes, families with young children and retired individuals trying to live in peace and quiet. Blast mining operations would threaten the homes of many people who moved to this area to escape the madness and enjoy nature.

4. The area is driven by tourism as the gateway to the North Cascades National Park and a popular area for eagle watching, bicycles, car tours/Sunday drives, hiking, farm tourism, Airbnb's, and river recreation. This predominant income source for our community and the rights of WA citizens to enjoy our beautiful area would be threatened.

5. The risk of ground water contamination and therefore threat to our only source of water! Everyone up here relays on private groundwater wells!

6. Threat to the Skagit River which is less than quarter mile from the site and designated a national wild and scenic river. The Skagit is essential for salmon and orca survival and is the lifeblood of all Skagit valley down to the islands.

7. The rock contains asbestos. We are deeply concerned about air contamination from blasting like what happened in Libby, Montana. Can u image a superfund sight on the banks of the Skagit River?

8. keiwitt has a terrible environmental track record and our community will see none of the profits and few jobs from this project.

9. The roads in this rural area are poorly maintained and do not have shoulders. Not appropriate for the proposed 75 (150 both ways) truck load trips they propose. The trucks carrying boulders weighing tons would threaten safety of bicycles

10. This area is a very sensitive eco system.

Full of wildlife like bears, a newly established wolf pack, mountain lions, elk, eagle, perigrine falcon, pileated wood pecker, Fishers, and migrating birds.

11. This is a 100 year permit! We do not believe any mitigation will be enough to prevent permanent damage to the North Cascades, Puget Sound and the whole Pacific Northwest.

12. The plans laid out for reclamation, emergency response, waste storage and disposal, and Protecting homes and drivers from flying blast fragments are not adequate.

13. The zoning of this property conflicts with the counties commitment to protect important watersheds, surrounding use of residential, recreational, and protected natural areas.

14. This proposal is opposed by the overwhelming majority of tax payers in the area and would negatively effect property values.

15. This is in an area known for sinkholes

, landslides, and is on a major fault line all of which can be made worse with blast mining and deforestation.

16. We live in a time where the world is suffering from the negative consequences of climate

change. We need to support sustainable industries and businesses that will not contribute to the problem this “Infrastructure Quarry” is trying to address.

17. There are other more suitable sites that could be used or jetty rock purchased from other companies that are not working in such a key natural area or on the banks of a main water source.

From Host Address: 71.197.235.220

Date and time received: 5/11/2019 3:40:36 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 3:40:01 PM

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Name : Ashley Minnerath

PermitProposal : Kiewit Mine Near Marblemount (PL19-0032) (PL19-0047) (BP19-0070)  
Comments : May 13, 2019

Mr. John Cooper  
Skagit County Planning & Development Services  
1800 Continental Place  
Mt. Vernon, WA 98273

RE: Kiewit quarry in Marblemount

Dear John,

Cascadian Farm and our parent company, General Mills Inc. appreciates the opportunity to comment on the State Environmental Policy Act Environmental Checklist and associated documents for the proposed Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry operation near Marblemount, WA. We continue to have significant concerns about the proposed project.

Cascadian Farm operates an organic farm and roadside stand east of Rockport, WA. This is the site of our iconic Home Farm where the brand first started in 1972. Although we have grown far beyond our original farm to become a national organic brand, this site and the surrounding ecosystem, remains at the heart of our brand. Its images grace our packaging and online presence. The Home Farm provides a guiding example for how the brand engages with community, stewards natural resources, and supports innovative and restorative farming practices. Over 60,000 visitors stop by the iconic farm stand each year to enjoy ice cream and fresh berries among the unspoiled views of Eldorado, Mount Chaval, the Cascade Foothills, and the Skagit River. We strive to educate our visitors on regenerative and organic farming practices, the surrounding ecosystem and regional biodiversity, and land stewardship practices. Our Home Farm employs approximately seventeen full time year-round and seasonal employees that live and thrive in eastern Skagit County.

Eastern Skagit County has a long history of basing our economic success on resource extraction. Beginning with gold and silver mining, logging, and limestone mining, the extractive nature of business created boom and bust cycles. Since the decline of logging and closure of the concrete plants, the area has struggled to regain an economic foothold. Eco-tourism is the bright light at the end of a long and arduous tunnel. This proposed project would put a massive halt to the progress that has been made to develop a sustainable eco-tourism industry in the area.

Our business relies on regional, national, and international tourism in the area. Our patrons

visit Eastern Skagit County to recreate and enjoy the quiet solitude of this pristine and diverse ecosystem. The visual impacts, noise pollution, increased traffic, and impacts to air, water, and wildlife threatens the tourism and recreation that Eastern Skagit County depends on. Our business, and many others in the community, rely on eco-tourism which most certainly would be negatively impacted by the numerous and cumulative aspects of this project.

We are urging the county to require a Determination of Significance under WAC 197-11-330 and an Environmental Impact Statement. This proposed project will have significant adverse impacts on the local environment particularly due to the local context. The absolute quantitative effects (the amount of rock removed, the number of truck trips, blasting impacts, etc.) would be large regardless of context. But, whereas a similar development in an industrialized region might be considered less disruptive, the introduction of such immense changes in activity, noise, and the landscape itself will be highly significant in what is now a tranquil corner of a remote part of the County. This tranquility is what attracts tourists and residents to our region and would be at risk should this project advance. Additionally, this change in activity may last for decades, and the cumulative impacts have not been identified or addressed. Several aspects of this project, including noise, traffic, visual impacts, blasting, clearing, etc. may not individually trigger an EIS, but combined they constitute a significant environmental impact that should be examined individually and cumulatively in an EIS.

In summary, we believe that the proposed significant expansion of the Kiewit Company's Marblemount quarry would have several impacts that should be examined together, as well as cumulatively, in an EIS.

Cascadian Farm appreciates your consideration of our comments. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at (320) 250-3777 or [Ashley.minnerath@genmills.com](mailto:Ashley.minnerath@genmills.com)

Sincerely,

Ashley Minnerath  
Site Director, Cascadian Farm Home Farm / General Mills

From Host Address: 146.217.3.19

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 3:35:57 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, May 10, 2019 7:35:02 AM

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Name : Meredith L. Moench

PermitProposal : RE: Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Planning and Development Services:

I am writing to urge you to issue a Determination of Significance on the Marblemount quarry proposal. As many others have pointed out, numerous potential environmental impacts of this proposed quarry have not been adequately addressed in the applicant's permit documents. According to state law, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be prepared when the lead SEPA agency determines a proposal is likely to have significant adverse environmental impacts.

As a near neighbor of the former Lummi Rock quarry on Lummi Island, I can speak from experience regarding the impacts of hard rock mining. For residential neighbors, these impacts included noise, blasting vibrations strong enough to cause cracks in people's homes and pictures to fall off walls, hazardous dust levels, and industrial truck traffic on narrow rural roads. Environmental impacts included contamination of water resources, air quality degradation from burning diesel fuel (as well as spills contaminating soil and water). Quarries which are allowed to operate six days a week for twelve or more hours a day are completely incompatible with residential uses-the applicant's proposed berm to mitigate noise is a joke. Berms don't work. In fact, none of the proposed mitigations were effective here. Hard rock mining has known environmental impacts which must be thoroughly studied before permits are issued. These impacts must be evaluated by independent experts. It would be naïve to think a company's proposal will do anything but present a rosy picture with so-called mitigations.

If a Determination of Significance and EIS are not done now, you can anticipate protracted legal opposition at considerable expense to Skagit County and the Kiewit Corporation. They don't want to spend the money up front for an EIS, but in the long run it could cost them a lot more. That was the case here and ultimately Lummi Rock declared bankruptcy and sold the property to a land trust for preservation-a much more appropriate land use. I would say the same outcome appears to be better for Marblemount. (As an aside, following the demise of Lummi Rock, Whatcom County amended its code for Mineral Resource Land designation to include environmental assessment prior to MRL designation in order to avoid the quagmire of leaving it to be dealt with after projects were initiated.)

From Host Address: 104.36.246.66

Date and time received: 5/10/2019 7:31:21 AM

**From:** [Lori Anderson](#) on behalf of [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**To:** [John Cooper](#); [Kathy Jewell](#)  
**Subject:** FW: PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, April 26, 2019 2:15:32 PM

---

From dept email

**From:** website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2019 1:05 PM  
**To:** Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Subject:** PDS Comments

Name : Joseph Montange



y

Comments : I object, in the strongest terms, to expanding or adding a quarry in Marblemount. The impact to the neighboring wilderness areas and to the outdoor tourism for the region will be huge and potentially devastating. As a citizen in Washington to visits the area frequently and enjoys the wilderness areas nearby, I strongly urge that this proposal be rejected.

Thank you,  
Joseph Montange

From Host Address: 65.153.240.18

Date and time received: 4/26/2019 1:04:54 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 7:50:01 AM

---

Name : Jennifer Moon

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Moon

From Host Address: 67.168.95.52

Date and time received: 5/12/2019 7:49:42 AM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 12:30:01 PM

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Name : Jason Morgan

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Jason R Morgan

From Host Address: 96.81.135.209

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 12:27:01 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 5:00:01 PM

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Name : Greta Movassaghi

PermitProposal : Keiwit Infrastructure Quarry Near Marblemount: PL19-0032 and PL19-0033, 0046, 0046 BP 19-0070

Comments : Please accept my additional comments on the named proposal. Please keep me informed.

#### Emergency Services

An industrial operation of this type with the number of employees and amount of equipment, blasting and additional vehicle trips will add a huge load to the current volunteer emergency services. The nearest staffed service is in either Concrete or Newhalem, both 20 miles from the site. Keiwit should be either providing onsite emergency services or contributing funds to local emergency services for increased staffing. The current volunteer departments are aging out of responses or are working at day jobs during the period of daily operations. To expect rural departments to meet the needs of industrial accidents without appropriate mitigation, is to further strain a very limited resource, one already stretched by summer tourist traffic.

There is the very real likelihood of increased wildfires from this industrial operation. Parts of this area burned in 1998 as a result of a spark generated in a gravel pit. The resulting fire traveled approximately 8 miles east along the Rockport Cascade Road and threatened the homes on both sides of the road in the vicinity of the proposed quarry. In addition to water for dust abatement, the operators should be required to have a watchman, firetruck and water tender for wildfire emergencies 24 hours/day during periods of operations. Employees should be trained in initial attack and be able to address any fires generated by operations. The company should have a wildfire safety plan and be required to restrict operations in accordance with WADNR Industrial Fire Precaution Levels.

#### Hazardous Materials

This type of operation generates a high potential for hazardous materials contaminating the environment, particularly groundwater, but also soil and air. Fluids and fuel spilled onsite, from vehicles with leaking hoses and fuel tanks is a daily occurrence, compounded over time. With a very shallow water table at 28 feet (likely higher at some periods), there is a high likelihood of groundwater (and surface water) contamination. This incidental but incremental increase over background rates has not been addressed. In addition, the residue from blasting charges and chemicals also accumulates in the environment. This is the type of effect that would be analyzed in an EIS, and why one should be required. The cumulative effect of the increased truck and equipment traffic on air pollution, along with the dust produced during blasting, poses unanalyzed risks to health and safety. In particular the trucks adding 260 trips/day worth of diesel exhaust to the air, in addition to the 12 hours/day of equipment

operation onsite, require an analysis of the carbon footprint of the project.

#### Transportation Impact

The current analysis mischaracterizes the impacts of the Marblemount Quarry on overall traffic by saying it is just replacing the traffic lost as Beaver Lake is decommissioned. The distance trucks travel from Beaver Lake up SR 9 to Hwy 20 and Cook Road is roughly 8 miles, while the distance from proposed Marblemount Quarry to Hwy 20 and Cook Road is roughly 40 miles or five times the distance. This increases the impacts to traffic, and highway infrastructure as well as the increasing the risk of accidents.

There are further misleading statements regarding the intersection of Hwys 530 and SR20. Every loaded vehicle turning west onto Hwy 20 must start by pulling this steep hill in low gear. Traffic travelling west on Hwy 20, usually comes upon these loaded rigs at the full speed of 50MPH. This forces the haulers to either drive half on the shoulder (if they're courteous) or the unencumbered vehicles to slow considerably and bide their time until they can pass. Currently loaded log trucks are going in the opposite direction, south on Hwy 530, at a rate of perhaps 50/day. Loaded semis from the Darrington mill travel north and west at an estimated rate of five per day. Thus adding 50 slow moving big rigs travelling west/per day, greatly increases the likelihood of congestion and accidents at the junction of Hwy 20 and Hwy 530. Proper mitigation would include signs advising of truck traffic as much as ½ mile (or more) east of the junction on Hwy 20, a reduced speed to 35 mph and increased clearing of vegetation to the east of the intersection to improve site distance. An addition to congestion at the Hwy 20 and 530 intersection will be the reopening of the Rockport Store, which has been closed for approximately 5 years, including the period this analysis was conducted.

The Rockport Cascade Road was used to haul waste from the WSDOT reconstruction of Hwy 530, approximately ¼ mile from the junction to private property. During this short period, serious potholes and surface damage occurred. The Rockport Cascade Road subgrade was not able to withstand this heavy truck traffic. Eventually the road was repaired at taxpayer expense. Keiwi should be required to pay into a mitigation fund for any longterm damage to county infrastructure caused by the increased truck traffic from this project. Rural taxpayers get little enough service for their tax dollars. Taxpayers should not have to cover industry effects, rather industry should be paying impact fees based on truck trips.

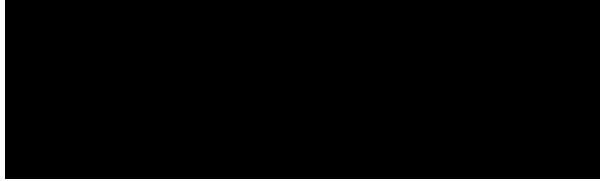
From Host Address: 50.34.223.61

Date and time received: 5/12/2019 4:56:48 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 2:15:01 PM

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Name : Kim Mower



PermitProposal : PL19-0033 Kiewet Infrastructure Quarry

Comments : The residents of Skagit County have decided to live in this area of the world because of the natural beauty and clean sustainable resources. Yes, we enjoy the natural resources the County has to offer, such as the agriculture grown in rich soils, timber grown in lush forests, fish harvested from unpolluted waters. The mining in the County has offered quantities of useful gravel, providing useful infrastructure for our vehicles.

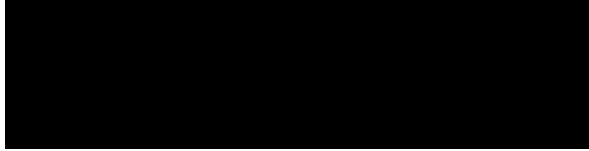
The Kiewet Quarry plan is a colossal resource harvest that offers nothing to the Skagit County residents. The trucking will make a profound negative impact on the roads, intersections, bridges, and traffic. The blasting will create war like noise and upset to everyone and everything. No one in the region will be comfortable. The material hauled out will have no benefit to the people who have invested all to live hear. This quarry is inappropriate for this region on all levels.

Submitted by: Kim D Mower, resident farmer.

From Host Address: 50.34.163.124

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 2:12:02 PM

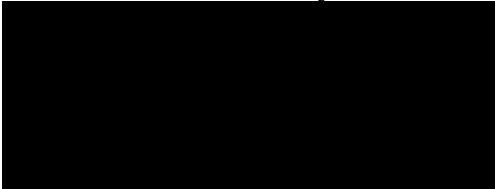
**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**



From dept email

**From:** website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 12:40 PM  
**To:** Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Subject:** PDS Comments

Name : Nicola Murray



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry Operation Near Marblemount

Comments : There are many, many reasons for this permit to be denied, not the least of which is that the road from the quarry site to the nearest State Highway (530) is not a load bearing road and has a single lane bridge that will not stand the extreme pressure of 260 heavy flatbed semi-trucks passing per day. However I am limiting my comments on this issue to my two main fears if this quarry is permitted.

The first is the risk of forest fire. The land in the Upper Skagit is unseasonable dry this spring with many standing dead hardwood trees killed by the drought of 2015. One spark from the quarry operation could set the forests around it ablaze.

The second is the potential risk to the stability of the dams on Ross Lake from dynamiting the earth both above and below them. There is a permit being requested by Imperial Mining in Canada to blast for gold and copper at the headwaters of the Skagit River. If that permit is granted, along with the Kiewit Corporation's Marblemount Quarry permit, then my fear is we will endanger the stability of the ground in the entire Ross Lake area.

I urge you to deny Kiewit Corporation's application for a Quarry Operation near Marblemount.

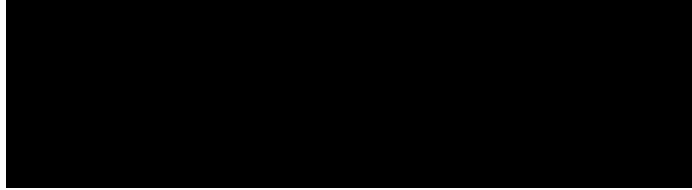
From Host Address: 50.34.202.44

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 12:35:40 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 10:15:01 AM

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Name : Jeannine Navratil



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry Proposal

Comments : Our Cascade Mountains are not a commodity to be sold for destruction. I can't believe such a proposal is even being considered. I moved to the Pacific Northwest because of the natural beauty of this area. These mountains are priceless resources in themselves. What possible benefit can be gained by Skagit County and its local inhabitants by allowing Kiewit Corporation to destroy Big Bear Mountain? This project puts the local community and wildlife at risk, and will devastate the beauty and value of this area in ways that are irreparable. Please do NOT approve this proposal.

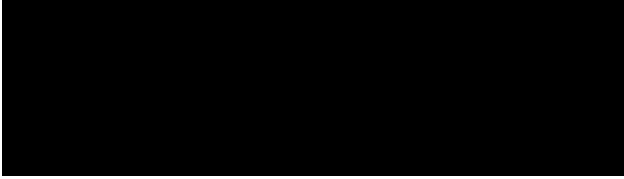
From Host Address: 174.216.29.89

Date and time received: 5/12/2019 10:11:20 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 7:05:01 PM

---

Name : Andreas Niesen



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry  
Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Andreas Niesen

From Host Address: 97.113.24.219

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 7:02:19 PM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 8:25:01 AM

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Name : Valerie J Normand

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham?

All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

From the research I've done, there are many concerns about this permit request, including: potential risks of asbestos contamination to area residents and wildlife; potential risk of landslides and noise impacts; significant increase in heavy truck traffic on small roads and bridges that serve the local communities and school district's children; significant risk to pristine forests and rivers and the people, fish and wildlife that depend on them for life and livelihood.

From my understanding of the County's Special Use Permit criteria, a special use permit must demonstrate that the proposed activity:

- \* will not adversely affect or prevent those uses normally allowed within the respective district. SCC 14.16.900(1)(a) (Purpose).
- \*will be compatible with existing and planned use. SCC 14.16.900(1)(b)(v)(A).
- \* will not create undue noise, odor, heat, vibration, air and water pollution impacts on

surrounding, existing, or potential dwelling units, based on performance standards of SCC 14.16.840. SCC 14.16.900(1)(b)(v)(C).

\* will not cause potential adverse effects on the general public health, safety, and welfare. SCC 14.16.900(1)(b)(v)(E).

\* for special uses in... Secondary Forest-Natural Resource Lands... the impacts on long-term natural resource management and production will be minimized. SCC 14.16.900(1)(b)(v)(F).

\* will be supported by adequate public facilities or services to the surrounding areas, or conditions can be established to mitigate adverse impacts on such facilities. SCC 14.16.900(1)(b)(v)(H).

\* will maintain the character, landscape and lifestyle of the rural area. SCC 14.16.900(1)(b)(v)(I).

I do not believe this request adequately addresses this criteria and actually is in direct contradiction to these requirements on all these points. I also understand that Kiewit has the burden of proving that their application meets all of these criteria. SCC14.16.900(1)(b)(v). I do not believe that this company has done so.

I'm also deeply concerned by the record of this company to be in violation of health and safety requirements in other projects -- for example, dumping contaminants into the river on a CA project.

As a resident of Marblemount for 10 years and longtime Western WA resident, I'm deeply concerned about this proposal and the potential to drastically change the character of this special valley forever. I chose to live in the Upper Skagit for many years because of the quiet, rural lifestyle, proximity to the National Forests and National Park wilderness areas, and the many recreational amenities it currently offers. I know that the Skagit River is an incredibly important habitat for critically endangered salmon species and the other life that depends on them. I know the local Tribes that have lived here for hundreds of years have deep and grave concerns about this project and the impacts on their cultural values and way of life. I continue to bring my family here to hike and camp and swim and visit friends, bringing our tourism dollars to the local economies, which we greatly value. I believe that permitting this project would forever damage this community and drastically impact the many friends and neighbors that call this valley home.

If you cannot see fit to oppose this project outright, please do not allow this proposal to move forward without a full Environmental Impact Statement.

Thank you for considering my comment.

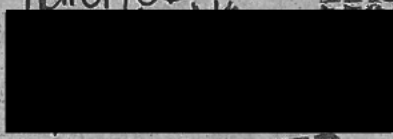
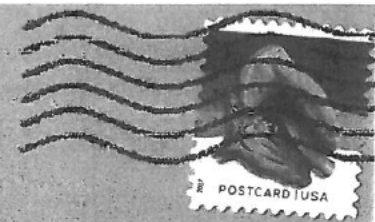
Sincerely,  
Valerie Normand

From Host Address: 73.157.76.196

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 8:20:17 AM

Karen OB

SEATTLE WA 980  
2019.FN6 L

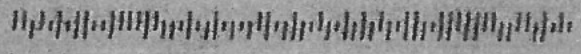


RECEIVED

APR 24 2019

SKAGIT COUNTY  
PDS

Skagit County Planning  
and Development Services  
1800 Continental Place  
Mount Vernon WA 98273



I strongly oppose permitting a proposed rock mining project in ~~Marble~~ Mount. Impacts would be noise, dust, heavy truck traffic and potential impacts on water quality, wild life, vegetation, scenery. This should not be permitted in this rural neighborhood whose residents are all very concerned. DO NOT change the comprehensive plan to allow this project!

Sincerely, Karen OB

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, April 25, 2019 7:35:01 PM

---

Name : Erin Aileen OBrien



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry Operation Near Marblemount  
Comments : I strongly oppose this proposal. It would be adding more destruction to our environment. It would destroy my home!

From Host Address: 174.216.44.118

Date and time received: 4/25/2019 7:34:44 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 3:35:01 PM

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Name : Paula Ogden-Muse

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to North Cascades National Park; nearby Wilderness lands and wildlands; and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am deeply concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). There are crucial questions that must be answered and their impacts mitigated before the project is allowed to move forward. Question include, but are not limited to: What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week for years be on carbon and air emissions and water quality in the Skagit River for salmon? What will those impacts be for people who that depend on the river as a drinking water source? How will the truck traffic impact the infrastructure, residents and visiting public along the transport route from Marblemount to Bellingham?

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Paula Ogden-Muse

From Host Address: 174.56.137.181

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 3:30:32 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 1:20:01 PM

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Name : Arthur William Olson

PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry, Kiewet

Comments : As a federally certified blaster for almost 30 years, I have reviewed Kiewet's Blasting Plan, Blasting Vibration Analysis, and associated Fugitive Dust Plan, finding them each to be woefully inadequate, to say the least. Their Blasting Plan looks like someone just copied a page out of a blasters' handbook, with the addition of a lengthy assessment from a Mr. Revey of Colorado. Although his assessment is filled with scientific explanations and jargon regarding blasting procedures and safety, it can hardly be construed as a "plan". Any complete and honest Blasting Plan must be SITE SPECIFIC! Mr. Revey states that what he has assessed would change "if the conditions of the rock changes". Maybe that is why there is no mention of "fly rock" in his assessment? 800 feet is VERY close to be living downhill from a blasting site even when everything goes "just right". Say, for instance, one of their holes is too close to a buried fracture, or seam, in the rock (quite common in schist). That greatly increases the danger of potentially lethal fly rock. I have many questions for the blasters and drillers and some of them are as follows:

1. Was core sample data ever given to Mr. Revey to help with his long-distance assessment? (After we spoke on the phone, he admitted that all his work was done via Google Earth and that he has never even been to the site. The problem with that is with satellite images from the sky, one cannot see the cliff face and how broken up it is.
2. Was Mr. Revey advised that Big Bear Mountain lies directly on the Straight Creek Fault and how that might effect not only the uplift and tilt, but also fracture and metamorphosis of that rock? (Green Schist) And we know that blasting travels more easily along faults and fractures.
3. Green, or Chloride, Schist contains ASBESTOS! How can this possibly be controlled or contained from airborne and waterborn contamination? Mr. Revey also claims that some blasting agents, as well as rock dust, would likely get into the ground water, but that it would be at "safe levels". Safe for whom, I ask? (NOTE: Libby, Montana's infamous schist quarry is now a Superfund Site and the resulting disease, called asbestosis, has killed many hundreds of residents in that small community!)

In addition, these subjects now lead me to comment on the Blasting Vibration Analysis:

As Big Bear Mountain (Kiewet's proposed site) faces due northwest, reverberations will echo throughout the entire upper valley like an amphitheater. From my experience, I know that when blasting on federal lands (USFS, USNPS, etc.) there are many restrictions, especially in the Spring and Summer months. For example, distance from nesting birds need to be determined, especially those with sensitive, threatened, or endangered status. I know for a fact that the adjacent USFS Old Growth forest lands on Illabot Knob host nesting pairs of Spotted Owls. My wife was on the crew that discovered those and, consequently, stopped that timber sale in 1990. And although the report states that "there is no wildlife" in the area (!), residents, as well as WDFW, USFS and other agencies have documented many, including: black bear, deer, elk, coyote, fox, bobcat, lynx, wolves (the very first natural pack established in western

Washington in over 1/2 a century!), pine martins, fishers, mink, beaver, river otter, marbled murrelets, and many birds of prey, including bald eagles, peregrine falcons (who nest on those cliffs), gyrfalcons, merlins, red tailed hawks, goshawks, great horned, pigmy, and spotted owls, etc., etc. And of course the Skagit, Cascade, and Sauk Rivers which support all five species of wild pacific salmon! NO WILDLIFE, they say? It turns out they (how conveniently?) did their one day "survey" in late November, when many species are hibernating and/or have migrated for the winter. And their so-called "study" on blasting impacts was done on already stressed out animals confined in a zoo! I will say from my own lifelong observations of my dogs when someone is "just" shooting nearby is that canines do not like blasting!

On the Fugitive Dust Plan and Water Pollution:

Having already mentioned the potential for wide spread asbestos poisoning, I will now comment on the ground water issues. Kiewit states they will "dry drill". However, even if they don't use a drilling lubricant, they will, and must, use a drill TOOL lubricant, or the tool will self-destruct. This operates by lubricating the working parts of the drill as it blows oil through the tool into the hole and also out again as a sticky, contaminated dust.

The amount that must be used is surprisingly copious, especially when Kiewit plans to drill 160,000 FEET of 5-inch holes just on the "smaller phase" quarry! The dust that is blown out of the holes by high pressure air will be picked up by the wind of the day. Our water issue is complicated, as well. Marblemount is situated on the western edge of North America's only temperate rain forest. We receive more than TWICE the precipitation than does Beaver Lake (Kiewit's other Skagit County quarry). Some years we receive almost 10 FEET of rain (and/or snow), even while experiencing droughts in summer. Rainfall records are easily available from the USNPS ranger station in Marblemount. Rainfall like that complicates drilling and blasting. So I predict that most of it would happen about the same time I make hay - in the very busy, tourist season: summer. Obviously, the blasts, reverberations, dust, and traffic will effect not just we residents, but all the businesses in Rockport and Marblemount who depend completely on summer tourism to survive - hotels, motels, B & B's, stores, gas stations, campgrounds, the resorts, vineyards, our organic farms, etc. It will be a "jobs and communities killer".

So, to summarize: Kiewit needs detailed, site specific, blasting plan that addressed all the things they glossed over (Note - They submitted generic text from Bureau of Mines). They need to list all the products used, including tool oil and all MSDS for every item. They need to do a REAL and detailed wildlife survey in the summer. AND they need to do a full and complete Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

And for the record, I'm against it!

From Host Address: 50.34.213.56

Date and time received: 5/12/2019 1:18:38 PM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 11:30:01 AM

---

Name : Arthur William Olson

PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry, Keweit

Comments : I have written previously about my concerns for the truck traffic on the Rockport Cascade Rd where I live, as well as along SR 530 adjoining it.

In Keweit's proposed plan, regarding their Traffic Impact Analysis, they state that the traffic volume is "low". It is low during the dead of winter when they took their survey, but from May through October, it is incredibly busy. Why? Because we are a tourist and recreational destination, the gateway to North Cascades National Park! In fact, it is so busy on weekends (generally Fridays through Mondays) and holidays that, many times it is difficult to even enter SR 530 safely from the Rockport Cascade Rd. It is a constant stream of traffic, and they are almost always speeding to leave the city behind. Numerous, serious, and often fatal accidents occur on SR 530 during the summer. In addition, once Kewiet's enormous trucks are able to get on SR 530 they then, after one mile, must maneuver over a very narrow bridge and around a very tight, 180 degree, uphill turn to enter SR 20 - a turn where many loaded log trucks have lost their loads! With the busy summer traffic, I can't imagine the difficulties, delays, and inevitable accidents that are bound to be caused.

Besides traffic concerns, I am very worried about where all those quarry trucks and equipment will be staged, especially when they are blasting. There is no shoulder on the Rockport Cascade Rd., so they MUST be restricted to their own site.

A number of years ago, SR 530 was being rebuilt and one of my neighbors made his pasture available to the trucks and equipment being used for that project. The also used his land to dump the pit run and asphalt being removed. On cold, clear days in Autumn, when the crew was warming up their rigs preparing to go to work, the diesel exhaust they created was so foul that it made it hard to even be outside for a number of hours! No one was monitoring those emissions and no one ever made sure that the asphalt and gravel, dumped right next to the slough, was ever moved. We all have personal wells for our water and I suspect there has been contamination due to that project. But it seems as if once that project was permitted, any oversight ended. How will you assure us that such actions will not occur again?

Thank you for your time in reading my concerns. I look forward to some answers.

From Host Address: 50.34.213.56

Date and time received: 5/12/2019 11:25:03 AM

**From:** website  
**To:** Planning & Development Services  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 9:40:01 AM

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Name : Arthur William Olson



PermitProposal : PL-19-0032, -0033, -0046, and BP-19-0070

Comments : Part 1 of 2:

As a blaster for almost 30 years (with the most recent years as federally certified), I have reviewed Kiewit's Blasting Plan, Blasting Vibration Analysis, and associated Fugitive Dust Plan, finding them to be woefully inadequate and incomplete. Their so-called Blasting Plan looks like a page was just copied from a blasters' handbook, with the addition of a lengthy assessment from a Mr. Revey of Colorado. Although his assessment is filled with scientific explanations and jargon regarding blasting and safety, it can hardly be construed as a "plan". Any complete and honest Blasting Plan must be SITE SPECIFIC. Mr. Revey states that what he has assessed "would change if the conditions of the rock changes". Maybe that's why there is no mention of "fly rock"? 800 feet is VERY close to be living downhill from a blasting site even when everything goes "just right". For instance, if one of the drilled holes is too close to a buried fracture or seam in the rock it greatly increases the danger of potentially lethal fly rock. And this rock, Green Schist, is metamorphic and highly fractured.

I have many questions for the drillers and blasters and some of them are as follows:

1. Was core sample data ever given to Mr. Revey to help with his long-distance assessment? After we spoke on the phone, he admitted that all of his work was done remotely with Google Earth, and that he had never actually been to the site. The problem with relying on satellite images is that they photograph from above and one cannot see the cliff face and how broken up it is.
2. Was Mr. Revey advised that Big bear Mountain lies directly on the Straight Creek Fault and how that might affect not only uplift and tilt, but fracture and metamorphosis of that rock? As we know, blasting travels more easily along faults and fractures.
3. Green, or Chloride, Schist contains a form of crystalline asbestos. Once blasting has occurred, how can this possibly be controlled or contained from airborne and waterborn contamination? Mr. Revey also claims that some blasting agents, as well as resulting rock dust, would likely get into the ground water, but that it would be "at safe levels". Safe for whom, I ask? Please note: Libby, Montana's infamous schist quarry is now a Super Fund Site and the resulting disease, called asbestosis, has killed many hundreds of residents in that small community! In addition, these subjects lead me to comment on the Blasting Vibration Analysis (to be continued in Part 2)

From Host Address: 50.34.193.230

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 9:38:46 AM

commentator  
request a  
amended  
version. See  
email after  
this page.  
CH 5/15/19

## Christian Hardt

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**From:** John Cooper  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 15, 2019 2:32 PM  
**To:** 'Art Olson'; Christian Hardt  
**Cc:** Brian Young  
**Subject:** RE: Comments rejected?

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I will have Christian amend your comment letter.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

*John Cooper, LG, LHg  
Geologist/Hydrogeologist/Natural Resource Planner  
Skagit County Planning and Development Services  
1800 Continental Place  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
[johnc@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:johnc@co.skagit.wa.us)  
(360) 416-1334*

---

**From:** website <[website@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:website@co.skagit.wa.us)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 15, 2019 2:22 PM  
**To:** 'Art Olson' [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Comments rejected?

Art

I can send a note to Mr. Cooper asking him to amend. I' will let you know if I hear anything otherwise.

Best

Brian Young

**From:** Art Olson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 15, 2019 11:01 AM  
**To:** website <[website@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:website@co.skagit.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Comments rejected?

I have a TYPO to note, as well. On page 1 of Part 1 regarding "fly rock" - it should read **800** feet, not 80. Is there any way to correct that, and/or make a note for Mr. Cooper?  
Many thanks,

Art Olson

On Tue, May 14, 2019 at 7:17 AM website <[website@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:website@co.skagit.wa.us)> wrote:

Art

Glad it went through for you. Let me know if I can help in the future.

Best,

Brian

**From:** Art Olson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 5:17 PM  
**To:** website <[website@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:website@co.skagit.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Comments rejected?

no worries. i retyped it and resent it in 2 parts. it went through. many thanks.

On Mon, May 13, 2019 at 2:16 PM website <[website@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:website@co.skagit.wa.us)> wrote:

Art

Sorry I don't think there is any way for us to restore a draft that didn't make it onto our server.

Brian

**From:** Art Olson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 8:35 AM  
**To:** website <[website@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:website@co.skagit.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Comments rejected?

no web addresses. is there any way my draft is reachable so i don't have to re-type it?

thanks for any help,

artie

On Mon, May 13, 2019 at 7:10 AM website <[website@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:website@co.skagit.wa.us)> wrote:

Art

I'm sorry the form didn't work for you. Did you have any URL (web addresses) included in your response?

Those will get rejected. Let me know how I can help.

Brian Young

Skagitcounty.net

**From:** Art Olson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 1:40 PM  
**To:** website <[website@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:website@co.skagit.wa.us)>  
**Cc:** Rob Burrows [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Comments rejected?

I just spend many hours researching and then composing two comment letters regarding the Marblemount Quarry proposal by Kiewit and they were rejected. The response mentioned something like "object reference"? Please advise ASAP. Deadline is tomorrow, May 13th!

Thank you,

Art Olson

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 11:20:01 AM

---

Name : Arthur William Olson

PermitProposal : PL 19-0032, -0033, -0046, and BP-19-0070  
Comments : Part 2 of 2)

Blasting Vibration Analysis, etc. cont.

As Big Bear Mountain (Kiewet's proposed site) faces due northwest, reverberations will echo throughout the entire upper valley like an amphitheater. From my experience, I know that when blasting on federal lands (USFS, USNPS, etc.) there are many restrictions, especially in the spring and summer months. For example, distance from nesting birds needs to be determined, especially those species with sensitive, threatened, or endangered status. I know for a fact, that the adjacent USFS old growth forest lands on Illabot Knob hosts nesting pairs of Spotted Owls. My wife was on the field crew that discovered those and, consequently, stopped the impending timber sale in 1990. And although the proposal's reports states that "there is no wildlife" in the area, residents, visitors, as well as WDFW, USFS, and other government agencies have documented many, including: black bear, elk, deer, wolves (the very first naturally migrated pack established in western Washington in well over half a century!), coyote, fox, cougar, bobcat, lynx, pine martins, fisher, mink, beaver, river otter, marbled murrelets, numerous songbirds, woodpeckers, and a whole host of birds of prey, such as bald eagles, peregrine falcons (who nest on the site's cliffs), merlins, red tailed hawks, goshawks, great horned, pygmy, and spotted owls, just to list a few. And of course the Skagit, Cascade, and Sauk Rivers, as well the Illabot Creek are all protected under the national Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, as well as the salmon they produce. "No wildlife", they say? It turns out that they did their one day "survey" in late November, when many species would have been hibernating or had already migrated for the winter. (How convenient for Kiewet...) And their so-called study on blasting impacts was carried out on already stressed out animals confined in a zoo! I will say that from my lifelong observations of my own dogs, even just shooting sends them into a shaking panic - canines will NOT like blasting.

On the Fugitive Dust Plan: Having already mentioned the potential for widespread asbestos poisoning in Part 1, I will now comment on the ground water issues. Kiewet states they will "dry drill". However, even if they don't use a drilling lubricant, they will, and must use a drill TOOL lubricant or the tool will self-destruct. This operates by lubricating the working parts of the drill as it blows oil through the tool and out again as a sticky, contaminated dust. The amount that must be used is surprisingly copious, especially when Kiewet plans to drill 160,000 feet of 5-inch holes just on the "smaller phase" quarry! The dust that is blown out of the holes by high pressure air will be picked up by the wind of the day. Our water issue is complicated as well. Marblemount is situated on the western edge of North America's only temperate rain forest. It is less influenced by Puget Sound than it is by the mountains directly north, east, and south. We receive more than TWICE the precipitation than does Beaver Lake (Kiewet's current Skagit County quarry in the lower valley). Some years we receive almost 10 FEET of rain (and snow), even while experiencing droughts in summer. The rivers and streams regularly flood, oftentimes in late fall. Rainfall records are easily available from the

USNPS ranger station in Marblemount. And rainfall like that complicates drilling and blasting. So, I predict that most of it would be happening about the same time I make hay - in the very busy tourist season: summer.

Obviously, the blasts, reverberations, dust, and truck traffic will affect not just we residents, but all of the businesses in Rockport and Marblemount who depend completely on summer tourist season to survive - hotels, motels, B&Bs, stores, gas stations, campgrounds, resorts, vineyards, our organic farms, etc., etc. It will be a "jobs and communities killer".

So, to summarize: Kiewit needs a detailed, site specific blasting plan that addresses all the things they glossed over, as well as the generic text they lifted from the U.S. Bureau of Mines. They need to list all the products used, including tool oil and all MSDS for every item. They need to do a REAL and detailed wildlife survey, and not in winter. Also they need to do a full and complete Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

And, for the record, I'm against it! Thank you this extended opportunity to review and comment. I hope you will take this information under advisement when making your decision.

From Host Address: 50.34.193.230

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 11:16:25 AM



Regarding PL19-0033 - PL19-0047  
PL19-0032 - BP19-0070  
Kiewit Infrastructures proposed  
Quarry in Marblemont

John Cooper  
1300 Contentee Place  
MT Vernon WA 98273

RECEIVED

MAY 13 2019

SKAGIT COUNTY  
PDS

Dear John, I like things  
just the way they are  
I'm against the quarry in marblemont  
Clinton Olson

Clinton Olson  
general delivery marblemont

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 2:35:01 PM

---

Name : Orca Network



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for providing an opportunity to publicly comment on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed at the gateway of North Cascades National Park, and near the Skagit River.

Orca Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness of the whales of the Pacific Northwest, and the importance of providing them healthy and safe habitats. We provide learning opportunities and advocacy through our educational programs, the Langley Whale Center, and our Whale Sightings Network, which currently consists of over 13,000 members. On behalf of our staff and Board of Directors, we would like to take this opportunity to weigh in with concerns regarding Kiewit's application process. Even more importantly, we would like to highlight some environmental impact concerns regarding creating potentially hazardous conditions for salmon of the Skagit River.

Currently, Kiewit's application for permits seems shortsighted, when at this stage, the applicant is filing for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) in areas which are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). It is our understanding that each area within their designated/proposed site must be zoned per MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan, calling attention road construction and forest conversion, as well. Whether or not the rock extraction is planned and proposed for future use, likely with the intent of focusing on the implementation of zoning changes, to us it seems as if approving these permits now is undergoing the application process out of order.

With this large extraction project proposed, it is our understanding that 140 transport trucks would then be utilizing the North Cascades Highway, daily, six days a week. This heavy increase in traffic will have an impact on air quality, and the risk of heavy metals leaching into the Skagit River will heighten with stormwater runoff and snowmelt. Metals such as copper and zinc, found in brakes and other mechanical components of vehicles, are fatal to salmon, even in very trace amounts. The Skagit is a crucial river for the spawning and survival of Salish Sea salmon—especially regarding Chinook salmon. Chinook runs have been declared highly threatened, and even endangered in some areas, with their population being reduced to just 10% of their historical numbers.

To connect the risk of salmon loss to the Southern Resident Killer Whales, it is imperative to know that the Southern Residents are a genetically, acoustically, and culturally distinct group of fish-eating orcas. What's more critical, is they are salmon-specialists, with their preferred variety being Chinook. They are so specialized, that Chinook comprise 80-90% of their diet.

Endangering these already depleted salmon runs, in turn, will further impact the Southern Residents, who were originally declared endangered in 2005. After fifteen years of ongoing restoration and conservation efforts, they are not showing an increase in population, and have instead plummeted to the 75 members that exist today, their lowest number in three decades.

With many runs of salmon continuing to decline in population, in multiple rivers and river sheds impacted by development, industry, dams, culverts, and other interferences, this Quarry has the potential to introduce a risk that neither salmon nor the Southern Residents can afford to take without imminent extinction looming on the horizon.

We urge you to consider these potential impacts by studying and evaluating via a full Environmental Impact Statement. Salmon and Southern Residents are not the only wildlife that would be impacted by this, and the human community in this area would suffer consequences as well. Property value in the vicinity would decline, the recreational economy would lose steam, and the noise and pollution from this Quarry would have constant and longstanding effects. The Upper Skagit Indian Tribe and Swinomish Indian Tribal Community will also feel these effects, and we've come to understand that they have asked for a full evaluation of impacts as well. It is crucial to look at each piece of the puzzle, and the ripples it can create, before granting a permit to Kiewit.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,  
Orca Network

From Host Address: 67.42.99.199

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 2:31:45 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 6, 2019 11:40:01 AM

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Name : Ira orton



PermitProposal : Marblegate lot one

Comments : My first concern is forest fire . The next would be water we live on well system.  
Then roads theirs not slot of ways out of here.

From Host Address: 174.224.18.85

Date and time received: 5/6/2019 11:37:36 AM

Regarding: PL19-0033-PL19-0047  
PL19-0032-BP19-0070  
Kiewit INFRASTRUCTURES proposed  
Quarry in Marble Mountain

John Cooper  
1800 Contented Place  
Mt Vernon WA 98273

RECEIVED

MAY 13 2019

SKAGIT COUNTY  
PDS

Dear John -  
Julie Orton - - it has in imendanger the  
animals of land, soil ways plus water ways  
& health of people. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Julie Orton

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Saturday, May 11, 2019 12:25:01 AM

---

Name : Tracy Ouellette

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining. I live in rural Skagit County and spend most of my recreation time here. We enjoy the Skagit River and eagle watching in the areas impacted by this project. Our local economy also benefits from the travel and tourism to this area. These activities will have direct effects on myself, my family, my neighbors, and on the environment where I live and recreate. This project should not proceed without thorough environmental impact assessment.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Tracy Ouellette

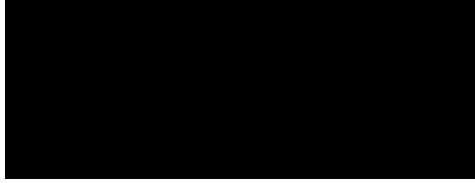
From Host Address: 172.92.233.227

Date and time received: 5/11/2019 12:22:55 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 9:25:01 PM

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Name : Auburn Parent



PermitProposal : Proposed Marblemount Quarry/Mining Special Use Permit (PL19-0033), Forest Practice Conversion Permit (PL19-0047), and Grading Permit (BP19-0070).  
Comments : Please deny this application. There are too many ways the project would negatively impact the community.

From Host Address: 174.216.10.72

Date and time received: 5/12/2019 9:22:07 PM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 8:50:01 PM

---

Name : Sarah Parker

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Parker

From Host Address: 67.171.30.55

Date and time received: 5/12/2019 8:47:19 PM

Regarding: PU19-0033 - PU19-0047  
PU19-0032 - BP19-0070  
VIEWIT INFRASTRUCTURES PROPOSED  
Quarry in Marblemont

John Cooper  
1800 Conterata PLACE  
MT Vernon WA. 98275

RECEIVED

MAY 13 2019

SKAGIT COUNTY  
PDS

Dear John,

I am against it, because the  
roads will be rutted - animals  
killed, Noise - Trucks too many  
trucks

Jenna Reasco  
Jenna Reasco



From: [website](#)  
To: [Planning & Development Services](#)  
Subject: PDS Comments  
Date: Sunday, April 21, 2019 1:55:01 PM

---

Name : Scott Pederstuen

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry operation near Marblemount

Comments : 1. Anyone who believes the company's statement that there is no wildlife in the area of the proposed site, has sought for them with their eyes closed. There are bears, elk, deer, raccoons and eagles in this area that would be adversely affected by the noise and pollution that will be caused by this project.

2. Anyone who believes the company's assertion that their trucks will have no adverse impact upon Rockport-Cascade Road, the bridge in Rockport and SR 20 between Rockport and I-5 is lying. These roads are not engineered to handle the weight of these massive trucks carrying massive boulders over them FOR 100 YEARS.

3. Several years ago, a section of road was washed out on SR 20 about half way between Rockport and Concrete. The incident left SR 20 impassable for months while the State of Washington waited for the ground to dry out enough to remove the vegetation and soil that washed across the road. Upriver denizens had to travel either up SR 530 through Darrington or along the Rockport-Cascade Road. The State finally decided that they would put up a Jersey Wall along the affected section. To this day, there is no shoulder along that section of the road. Due to the cost of the needed work, there is still no plan for clearing the shoulder OR stabilizing that section further to ensure that those trucks would have the ability to get through that area.

4. Given the length of the trucks that will be used during this 100 year period, there is no way they can safely negotiate this bend in the road without either crossing the solid yellow line in the center of the road and encountering oncoming traffic on the east bound lane of the road.

5. Now that the pass is open to the east side of the state, there will be increased traffic on SR 20 as it is a favorite of people who travel across the northern part of the state. This route is frequently used by hikers and bikers who travel across the pass to enjoy the beauty of the ride or walk. I am unable to believe that those monster trucks will be able to avoid hitting slower moving vehicles, hikers and bicyclists.

6. With the pass open, there is also an increase in the number of motorcyclists on our roads. They frequently travel in packs that can consist of 50 or more travelers. They are wont to pass slower vehicles on the road despite the presence of double yellow lines. They are not going to change their habits and people WILL die trying!!

7. The bridge spanning the Skagit River in Rockport is a "narrow" bridge. It was built many years ago. It was designed for light traffic. What the company is describing for their traffic is far in excess of the traffic for which it was built. There is NO way that these trucks can cross that bridge safely without crossing the solid yellow lines painted down the center of it. Is the county prepared to install a traffic control system on both ends of the bridge to permit only alternating one-way traffic across the structure??

8. I would recommend that if any of the Skagit County commissioners have not traveled these roads, that they should definitely do so prior to voting again on this project. Look at the beauty

of this road. Consider the people who use the road for getting to work and then home again. Go and sit on the project site for a day or two and see the wild life that is in the area. Drive from Sedro-Woolley to Marblemount. Drive across the Rockport bridge to see if YOU would want to try negotiating it in a massive truck. Examine the specifications to which the Rockport bridge and the Rockport Cascade road were built. Have an engineer from the State tell you if S/HE thinks these roads are up to the stress of such loads. When you return to the lower river, imagine trying to get one of those monster trucks started from the stop sign on SR 530 at SR 20 and getting it up the rise to the crest of the hill beyond the Sauk Mountain State Park. Imagine that same truck empty trying to turn right onto SR 530 and make the U-turn without crossing the middle line. Look at the road as it curves after descending the hill after the Park. Imagine the work that it will take to maintain the roads in passable condition with the weight of the vehicles and the frequency of the company's description of their additional traffic. Drive to Marblemount along SR 20 and see the cabins, the houses and the farms directly across the river from the proposed project. Tell me then that you believe that the noise, the dust and the pollution from this project will not spew into the river and contaminate the river, our property, crops and homes. Imagine the adverse affects the project will cause when dust and pollution are inhaled by adults, seniors, children, cattle, salmon and wild animals. These would be the results for which YOU would be responsible.

Downriver through Concrete, Hamilton, Lyman and Sedro-Woolley will also be adversely affected by the increased activity and the size and low level of maneuverability of these trucks.

People live in the upriver area from Lyman through Concrete and Rockport to Marblemount and beyond because they want to get away from such contamination along the I-5 corridor. People live upriver because they are looking for peace and quiet. People live here because they can safely drive around town without having to battle heavy traffic. People realize that they react slower as they age, and they feel safer without heavy traffic. If YOU say yes to this project, it will destroy the peace and tranquility of our lives. It will frighten off wildlife. If it were going to supply a number of jobs to the area, that would be a consideration in their favor. In fact, however, there will be NO jobs available for local people.

The Kiewit Company has already been charged with pollution of rivers and other areas in Canada. Canada has now refused to allow them to repeat their performance in that country. What on earth do you think will stop them from contaminating our habitat? Who will make them pay for the roads they are going to destroy with this activity? Why on earth would you believe a single word they say. All they want is our mountain.

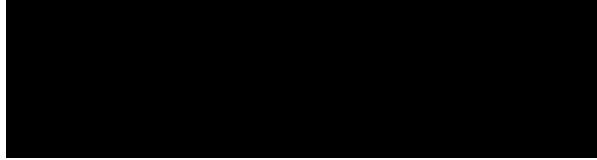
To say that there will be no affect on the local people, tourism, wildlife and so on as the company states in their application is as big a lie as any Mr. Trump tells. You can believe them just as much as you can trust Mr. Trump.

There is nothing in this project that will help the people residing upriver from Concrete. Indeed, it will be a travesty if this project actually goes forward. The cost to the pristine beauty of the area will be extreme. The fact that it will take them 100 years to tear down that mountain is unacceptable. The mountain was built by nature over many thousands of years. In one century that mountain will be mechanically moved to the ocean. No jobs will be generated to help provide income for the people living here. SAY "NO" TO THE KIEWIT PROJECT!!

From Host Address: 50.34.190.32

Date and time received: 4/21/2019 1:51:38 PM

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

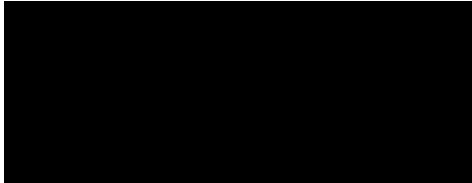


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From dept email

**From:** website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 3:55 PM  
**To:** Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Subject:** PDS Comments

Name : Luba Pekisheva



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Please do not screw up the Skagit River ecosystems and do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The effects of mining and blasting asbestos bearing rock alone is enough to hit the Pause button and study the issues deeper.

What will the impacts be from clearcutting 90 acres of forest, an extra 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years, be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon, the tribes, and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you.

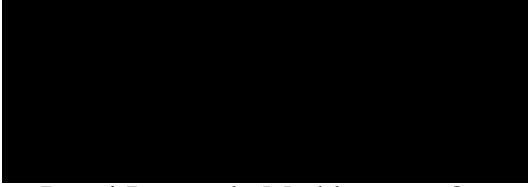
From Host Address: 66.114.38.58

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 3:51:08 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 17, 2019 6:35:01 AM

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Name : Michael Pendergrast



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : Commissioners,

I'm writing to support the Marblemount Quarry proposal.

- Skagit County lacks competition for rock products
- The existing Skagit County quarries are being depleted.
- Another rock source will make Skagit County projects more affordable.
- This project creates family wage jobs.

Thank you,  
Michael Pendergrast  
PENDER Construction

From Host Address: 174.216.8.251

Date and time received: 4/17/2019 6:30:01 AM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 24, 2019 8:05:01 AM

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Name : Barb Peterson



PermitProposal : Barb Peterson

Comments : I am opposed to the Marblemount Quarry! For generations this area has been a section of the National bicycle trail, beginning in La Push, Washington and ending in Bar Harbor, Maine. My father bicycled the entire trail in the 90's. Two years ago my daughter and I enjoyed riding along Hwy 20, tracing my father's (and many, many other bicyclists') route. I feel it would be an extremely dangerous bike route with the additional traffic from the proposed quarry. Safety would be my primary concern, however the serenity and beauty of the ride would be ruined. This would be such a sad loss for so many! Please deny this project!!

From Host Address: 68.47.96.149

Date and time received: 4/24/2019 8:02:18 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 24, 2019 8:55:01 AM

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Name : Richard Reed Peterson



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : I am opposed to the proposed Marblemount Quarry. I pulled a camper along Highway 20 two years ago while accompanying my wife and daughter on their bicycle ride across the state of Washington. The beauty and serenity were stunning! Although I was driving, I heard first-hand accounts about how especially pleasurable the bicycle ride was. I also heard how terrifying their experience was sharing a road with numerous logging trucks on the Olympic Peninsula. That negative experience will be re-created in Skagit County should this project be allowed to go through. I urge you, for all those who enjoy the recreational aspect of your beautiful state, to deny this proposal.

From Host Address: 68.47.96.149

Date and time received: 4/24/2019 8:50:31 AM

**From:** [Tom Plank](#)  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** "Marblemount Quarry"  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2019 9:45:49 AM

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From:  
Thomas R. Plank

Concerning the proposed quarry of which I am greatly opposed. This project should never occur. Along with the harm caused to the local resident, the influx of the tourist trade, can and will cause a strong economic hard ship to local business's on both sides of the mountains.

The intersection of highway 530 and highway 20 is not easy to navigate for regular traffic let alone these large trucks that will interrupt the flow of traffic as they gradually move uphill going west on 20. Tourist will surely not leave the area with a good impression as the leave/arrive the area after being forced to slow down or stop by these processions of trucks slowly going through their gears.

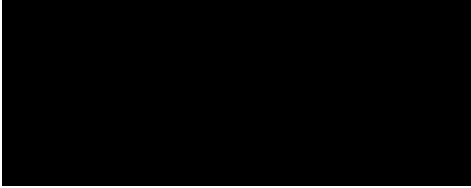
The local residents will have their lives changed by the continual additional traffic, noise from the quarry and airborne particles that will affect them and the environment. They did not move to this pristine area to be bombarded by all of the activity that is proposed.

Thank you,  
Tom Plank

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Saturday, May 11, 2019 10:30:01 AM

---

Name : Michael plumber



PermitProposal : Marble mount quarry

Comments : I'm apposed to this proposed quarry. It will greatly increase large truck traffic on hwy 20 which is already under pressure. It is a major corridor for people entering the north cascades national park. The loss of trees and more blasting in an area adjacent to our beloved national park is not wanted. Stand up for the people who live here for once.

From Host Address: 174.216.4.243

Date and time received: 5/11/2019 10:29:45 AM

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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From dept email

**From:** website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 29, 2019 8:30 PM  
**To:** Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Subject:** PDS Comments

Name : Eileen Porch

PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry  
Comments : Thank you for the opportunity to comment.  
I live within 1/2-3/4 mile of proposed quarry.

I have numerous concerns. The great magnitude and duration of the impact of this project would result in irreparable harm. A fuller understanding of the overall reach and longevity of impacts, and the threshold determination of significance demand an EIS.

The potential noise is most obvious for the lasting negative impact.

The increased traffic is also obvious. I have driven this road for the past 34 years. I was a Kindergarten teacher for Darrington School District. The increased Spring, Summer and Fall traffic are notable. Adding the truck traffic from this project would be catastrophic.

I truly believe this project is in direct opposition to the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan.

From Host Address: 50.34.201.143

Date and time received: 4/29/2019 8:28:43 PM

**From:** [Nancy Quackenbush](#)  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Marblemount Quarry  
**Date:** Monday, April 22, 2019 1:41:51 PM

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In reference to the Marblemount Quarry: Kiewit Infrastructure Co. has a poor environmental and safety record. In the past, just one of their infractions required them to pay \$5 Million for Clean Water Act Violation. The fine in no way returns the environment to its previous healthy state!

In the case of the Marblemount Quarry, the headwaters of the Skagit River are in jeopardy. We cannot condone the risk that Kiewit or any other mining operation poses. We need to stop these polluting practices now to insure a healthy local community--economically and in physical well-being, as well as for the right for Clean Water for fish and humans alike.

Thank you for saying NO, not here and not on our watch.

Nancy Quackenbush



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Saturday, April 13, 2019 12:50:01 PM

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Name : James B Randles



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : I oppose the permitting of a proposed rock mining project (referred to as the Marblemount Quarry) by Kiewit Infrastructure Co. and Cunningham Crushing. The impacts from the operation including dust, noise, scenic degradation, wildlife disruption, potential impacts to water quality, and heavy truck traffic demand a complete environmental review. My understanding is there are already existing quarries that can provide armoring rock for the Columbia River jetty(s). There is no sound reason to allow such a disruptive activity to be located in an area where many local residents do not support this project.

In addition, this activity is not currently allowed as the project is outside of the existing "mineral resource overlay".

Please do not change the Comprehensive Plan to allow a project as potentially disastrous as this one.

Thank you.  
James Randles

From Host Address: 67.160.19.2

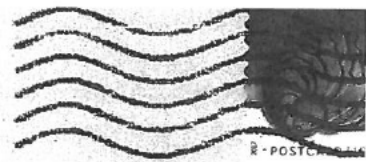
Date and time received: 4/13/2019 12:45:47 PM



Melinda Brown Randles

SEATTLE WA 980

APR 18 2019 PM 6 L



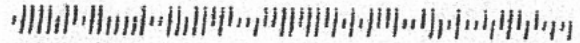
Skagit County Planning &  
Development Services  
1800 Continental Place  
Mt. Vernon, WA 98273

RECEIVED

APR 18 2019

SKAGIT COUNTY  
PDS

98273-562500



I oppose the permitting of a proposed rock mining project in Marble Mountain by Kiewit Infrastructure & Cunningham Gushing. This project would involve dust, noise, potential impacts to water quality & wildlife, scenic degradation & heavy truck traffic.

Such disruptive activity should not be allowed in a rural neighborhood where many residents don't support this project. DO NOT change the comprehensive plan to allow this disastrous project.

Sincerely,  
Melinda Randles  
Mt. Vernon, WA

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 1:00:01 PM

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Name : Rebecca Rettmer

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Rettmer

From Host Address: 97.113.86.137

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 12:56:46 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 10:20:01 PM

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Name : Elaine Richards



PermitProposal : Elaine Richards

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Elaine Richards

From Host Address: 172.92.224.98

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 10:16:18 PM

From:

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From dept email

**From:** website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>

**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 12:05 PM

**To:** Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>

**Subject:** PDS Comments

Name : Redginald Oliver RIELS

PermitProposal : PL19-0033, PL19-0047, BP19-0070 & PL19-0032

Comments : How long does it take to build a mountain? God only knows. The flora and fauna compose the beauty that IS the Pac NW.

The very reason my wife and I sacrificed a successful business and a Texas ranch is being considered for

destruction. Any hint of an opinion suggesting minimal or non effect on environmental biology is pure buffoonery.

The obvious effect on tourism and commerce would be felt in our community, that depends largely on eco-tourism.

The very intersection involving the Cascade Loop tourists is already a Limited Sight Exchange, where we have personally narrowly avoided a serious collision.

Continuing through the School Zone at Concrete en route through Sedro Wooley roundabouts, then through Burlington, these 50+ ton monster trucks roll on to the sea.

Again, I must say, the very hint of an opinion suggesting minimal or non effect on traffic AND safety is pure absurdity.

Thank YOU for considering my opinion in this irreversible decision. R. Riels

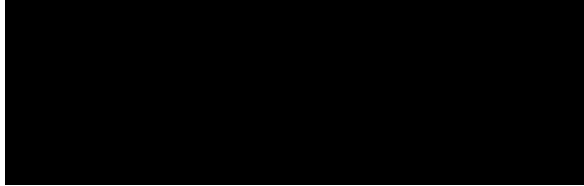
From Host Address: 107.77.205.59

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 12:01:08 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 11:15:01 AM

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Name : Sharon Ann Riels



PermitProposal : PL19-0033, PL19-0047, BP19-0070 & PL19-0032

Comments : These applications must be rejected. The activities listed in the applications would be horribly detrimental to the health of the citizens, wildlife and the economy of Upper Skagit Valley.

Air, water and sound pollution would increase dramatically with many impacts being irreversible.

The foreseeable significant negative impacts caused by increased heavy truck traffic (road degradation, noise, increased commute times, deadly traffic accidents, school zone risks...) have not been properly addressed.

Please, put the needs and welfare of your constituents first.

Sharon Riels

From Host Address: 107.77.205.224

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 11:12:39 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 1:30:01 PM

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Name : Kathryn Rinder

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry Operation near Marblemount

Comments : I am writing in opposition to the proposed Kiewit quarry mining operation near Marblemount. Although I would urge Skagit County to simply deny the permits as is, at a minimum this proposed project should be deemed to meet the threshold for a "determination of significance", and a full EIS should be completed to fully consider the impacts of this project.

Even just one or two of the below reasons would be enough to make this project a poor choice, but when combined together, it makes this project utter folly.

The nearby Skagit River is one of the most important river systems for salmon--an essential food source for the critically endangered Southern Resident Puget Sound Orcas. Our state has just enacted legislation to try to save these iconic animals, recognizing the dire state of their health, and as such, every body of water that contributes to their health should be protected and improved as much as possible. Adding a mine that will produce water pollution from ammonium nitrate fuel oil is the opposite of that.

People have been living near the proposed site for decades. I can only imagine how they must be feeling knowing that the peace and tranquility of their home place is at risk--not to mention real estate values. I spent several years living and working in North Cascades National Park, and have driven up and down Highway 20 many many times then, and as a tourist enjoying the beautiful outdoor recreation opportunities along the way. If this project goes through, I would absolutely think twice about recreating along Highway 20, knowing that every three minutes there will be a giant rock-hauling truck driving along the highway to get stuck behind. That would mean one less family to spend money at the businesses along Highway 20 that depend on tourist traffic to support themselves. The drive up to and the area around Marblemount is one of the most beautiful and peaceful drives and places to visit in the area; the proposed project would turn it into a noisy construction zone for the next 100 years.

Additionally, it does not sound like the proposal includes attention to the impacts the project will have on the public infrastructure the trucks will utilize, which was not designed to support the quantity and quality of proposed vehicle traffic. If this project were to go through, Kiewit Infrastructure should have to pay for replacing or upgrading the bridges, roads, and traffic circles that are not equipped for their traffic.

Other considerations that make this project a bad idea include students for the Concrete school district getting stuck behind said trucks, increasing their already too long daily bus rides; the increased risk of landslides due to blasting (the recent tragedy at Oso should have been a lesson enough); the fact that a massive road would be constructed through an area that does

not currently have approval for mining; and the noise and light pollution present for 12-18 hours a day.

No local jobs will be created by this mine. And all of the above (and probably more) negative impacts will result if this project were to go through. And a beautiful natural area will be permanently ruined. There are no benefits to this project, and I strongly urge Skagit County to reject this permit proposal.

Thank you.

From Host Address: 73.221.182.53

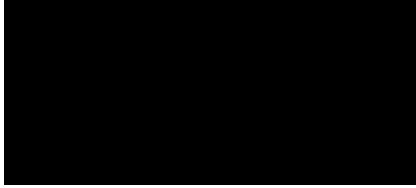
Date and time received: 5/12/2019 1:26:07 PM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, May 10, 2019 2:30:01 PM

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Name : Franklin C. Roberts



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : I am a Marblemount resident, and after reviewing the information for this proposed operation, I am strongly opposed to it. There are a number of issues that I feel should prevent this permit from being approved, including environmental issues and impact on wildlife. But my biggest concerns are 1) the sound/noise that this will create and 2) the serious impact traffic flow from the numerous large trucks and their frequent trips up and down highway 20.

1. Noise: Marblemount is a pristine wilderness community, known widely for it's beautiful scenery, hiking trails and river access. Many spots here make you feel like you've gone back a hundred years. Much of the local business here is due to visitors who come here to take in the natural beauty. And most of us who live here cherish the natural beauty and quiet peacefulness of the area. I spend a lot of time floating on the river here, fishing, eagle watching and generally taking in the beauty of the river. This quarry sits up overlooking the Skagit River. The sound of the operation will be unimpeded as it blasts out over the river, completely ruining the charm of the experience. It will change the experience of rafting or boating the Skagit River from a quiet natural experience to being as if you're in the middle of a construction site. It will also significantly affect a large number of residents with these sounds. (The noise from a local gravel pit (Casey's Pit) travels a couple of miles, and this will be much louder). The noise alone will hurt the tourism business, and make the experience of living here much less enjoyable.

2. Traffic: The trucks for this project are huge, and do not accelerate quickly at all. Going up steep hills will also slow them way down. The local section of highway 20 is narrow and has few passing areas. For those of us that commute daily downriver, this could significantly add to our commute time. In addition, the heavy loads will undoubtedly cause much faster wear and tear on the highway pavement.

From Host Address: 104.235.187.205

Date and time received: 5/10/2019 2:28:14 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 1:05:01 PM

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Name : Krista Rome

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

I wish to comment in opposition to the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed for an environmentally sensitive part of Skagit County. I am a lifelong resident of Whatcom County that recreates in the North Cascades National Park and values the habitat for salmon, fishers, and other sensitive species that this project will likely impact.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

From Host Address: 67.168.93.158

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 1:03:58 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 6:05:01 PM

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Name : Elena A. Rumiantseva

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

Elena Rumiantseva

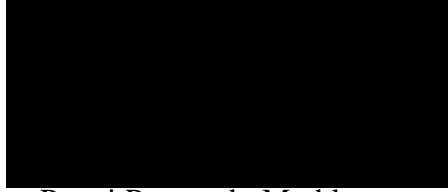
From Host Address: 73.97.140.105

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 6:02:59 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 10:45:01 AM

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Name : Joseph A Ryding



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry-Kiewit Corp. permit proposal

Comments : I am a 65 year old male, have lived in Marblemount for 46 years, and a homeowner who has lived on and owned and paid property taxes on my home and land for the past 40 years. I have worked in Skagit County my whole adult life and am now retired. The proposed quarry expansion site is about a mile south of my home. I am opposed to this project for many reasons, thoroughly articulated by Andrea Weiser in her comments. This is resource extraction on a massive scale, with no local employment or economic benefit, to profit a distant, 8.7 billion dollar corporation for a 100 year duration. I would like to know how many permits the Planning Dept issues for 100 years duration. Skagit County and Washington State governments have only been in existence for 130 years, I find it doubtful that you can plan and prepare for mega mining and hauling projects 100 years into the future. Has the County estimated the increased costs for county road maintenance and traffic slowdowns? Have you considered the impact of traffic through Sedro Wooley/Hwy 20 during rush hours, over the traffic roundabouts? The backup could stretch from I-5 to Hamilton!! If the expansion/modification proposal is to be considered, the expansion area is outside of the Comprehensive Plan Mineral overlay, thus the Comprehensive Plan has to be amended and in my view cannot be amended without an Environmental Impact Statement, E.I.S.

I have lived my whole adult life here in Marblemount, and this reminds me of Puget Power's Nuclear Power Plant proposal that came to a head in 1978. Don't jam this down the throats of Skagit County residents without thorough examination of costs and benefits and all requisite regulations. This proposal, if permitted, would adversely impact quality of life for upriver and all Skagit County residents forever, far longer than 100 years. I urge you to reject this permit proposal. Sincerely, Joe Ryding

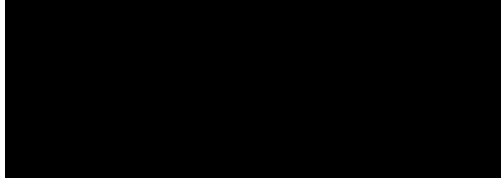
From Host Address: 104.235.183.45

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 10:41:33 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 6:40:01 PM

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Name : Michael Rynes



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Michael Rynes

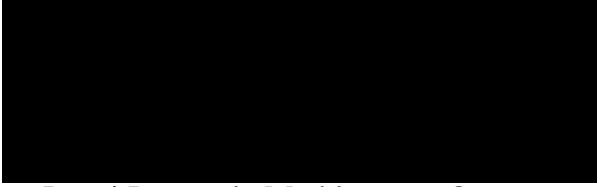
From Host Address: 71.239.22.203

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 6:39:17 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 5:15:01 PM

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Name : Christine Sanderson



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry  
Comments : To Whom It May Concern:

I will state again that I am gravely concerned about the impacts of this quarry on the surrounding environment, as well as human and non-human communities. The quarry will bring noise, air, and water pollution, negatively impacting protected species, land, and rivers. In addition, this will impact local families and a local economy built on tourism in this beautiful outdoor landscape. I strongly oppose the Marblemount Quarry and urge you to, at the very least, require an environmental impact assessment.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Christine

From Host Address: 50.34.218.99

Date and time received: 5/12/2019 5:10:16 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 1:35:01 AM

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Name : Satya Vayu

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park (one of the most sacred and beautiful places in the world for me), near wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Satya Vayu

From Host Address: 24.20.12.253

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 1:34:08 AM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 3:05:01 PM

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Name : Sasha Savoian

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry  
Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

I've lived in this area for nearly 20 years and have worked and lived upriver along the Skagit River for a year and a half at the North Cascades Institute as an educator and naturalists. This unique, pristine ecosystem will not withstand the impact of the proposed quarry, in particular the salmon that are already threatened. We need innovative approaches to development that do not threaten the few remaining ecosystem in the PNW and the time is now to stop destroying the earth.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Sasha Savoian

From Host Address: 76.104.228.150

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 3:04:01 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 1:20:01 PM

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Name : Caitlin Scarano



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : As a member of the Marblemount community I'm writing to express my concern over the environmental impacts of the proposed quarry and do not support it. Please do not make our small town the site of environmental degradation and the negative human health impacts (and risks to infrastructure) that come with this kind of industry.

From Host Address: 50.34.207.11

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 1:19:02 PM

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**



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From dept email

**From:** [website@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:website@co.skagit.wa.us) <[website@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:website@co.skagit.wa.us)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 18, 2019 2:40 PM  
**To:** Planning & Development Services <[planning@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:planning@co.skagit.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** PDS Comments

Name : Rolland Scheels



PermitProposal : PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, BP19-0070

Comments : There is not a full Environmental Impact Statement, nor is there evidence that damage to existing roads/infrastructure would be compensated. There does not appear to be any financial advantage whatsoever to allow these permits and they would, in fact, create myriad major pollution issues in several rivers, lands, and air in the area with no consideration for endangered wildlife or any other non-endangered wildlife or flora. There does not appear to be a cleanup plan to limit spread of this mine, nor any means of constraining the mining company in the event it fails to meet its obligations. Please deny these permit applications and maintain the land and water as they are.

From Host Address: 104.181.205.92

Date and time received: 4/18/2019 2:37:42 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 12:50:01 PM

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Name : Kate Schellie-Stram



PermitProposal : Kiewit Application for Marblemount Quarry

Comments : Letter to comment on the Kiewit Infrastructure Proposal for Marblemount Quarry

To whom it may concern,

I have resided in Marblemount since 2009. My full time home is just over 1/2 mile and less than 3/4 mile from the proposed quarry site in the Marblegate community, just off Rockport Cascade Road. I am adamantly opposed to the permitting of this site for large jetty stone for many reasons. Herein I will address a few of them.

In their SEPA responses Kiewit states that this project would not interfere with recreation, would not be a disturbance to nearby and area residents, would not impact wildlife and will not present a traffic problem. I found these responses totally inadequate and irresponsible misrepresentations. They seem to have based three of these claims on investigations which occurred in November and December, a time when wildlife are hibernating or infrequently seen, when traffic is slower due to the closure of Washington Pass/Highway 20 and due to rainy, icy and snowy road conditions, and when campers, tourists, and even fishermen are infrequent.

In Spring, Summer and Autumn, wildlife of all types (small and large mammals, small and large birds and waterfowl, as well as migratory salmon) are abundant, often seen near or crossing roads and on forested and residential property.

It is during Spring, Summer and Autumn when traffic is flowing and heavier throughout the area and when roadwork creates traffic stops, that Kiewitt expects to run up to or exceeding 260 round trips of large and larger vehicles. I say exceeding that 260 vehicle limit because Kiewitt clearly states, in their application, their freedom to exceed all the limits—vehicle traffic, hours of operation and blasting/crushing for example—whenever the Army Corps of Engineers needs rock supply on a rush basis. (Rush basis could be never or a frequent occurrence).

It is during Spring, Summer and Autumn when recreational use is at its heights: resorts, campgrounds and cabins are full, when hikers, runners and bicyclists are in the forests, and along Highway 20 and Rockport Cascade Road, when more fishermen, plus many boaters, kayaks, float trips and canoes are on the Skagit River, and when North Cascades National Park are all at their busiest.

Let me remind you that noise carries in this river valley surrounded by mountains. We hear the occasional sirens from fire and emergency vehicles from Marblemount/highway 20 on the far

side of the river, and we hear traffic on highway 20, especially during mornings and late afternoons. The sounds of large operating equipment and repairs, large truck traffic, and blasting and crushing throughout the day and into evening will reverberate and echo throughout the valley. It is not only those residents who live within a mile of the quarry but everyone on both sides of the river who will hear this noise, and it WILL be a disturbance to the wildlife, recreation, tourism, day visitors and residents!

Skagit County SC 14.16.440 states that a market for stone that is non local does not fit within the limits of the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan. The jetty rock in this small mountain and in the adjacent land now owned by Kiewit is not for local use and is not near to the sites of large jetty rock use. The crushed rock which would result from mining large stone is also not needed for local use due to already existing sources of crushed rock in this county. Use of this land for mineral extraction is not compatible with adjacent residential developments and wildlife habitat, nor is it compatible with a beautiful area which has high usage for recreation and tourism.

Finally, the Skagit River has always been a valued resource for Skagit County and all its residents and visitors. In addition to the above, this river is a source of water, a home for all five migratory Salmon populations, and a source of beauty, peace and quiet, and pride. The Skagit River flows only a half mile from the proposed jetty rock quarry. Pollutants from blasting with ammonium nitrate and diesel fuel, from large vehicle oil and lubricants, diesel fuel and gasoline will flow down into the river. Dust particles, including asbestos which is present in the rock to be blasted and crushed, will fill the air and land on the ground to be washed into the river.

Even the possibility that this river could be polluted, and the underground water and aquifers which feed our wells could be contaminated should be sufficient reason to deny the requested permits.

The next step should be the denial of this application. If the county is not prepared to take this step, then a thorough and complete Environmental Impact Statement must be required.

Preserving quality of life of human, mammal, bird and fish species, both resident and visiting/migrating should be paramount in this decision. My friends and neighbors believe and want to be able to trust that you will take seriously your responsibility to protect the beauty, diversity and future of all the Skagit River communities and deny the application for this Proposed Marblemount Quarry.

Respectfully yours,,

Kate Schellie-Stram



From Host Address: 174.216.11.130

Date and time received: 5/12/2019 12:48:02 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 6, 2019 12:05:01 PM

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Name : Ina Schultz



PermitProposal : Kiewitt Quarry operation at Marblemount  
Comments : April 25, 2019

To: Skagit County Planning Office

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I have reviewed the project proposal for expansion of the Kiewet infrastructure for rock quarrying and mining in Marblemount 59252 Rockport Cascade Road, Skagit County. I am deeply alarmed and question the justifications for allowing this proposal to pass. Based on my review of the proposal, I cannot find anything beneficial to justify this proposal going through.

First, due to the impact on the wildlife, and the inadequacy of a study conducted in the middle of winter stating the wildlife population is minimal and would not be impacted, I urge an EIS be conducted immediately to prove Kiewit's claims. I personally have seen many deer and cougars crossing the roads, along with eagles and other birds flying at this time of year. We have also had bear sightings in our neighborhood last Spring. Just as important, someone recently saw a wolf pack near the mountain that the proposal says has little wildlife. I have understood that the wolves might be an endangered species that could have migrated south to our area. In addition, people in both Marblemount, and tourists (vital to our economy) come to our area to fish for salmon and steelhead in the Skagit River. Blasting between 6 am to 6 pm six days a week would definitely drive these animals and fish away along with devastating our quality of life and our property values due to the noise pollution.

Next, I would like to dispute any claims that this would benefit the economy in Marblemount. It is my understanding that this mine would employ approximately 25 people. These are highly specialized jobs, and the people of Marblemount most likely would not be qualified to do these jobs. I would also argue that none of the employees of this quarry operation would be interested in living within earshot of the mine, thus they would not be benefitting our tax base or local economy.

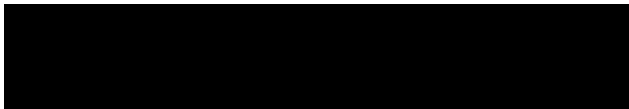
Last, the impact on our roads would be devastating and we would end up being taxed to pay for the upkeep of roads necessary to a project that is NOT benefitting our local community in any way. The proposal originally said up to 75 trucks on the road between 6 am and 6 pm up to 6 days a week. I would highly recommend someone from Skagit County comes out and attempts to drive a truck the size of the ones they are proposing along the proposed route. There is a very narrow 2 lane bridge at Rockport on Highway 530 that could not accommodate one of those trucks and any other log truck or passenger truck simultaneously. There are also very sharp turns in other areas of this route, that in the past have required large trucks to back up repeatedly to try and make these turns.


We moved to Marblemount last August from Camano Island. Our reasons were: low population; low traffic; clean air and water; beauty of the landscape and peaceful quiet lifestyle. Everything about this proposal is a direct threat to our way of life in Marblemount. We are vested in this community and hope to be able to retire in peace and quiet in this beautiful area. Living within 4 miles of the blasting site would cause great distress to my husband and I and our pets. I highly doubt anyone considering approving this proposal or Kiewit management would volunteer to live in my neighborhood or take the hit on our property values if this proposal does go through.

Again, I urge Skagit County to deny this permit, OR at the very least require an Environmental Impact Study this Spring AND do a test run with a semi truck and trailer along the proposed routes.

Please feel free to contact us if necessary. P.O. Box 106 Marblemount, WA 98267 or (425) 259-9123 or (425) 905-4099

Sincerely,  
Ina and Glenn Schultz



Please feel free to contact us if necessary. 

From Host Address: 169.204.228.78

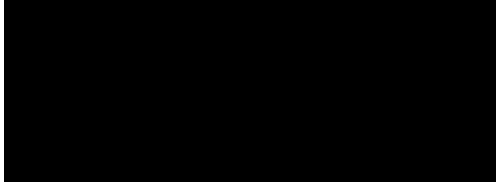
Date and time received: 5/6/2019 12:02:40 PM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Saturday, May 11, 2019 6:25:01 AM

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Name : Leaf Schumann



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry  
Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

I am writing in opposition to the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry proposed in the heart of critical areas on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham?

Regards,  
Leaf Schumann

From Host Address: 50.34.97.107

Date and time received: 5/11/2019 6:23:12 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 9:35:01 AM

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Name : Anne Schwartz

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry operation near Marblemount, PL 19-0032, PL 19-0033,0046, 0046

Comments : Attention: Skagit County Planning Department May 13, 2019

I'm writing to express concerns about the proposed Kiewit mining operation near Marblemount. Specifically, I strongly urge you to act in accordance with our State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and require a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be completed before you permit such a dramatic change and expansion in quarry operations at this site.

My husband, Mike Brondi and I have lived and operated a farm and nursery business in Rockport for 40 years. We understand the value and importance of community and regional businesses that are critical to support any community. We have served as volunteer EMTs and firefighters on the local fire department for 40 years, and are very active in regional agricultural issues, and many school activities and functions. We live at the corner of SR 530 and the Rockport Cascade Road.

The bottom line, is that that more we learn about this proposal, the more questions and concerns we have. These must be addressed before this permit is granted.

Since last writing to you we have attended several community meetings at which subject matter experts including geologists, archeologists, wildlife biologists and hydrologists have commented on relevant sections of the "Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry operation near Marblemount" document found on the Skagit County Planning Department website. In each case the document dismissed environmental impacts and concerns based on limited and potentially inadequate surveys by the companies who provided the initial investigations for the permit applications by Kiewit Corporation.

My first comments to you on this issue focused on the negative impacts of increased noise and truck traffic. I am still deeply concerned about the increased danger to drivers, cyclists and pedestrians on our roads as well as the dramatic decrease in our quality of life from the many impacts of mine development and operations and increased traffic. The more I read other sections of the report, the more unanswered questions arise. I am now also deeply concerned by:

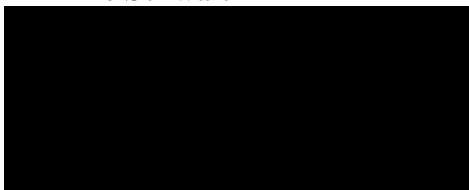
- The water pollution that will result from the lubricants and other chemicals used in the blasting process, especially since this process could continue for 100 years during which time contaminated tailings will remain on site.
- Long term management and maintenance of the waste piles of rock, approaching at least 75% of total rock excavated.
- The very real danger of released airborne asbestos contamination from the blasting and transport of the Green Schist rock.
- The degradation of the Skagit River bridge at Rockport. What will this level of use and weight do to this bridge? Will it contribute to premature failure? Will the cost of repair and/or

replacement be covered by Kiewit?

- We have learned that the loaded trucks may not be able to negotiate a westward left turn at the junction of SR 530 and 20, and instead would turn east (right) to continue to an existing rock quarry, turning left into the gravel pit to travel thru that mine in a westerly direction to re-enter SR 20 heading west. At both ends of this area are significant turns with limited visibility. We have had many accidents over the years in this 2-mile stretch, because that area has several sharp bends with very limited visibility and people drive too fast through those curves. Those trucks negotiating travel through the existing quarry will be slowing down and stopping, to turn left into the gravel pit, and will be traveling much more slowly as they re-enter SR 20, than the prevailing traffic and will absolutely create serious collision risks to residents and unwary travelers alike. There will absolutely be many more near-misses and collisions as these trucks negotiate these turning requirements. You need to go to this sight with regional law enforcement and really evaluate the congestion that these trucks will create, the average rate of speed motorists are traveling, and the location of these curves at the exit and entry parts of SR 20.
- The disturbance of sensitive species of wildlife; a much more thorough survey must be completed.
- The potential threat from rockfall to our neighbors in the site area; visit the site, note the house size boulders that have fallen off of the nearby cliffs, and think for yourself if years of blasting might dislodge some of those boulders still perched above homes on the Rockport Cascade Road.
- the destruction of sensitive archeological sites; 9 shovel pits in easily accessed areas of the site is not an adequate archeological investigation.
- The lack of job creation in our area; most of the workers at the mine and people driving trucks will be from out of this area and there will be a tremendous negative impact on our businesses which depend on tourists and outdoor recreationists that come to enjoy the State and National Parks and Forest.
- For too many decades, the promise of economic development linked to resource extraction has been short-sighted and failed to anticipate 'unintended consequences'. Our planet continues to suffer because the hidden costs of upstream and downstream pollution and depletion are always externalized to the nearby communities and to the global environmental impacts. We need to learn from past mistakes, not endlessly continue to make them based on flawed permitting processes.
- Andrea Weiser is one of many trained scientists who live in the Upper Valley. Her letter to you represents one more effort to provide some critical questions and relevant information to guide you into a better investigation of the potential negative impacts of this project to our lives in the Upper Skagit Valley. Andrea is well known in our community, and this letter represents a major investment of time to dig into the deeper questions that arise as we consider more of the impacts that this proposed project would impose on this community.

Please, at the very least, require Kiewit to submit a full Environmental Impact Statement before you decide to permit this 100-year operation. Your great grandchildren will thank you.

Respectfully,  
Anne Schwartz



From Host Address: 50.34.203.118

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 9:34:48 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, May 10, 2019 11:55:01 PM

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Name : Kim Secunda

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry ((PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Continued harm on tribes is intolerable and illegal. Harm to our earth at this juncture is immoral and unacceptable. Climate change is real , act like it ! So heavy is this shame we carry for our children's future being robbed from them by our greed and laziness. It Must stop. The harms you are considering in this idea are unacceptable. The most precious valuable things must be cherished. This is one of those things; I know this area have walked it and lived in and around it since the 80s. Do not mess with a good thing. It is wrong. We are better than this. Act like it and stop this crazy talk.

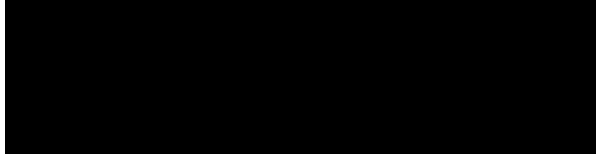
Seriously consider my comment.

Sincerely,  
Kimberley Bonner Secunda

From Host Address: 207.32.168.246

Date and time received: 5/10/2019 11:52:02 PM

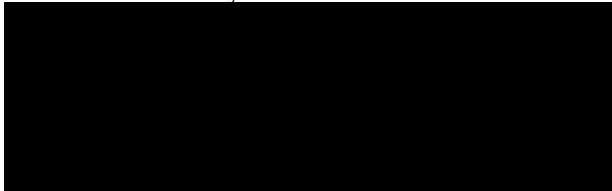
**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**



From dept email

**From:** website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 8:50 AM  
**To:** Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Subject:** PDS Comments

Name : Sherry Sennet



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)  
Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

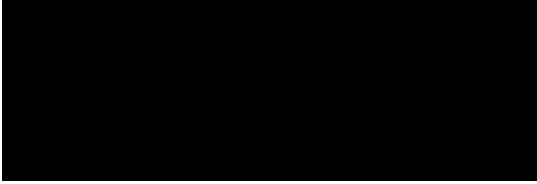
From Host Address: 24.19.175.140

Date and time received: 5/10/2019 8:45:30 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 8:50:02 AM

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Name : Michael D. Sennett



PermitProposal : Keiwit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry  
Comments :

From Host Address: 73.97.205.118

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 8:48:03 AM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 11:25:01 AM

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Name : Michael D. Sennett

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry

Comments : Kiewit Infrastructure (KI) commissioned Element Solutions (ES) of Bellingham, WA to prepare a Biological Assessment (BA) for impacts upon Skagit County Critical Areas, and Fish And Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas. This report is inadequate in assessing the toxic pollution resulting from the KI operation, in particular the rock hauling operation, and in defining the geographical scope of the rock hauling operation.

In Section 3.2.1 of BA, ES states that there are " no proposed impacts to the nearby Skagit River or listed salmonoids". Recent studies such as reported in the October 8th,2015 Seattle Times, under the headline "Toxic road run-off kills adult coho salmon in hours, study shows", contradict the BA claim. The study, done by the Washington State University's Puyallup Research and Extension Center, proved that the toxic road-run contains heavy metals from brake dust, internal combustion byproducts, oil and grease leakage and tire dust. The latter component is the latest ingredient to be understood in its toxic effects on aquatic creatures. The polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons from tires can cause mutations by damaging DNA in fish, and be lethal to invertebrates, amphibians, and fish, in turn entering the food web of entire riparian areas such as the Skagit River Valley. Toxic run-off composition and pollution have been studied and reported by the American Chemical Society's Environmental and Technology Journal. Tire dust contains significant amounts of PM10 particulates which are extremely hazardous human lungs. It is incomprehensible that the ES does not consider human health in its BA. This is inexcusable and demands an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to correct this glaring omission.

In the BA prepared by ES, there is no mention of the toxic road-run-off that will be an unavoidable result of the proposed 260 truck trips from quarry to shipping ports. Engine exhaust and tire dust will be continually released into the air and onto the road surface, and brake dust will be generated every time a driver's foot presses a brake pedal. These trucks are not the conventional 18 wheelers the public generally thinks of as semi-tractor trailers. These units will require extra axles on both the tractors and flatbed trailers adding up to two dozen wheels or more creating far more brake and tire dust. The failure of the ES BA to address this subject demands that studies of the trucks' toxic pollution and its damage to the environment caused by the KI quarry operation be addressed in an EIS.

The EIS for the KI quarry is necessary because the ES BA maintains in Section 6.2.1 that "there are no proposed or direct effects on federally-listed species or critical habitats". As I have stated above, the subject of toxic road-run off is well-studied and widely known. All run-off from KI quarry trucks will be moving off the highways and out of the air, contaminating Skagit River tributaries, watershed wetlands and buffers, and the atmosphere of the Skagit Valley. Experts in the field of road run-off pollution are needed to quantify the amounts of toxins emanating from KI trucks and assess the impacts of those amounts.

In the ES BA Section 6.2.3 titled "Interrelated and Independent Effects", the only impacts listed due to the KI quarry truck traffic are as follows- "Increased use by trucks and large

equipment would also increase noise and vibrations along truck routes..." The repeated failure to include pollution from truck traffic is a troublesome omission that requires an EIS to investigate, discover, quantify and apply to the KI quarry operation. Considering the mine has a proposed 100 year "lifespan", the EIS is necessary to study not only the daily and immediate effects of the trucks' pollution, but also project the accumulative effects over the years and decades of the mine's operation, which the ES BA totally fails to do.

As I stated in my opening paragraph, the ES BA is deficient in its definition of geographic scope. The ES BA refers the scope of trucking operations as "the Rockport Cascade Road and various routes as trucks travel to their destinations" in Section 6.2.3.

The lack of mention of the obvious routes of travel, such as State Routes 530 and 20, and the lack of identification of destinations are more flaws in the ES BA that requires it be rejected as evidence defining the KI quarry's impacts and be replaced by an EIS that identifies all destinations and all routes to be used by the rock hauling operation, and scientifically assesses the negative impacts of the trucks using all involved public roads.

Thank you for taking my comments. Mike Sennett, Bellingham

From Host Address: 73.97.205.118

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 11:24:57 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 6, 2019 11:30:01 AM

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Name : Michael David Sennett



PermitProposal : Michael David Sennett

Comments : The transportation impacts resulting from the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount quarry have not been sufficiently studied in regards to several areas of concern.

As a retired truck driver, I am greatly concerned about the the prospect of thousands of overweight semi-flatbed hauls making the left turn from Rt. 530 onto Rt. 20. The time needed for these semis to enter Rt. 20 is much longer than any other vehicle and will increase the possibilities of accidents at this intersection. It is well known the North Cascades Highway is one of the most popular drives in the state, with an increasing amount of traffic as spring progresses into summer and family vacations increase after schools close.

The Rt. 20 traffic approaching the Rt. 530 intersection involves curves in both directions which reduce the lines of sight for drivers, especially west bound traffic. This reduces reaction time for this traffic. The left turn from Rt. 530 onto Rt. 20 westbound is at an acute angle, which will necessitate a slower turning speed and a longer time that the rock trucks will be in the intersection. It is not a matter of if there will be an accident but when. In addition to the heavy passenger car, motorcycle and RV traffic on Rt.20, there are other heavy trucks traveling the road such as logging trucks and food delivery trucks which require longer slowing/stopping distances if they encounter a rock hauling rig in the intersection.

The probability for accidents will increase during adverse conditions involving rain, snow, black ice, fog, and reduced hours of daylight resulting in night time hauling for much of the year. Deterioration of the roadbeds in hot weather is another factor to be considered.

The Washington State Dept. of Transportation, (WSDOT)the Washington State Patrol (WSP)and the Skagit County Sheriffs(SCS) must undertake studies to assess the increased danger to existing traffic that the Kiewit quarry traffic will inevitably create. The safety of all users of Rt. 20 and Rt. 530 is at stake and must be considered.

Another concern I have as a 40 year veteran of the trucking industry is the inherent instability of the rock loads being hauled from the quarry. No two loads will be the same and each will have particular dynamics under motion, all which will negatively affect the stability of the loads. The physics of acceleration, braking and travel through curves will put enormous stresses on the structure of the trailers, on the tie downs used in securing the rocks, and the performance of the tractors pulling these overweight loads. These loads cannot be allowed to travel at regular highway speed; it is impossible for these units to behave and conform to normal trucking standards and expectations of safety. Indeed, in case of the inevitable accident, there is no tie down system existent that would keep the gigantic rocks secured to the trailers. The prospect of these rocks becoming projectiles is frightening, and these possibilities must be studied by the WSDOT, WSP, and the SCS. These studies must include testing of the condition of every truck and trailer to be used, and thorough testing of every piece of the tie downs that would supposedly secure the rocks. I suggest that tests be conducted at Paccars' testing facilities in Skagit County using rocks from the Beaver Lake quarry in Skagit County that would be of similar weight and shape, though as noted above, no two loads will ever be

identical. If this operation goes forward, continuous monitoring of the semis and tie downs must be rigorously maintained on a daily basis. Engines, brakes, suspensions, chassis, axles, wheel bearings, transmissions and all other essential components should undergo daily inspection and certification of safety by state inspectors. Such crucial safety checks cannot be allowed to be performed by Kiewit employees or the truck drivers as they are inherently compromised by their employment status.

Lastly and perhaps most crucially, the rock hauling operation will put great stress on the truck drivers. My 40 years of experience has proven to me that handling extremely heavy loads requires increased alertness and situational awareness. My experience has shown me that these faculties decrease over the course of a working day. Driver error is the single largest factor in truck accidents. The margin of safety in hauling these loads will be extremely thin, if not nonexistent. It is well known that the current shortage of qualified truck drivers has resulted in the hiring of drivers with little experience to begin with, not to mention the skills needed to handle the rock loads. In fact, I maintain there are very few drivers with this type of experience and it will be impossible for Kiewit to find enough drivers to accomplish their stated goals. This will no doubt lead to the hiring of unqualified drivers who will put the public at risk while on duty. The vetting of rock hauling drivers cannot be entrusted to Kiewit as they will be striving to meet delivery deadlines which will govern the entire operation. The standards and approval of these drivers should be the role of the WDOT, WSP, and SCS. The fact that these loads are overweight means the regulations overseeing driver hours cannot be applied to the Kiewit project. New and job specific rules would be required to be formulated by the WDOT, WSP and SCS and applied to the rock hauling drivers, and stringently monitored and enforced. Tired truck drivers are dangerous truck drivers, and a threat to all that share the road with them and live along their routes of travel.

I have not addressed the most horrifying prospect that this rock hauling operation presents to the public. SCHOOL BUSES! I ask the Commissioners to consider the worst case scenarios inherent in the Kiewit project, and govern yourselves accordingly.

Mike Sennett, 3012 Haggin St., Bellingham WA 98226

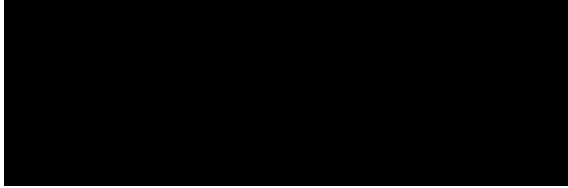
From Host Address: 73.97.205.118

Date and time received: 5/6/2019 11:29:41 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 5:35:01 PM

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Name : Paula Shafransky



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry Proposal

Comments : I am writing to say that I am concerned about the proposed My Marblemount Quarry proposal. concerns include the quarry being only 1/2 mile from the Skagit River, the amount of truck traffic on a road that is often busy with tourist/recreational traffic, the logging of 90 acres in that area, and the impact on the Wild and Scenic Illabot Creek, where a \$5.3 million fish habitat restoration project was completed in September. Clearly a thorough EIS needs to be completed before any decision making can move forward. In addition the impact on the surrounding residents also needs to be addressed.

The North Cascades Highway is a local treasure and the gateway to some of the most beautiful areas in our state. Please don't allow this proposal to ruin such a public treasure.

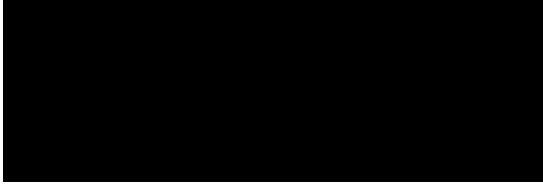
From Host Address: 172.92.213.103

Date and time received: 5/2/2019 5:33:04 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 4:40:01 PM

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Name : Nancy Shimeall



PermitProposal : Re: Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry Operation, Permits PL19-0032 and PL19-0033, 0046, 0046, and BP 19-0070

Comments : I am writing to express grave concerns and strong opposition to the proposed expansion of the Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry Operation near Marblemount. I own and sustainably manage a 75 acre tree farm on the south side of the Skagit River, near Concrete, and have been working to ensure the diversity of wildlife as well as care for this eagle area of concern. In addition, my family and I spend a significant amount of time in the area and in the future planned to live there.

A Determination of Significance is warranted under WAC 197-11-330 and an Environmental Impact Statement should be required. This proposed expansion will have cumulative effects and significant adverse impacts, including blasting, traffic, noise, infrastructure, to the landscape and its human and non-human inhabitants which are not fully addressed in the proponents Biological Assessment and Cultural Resources review.

Now more than ever before we have a clear understanding of the impacts we humans have on our precious water resources as well as the fish habitat that sustains our Puget Sound. We cannot continue to sacrifice our environment. The price we will pay in the future for destroying our natural resources makes any economic argument for expansion moot.

Significant impacts will negatively affect the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, who have called this region home since time immemorial and depend on the continued health and integrity of the ecosystem for their way-of-life, self-identity and culture.

All in all, we must act responsibly and morally to preserve our Skagit River ecosystem. Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Please contact me if you have any questions.

From Host Address: 67.170.72.167

Date and time received: 5/2/2019 4:38:27 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 1:15:01 PM

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Name : Nancy Shimeall

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I believe that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

I own a small 75 acre Douglas-fir tree farm along the Skagit River, and am determined to do my part to conserve the land, air, and water that we all cherish. Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Shimeall  
Skagit forest land owner

From Host Address: 67.170.72.167

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 1:13:35 PM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 10:55:01 AM

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Name : Naomi Siegel

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Naomi Siegel

From Host Address: 66.165.48.133

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 10:53:34 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 2:30:01 PM

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Name : Margaret Amy Silverman



PermitProposal : PL19-0033,PL19-0047,PL19-0070,PL19-0032

Comments : To Whom It May Concern,

I oppose the expansion of the quarry proposed to be renamed "Marblemount Quarry" due to the following concerns.

1. There is no environmental impact statement (EIS) completed for consideration of the permits.
2. This does not align with the county comprehensive plan and Washington States commitment to protect and preserve our natural resources.
3. This is in an area full of homes, families with young children and retired individuals trying to live in peace and quiet. Blast mining operations would threaten the homes of many people who moved to this area to enjoy nature.
4. The area is driven by tourism as the gateway to the North Cascades National Park and a popular area for eagle watching, bicycles, car tours/sunday drives, hiking, farm tourism, Airbnb's, and river recreation. This predominant income source for our community and the rights of WA citizens to enjoy our beautiful area would be threatened.
5. The risk of ground water contamination and therefore threat to our only source of water! Many people here rely on private groundwater wells!
6. Threat to the Skagit River which is less than quarter mile from the site and designated a national wild and scenic river. This river is essential for salmon and orca survival and is the lifeblood of all Skagit valley down to the islands.
7. The rock contains asbestos. I am deeply concerned about air contamination from blasting like what happened in Libby, Montana. Can you imagine a superfund sight on the banks of the Skagit River?
8. Kiewit Infrastructure has a terrible environmental track record and our community will see none of the profits and few, if any jobs from this project.
9. The roads in this rural area are poorly maintained and do not have shoulders. Not appropriate for the proposed 75 (150 both ways) truck load trips they propose. The trucks carrying boulders weighing tons would threaten safety of bicycles, cars and motorcycles.
10. This area has a very sensitive eco system.  
This area is full of wildlife like bears, a newly established wolf pack, mountain lions, elk, eagle, peregrine falcon, pileated wood pecker, fishers, and migrating birds.
11. This is a 100 year permit! We do not believe any mitigation will be enough to prevent permanent damage to the North Cascades, Puget Sound and the therefore the whole Pacific Northwest.
12. The plans laid out for reclamation, emergency response, waste storage and disposal, and protecting homes and drivers from flying rock fragments are not adequate.
13. The zoning of this property conflicts with the counties commitment to protect important watersheds, surrounding use of residential, recreational, and protected natural areas.

14. This proposal is opposed by the overwhelming majority of tax payers in the area and would negatively effect property values and tourist economy.

15. This is in an area known for sinkholes, landslides and is on a major fault line, all of which can be made worse with blast mining and clear cutting.

There are many more concerns and issues surrounding this proposal it is not appropriate for the county to even consider a project of this scale, in this particular location, and with a 100 year longevity. Especially a decision made prematurely before an environmental impact statement has been completed and considered.

Thank You,  
Margaret A. Silverman

From Host Address: 66.235.39.112

Date and time received: 5/12/2019 2:27:29 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 17, 2019 10:00:01 AM

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Name : Margaret A. Silverman

PermitProposal : PL19-0033

Comments : To Whom It May Concern,

I write this to oppose the permit application for Kiewit Infrastructure's plan to mine and expand in the location to be called the Marblemount Quarry.

These are my concerns:

- Loud noise from blasting, crushing and trucks from 6am-6pm Monday through Saturday, with option during peak contracts to add more time into the evening.
- Contamination of water in local wells and run off to the Skagit River.
- Effects on the children or elderly and those with health concerns.
- Effects on visitors and the local tourist economy.
- Effects on salmon and other wildlife populations.
- Damaging effects to frequent large trucks and traffic on local county roads.
- Strain on the local emergency services and no emergency plan for on-site operation accidents.
- Decrease in property values and quality of life.
- Pollution of air, water and land.
- Storage of hazardous and dangerous materials on-site for 100 years once expansion is established, with no recourse.

Please consider these and other expressed by the community when making the decision on the permits. The area is the gateway to the North Cascades National Park and enjoyed by all who come here for recreation and a peaceful environment. We don't wish to lose that.

Thank you,  
Margaret A. Silverman

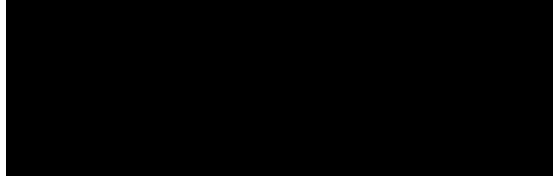
From Host Address: 66.235.39.112

Date and time received: 4/17/2019 9:59:35 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 7, 2019 9:25:01 AM

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Name : Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : The Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center (SRBEIC) located in Rockport, educates people about, generates appreciation for, and encourages restoration of the Skagit River ecosystem. This program and partners bring over 3,000 people to the area to witness the winter migration of the bald eagles following the chum salmon up the Wild and Scenic Skagit River.

The Skagit River ecosystem has many seasonal changes and the Skagit County thus needs to review this massive quarry project and require a Environmental Impact Statement. The Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center urges the Skagit County to revisit this project with new eyes. Knowing that tourism and environmental education brings economic stability to this region all year. Blasting, 70 huge trucks six days a week, and pollution from equipment leaching into the Skagit River will not bring stability.

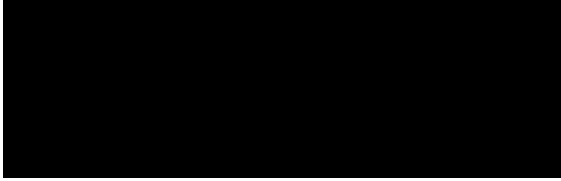
From Host Address: 104.235.165.166

Date and time received: 5/7/2019 9:23:05 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 17, 2019 8:20:01 AM

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Name : Tyler Smallwood



PermitProposal : Proposed Marblemount Quarry PL19-0033

Comments : As an avid outdoor recreator I strongly oppose the expansion of this mining operation near Marblemount, WA. Tens of thousands of hikers, climbers, fisherman, and skiers visit North Cascades National Park each year along with vast opportunities for outdoor recreation outside of the national park. US Highway 20 and 530 are major gateways to access the National Park and other trailheads and rivers, and a larger-scale mining operation would significantly affect my desire to travel to these areas due to noise and increased truck traffic. Marblemount is a hub and breaking off point for trips in all directions, especially given the National Park Visitor Center located in town.

I believe expanding mining operations will significantly detriment the economic benefit that outdoor recreation brings to the town of Marblemount and the National Park Service.

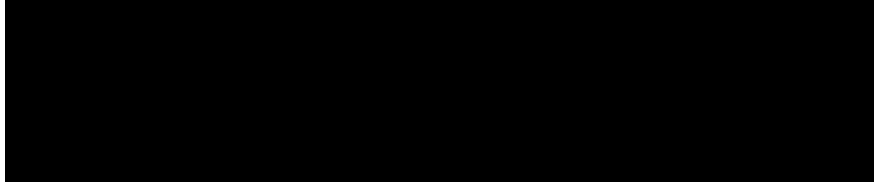
From Host Address: 73.53.55.122

Date and time received: 4/17/2019 8:17:20 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 6:20:01 PM

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Name : LAURA J SMITH



PermitProposal : quarry in marblemount

Comments : It sounds like such a quarry would have negative impact on the environment and wildlife on this area, do we really need more rock or just leave this pristine area alone!

From Host Address: 50.34.105.131

Date and time received: 5/12/2019 6:19:35 PM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 9:40:01 AM

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Name : valerie snyder

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Valerie Snyder

From Host Address: 24.21.39.137

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 9:36:26 AM

Regarding: PL19-0033 - PL19-0047  
PL19-0032 - BP19-0070  
Kiewit Infrastructures proposed  
quarry in Marblemont

John Cooper  
1800 Continental PLACE  
MT VERNON WA. 98273

RECEIVED

MAY 13 2019

SKAGIT COUNTY  
PDS

DEAR JOHN

Dan Sorenson

[REDACTED]

Not in my back yard!

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 8:50:01 PM

---

Name : Pavel Sova

PermitProposal : Mining Special Use Permit (PL19-0033) by Kiewit Corporation

Comments : I strongly oppose this mining proposal by Kiewit Corporation. I have visited the area that would be target of this industrial activity and always enjoyed its natural beauty and tranquility. As described in project summary, this proposal will be devastating to local waterways, wildlife and traffic patterns on hwy 20 and sensitive county roads. This is a 100 year proposal and will change everything by adding up to 260 single direction trips to and from the Marblemount Quarry 6 days a week. There will be a hazardous/dangerous material storage on site, explosive blasting, mountain removal and logging of 600 acres. Please register my strong opposition to this proposal.

Sincerely,  
Pavel Sova

From Host Address: 73.181.249.52

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 8:49:21 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2019 9:50:01 AM

---

Name : Nancy Sparkowich

PermitProposal : Kiewit Quarry Project

Comments : I am against the Kiewit Quarry Project receiving a permit.

There must be a EIS to fully evaluate all the potential impacts on this beautiful area I live in. I live across the Skagit River on SR 20

for sixteen years. I have seen all types of wildlife in that area. Eagles soar over almost everyday Some stay year round. I also work at the Upper Skagit Library in Concrete. I travel SR 20 four times a week. The traffic, when the pass opens, is tremendous with thousands of all types of vehicles travelling at high speeds. At SR 530 and SR 20 In Rockport will be a disaster. I have had to brake many times on SR20 to avoid an accident from vehicles coming from SR 530 onto SR 20. Please protect the wildlife, the Skagit River, the population, and all the visitors to come to this beautiful area. Thank-you

From Host Address: 104.235.166.138

Date and time received: 4/12/2019 9:45:59 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Saturday, May 11, 2019 10:25:01 AM

---

Name : Julia Spencer

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Julia Spencer

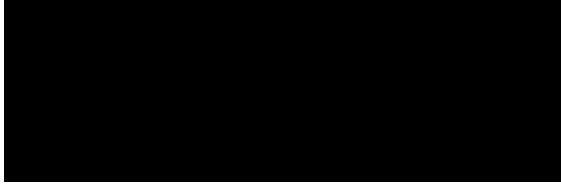
From Host Address: 73.35.136.57

Date and time received: 5/11/2019 10:22:20 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:15:01 AM

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Name : Kendall Spiek



PermitProposal : PL 19-0032 and PL 19-0033, 0046, BP 19-0070

Comments : I strongly feel this quarry project would not be good for the beautiful area, the wildlife, the river water, etc. Also the negative effects it will have on the river and wildlife will also have consequences on the Puget sound, in my very own backyard. Please don't allow this to happen! Our rivers are a gift, we have to take care of them.

From Host Address: 50.34.175.42

Date and time received: 5/1/2019 10:14:22 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 1:10:01 AM

---

Name : Ruchi Stair

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PB190032, PB190033, PB190047, PB19003 0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

I am concerned that the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry will harm critical salmon habitat at a time when salmon, orcas, and ocean fisheries are failing. Salmon and fish form a vital part of ocean health, and are facing other pressures from warming oceans and rivers, and acidification of the water. When I was a child we caught fish readily in the PNW streams and rivers, and now it is a rare to catch anything. We are destroying the rivers and fish, and this quarry will destroy more.

This quarry is being proposed in a critical areas and on parcels that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that addresses the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to wildlife, as well as the impacts of 260 vehicle trips six days per week on carbon and air emissions. Every decision must consider their contribution to destabilization of our collapsing climate. As we face increasing droughts, we must preserve the water quality in the Skagit River for a drinking water source. The impact on cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe must also be considered. All of these questions must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Sherri Stair

From Host Address: 67.160.87.123

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 1:08:17 AM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 6, 2019 1:15:01 PM

---

Name : Gayle Stebbings

PermitProposal : Proposed MarbleMount Quarry  
Comments : OPPOSED!

Please do not allow the opening of this quarry. The costs to the people, property, and the animals and plants that depend on its bounty far outweighs the bit of profit that will be made.

From Host Address: 67.168.94.114

Date and time received: 5/6/2019 1:14:42 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 7:10:01 PM

---

Name : Suzanne Steel

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Suzanne Steel  
Resident of [REDACTED] from 1988- 1997

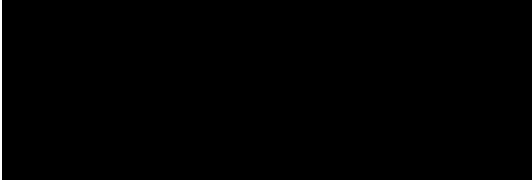
From Host Address: 98.247.188.231

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 7:08:04 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, April 19, 2019 8:05:01 AM

---

Name : Jean Stephens



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : Marblemount Quarry, This will destroy the life of the people who live near the site, noise, traffic, dust, effect on the wild life, the environment as a whole will be forever gone. I thought we were trying to keep our lands inviting. This will not happen with this project. The traffic for our county will be to much with the trucks they want to use, and also the roads will not hold up with the tonnage they are talking about. There must be rock in this state much closer to to the site. Mount St. Helen is nearly gone go there and get your rock. Leave our people alone. Jean Stephens

From Host Address: 172.92.197.185

Date and time received: 4/19/2019 8:01:24 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, May 10, 2019 7:55:01 PM

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Name : Megan Stephenson



PermitProposal : PL19-0033, PL19-0032, PL19-0046, BP19-0070

Comments : I enjoy the Skagit River valley along Highway 20 and Rockport and the North Cascades National Park, and I know people who live in that area. I do not support this project, and ask the county to make a threshold determination of significance and mandate a full Environmental Impact Statement. This project is poorly planned for the environment, the residents, and the cultural impact. Blowing up Big Bear Mountain is not good for the North Cascades, Rockport or the Skagit valley.

From Host Address: 67.161.112.61

Date and time received: 5/10/2019 7:50:01 PM

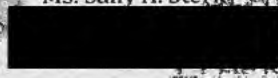
RECEIVED  
APR 17 2019  
SKAGIT COUNTY  
POB

Please add me to your list of those opposing the proposed rock mining project in Marble Mountain. The noise heavy truck traffic, impact on water quality and the destruction of a beautiful area and habitats are certainly more than enough reasons to oppose this change to the comprehensive plan.

Good Grief!  
Sally Stern

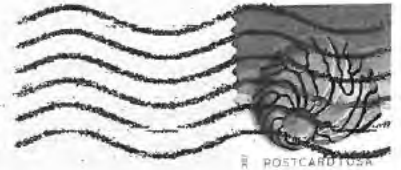


Ms. Sally A. Stern SEATTLE WA 980



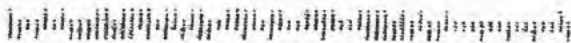
274 4033

APR 17 2019 PM 2 1



POSTCARD USA

Skagit County Planning &  
Development Services  
1900 Continental Place  
MT. Vernon, WA  
98273



Regarding: PL19-0033-PL19-0047

PL19-0032-BP19-0070

Kiewit Infrastructures proposed  
Quarry in Marblemont WA

John Cooper

May 1st

1800 CONTINENTAL PLACE

2019

MT VERNON 98273

RECEIVED

MAY 13 2019

SKAGIT COUNTY  
PDS

Dear John,

I am opposed to the Marblemont quarry,  
It will be too noisy, and disrupt life.

Collin Stewart

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 10:15:01 AM

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Name : Kate Stewart

PermitProposal : Proposed Quarry in Marblemount, WA (PL19-0032 and PL19-0033, PL19-0046, and BP 19-0070)

Comments : Re: Kiewit's Marblemount Quarry Applications (Skagit County PL19-0032, -0033, -0047; BP19-0070)

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing as a concerned citizen and property owner near Marblemount. Numerous letters and comments have already been submitted to you regarding the proposed Kiewit mining operation in the Upper Skagit so I will not repeat them. The level of concern among those of us who live here cannot be overstated. The widespread and potentially dangerous impact of this mining operation will forever change this Wild and Scenic area.

The purpose of my letter is that I am counted among the many citizens of this beautiful and pristine place that stand firmly against this mining operation. I ask you to consider that Kiewit's applications pending before Skagit County are prohibited by the SCC and must be denied or suspended until an honest and thorough Environmental Impact Statement is conducted. As County Planners and in some respects the guardians of our wild and scenic lands, to do anything less that requiring this step would be remiss.

Respectfully,

Kate Stewart

From Host Address: 72.168.144.247

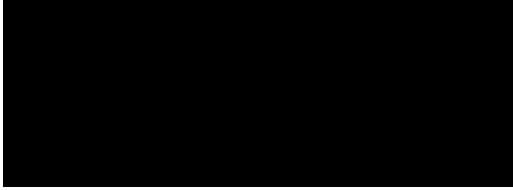
Date and time received: 5/13/2019 10:11:18 AM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Saturday, May 11, 2019 8:05:01 AM

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Name : mike stone



PermitProposal : marblemount quarry expansion kewit

Comments : Although I live in Bellingham, my daughter, son in law & grandson live in Concrete. My wife & I often travel up to see them. In addition, both of them work in either Marblemount or Newhalem requiring daily up valley commutes. In addition to what this proposal will do to the lives of people who live in the Skagit valley (degrade environment, congest traffic, daily blasting m/sat, etc.) for years to come, the idea of transporting a small mountain of rock through the Everett/Seattle/Tacoma area is not addressed in their proposal. There exists plentiful basalt in the Coloumbia gorge region suitable for this purpose & could be transported with ease down the river. What value, as such accrues to the citizens of the Skagit Valley from this idea? As guardians of such it seems your duty to do everything in your power to stop this proposal from going forward. Thank You, Mike Stone

From Host Address: 67.170.3.114

Date and time received: 5/11/2019 8:02:13 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 3:30:01 PM

---

Name : Jonathan Stumpf

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : American Rivers | American Whitewater | Conservation Northwest | Native Fish Society  
RE Sources for Sustainable Communities | Sierra Club | Washington Wild | Wild Steelhead Coalition

May 13, 2019

Mr. John Cooper, Planner/Geologist  
Skagit County Planning & Development Services  
1800 Continental Place  
Mt Vernon, WA 98273

Re: Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Dear Mr. Cooper:

As conservation and recreation organizations with supporters who live, work, recreate, and care deeply about the Skagit River valley, we wanted to briefly share our concerns with the proposed project submitted by Kiewit Infrastructure Co. on March 14 to Skagit County to expand an existing quarry near Marblemount from 20 acres to 80 acres.

This proposal sits in the heart of the Wild & Scenic Skagit River System, with the Skagit River, Cascade River, and Illabot Creek, all within the immediate surrounding area. This region is an important natural resource for both residents of the valley and those who visit the area to enjoy the fishing, boating, wildlife viewing, hiking, and foraging, and is the gateway to the North Cascades National Park and numerous surrounding wilderness areas. Additionally, this site and the surrounding lands have been identified by both the Swinomish Tribe and Upper Skagit Tribe as an important area with cultural significance to the tribal community's way of life, including usual and accustomed hunting and gathering and traditional practices. A quarry of this significance must go through the proper environmental reviews and zoning processes.

First, we believe that a project of this scope warrants a Determination of Significance under WAC 197-11-330 and that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be required, as this project and the cumulative effects to the local environment for up to 100 years, will likely have a significant adverse impact. This includes the associated blasting, traffic, noise,

infrastructure, and visual impacts to the landscape, wildlife, and Endangered Species Act-listed Chinook salmon, bull trout, and steelhead, and the overall water quality in the Skagit River basin.

Second, we believe that Kiewit's application for permits is misleading and does not adhere to current zoning and use. Kiewit's current application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes about 60 percent of the proposed permit area that is not currently zoned through the county for mining (MRO). Kiewit must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan, including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits in advance of proper zoning use.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide additional input to this proposed project and we, the undersigned, appreciate Skagit County's consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Stumpf  
Associate Director, Puget Sound & Columbia Basin  
American Rivers

Thomas O'Keefe  
Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director  
American Whitewater

Mitch Friedman  
Executive Director  
Conservation Northwest

Mark Sherwood  
Executive Director  
Native Fish Society

Ander Russell  
Clean Water Program Manager  
RE Sources for Sustainable Communities

Margie van Cleve  
Conservation Chair  
Sierra Club, WA State

Tom Uniack  
Executive Director  
Washington Wild

Rich Simms  
Founder/Board Member  
Wild Steelhead Coalition

From Host Address: 73.109.46.194

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 3:27:17 PM

I **OPPOSE** permitting of the proposed rock mining in Marblemount

# Do Not change the COMPREHENSIVE PLAN!

This Kiewit Infrastructure & Cunningham <sup>Crushing</sup> project could have harmful impacts to water quality & wild life and would definitely cause scenic degradation, dust, noise & heavy traffic. Concerned Skagit citizen - Carol Sullivan

RECEIVED  
APR 17 2019  
SKAGIT COUNTY  
PDS



Carol Sullivan  
[Redacted Address]



Skagit County Planning &  
Development Services  
1800 Continental Pl.  
Mount Vernon, WA  
98273





## Adventure Cycling Association

RECEIVED

APR 15 2019

SKAGIT COUNTY  
PDS

April 10, 2019

Comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry operation near Marblemount  
Skagit County Planning and Development Services  
1800 Continental Place  
Mount Vernon WA 98273.

Dear Skagit County Planning & Development,

I am writing to express concern and provide comments on behalf of Adventure Cycling Association about the proposed expansion of the rock quarry near Marblemount by Kiewit Infrastructure. Such an expansion will adversely affect the safety of thousands of cyclists on the Northern Tier, Washington Parks, and Sierra Cascades bicycle routes. It will also negatively impact U.S. Bicycle Route 10 (USBR 10) which was agreed to by Skagit County and designated by Washington State Department of Transportation and AASHTO in 2014.

The placement and operation of the rock quarry would seriously affect the health, safety, and enjoyment of touring cyclists visiting the area in the following ways:

1. Operation of the quarry will create heavy truck traffic along a narrow and winding roadway, which is a significant safety hazard for cyclists. We are deeply concerned about the safety of pairing large haul trucks with bicyclists.
2. The noise created by blasts, machinery and truck traffic will drive active tourists away as they are vulnerable to noise more than other types of visitors. This is clearly a tourism concern to people recreating in the area, especially since the quarry would potentially be operating from early morning to evening six days per week.
3. The quarry expansion will create an environmental scar, impacting not only the view shed but the health of the forest, community water system and other impacts that may affect tourism and the health of local residents over the many years the quarry will exist. The communities near the quarry are asking for an expanded environmental impact study and we concur with their request.

Adventure Cycling Association ([adventurecycling.org](http://adventurecycling.org)), based in Missoula, MT, is a national non-profit organization with 53,000 members that maps bicycle routes across North America. Combined, the Northern Tier, Washington Parks and Sierra Cascades routes host thousands of touring cyclists every year. The Northern Tier route travels from Anacortes, WA to the Bar Harbor, ME; Washington Parks is a loop route encompassing forests and parks in Western WA;

### Adventure Cycling Association

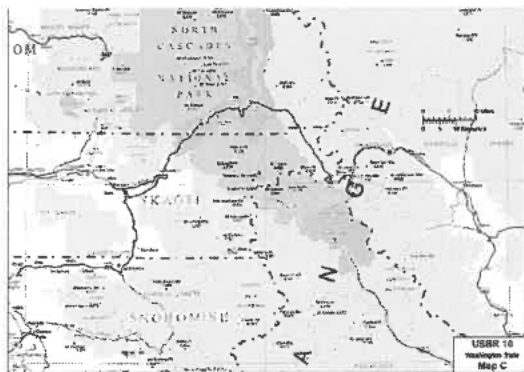
*A member-supported nonprofit organization, inspiring and empowering people to travel by bicycle.*



and the Sierra Cascades parallels the Pacific Crest from Canada to Mexico on roads suitable for bicycle travel (see maps below).



In addition to these bicycle touring routes mapped by Adventure Cycling Association, the area is also home to an officially designated bike route, U.S. Bicycle Route 10, which is part of a national effort to create a bike route network similar to the U.S. Highway System, but on low traffic roads suitable to cycling.



The map on left shows the route that was submitted to AASHTO in 2014 for official designation as USBR 10. As you can see, it traverses Skagit County and goes through Concrete, Rockport and Marblemount, using the same roads that the trucks from the quarry will use every day.

The town of Marblemount provides vital services such as food, water and accommodations to cycle tourists. Bicycle travel is an active tourism market that is growing substantially and brings valuable tourism

dollars to the Marblemount, Rockport and Concrete communities and small businesses.

A recent study by the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research (ITRR) at the University of Montana found that bicycle travelers spend an average \$102 per person per day and stay eight nights or more in the state. Findings show, cyclists travel slower, stay in a region longer and have greater potential economic impact on an area like Skagit County. Factor in the thousands of cyclists using the routes annually, and the communities gain fiscally with no adverse environmental impacts. Marblemount, Rockport and Concrete have all recognized this business opportunity and are capturing overnight stays by catering to bicyclists.

An expanded quarry operation would have severe consequences on the safety and enjoyment of the routes and Adventure Cycling has very little flexibility in providing a reroute due to lack of roads in the region. We ask that Skagit County consider these facts when making the decision on whether to grant the permit. Is it really worth jeopardizing a thriving and growing recreation and tourism market to expand a rock quarry in a community that relies on active tourism? Skagit



County plays a huge role in the outdoor industry because of the special natural resources that visitors from all over the world come to experience. We ask that the office of Planning and Development preserve the Marblemount community as a thriving destination for bicycle tourism and do not grant the permit for expanded operation of this rock quarry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ginny Sullivan".

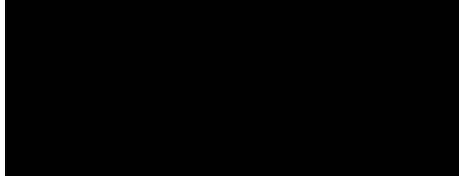
Ginny Sullivan  
Director of Travel Initiatives  
Adventure Cycling Association



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 30, 2019 8:20:01 PM

---

Name : Sandra Takaro-Miller



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : There are many concerns with going forward with this project. It states that there is only squirrels as wildlife that would be affected. That is not accurate. The area is a habitat to many wild animals such as bear, mountain lion, eagles, hawks, osprey,raccoons,apposum. Those are just a few that would be impacted negatively.

The Sepa form is not filled with detailed information in case of a worst case scenario of something detrimental to the environment.

In the report they state thAt there would not be much impact to surrounding resources. With a minimum of 75 trucks on the road per day major accidents can happen related to those trucks and that would stretch our emergency services. I do not see the company offering any compensation. For those type of expenses.

From Host Address: 104.235.166.174

Date and time received: 4/30/2019 8:15:30 PM

Regarding: PL19-0033-PL19-0047  
PL19-0032-BP19-0070  
Kiewit Infrastructures Proposed  
Quarry in Marblemont

John Cooper  
1800 Contented PLACE  
MT DEARUN WA 98273

RECEIVED

MAY 13 2019

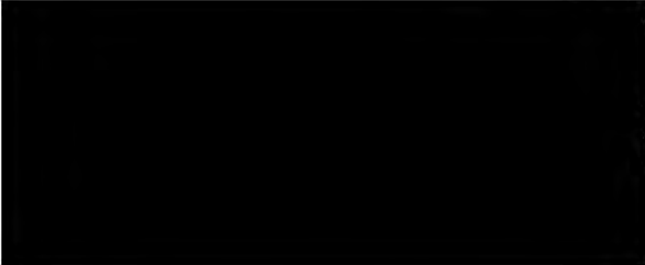
SKAGIT COUNTY  
PDS

Dear John -

My concern is this =  
There has been no mention  
of any jobs that this will bring  
to our area/community. Instead  
I have heard how the company  
will be bringing there own  
people. So really what is  
going to do or how is this  
area/community going to benefit  
from this at all. I say  
NO to this.

Thank you

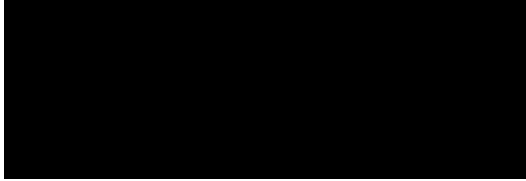
Melissa Turcott



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 8:35:01 AM

---

Name : Dean Taylor



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : If I could combine what I witness every day when I walk up Clear Lake Hill along with what is just down the road at Beaver Lake Quarry the carnage that would be left in its place would be unimaginable. I would hope that when consider this permit you take the time to really think how this will impact an area so close to the Skagit River and the North Cascades National Park.

In a time when there appears to be an assault on our environment, I would hope the commissioners can use common sense to stop or at least mitigate the scale of this project.

Along with others who are concerned, I have listed their same concerns below.

Respectfully  
Dean Taylor  
Clear Lake

- 1.Demand an environmental impact statement.
- 2.This does not align with the county comprehensive plan and Washington States commitment to protect and preserve our natural resources.
3. This is in an area full of homes, families with young children and retired individuals trying to live in peace and quiet. Blast mining operations would threaten the homes of many people who moved to this area to escape the madness and enjoy nature.
4. The area is driven by tourism as the gateway to the North Cascades National Park and a popular area for eagle watching, bicycles, car tours/Sunday drives, hiking, farm tourism, Airbnb's, and river recreation. This predominant income source for our community and the rights of WA citizens to enjoy our beautiful area would be threatened.
5. The risk of ground water contamination and therefore threat to our only source of water! Everyone up here relays on private groundwater wells!
6. Threat to the Skagit River which is less then quarter mile from the site and designated a national wild and scenic river. The Skagit is essential for salmon and orca survival and is the lifeblood of all Skagit valley down to the islands.
7. The rock contains asbestos. We are deeply concerned about air contamination from blasting like what happened in Libby, Montana. Can u image a superfund sight on the banks of the Skagit River?
- 8.Keiwitt has a terrible environmental track record and our community will see none of the profits and few jobs from this project.
9. The roads in this rural area are poorly maintained and do not have shoulders. Not appropriate for the proposed 75 (150 both ways) truck load trips they propose. The trucks carrying boulders weighing tons would threaten safety of bicycles

10. This area is a very sensitive eco system.

Full of wildlife like bears, a newly established wolf pack, mountain lions, elk, eagle, peregrine falcon, pileated wood pecker, Fishers, and migrating birds.

11. This is a 100 year permit! We do not believe any mitigation will be enough to prevent permanent damage to the North Cascades, Puget Sound and the whole Pacific Northwest.

12. The plans laid out for reclamation, emergency response, waste storage and disposal, and Protecting homes and drivers from flying blast fragments are not adequate.

13. The zoning of this property conflicts with the counties commitment to protect important watersheds, surrounding use of residential, recreational, and protected natural areas.

14. This proposal is opposed by the overwhelming majority of tax payers in the area and would negatively effect property values.

15. This is in an area known for sinkholes

, landslides, and is on a major fault line all of which can be made worse with blast mining and deforestation.

16. We live in a time where the world is suffering from the negative consequences of climate change. We need to support sustainable industries and businesses that will not contribute to the problem this "Infrastructure Quarry" is trying to address.

17. There are other more suitable sites that could be used or jetty rock purchased from other companies that are not working in such a key natural area or on the banks of a main water source.

From Host Address: 172.92.209.250

Date and time received: 5/12/2019 8:34:41 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 2:35:01 PM

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Name : Mary Taylor



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry operation near Marblemount  
Comments : Sometime it comes down to values clarification. What is the "greater good"? In this case, what is the best use of this property, situated in this environment?

The "greater good" for this property on Rockport Cascade Road, near the Skagit River and the bald eagle sanctuary--near the North Cascades National Park--near the homes of many long time Skagit County residents--is to leave this property as it is.

Please, deny this permit to the Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry proposal.

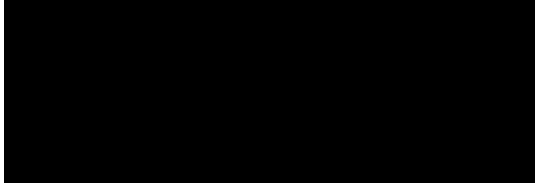
From Host Address: 172.92.196.179

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 2:31:58 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 3:10:01 PM

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Name : Robert Taylor



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : I would like to voice my objections to the Marblemount Quarry. This project has the likelihood of disturbing the area and its residents. Noise, road damage, the nearby presence of the Illabot drainage, the Skagit river, and many other factors should require an EIS before any more actions to further this project. Thank you.

From Host Address: 172.92.196.179

Date and time received: 5/1/2019 3:07:21 PM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 10:35:01 PM

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Name : Mary Teesdale



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Mary Teesdale

From Host Address: 73.35.136.85

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 10:33:22 PM

RECEIVED

APR 17 2019

SKAGIT COUNTY  
PDS

I oppose the permitting of a  
proposed project in Marblemount  
by Fleet Infrastructure and  
Cunningham Crushing. Such despoiling  
activity should never be allowed  
in a rural region for food & forest,  
noise, pollution of water sources, disrup-  
tion to wild life. This project is  
not a good idea for many reasons. DO  
NOT change the comprehensive plan.

Dava L. Thirk  
Mt. Vernon, WA.

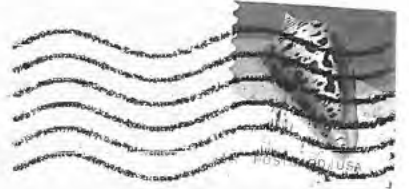


Dava L. Thirk

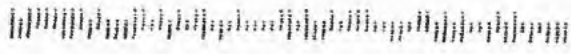


SEATTLE WA 980

15 APR 2019 PM 2 1



Skagit County Planning and Development  
Services  
1800 Continental Place  
Mt. Vernon, WA 98273



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 8:35:01 PM

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Name : Vanessa Throssel



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry  
Comments : Hello.

I have lived in Marblemount for 28 years. This is a very wonderful community to grow up in and to now raise my children. My sons are ages 8 and 11. We love hiking, biking and cross country skiing in our little piece of the upper Skagit valley. I beg you Skagit county to oppose this Quarry. It will most certainly impact our lives here in Marblemount and beyond.

I believe there is a serious need for a Environmental Impact Statement.

Thank you.

From Host Address: 50.34.215.167

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 8:33:34 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 10:00:01 AM

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Name : Annemarie Todd



PermitProposal : Proposed Quarry in Marblemount, WA SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act) checklist (PL19-0032) and applications for a Mining Special Use Permit (PL19-0033), Forest Practice Conversion Permit (PL19-0047), and Grading Permit (BP19-0070).

Comments : As a citizen of Skagit County and a resident who will be directly affected by the proposed Quarry in Marblemount, WA, I am submitting comment to demand an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be required to provide complete and thorough analysis of the impact of the proposed quarry. Of particular concern to me are the following potential impacts:

- The permit application details out provision that are in violation of existing Comprehensive Plan for the area.
- Impact to Skagit River and the five (5) species of salmon that run the river
- Impact to existing infrastructure of Highway 20
- Impact on wildlife in the area
- Impact of quarry dust from proposed holding areas to Skagit River and tributary water systems in the area
- Possibility of asbestos dust released thru proposed quarry operations.
- Safety concerns of increased truck traffic on Highway 20.

From Host Address: 174.127.207.2

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 9:55:51 AM

**From:** [website@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:website@co.skagit.wa.us)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2019 2:15:01 PM

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Name : Michelle Tolman

PermitProposal : Kiewet Infrastructure Quarry- Files: PL19-0033, PL19-0047, BP19-0070 & PL19-0032

Comments : Dear Planning and Development Services,

This comment is in regards to the Kiewet quarry project. As property owners on Rockport Cascade Road, we oppose the quarry. We agree with others that a thoughtful approach to the environment and the impact on the rural community has not been undertaken.

We have serious concerns regarding the impact of the quarry on our daily lives in Rockport. We are concerned about the increased traffic and noise on Rockport Cascade Road. This road (without shoulders in most areas) is regularly used by bikers, pedestrians and wildlife and increased truck use of the road is unsafe.

This is a quiet rural community beloved for it's remoteness and solitude. The time of environmental destruction is in the past and it is time to move forward for the protection of our wild and scenic land in this area that we all agree is precious.

Sincerely,  
Michelle and Sam Tolman

From Host Address: 73.11.189.160

Date and time received: 4/12/2019 2:13:34 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, May 10, 2019 5:55:01 PM

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Name : Brittany Torres

PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : This proposal needs to be evaluated with an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as per Washington State's State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). And Beyond that, It should simply be DENIED on the grounds that this area has regional and national significance and its highest value is peace, tranquility, clean air, clean water, and fish and wildlife habitat. Marblemount has a budding tourism economy as a gateway community to public recreation lands (State and County Parks, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie NF, & North Cascades NP) and the noise, groundwater contamination, asbestos-laden dust, truck exhaust, and traffic on our quiet road and the scenic North Cascades Highway would absolutely ruin that. This proposal could allow up to 260 vehicle transits a day with 75 truckloads/day of massive multi-ton boulders, which would irreparably damage the current way of peaceful living for everybody in the area. Residents in this area have growing children who would be put in harm's way with such heavy equipment operating so closeby. IT SIMPLY CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO MOVE FORWARD. Please deny the permit for the health and safety of the residents and land.

From Host Address: 71.56.240.143

Date and time received: 5/10/2019 5:51:42 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 3:20:01 PM

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Name : Amy Trainer



PermitProposal : Marblemount mine - Kiewet Company's proposal  
Comments : May 13, 2019

Mr. John Cooper  
Skagit County Planning & Development Services  
1800 Continental Place  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Re: Kiewet Company's proposed Marblemount Quarry

Dear Mr. Cooper:

The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community (Swinomish Tribe) appreciates the opportunity to provide additional comments on the Kiewet Company's proposal to develop and operate a large rock quarry near Marblemount. After further reviewing the project documents provided by the Kiewet Company, we have many additional questions about the quarry proposal regarding its potential significant adverse impacts to water quality, cultural resources and wildlife, as well as how the waste rock would be handled, how the jetty stone would be transported, and whether the applicant should be required to seek and obtain an amendment to the County's Comprehensive Plan prior to proceeding with the current application. The scope and depth of our concerns reinforce our prior conclusion that Skagit County must perform a full environmental impact statement (EIS) before presenting this project proposal to the Hearing Examiner for a decision.

The standard for determining whether an EIS is required is found in WAC 197-11-335. An EIS is needed to adequately examine the full extent of individual and cumulative impacts and enable a reasoned determination of whether and to what extent the proposed project's adverse impacts can be avoided and mitigated. Here, after reviewing the project SEPA checklist, and supporting studies, we continue to believe that the proposed project would likely have significant adverse impacts that are not able to be avoided or fully mitigated. We present a number of questions below that are not adequately analyzed in the applicant's documents, and would need to be analyzed and answered in through the preparation of an EIS.

**MRO Zoning:** As a threshold matter, we question whether the County can proceed with processing Kiewet's application without first requiring the company to apply for a Comprehensive Plan Amendment. The majority of the quarry operation road is proposed to occur on lands that do not lie within the Mineral Resource Overlay zoning district. The 60-foot wide quarry operation road appears to be an integral part of the proposed quarry operation, as it would entail clear-cutting 90 acres of forest, and cutting and filling nearly one-million cubic



yards of earthen material. This is not a normal “road” as defined in the Skagit County Code as one that provides access to a property, because public access to the property, including driveways, already exist. Rather, this internal property quarry operation road is itself an integral part of the mining proposal because without it, the entire project proposal could not happen. As such, the question is whether the County will require this component of the quarry operation to first obtain the requisite zoning prior to processing the permit?

Water quality impacts: We question whether the water quality impacts, including the hydrogeological connection between the property’s groundwater and the Skagit River, are adequately understood and analyzed. The project proposal and its documents do not address the patterns of connectivity between groundwater and the Skagit River, and this is a very important factor in assessing the extent of potential adverse impacts to water quality and salmon. The project proposal describes the use of toxic explosive materials multiple times daily for years into the future, as well as the operation, refueling and maintenance of heavy machinery. The latter would include storing thousands of gallons of gasoline onsite. All of these hazardous materials have a real potential of leaching into the groundwater with the substantial amount of rainfall (70-80” annually) in this area. Further, the proposal contemplates that much of the blasted rock will remain onsite, so the rainfall could wash the remnants of toxic explosive materials into the groundwater and river. If the groundwater is connected to the Skagit River, which seems likely, then it would have potential significant adverse impacts on salmon.

In addition, we believe that a thorough stormwater analysis is warranted as part of the water quality analysis. The blasting and alteration of the mountainside could alter the area’s hydrology. And, we share the concerns expressed by Seattle City Light in their March 29, 2019 letter about potential long-term impacts to O’Brien Slough due to its habitat value and use by Coho and Chinook salmon. Because the above questions and environmental impacts are not analyzed, either individually or cumulatively, they must be thoroughly analyzed in an EIS.

Cultural resource impacts: We question whether the cultural resources have been adequately evaluated. We respect the comments of our fellow Treaty Tribes on the Skagit River who have expressed concern that this area is frequently used and visited by tribal members and therefore likely to contain culturally important features. The cultural resources report submitted by the applicant seems inadequate in light of these expressed concerns, as it performed very little on-the-ground site assessment on the 150-acre project area. We believe that the cultural resource concerns must be fully addressed in an EIS, including through a detailed consultation process.

Transport of stone impacts: We question how the jetty stone would be transported once the trucks reach Interstate 5 – what is the ultimate destination of the quarry stone? The applicant’s materials do not address whether the rock is intended to be loaded onto a barge and shipped from any of the nearby ports such as Anacortes, Everett, or Bellingham. If the stone will be transported via barge it will almost certainly interfere with the Swinomish Tribe’s Treaty-reserved fishing rights which are legally protected property rights under the United States Constitution and federal law. These property rights guarantee access to treaty fishing areas within adjudicated Usual and Accustomed fishing grounds and stations in and around the marine waters of Washington State. Any future marine vessel traffic that would occur as a result of the project proposal raises concerns for the Swinomish Tribe, our commercial fishermen and our tribal resource managers. If the County proceeds to process the Kiewit Company’s application through an EIS, it must fully disclose the location and number of

anticipated barge trips annually and analyze the individual and cumulative impacts to Treaty-protected fishing rights from the additional vessel interference through a detailed consultation process.

Noise impacts: We question whether the noise created by the proposed project is adequately addressed and whether the proposed mitigation measures are realistic. Numerous residents have previously commented that because of the unique terrain, including mountains and canyons along this part of the Skagit River, noise travels across miles, not feet. The project proposal includes blasting rock multiple times a day at an elevation of several hundred feet above the valley floor. The repeated noise is almost certain to create more than a “moderate” impact on the health and well-being of the residents, and the peaceful enjoyment and tourism attraction to this otherwise quiet place. It is implausible that the applicant’s proposed 12-foot berm would have any measureable mitigation on the significant new sources of noise generated far above the height of the berm. Therefore, a complete and accurate understanding of noise impacts on residents, wildlife and businesses should be required as part of an EIS.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely yours,

Amy Trainer, Environmental Policy Analyst  
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

From Host Address: 66.114.39.244

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 3:19:21 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, April 22, 2019 9:20:01 AM

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Name : Carisa Trejo-Ward

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry Operation Near Marblemount

Comments : It is my understanding that there has not been an Environmental Impact Study on this proposed project. There absolutely needs to be one. The one conducted by the mining company should be thrown out since it determined that there is no wildlife. That is a complete lie!!! The upper Skagit is home to one of the largest winter nesting grounds for the Bald Eagle. It is also the only river that hosts spawning runs to all 5 species of salmon native to the Pacific and is the largest water way feeding into the Puget Sound. Our Orcas feed on the already threatened salmon population. This would be catastrophic to our Orca population. The site is home to the only pair of Grey Wolves on the Western Slopes of the Cascades, Peregrine Falcons, Marbled Merlettes, Elk, Black Bear and countless birds, frogs, and mammals. The site falls between Illabot Creek and Jordan Creek which are directly below the top of the Mine proposal and is the feed to a State fish hatchery in Marblemount. 5 million dollars was spent rehabilitating the spawning grounds in Illabot Creek, including the bridges over in which will be used for heavy haul trucks. This is extremely awful and needs accountability!

Thank you!  
Carisa Trejo Ward

From Host Address: 73.157.11.128

Date and time received: 4/22/2019 9:18:34 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 1:05:01 PM

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Name : Michael Tucker

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

From Host Address: 71.229.216.112

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 1:02:38 PM

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I oppose a permit for the proposed rock mining project at Marblemount. This project would cause noise, dust and increased traffic in a rural area, affecting water quality, wildlife and quality of life.

Do not change the comprehensive plan to allow this project.

-Barbara Tuttle



Ms Barbara Tuttle

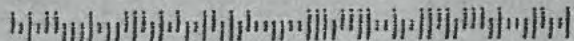


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APR 17 2019 PM 2 L



Skagit County Planning &  
Development Services  
1800 Continental Pl.  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 1:00:01 PM

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Name : carl ullman

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

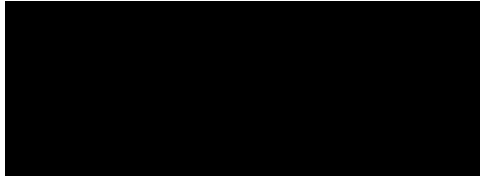
From Host Address: 69.7.57.65

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 12:59:05 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 1:40:01 PM

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Name : Celia Eloise Unsell



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry Operation Near Marblemount

Comments : If this proposed plan isn't just plane out rejected, then there must be an EIS!  
It is not in line with Skagit County's Comprehensive Plan. A 100 year lease is way too long. A more responsible lease would 20 years with option to renew after impacts reviewed and mitigation settled. Kiewit's proposed Mitigation plan offers very little. It does't account for property value loss,tourist economy loss,road repair, wildlife disruption, and air, noise, water pollution.

This project offers few jobs and has potential to do great harm. I understand that the San Juan River in California has been contaminated by one of Kiewit's projects.The Skagit cannot afford such a devastating fate. The economic and ecological impacts would be huge. I oppose this quarry operation in Marblemount. Please reject it.

From Host Address: 50.34.215.167

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 1:36:15 PM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 4:45:01 PM

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Name : Natalie Van Leekwijck



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

Natalie Van Leekwijck

From Host Address: 81.83.154.94

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 4:41:22 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, April 22, 2019 7:10:01 AM

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Name : DIRK VERMEEREN



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : I am opposed to the operation of the rock mine as described as the Marblemount Quarry.

Our region and specifically the area around the Skagit watershed is critical in the support of salmonoid. While these species are important in the food chain of our local Orcas they also support local/regional commercial fisheries under threat from climate related changes.

Allowing the degradation of the Skagit watershed will favor the financial benefits of one specific party over the negative impact on local residents and the region.

I ask that you -

- 1) complete a complete environmental impact taking into consideration all the stakeholders.
- 2) complete a cost benefit analysis for all parties involved.

Thank you.

Dirk

From Host Address: 67.183.31.141

Date and time received: 4/22/2019 7:07:00 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, May 10, 2019 8:10:01 AM

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Name : DIRK VERMEEREN

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

As an retired oil company executive, I am keenly aware of the impact on the local quality of life and environment of industrial projects. My concerns as a outdoorsman include the degradation of the Skagit River water shed which will negatively impact the entire Salish Sea eco system that will be caused by the proposed Kiewit Infrastructure in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

regards,  
Dirk Vermeeren

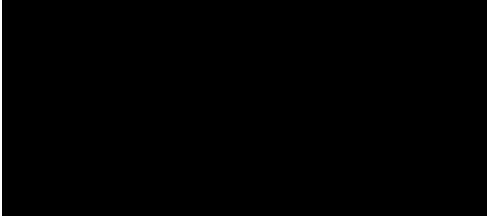
From Host Address: 67.183.31.141

Date and time received: 5/10/2019 8:06:06 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 4:35:01 PM

---

Name : Andris A. Vezis



PermitProposal : PL 19-0032,0033,-0047

Comments : To Whom It May Concern:

Like the majority of our upper Skagit residents, I have concerns about the proposal for a rock quarry in our area. To let it proceed without a proper EIS is to absorb considering the wildlife concerns for this site and local area. Besides the various salmon and fishery issues, we have bald eagles, falcons and a wolf pack to consider.

This area has become popular with visitors to come and be part of that wildness. Along with that, comes the need for lodging, so many families have created B&B's as part of their income. Now that is being threatened.

What very few jobs this quarry would bring in is nothing compared to what would be lost by people already living here.

The impact to other Bussiness would be sever also. All dependent on a wild and scenic river. Others have voiced other concerns. Impacts to the road and other infrastructures, tribal concerns, excessive noise.

This is not a good idea and I am against it.

Andris Vezis

From Host Address: 50.34.202.45

Date and time received: 4/11/2019 4:34:11 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2019 7:55:01 AM

---

Name : Andris Vezis



PermitProposal : PL 19-0033,0032,-0047

Comments : To Whom It May Concern.

Last night I attended a community meeting. In this meeting I learned some addition information that raised my concern for the health on the citizens of the Skagit Valley.

A mineral specialist commented that the composition of the rock in the quarry contained asbestos. A mineral proven to be harmful to humans. The dust created at a rock quarry is already a concern. With the addition of asbestos, it becomes a concern of everyone. Those who work the site, those who live around it, those who are exposed to the dust as these rocks get transported down the Hwy.

1. Not having done an EIS for this proposed permit and project was bad enough considering the type of wildlife In the area, rear and endangered. 2. The lose of income to those who count on the Wild and Scenic River, forest/wilderness, wildlife.

Plus those who provide B&B for those tourist is also bad and far outways the few jobs that this project would bring in. 3. Now we have to be concerned for the health of our friends and loved ones.

I can just envision the law suits coming out of this one.

If you haven't already guessed my position on this project, I do stand against it.

From Host Address: 50.34.202.45

Date and time received: 4/12/2019 7:50:00 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2019 8:15:01 AM

---

Name : Andris A. Vezis

PermitProposal : PL 19-0032, -0033, -0047

Comments : To Whom This May Concern,

Last night I attended a community meeting concerning the Marblemount Rock Quarry project. During the meeting I learned some additional information that has elevated my concern for this project.

During the meeting a mineral specialist spoke about the composition of the rock in the quarry and mentioned that it contained high levels of asbestos. This mineral being such a health concern for humans makes me extremely concerned for my friends and loved ones, not to mention all those along the valley. Dust is generally bad enough from a quarry. But the addition of asbestos dust will impact the health of quarry workers, those who live in the area and those along the Hwy as dusty rocks are transported up to Bellingham.

It's bad enough that an EIS hasn't been done. But I can definitely see law suits coming out on the county for years to come, on this issue.

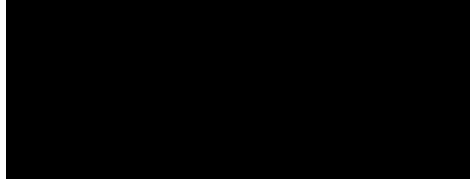
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Date and time received: 4/12/2019 8:11:16 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, May 10, 2019 7:35:01 AM

---

Name : Andris



PermitProposal : PL- 19-0032, 0033, 0036, BP-19-0070

Comments : To Whom it may concern,

Besides the concerns I have for our Wild and Scenic River with it's five verity of salmon, the endangered wildlife unique to the upper Skagit. The local economy that has been developed in the valley by resident intelligent and resourceful enough to develop a bussiness around the river, forest, wildlife and wilderness. Now we also have the fear of bad big bussiness and government potentially affecting the health of the people of a regional area as it did in Libby, Montana. Big Bear Mountain in Marblemount is composed of chloride schist. This mineral contains asbestos. Maybe not exactly the same as in Libby, but just as dangerous to those working it and to the population around it. That last thing we need is the cover up that happened in Libby, Montana by Big Bussiness. I suggest everyone check out the Libby, Montana asbestos YouTube's for more information. This could be us next.

From Host Address: 104.235.166.81

Date and time received: 5/10/2019 7:30:39 AM



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MAY 06 2019

SKAGIT COUNTY  
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### **Proposed Marblemount Mine Site Cannot Be Permitted Without A Comprehensive Plan Revision**

The Kiewit Infrastructure Company's Mining Operation Permit Application proposes that for "Project Steps 1 and 2" no Mineral Resource Overlay (MRO) revision to expand mining permit zoning to include the subject land parcels is required".

Kiewit identifies Steps 1 and 2 as follows:

1. *Site clearing, grading, preparation, and building access roads and stormwater systems*
2. *Mining within the existing Mineral Resource Overlay (MRO) Area*

Kiewit further states:

*"the purpose of the access road construction is to provide access from the jetty stone loadout area to the top of the rock face for timber clearing"*

Actually timber clearing is described in Kiewit's Operations Proposal as a part of (6)Site Preparation which is expected to take two months. (6)Site Preparation is proposed to take place prior to (8)Constructing Access Road which is anticipated to take three months. So Kiewit has proposed that the mining operations road they need for the purpose of "timber clearing" will be constructed after "timber clearing" has been completed.

Additionally, this "timber clearing" road to be constructed after the completion of "timber clearing" will be a 60 foot wide, 12.5% grade road, blasted with high explosives up a Seismic Hazard Critical rock mountain to 800 feet above the valley floor. Kiewit also proposes to complete this massive "timber clearing" road before a geotechnical analysis has been completed because "the geotechnical analysis cannot be completed until the access road is complete to allow for the investigation". This "timber clearing" road to be constructed after the completion of "timber clearing" "to the top of the rock face" has been specifically designed and engineered, to handle massive fully loaded Caterpillar 773 – 60 ton off-road quarry trucks, high explosives mining trucks, and explosive charge bore-hole track-mounted mining drill rigs.

In terms of overall scheduling, timber clearing would occur during the first two months after permit approval. Mining and mining operations making exclusive use of the "timber clearing" road are expected to last for 50 to 100 years.

So Kiewit, in their permit application submitted to Skagit County, where the applicant has attested that his answers are "true and complete to the best of my knowledge", has in essence asserted that once this massive "timber clearing" road that is clearly intended only for mining operations is constructed through an area not zoned for mining, they will just go ahead and use it exclusively for long term mining operations because the county already permitted it, and it just happens to have been designed, engineered, and built by them, within their proposed "Mining Permit Boundary", specifically for their proposed long term mining operations.

**The bottom line is that the misleading crafting and description of Steps 1 and 2 is a play by Kiewit to avoid addressing the MRO zoning and permitting problem in this initial mining permit application. Kiewit has proposed a "timber clearing" mining road that will not be used for timber clearing, but which in reality is exclusively and specifically intended for mining operations.**

Clearly Kiewit has included many mischaracterizations and conflicting plan descriptions and uses in their Permit Application Documents that need to be corrected before a reasonable application posting and review process can be undertaken.

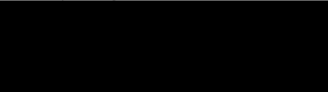
Furthermore, it seems very clear that Skagit County Planning and Development cannot review or permit the proposed quarry operation because approximately 40% of the the area to be used exclusively for long term mining operations, by industrial mining equipment, within Kiewits' designated "Mining Permit Boundary", is not currently zoned for mining use.

**If Kiewit wants to properly pursue this use, they must first make a request for appropriate revisions to Skagit County's Comprehensive Plan including a redrawing of the MRO to include the entire proposed area within their designated "Mining Permit Boundary" to allow for an application review of use in accordance with zoning.**

Which leads us to the the bigger question for Skagit County decision makers: is it in our interest, the interest of the citizens we represent, and the health and well being of the environment and wildlife we are responsible for protecting, to make significant Comprehensive Plan and permitting changes at Kiewit's request to facilitate a use that is so overwhelming disfavored and would be so destructive to our environment, our homes, and our lives.

The loud and clear answer is "NO".

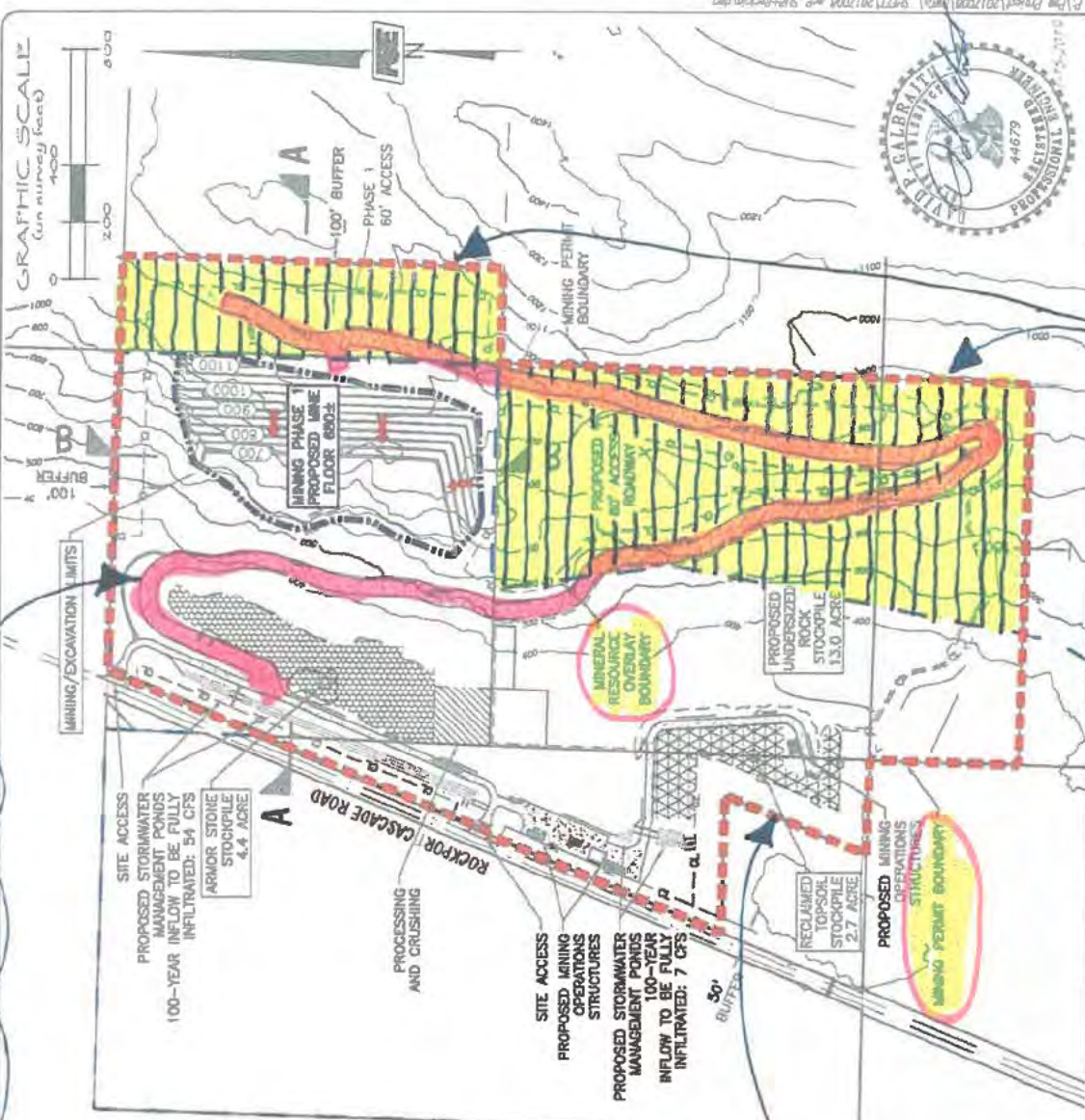
Jose Vila



(see attached map)



Mining Operations Roadway



**LEGEND**

- EXISTING PARCEL LINE
- Mining Permit Boundary
- Mining Resource Overlay Limits
- Existing Grade Index Contour
- Proposed Grade Index Contour
- Proposed Finished Grade Index Contour
- Proposed Finished Grade Interval Contour
- Clearing Limits
- Stormwater Ponds
- Proposed Access Roadway
- Armor Stone Stockpile
- Topsoil Stockpile
- Direction of Mining
- Mining Phase Boundary
- Flow Line

Proposed Mining Permit Boundary

Area not zoned for mining (MRO)



**RECEIVED**  
**MAY 13 2019**  
**SKAGIT COUNTY**  
**PDS**

Revised May 9, 2019

April 29, 2019

**Proposed Marblemount Mine Site Cannot Be Permitted Without  
A Comprehensive Plan Revision**

The Kiewit Infrastructure Company's Mining Operation Permit Application proposes that for "Project Steps 1 and 2" no Mineral Resource Overlay (MRO) revision to expand mining permit zoning to include the subject land parcels is required".

Kiewit identifies Steps 1 and 2 as follows:

1. Site clearing, grading, preparation, and building access roads and stormwater systems
2. Mining within the existing Mineral Resource Overlay (MRO) Area

Kiewit further states:

"the purpose of the access road construction is to provide access from the jetty stone loadout area to the top of the rock face for timber clearing"

Actually timber clearing is described in Kiewit's Operations Proposal as a part of (6)Site Preparation which is expected to take two months, (6)Site Preparation is proposed to take place prior to (8)Constructing Access Road which is anticipated to take three months. So Kiewit has proposed that the mining operations road they need for the purpose of "timber clearing" will be constructed after "timber clearing" has been completed.

Additionally, this "timber clearing" road to be constructed after the completion of "timber clearing" will be a 60 foot wide, 12.5% grade road, blasted with high explosives up a Seismic Hazard Critical rock mountain to 800 feet above the valley floor. Kiewit also proposes to complete this massive "timber clearing" road before a geotechnical analysis has been completed because "the geotechnical analysis cannot be completed until the access road is complete to allow for the investigation". This "timber clearing" road to be constructed after the completion of "timber clearing" "to the top of the rock face" has been specifically designed and engineered, to handle massive fully loaded Caterpillar 773 - 60 ton off-road quarry trucks, high explosives mining trucks, and explosive charge bore-hole track-mounted mining drill rigs. In terms of overall scheduling, timber clearing would occur during the first two months after permit approval. Mining and mining operations making exclusive use of the "timber clearing" road are expected to last for 50 to 100 years.

Finally, the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) will assume jurisdiction for this "timber clearing road" as a mine road based upon multiple factors as listed on the attached page from the MSHA Program Policy Manual. Kiewit knows these rules very well but appears to hope they can get a permit from Skagit County and address MSHA requirements afterwards. This is a mine road and must be considered and reviewed as such.

So Kiewit, in their permit application submitted to Skagit County, where the applicant has asserted that his answers are "true and complete to the best of my knowledge", has in essence operations is constructed through an area not zoned for mining, they will just go ahead and use it exclusively for long term mining operations because the county already permitted it, and it just happens to have been designed, engineered, and built by them, within their proposed "Mining Permit Boundary"; specifically for their proposed long term mining operations.



April 29, 2019

Revised May 9, 2019

The bottom line is that the misleading crafting and description of Steps 1 and 2 is a play by Kiewit to avoid addressing the MRO zoning and permitting problem in this initial mining permit application. Kiewit has proposed a "timber clearing" mining road that will not be used for timber clearing, but which in reality is exclusively and specifically intended for mining operations.

Clearly Kiewit has included many mischaracterizations and conflicting plan descriptions and uses in their Permit Application Documents that need to be corrected before a reasonable application posting and review process can be undertaken.

Furthermore, it seems very clear that Skagit County Planning and Development cannot review or permit the proposed quarry operation because approximately 40% of the area to be used exclusively for long term mining operations, by industrial mining equipment, within Kiewit's designated "Mining Permit Boundary", is not currently zoned for mining use.

If Kiewit wants to properly pursue this use, they must first make a request for appropriate revisions to Skagit County's Comprehensive Plan including a redrawing of the MRO to include the entire proposed area within their designated "Mining Permit Boundary" to allow for an application review of use in accordance with zoning.

Which leads us to the the bigger question for Skagit County decision makers: is it in our interest, the interest of the citizens we represent, and the health and well being of the environment and wildlife we are responsible for protecting, to make significant Comprehensive Plan and permitting changes at Kiewit's request to facilitate a use that is so overwhelming disfavored and would be so destructive to our environment, our homes, and our lives.

The loud and clear answer is "NO".

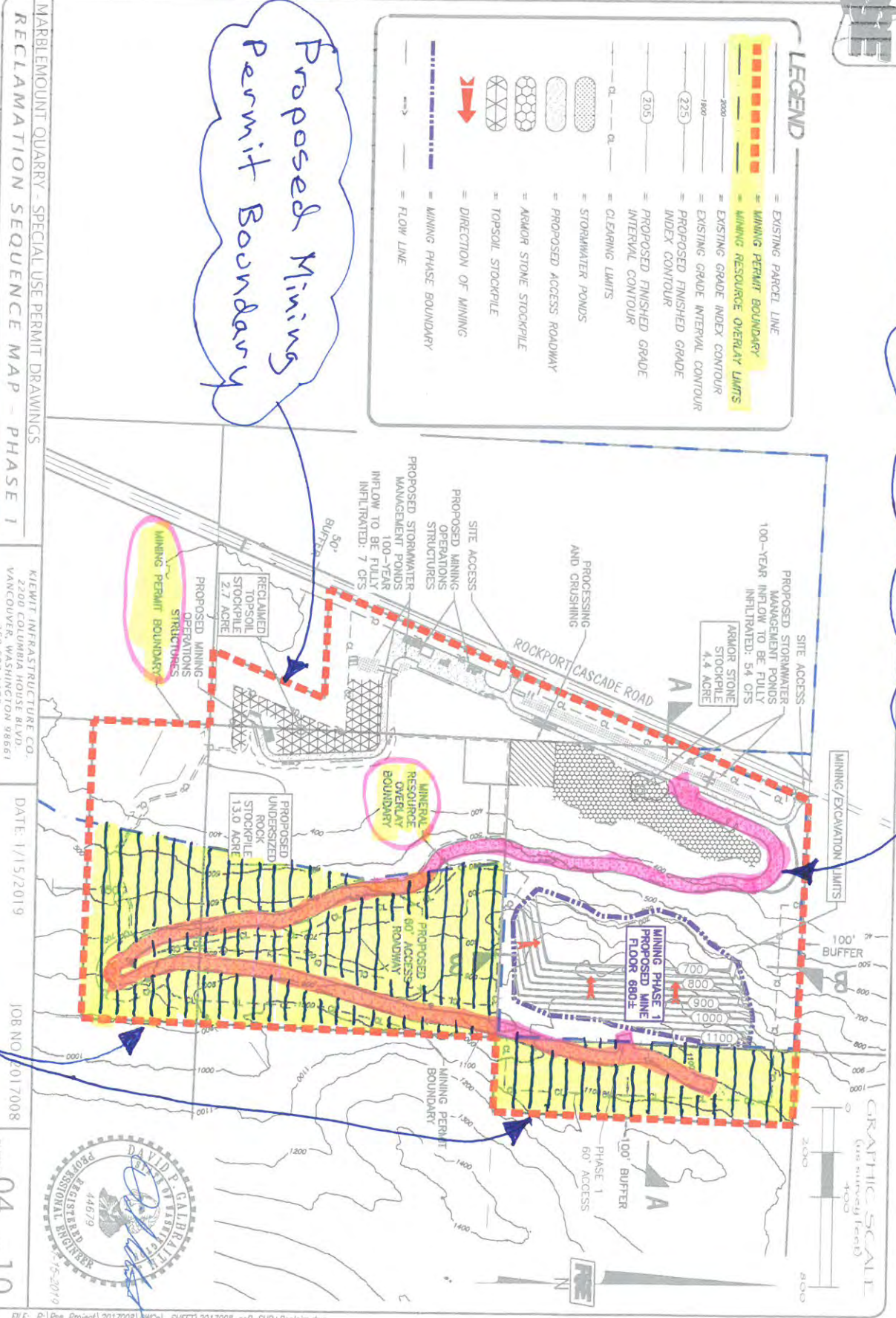
Jose Villa



SV

(see attached map)  
(see attached MSHA guidelines)

PSE





I.3-1 Definitions of "Operator" and "Mine"

Section 3(d) of the Act expands the definition of "operator" to include independent contractors. Regulations governing independent contractors are found in Part 45 of Title 30 CFR. MSHA policy regarding independent contractors is set forth in this Manual in Volume III, Parts 45 and 50.

Section 3(h)(1) of the Act defines the term "mine" and includes related milling operations within that definition. Mine development, rehabilitation activities, and exploration work at an established mine are within the Act's scope. All types of mining, including placer, dredge, and hydraulic operations must be inspected. Government owned or operated mines and mills, whether federal, state, county, or other, are included within the jurisdiction of the Act. All such operations located anywhere in the United States, as well as in any of its territories, protectorates, or commonwealths, must be inspected.

I.3-2 Jurisdiction Over Mine Roads

Section 3(h)(1)(B) of the Act defines MSHA's authority to assume jurisdiction of mine roads which pass through federal land administered by agencies that do not have responsibility for health and safety on those roads. The criteria or factors listed below will be used for determining jurisdiction. The presence of any of these factors should weigh in favor of inclusion of the road under MSHA jurisdiction.

1. The road is owned by the mine operator;
2. The road is maintained by the operator;
3. The operator has the legal right to bring the road into compliance with MSHA regulations;
4. The road is used exclusively to provide access to the mine, or to other mines of the operator;
5. The road provides an exclusive or a major means of access for mine vehicles; or
6. The road was built by or for (by contractor) the mine operator.



RECEIVED

May 13, 2019

MAY 13 2019

By email and US mail

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### **The Cunningham Crushing Local Quarry Stone and Crushed Rock Part of the Permit Application Has Not Been Defined or Explained**

Kiewit Infrastructure Co. (KIC) has submitted a permit application for a mine operation in Marblemount and states in their submitted Detailed Project Description, Section 1.2: "The purpose of the proposed Marblemount Quarry project (Proposed Project) is to 1) supply jetty stone for several major projects on the west coast including the emergency repair on the Mouth of the Columbia River, and 2) provide a source of local quarry stone and crushed rock." I will refer to these operations as Operation 1 and Operation 2 respectively below.

KIC further states:

Detailed Project Description:

Section 1.1: KIC has a lease agreement with the owner of P45543. The owner of P45543 has retained the right to crush, process and bring to market the undersized jetty stone that does not meet USACE size requirements. This material can provide the local area with riprap for river projects, crushed rock for construction, and satisfy other local market needs for rock material for a long time into the future. At the time permits are issued and quarry operations begin, KIC will own the rest of the parcels. KIC is the Applicant and main manager for the entire Proposed Project; however, the owner of P45543 will operate their gravel crushing business (Cunningham Crushing) on P45543 concurrently with KIC operations.

Section 3.8: Once blasts have occurred, excavating and sorting will occur to sort 4 to 28-ton jetty stone out of the blast area and haul it to the jetty stone stockpile area near the loadout area at the bottom of the quarry. Undersized rocks will also be sorted and hauled to the undersized rock stockpile area for further screening and crushing by Cunningham Crushing.

Section 3.11: The undersized rock stockpile area will be used for rocks that do not meet the size and/or weight requirements for armor stone. Those rocks will be crushed, screened, and processed into marketable gravel products by the property owners and transported to market.

Operations Proposal:

Section 2: If market conditions are exceptional, undersized stone marked by Cunningham Crushing could reach a maximum of 25 round trips per day.

Section 4: Hours of operation for the site would be 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Monday through Saturday. Occasional operation outside of these hours (including night shifts) may occur during limited, short-duration time periods. Equipment maintenance would occur from 6:00 AM to 12:00 AM. Normal operations require heavy equipment maintenance after work hours.

Section 9.G: The Cunningham Trust/Cunningham Crushing retains the right to process and market all undersized stone stockpiled on site. This operation will be completely dependent upon local market conditions.

SEPA Checklist:

Section 8.I: it is unlikely that KIC and Cunningham Crushing would have full staffing at the same time

By email and US mail

**Aside from the above citations, very little information is provided about the Cunningham Crushing operation that KIC proposes to oversee as the “Applicant and main manager”.**

Because of this lack of even the most basic operational information regarding the Cunningham Crushing portion of quarry operations (Operation 2) KIC needs to provide full details, metrics, processes, impacts, etc... of Operation 2. Without this information this Permit Application has failed to describe a very significant aspect of the Proposed Project and therefore cannot be fully or adequately reviewed by Skagit County Planning and Development Services.

Because of this lack of information in the Permit Application Documents, there is no direct way to review and evaluate the metrics and scope of this Application, and in particular the relative quantities of Operation 1 (jetty stone) Operation 2 (tailings or waste rock for local use).

The attached Spreadsheet takes quantities provided in KIC's Permit Application Documents (Spreadsheet Section 1), and analyzes these quantities first using the Low Range Industry Average of quarry production for this material type (Spreadsheet Section 2a), and then for the High Industry Average of quarry production for this material type (Spreadsheet Section 2b).

Based upon this analysis is easy to see the reason why KIC has designated 13 acres of undersized rock stockpile area for Project Step 1, and 28 acres total undersized rock stockpile area for combined Project Steps 2 & 3.

Consider that KIC says that Cunningham Crushing will not likely be working the quarry when they are, consider as well that any local quarry rock or gravel is typically a seasonal need, and consider finally that my estimate of 520 local deliveries is extremely optimistic compared to past use of this quarry or any other local quarry. That is because there is no local demand for the vast amount of waste material KIC will generate in their procurement of jetty stone.

Also based upon this analysis it is easy to see the reason why KIC has refrained from providing estimates of the waste rock stockpiles:

- It is because these stockpiles will be massive permanent fixtures on the landscape.
- It is because they will be sitting on the alluvial soils of an uncontained aquifer of the Skagit River.
- It is because they will almost certainly contain significant quantities of chemical contamination which will leach into the aquifer.
- It is because KIC would just as soon not talk about it and just move on.

Detail must be provided for Operation 2, there must be an EIS for this Permit Application, and Operation 2 must be included in the EIS scoping.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Jose Vila





**Proposed Marblemount Quarry Metrics based on Permit Application Materials and Estimates of values not provided**

Step	Acres	Sq ft	Cu yd	Volume	Notes
Step 2	13	43,560	27	43,560 sf/acre	total proposed tailings stockpile area acres on the site in step 2
Step 2		566,280			total proposed tailings stockpile area square feet on the site in step 2
Step 2&3	28				total proposed tailings stockpile area acres on the site in steps 2 and 3
Step 2&3		1,219,680			total proposed tailings stockpile area square feet on the site in steps 2 and 3
Step 2			27	3,800,000 cy	total proposed cy volume of mountain to be mined in Step 2
Step 2				102,600,000 cf	total proposed cf volume of mountain to be mined in Step 2
Step 2&3			27	9,600,000 cy	total proposed cy volume of mountain to be mined in Steps 2 and 3
Step 2&3				259,200,000 cf	total proposed cf volume of mountain to be mined in Steps 2 and 3
185 #/cf quarry greenschist				4,995 #/cy	2.50 tons/cy

10% low range industry average site production of useful armor stone	90% tailings remaining on site	15 ton local haul gravel truck	10 hauls per week	520 Hauls per year	7,800 tons
Step 2	92,340,000 cf	3,420,000 cy			duration to deplete tailings piles <b>1,095</b> years
Step 2&3	233,280,000 cf	8,640,000 cy			duration to deplete tailings piles <b>2,766</b> years
<b>15% expansion (fluff) factor from bedrock to tailings</b>					
Step 2	106,191,000 cf	3,933,000 cy			Average height of tailings pile on <b>13</b> acres. Slopes and logistics would require areas of greater height. <b>188</b> feet
Step 2&3	268,272,000 cf	9,936,000 cy			Average height of tailings pile on <b>28</b> acres. Slopes and logistics would require areas of greater height. <b>220</b> feet

20% high range industry average site production of useful armor stone	80% tailings remaining on site	15 ton local haul gravel truck	10 hauls per week	520 Hauls per year	7,800 tons
Step 2	82,080,000 cf	3,040,000 cy			duration to deplete tailings piles <b>973</b> years
Step 2&3	207,360,000 cf	7,680,000 cy			duration to deplete tailings piles <b>2,459</b> years
<b>15% expansion (fluff) factor from bedrock to tailings</b>					
Step 2	94,392,000 cf	3,496,000 cy			Average height of tailings pile on <b>13</b> acres. Slopes and logistics would require areas of greater height. <b>167</b> feet
Step 2&3	238,464,000 cf	8,832,000 cy			Average height of tailings pile on <b>28</b> acres. Slopes and logistics would require areas of greater height. <b>196</b> feet

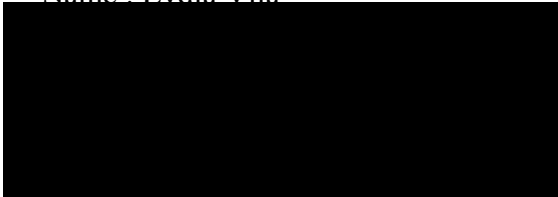
**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**



From dept email

**From:** website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2019 12:20 PM  
**To:** Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Subject:** PDS Comments

Name : Lydia Vila



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry Operation, Permit PL19-0033

Comments : Dear Skagit Planning Commission. I am writing to express my concern and dismay at the prospect of the Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry Operation (Permit PL19-0033) moving forward. Our family's home is less than a mile from the existing quarry/proposed site - the thought of the impact this type of operation would have on our home, our neighborhood and community, to say nothing of the nearby NCNP, the Skagit River and it's nearby tributaries is horrific. Please consider the impact this will have on the many and varied recreational opportunities this area provides to residents near and far. If this were to go through the impact to people enjoying the river (eagle watching, rafting/canoeing/kayaking, fishing, biking the nearby roads, etc) would be catastrophic, it would ruin the calming aspects of the natural elements of our area. The economy of our area is primarily dependent on tourism and recreation, this type of mining would have permanent effect, I see no benefit to this being approved.

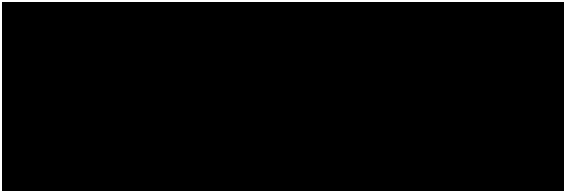
Thank you,  
Lydia Vila

From Host Address: 167.220.57.56

Date and time received: 5/7/2019 12:19:10 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 10:25:01 AM

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PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry proposal by Kiewit

Comments : Hello Skagit County Planning and Development Services. I see that my earlier comment did not register so I'm writing again to voice my concern about the Kiewit proposal to mine the old Marblemount Quarry. I recently read an article that referenced "Environment Stewardship" and think it directly applies and should be one of the Skagit Planning Commissions highest priorities. We all owe it to current and future generations to save and celebrate such a beautiful and unsullied area of the county, Western Washington and the US.

I am opposed to the proposal outright and think it should be rejected due to the long term impact it will have on the area which we call home. At the very least I am writing to ask that you require an EIS to address the mis-information or lack of information that has been presented by Kiewit.

Thank you and I hope that you will make our environment the priority over the negligible economic benefit that may be provided by this proposal being approved.

Kind Regards,  
Lydia Vila

From Host Address: 131.107.160.25

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 10:24:54 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 1:40:01 PM

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Name : Niki Vogt



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

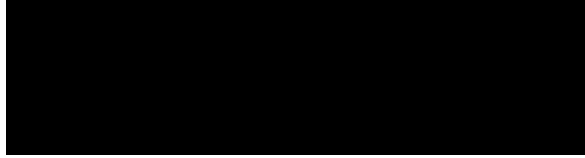
Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
[First and last name]

From Host Address: 71.193.144.202

Date and time received: 5/8/2019 1:39:39 PM

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

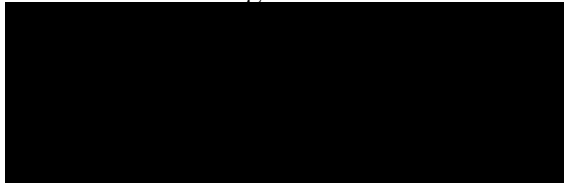


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From dept email

**From:** website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2019 10:55 AM  
**To:** Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Subject:** PDS Comments

Name : Paul Wagner



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : Please do not issue any permits for Marblemount quarry project. This would break treaty law, this would effect the salmon. This would effect our fishing and hunting rights as Washington State tribes. This would effect us all.

Thank you  
Paul Wagner

From Host Address: 50.47.111.128

Date and time received: 4/15/2019 10:54:27 AM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Saturday, April 27, 2019 10:30:01 AM

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Name : Wendy Walker

PermitProposal : Keiwit Quarry Project

Comments : While I do not live in the affected area, I visit there and have friends who own a home in that area. I am concerned about the negative impact of such a quarry on the Upper Skagit River region environment. Potential negative consequences include: destruction of natural habitat and forest land, possible air, soil and water pollution from the site and potential negative impacts to salmon and eagles in the area. Consequently I, too, request a "threshold determination of significance" and that Skagit County require an environmental impact statement under the SEPA.

From Host Address: 67.160.25.68

Date and time received: 4/27/2019 10:29:25 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, May 10, 2019 10:00:01 AM

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Name : Liz Washburn

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry  
Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

From Host Address: 73.254.76.9

Date and time received: 5/10/2019 9:55:41 AM



## NORTH CASCADES INSTITUTE

810 State Route 20, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284  
360-854-2599 www.ncascades.org

RECEIVED

MAY 03 2019

SKAGIT COUNTY  
INDS

John Cooper, Planner/Geologist  
Skagit County Planning and Development  
1800 Continental Place  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

April 19, 2019

### **Re: Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry Operation, Permit PL19-0033**

Dear Mr. Cooper and Skagit County Planning and Development:

I am writing to express North Cascades Institute's concerns and opposition to the proposed expansion of the Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry operation near Marblemount. The project will have significant negative impacts on the area's natural and cultural resources that are at the core of our business and valued by our students, participants, staff and volunteers.

North Cascades Institute believe that a Determination of Significance is warranted under WAC 197-11-330 and that an Environmental Impact Statement should be required. The cumulative effects to the local community and environment will have significant adverse impacts, including blasting, traffic, noise, infrastructure, and significant impacts to the landscape and its human and non-human inhabitants which are not fully addressed in the proponents Biological Assessment and Cultural Resources review.

North Cascades Institute is a nonprofit organization that has been based in in Skagit County for 33 years. Our mission is to "inspire and empower environmental stewardship for all through transformative educational experiences in nature." With 65 employees, we engage over 12,000 participants each year in more than 29,000 learner-days in the field. We attract people from diverse backgrounds to the Skagit River Watershed and North Cascades mountains to experience its unique natural and cultural history. Visitors to the region — drawn from across North America to its superlative natural beauty — add \$36 million annually to our local economy, according to a 2015 National Park Service study.

North Cascades Institute depends upon a healthy ecosystem in the North Cascades and Upper Skagit Valley. Our work brings people together to learn about nature and engage in recreation, artistic inspiration, scientific research, and community building. Our programs engage the great natural heritage of this area to educate and inspire people of all ages, from Mountain School 5th graders to Youth Leadership Adventures high schoolers, graduate students to senior citizens, as well as families, conference participants, citizen scientists, teachers, and visiting artists and writers.

Our Mountain School program has taught elementary school students from across the county about the natural and cultural resources of the region for 29 years. Skagit Tours, operated jointly with Seattle City Light, attracts more than 4,000 people to the Upper Skagit Valley to experience the region's beauty on boat and walking tours. Our Graduate Residency program, in partnership with Western Washington University, has hosted more than 150 Master of Education students who have utilized this area as an outdoor classroom.

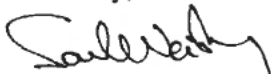
Our staff and graduate students are members of the upriver community, with many renting or owning homes in the area between Marblemount and Concrete, many in proximity to the proposed quarry. The Institute also owns three homes in Marblemount for our graduate students, staff, and their families. One of our residences fronts both the Skagit River and Diobsud Creek, where we are proudly working with the Skagit Land Trust, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe and Seattle City Light to enhance the conservation values of these important riparian zones that protect wildlife and salmon habitat.

**The Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry Operation would cause many negative impacts:**

- Harm to the integrity of the regional ecosystem, a national crown jewel, home to important fish and wildlife, ancient forests, clean water and a rich cultural history.
- Impacts to the federally-designated Skagit Wild and Scenic River, in particular endangered aquatic species (Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout) in the Skagit River and Illabot Creek, and endangered marine species (orca whales) and sensitive wildlife (peregrine falcon, marbled murrelets, wolves) near the quarry.
- Human impacts in the local community as a result of increased industrial operations at the quarry, including daily blasting, logging and truck traffic, transportation and safety impacts for our staff using SR 20 as part of their daily commute and our students arriving in school buses twice a week throughout the school year.
- Negative impacts to the local tourism and recreation economy, a powerful economic driver in Skagit County.
- Significant impacts to our neighbors, the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, who have called this region home since time immemorial and depend on the continued health and integrity of the ecosystem for their way-of-life, self-identity and culture.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. If you have questions about our response, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



Saul Weisberg  
Executive Director



May 5, 2019

RECEIVED

Full Name: Andrea L. Weiser

MAY 08 2019

SKAGIT COUNTY  
PDS

Proposal Name or Permit Number: PL 19-0033 Marblemount Quarry

To: Skagit County Planning Office  
Planning and Development Services  
1800 Continental Place  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Re: Proposed Quarry in Marblemount, WA (PL19-0032 and PL19-0033, PL19-0046, and BP 19-0070)

To Whom it may Concern:

I appreciate how much work the Skagit County Planning Office has already invested to review the large volume of public comment associated with the notice of development at 59252 Rockport-Cascade Road in Marblemount. East Skagit County is the kind of location that industrial developers search for, thinking it might be an easy place to receive a permit because no one besides the planning office is paying attention. Low population density is not a measure that should be used against us. We care about where we live and we hope you do to. This project is incompatible with the Comprehensive Plan and would destroy the local economy and the future direction the vast majority of residents want to see. Our future is restoration, outdoor education, and recreation *not* extraction, remediation, and mitigation for damage already done.

If you can't see clear to denying this permit outright, please require an Environmental Impact Statement so we can all see in great detail why the effects of this project could never be mitigated. I don't want Marblemount to become the next Superfund site.

My life changed the moment I learned about Kiewit's proposed mining quarry on Rockport-Cascade Road in east Skagit County. The massive proposal would blow up Big Bear Mountain into jetty rock and gravel, turn it to profit, and take it and the profit out of Skagit County over a small county road next to the Skagit River. The project site is across the Skagit River from Marblemount about a mile from my house—an idyllic setting in the woods, where I can hear from the sound of an engine a block away whether it's my neighbor coming or the UPS truck.

After further investigation I realized I was wrong about something—not all of the rock would be hauled away. A volume of waste rock equal to 200-foot tall pile of contaminated spoils across 28-acres of the work site would not be marketable as jetty stone and would be stockpiled on site for an indeterminate amount of time.

I am not easily ruffled, but I became incredulous as I read deeper into the permit documents and learned the shocking magnitude and complexity of planned activities for the next 100 years with relatively scant discussion of near term and cumulative effects. Then I looked up the company proposing it. I found that Kiewit Corporation was sued for 5 million dollars for violating the Clean Water Act because employees had been diverting toxic waste into the San Joaquin River for three years before being caught. This says to me that instead of complying with environmental law in the first place, this company is willing to break it and just pay the fine. Then I looked up Kiewit's net worth - \$8.7 Billion. I felt sick.

The proposed activities would affect not just the environment, the peace, and viewscape, it would shatter our local economy and daily lives, and our children's daily lives, and lives of their children and their children's children. Those of us who recognized what was at stake began reading the detailed project proposal and permitting documents - over 1,000 pages, yet all these pages lacked the answer to a key question - what could possibly make this right?

Other questions were easier to answer such as, is there an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)? No. Should one be required? Yes.

### **Jobs**

Would it create new jobs? No. Kiewit has said the 25 jobs expected to work the quarry would be drawn from existing union employees. The more I have read through the Operations Plan, the more I realize these aren't just trucks and heavy equipment, these are monstrosities and special training and expertise is needed to use them. What Kiewit has proposed is to turn a quiet neighborhood into a full-scale industrial operation to extract a resource. In the process they would leave a shell-shocked community not receiving any kind of economic benefit.

### **Climate Change**

Climate change is not called out in the permit documents but it should be for a number of reasons. For one, the need for jetty rock and riprap is expected by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to be on the rise as water levels rise. This makes reasonable sense. Waters will rise as the climate changes and environmental controls (like jetty rock) will be needed to protect infrastructure. True. But destroying another environment and community is not a way to solve that problem. This project is proposed in an area that is not a suitable source for that rock for the many reasons I have already commented on and will enumerate in this letter. Further, there are already other suitable sources of rock that fill those needs which are permitted for use as well as engineered blocks already being used successfully in saltwater jetties and in the Skagit River in Rockport adjacent to Cascadian Farm.

As you read through my comments, add your own reminder at the end of each section – what about cumulative effects? What is the context of climate change added to the future of other changes over the next 100 years? How do our choices now influence it?

### **Property Rights and Values**

If permitted, the industrial operation to log, build a road, create a staging area, blast, stockpile, crush rock, truck and perform maintenance on large heavy equipment day and night, would be heard and seen in great detail by local residents, fisherman, rafters, eagle-watchers and family vacationers and yes, real estate brokers. However, I have my doubts that the property taxes would be adjusted to reflect a concurrent nose dive in property values.

### **Tribal Consultation**

Treaty Tribes have already expressed their opposition to the project due to the baldly apparent effects this proposal would have on the cultural and natural resources which are deeply important to them.

### **Threatened, Endangered and Listed Species**

On an adjacent property to the quarry proposal, Seattle City Light identifies animal habitat conservation as a priority. Key species such as peregrine falcons, eagles, fishers, lynx, red fox, wolves, and marbled murrelets adjacent to or on the Kiewit property have been observed by wildlife biologists and homeowners. Some of these species are being tracked by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and US Forest Service. Mature trees in the proposed development area show potential for spotted owl habitat yet potential effects to such habitat is not even considered in the quarry proposal or the SEPA checklist, nor has a spotted owl survey been conducted.

### **Comprehensive Plan**

The project site is on a rocky ridge top above the federally-designated wild and scenic Skagit River and a short distance upstream of the wild and scenic Illabot Creek. The project contains regulated "critical areas" due to landslide, erosion, and seismic activity as defined in Skagit County Code SCC 14.24.410. Kiewit's development plans are also at cross purposes to Skagit County's own Comprehensive Plan regarding land use, civic pride, heritage and private property values:

*"Skagit County in exercising its land use regulatory authority to protect the public health, safety and general welfare (Article XI Section 11 of the State Constitution), must respect private property rights by not exceeding the constitutional limits on its authority."*

Skagit County and the Skagit River System Cooperative (SRSC) just received the American Public Works Association's project of the year award for restoration on Illabot Creek—an accolade to be proud of. Permitting the quarry would begin a backwards trajectory.

The quarry proposal would blast an 1,100-ft tall promontory out of existence. Roughly 30 homes are adjacent to or in near proximity of the quarry site and hundreds more are within earshot of the types of activities Kiewit proposes. Risk of contaminating the Skagit River ecosystem is high. From the blasting alone, dust from asbestos-bearing rock (Shuksan green schist contains actinolite) would become airborne as well as adhere to the spoils piles and large jetty rock being removed from the site and driven over a County Road (Rockport Cascade Road), two state highways adjacent to the Skagit River (SR-530 and SR-20) across a bridge over the Skagit River, and to a federal interstate (I-5). Nowhere in the project proposal or environmental documents is there



any mention of controlling spread of asbestos particulate that could put human and animal health at risk and threaten water quality and fish.

Permitting an industrialized set of activities, incompatible with local land use, would allow reversal of all the good work Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, tribes, agencies and dedicated consultants to promote the restoration, stabilization, and improvement of fish habitat in the face of already increasing pressures and climate change. Let the upper Skagit River continue to be the gem of the watershed that creates balance with development elsewhere in the County and the State.

### **Blasting Plan**

Blasting residue and other chemical residue, such as diesel, gasoline, and lubricants – especially oil-based products adhere to rock. I learned from a blasting specialist that not only would fuel oil residue be a concern, but the lubricants used for maintaining the drilling equipment would be a concern. Further, due to the potential for gaps and cracks in the rock below the surface (such as this group of rocks is known to have), the risk is high for excess liquid ammonium nitrate fuel oil (ANFO), or other blasting chemicals, to fill in underground spaces. This heightens the likelihood of uncontrolled blasts and excess fly rock that could put blasting crews, operators and equipment on site at risk. This presents additional potential hazards not covered in the blasting plan.

Jetty rock removed from the site with these residues is a concern for airborne and waterborne spread of contamination all along the transport route. According to the Detailed project description, total full buildout would be 9.6 million cubic yards of rock material (page 7). According to an industry standard, 10-20% is a reasonable estimate for how much of the total volume could be suitable jetty rock. So what happens to the other 80-90% of spoils? I don't see any evaluation of the stockpiles at all in the project documents. By using volume metrics in the proposal the amount of waste rock would compare to a 200 foot tall hill over the 28 acres identified for stockpiling. Anyone wanting to extract rock from it would need to implement engineering on the pile just to make it safe to draw material from. The stockpile area would be dusty and open to the elements and could put water quality at risk repeatedly over the course of the operation and beyond. Clearly, the cumulative effects of this have not been considered and Cunningham Crushing would pay the price.

The heavy rainfall in Marblemount is often overlooked but it is critical to consider. In a single rainy year, we have recorded 120 inches of rain in a rain gauge just 3 miles north of Marblemount and annual, sometimes bi-annual floods are common. With an industrial operation I would also expect a stormwater runoff plan and environmental controls for hazardous waste, yet I have not seen any of this in the project description or supporting documents. There is no mention of it in the blasting plan either. What are the implications for road culverts and a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit?

### **Project Operations and Potential Effects**

The project description and supporting documents left me with more questions and concerns than answers. Based on the Detailed Operations Plan and Restoration Plan and comparing to similar operations at the near-depleted Beaver Lake Quarry in Mount

Vernon, a jigsaw puzzle of information began to come together so I could envision what this operation would look like.

- Trailering in and staging heavy equipment, including trucks so big they would have to be brought in disassembled. Excavators so large they require a 14-rung ladder to get into them
- Blasting up to 6 times per day and slope grading on a slope prone to landslides and perched above more than 30 nearby homes.
- Construction of over a mile of access road to be used for logging and future mining operations through an area with no current approved use for mining (i.e., outside of the Mineral Resources Overlay)
- Chainsaw and heavy equipment noise for timber harvest of 2.7 million board feet across 90 acres. Truck traffic to transport all that timber (i.e, 80-ft long diesel trucks that could haul loads up to 80,000 lbs)
- Removal of 9.6 million cubic yards of rock using massive on site trucks for hauling stone, fuel and heavy equipment, such as the quarry haul trucks with gross weight of 256,000 pounds each.
- Truck traffic from 6 am to 6 pm, six days per week with equipment maintenance outside of the stated hours from 6 pm to midnight and occasional nightshifts. Yet no mention of how lights used for night time work and security lights would affect the night sky or how the sound of maneuvering trucks with back up alarms (one of the most grating sounds in existence) would affect the night time soundscape.
- 260 truck trips per day, i.e., averaging one truck every three minutes and up to 75 of these trips could be oversized trucks for jetty stone hauling, across 24 miles of narrow county road (Rockport Cascade Road) closely bordering the Skagit River and not built for those load weights or or traffic frequency. From Rockport Cascade Road to SR-530 then over the Skagit River bridge in Rockport. A narrow bridge not adequate for those loads or frequency. From there to a tight turn onto SR-20 to head west enroute through Sedro-Woolley to I-5. It's difficult to get my head around these numbers. Even 260 logging trucks per day would be a huge impact to other motorists.
- The trucks used for hauling jetty stone would be oversized (with trailers including 7-8 axles) carrying jetty rock weighing up to 105,000 lbs. Stones exceeding 28 tons each would require special hauling equipment and oversize/overweight permits. (see Kiewit's Operations Proposal, page 6). Yet no mention of how to get big trucks, with 7-8 axles, around the several traffic circles in Sedro-Woolley or where the trucks would go once they reach I-5. These vehicles would greatly affect traffic congestion for any route and yet it is not discussed in the traffic impact analysis. This leaves many more questions about road maintenance, road safety, increased congestion, and the carbon footprint associated with long haul transport.

### **Local Economy, Eagle Festival, & Wilderness**

How could such a plan be considered feasible by any stretch of the imagination? This locale is surrounded by homes specifically chosen for their quiet natural setting, in a gateway community to the North Cascades mountains and protected federal lands including wild and scenic rivers and federally designated wilderness in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest and North Cascades National Park. This is a community



where the annual Skagit River Eagle Festival happens each January on a river that hosts the highest migratory eagle population in the lower 48 states. The stretch of river where the quarry is proposed always has the highest counts. Last year, according to the US Forest Service, 111 eagles were sighted on one day along the river reach between Marblemount and Rockport. In the summer, visitor numbers to and through this area explode due to the access to some of the best hiking, climbing, backpacking, camping, boating, fishing, motorcycling and biking in the state.

**Road Safety & Child Safety**

The traffic analysis does not account for tourist traffic. With SR-20 closed from fall to spring, tourist traffic (except for January due to Eagle Festival), scales back considerably. A traffic assessment on a stormy nasty day in December (as Kiewit measured it) is no comparison to the summer traffic volumes. Try counting vehicles on Rockport-Cascade Road, SR-530 and SR-20 over 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend, then add 260 trucks to each day.

The Rockport Cascade Road is a route listed on the Skagit County Bike Map as a way to “discover the Skagit Valley.” What bicyclists would discover instead is quarry town. The Rockport Cascade Road is also a bus route for the Concrete School District. Buses take the same route twice a day, fall to summer, that Kiewit has proposed for quarry trucks between Marblemount and Concrete. No one wants to see children at greater risk for accidents or slow downs. The kids on this route already ride the bus for over two and a half hours each day. None of this is called out in the permitting documents.

Concerns I have expressed in this letter are just a fraction of the gaps in critical information throughout the permit materials. The large volume of truck traffic proposed would affect road safety and traffic congestion throughout Skagit County and beyond, yet this is not reflected in the applicant’s permitting materials.

Clearly, this permit proposal is inadequate and yet it paints a clear picture. I hope you agree that the lack of context for cumulative effects, and the blatant disregard for regulatory considerations, environmental and community health, safety, and vibrancy of the local community and economy makes the choice clear. No massive quarry in Marblemount.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Andrea L. Weiser

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, May 10, 2019 7:20:01 PM

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Name : Andrea Weiser

PermitProposal : PL19-0033 Marblemount Quarry

Comments : This comment also relates to PL19-0032, PL19-0046, and BP19-0070.

I'm writing to share information I believe is critical to consider as you decide whether to deny permits, approve permits, or delay a decision by requiring an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Marblemount quarry proposed by Kiewit (i.e. PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0046 and BP 19-0070). In my last letter to you, I mentioned that the rock type for this site is Skuksan green schist and that it contains actinolite which is a crystalline form of asbestos. As it remains in its natural state in the mountain it poses little to no risk, but blasting and moving rock frees this asbestos to become airborne as dust. Quarry development and even initial road building activities could pose serious health and environmental problems immediately and over the long term. Spread of asbestos as dust or as a liquid if it becomes waterborne could reach long distances through a variety of vectors from the site. This would not align with Special Use Criteria G – i.e. “the proposed use is not in conflict with the health and safety of the community.” Skagit County identifies naturally occurring asbestos as a geologic hazard.

Some might say it's too early to be concerned about health hazards for a project that is not even permitted yet. I disagree. I think it's exactly the right time to consider whether this type of development should be acceptable at all due to the risk it poses to human life and health, animal and fish life and health, and larger far reaching environmental trickle down effects. A mining operation in asbestos-bearing rock upslope from residential homes and wells and along a bus route should not be permitted now or in the future.

As an example I encourage you to look up Libby, Montana in the context of the Superfund site relating to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) longest and most expensive clean up effort of asbestos particulate. The source of spread was a vermiculite mine. Though the mine is now closed, the nearest residential community of Libby, Montana (roughly 4 miles away) continues to experience affects of asbestos poisoning.

More than \$425 million dollars have been spent in Superfund dollars for clean up. In addition, the federal government sued the mining company for complicity and more than 800 civil cases have been filed with asbestos poisoning claims.

Libby is a small mountain community of nearly 3,000 people. The spread of asbestos contamination devastated the community by killing 400 and causing immediately serious and long term lingering health issues for 3,000 more individuals due to asbestos exposure. In 2018, a forest fire raged near the EPAs Operation Unit 3 (OU3), a 10,000 acre containment area for asbestos which includes the mine. Dry conditions and increased fire danger and severity has posed an additional threat to firefighters, clean up workers, and community members because

of potential spread of asbestos particulate in wildfire smoke. In talking with experts about fire modeling, fire severity and increased risk as we move into the future, this could be a very real threat for the community of Marblemount.

To learn more about the Libby site you can refer to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Agency for Toxic Substances Disease Registry. A good resource is an article from the Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology entitled “Mortality from asbestos-associated disease in Libby, Montana 1979-2011,” (2017, Mar, 27(2) 207-213) by Samantha Lampert Naik, Michael Lewin and Robin Lee. An online version of the article is available from [.ncbl.nlm.nih.gov](http://ncbl.nlm.nih.gov). A film called “Libby, Montana” was produced on the subject in 2004. The EPA website has updates on overall scope and remediation. This is nothing to mess around with: lung cancer/ mesothelioma, COPD, asbestosis. Entire families have died from both primary and secondary exposures.

The Agency for Toxic Substances Disease Registry (ATSDR) does not consider Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s (OSHA’s) permissible exposure limits or PELs for asbestos adequate for environmentally exposed populations since, “residential and/or environmental exposures are 24 hours per day, year round...Children and the elderly, not typically exposed in the workplace, may be more susceptible to exposure” (quoted from [.asdr.cdc.gov](http://.asdr.cdc.gov)). The EPA has determined the maximum contaminant level for asbestos in drinking water as 7 million fibers per liter for fibers greater in size than 10 micrometers – in other words any fiber the same length as the longest chromosome in the human body or longer. The EPA also identifies that one of the two main sources of asbestos in drinking water is due to “Erosions of naturally occurring asbestos deposits into watersheds (EPA 2012a) and has recommended “no visible emissions” of asbestos” in their regulatory language. This means if you can see the dust, the asbestos is already at an unsafe level.

I encourage you to read the asbestos emergency response act of 1982. The guiding Code of Federal Regulations for that act (40 CFR, Part 763, Subpart E) requires that local education agencies (like Concrete School District, for example) inspect schools, analyze materials, post results, test air levels, develop management plans, communicate openly, and maintain appropriate records. While this is already a compliance requirement with respect to building inspections, a new source of asbestos being brought into the school environment through asbestos dust adhering to skin and clothing of students, and vehicle tires and undercarriages, would present a new level of necessary vigilance. How would the school and emergency response agencies and individuals need to make room in their response plans to account for proper personal protective equipment and containment strategies to prevent, contain, or treat asbestos exposure resulting from the daily operations and transportation of materials proposed for quarry operations. How would residents control their own exposure to a dusty asbestos-bearing quarry in Marblemount? Dust abatement through wetting down the air is one common control method, but in an area where the asbestos source is uphill of and adjacent to stream and water runoff courses and residential wells, this technique may cause more problems than solutions.

How do you anticipate that permitting the types of activities proposed in the Marblemount quarry documents could affect emergency response agencies? Responders would have to add considerations for asbestos exposure and numerous other chemical threats resulting from operations at the quarry and transport of materials. How do you anticipate that jetty rock and gravel transported out from the site, covered in asbestos dust would affect other communities and the watercourses where these jetty rocks and gravels would be used? I look forward to

your review of and response to this issue.

Thank you, Andrea

From Host Address: 104.235.163.3

Date and time received: 5/10/2019 7:18:11 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Saturday, May 11, 2019 10:10:01 AM

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Name : Andrea Weiser

PermitProposal : PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0046 and BP 19-0070 Marblemount Quarry  
Comments : Thank you for your review of my comments. In my experience, Skagit County Planning Office has astute employees who will use an in depth evaluation of the proposal for permits to conduct mining in Marblemount, Washington and frame a decision in the context of Skagit County Code and State Law that considers the whole picture.

Mining operations are defined by Skagit County and also by Department of Natural Resources (DNR). This notice of development permitting process includes a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review and therefore necessitates compliance with the State's Surface Mining Act. In addition to Skagit County Code definitions for "mining operations," the State's definitions of mining operations should be evaluated by the County. See the document entitled "Mining Regulations in Washington" by David K Norman Washington Division of Geology and Earth Resources Open File Report 2000-3 September 2000. Published by WA DNR. WA DNR administers the Surface Mining Act (Chapter 78.44 RCW, Chapter 332-18 WAC. Operations specifically include (RCW 78.44.03 1(8) (abbreviated here) – "1) Extraction 2) Blasting 3) Processing 4) Transporting, road maintenance & traffic safety 5) Activities that affect noise generation, air quality, glare, pollution, traffic safety, ground vibrations, surface and ground water quality, quantity and flow." Though there is overlap between the Skagit County definition of mining activities and the State's definition, where they could diverge is point number 5) listed above. This could be because these types of activities and effects of development to the surroundings are captured elsewhere in Skagit Code as well and not exclusive to mining.

Before approval of a reclamation permit by the DNR, local governments must approve "mine siting." There is no reason for Skagit County to approve mine siting and associated activities when 35% of the proposed mining operations and associated activities are outside of the existing Mineral Resources Overlay (MRO)-- including road building, stockpiling, crushing and hauling and blasting. According to the State regulations as defined by the Surface Mining Act, a high quality reclamation plan is required for "each" mine (Norman 2000; Page 1). Why would Skagit County permit activities knowing that they do not meet the standards that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) would then have to review for a reclamation permit and hold standards to a "high quality reclamation plan?"

In my experience, working with federal and state regulations, the rule of thumb is to abide by the higher of the standards in the first place when there is overlap between agencies for decision making. This avoids the waste of time and resources in deliberation and hang ups of an administrative process. In this case the state agency has the authority to come to a conclusion which is potentially in opposition to what the County decides. I am not suggesting that Skagit County would decide to issue a permit for the Kiewit's proposal in Marblemount.



In fact, I believe Skagit County would not do this because it would violate the Comprehensive Plan and be foolhardy to do so. I'm sure you are well aware of this, but it has helped me to follow the logic myself and walk through the process.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely, Andrea

From Host Address: 104.235.163.3

Date and time received: 5/11/2019 10:06:44 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 6:55:01 AM

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Name : Andrea Weiser



PermitProposal : PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0046 and BP 19-0070 Marblemount Quarry

Comments : The proposed type of development for large-scale jetty rock extraction and gravel extraction and processing is in direct opposition to the character of the federally-designated Wild and Scenic Skagit River and Illabot Creek. The significant special characteristics that these waterways possess, which gained them recognition on a national level, would be at risk from this type of industrial-level development. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Public Law 90-542; 16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.) is to preserve certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. Less than 3/10ths of 1% of Washington state's river miles are designated as wild and scenic. This project would pose potential risks to 2 out of the 6 total rivers in the state designated as wild and scenic. I urge you to evaluate the cross purposes of the Wild and Scenic River Act and industrial development that would appear to put not only water quality at risk but also the character of the river itself.

Thank you, Andrea

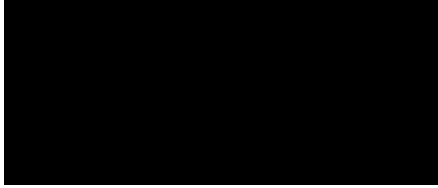
From Host Address: 104.235.162.176

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 6:50:39 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 9:15:01 PM

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Name : Sarah J. Welch



PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Quarry operation near Marblemount

Comments : My husband and I bought property on Foxglove Lane in 1992, where we built a house and raised our two daughters until moving to Anacortes in 2010. We still own the house in Marblemount and during the past year have enjoyed it as a second "home in the country" away from the hustle and bustle that is now a reality down valley. The serenity is generally broken only by the groups of vacationing motorcyclists in the summer. However, we remember the months when rock was being dumped in the small county-owned area on the Cascade River road from blasting near Newhalem - it was very noisy and, because hauling and dumping were at night to minimize traffic impacts, difficult to sleep through.

Kiewit's current application for a large-scale industrial quarry is too much for our community. The intensity of operations, truck traffic, noise from rocks and machinery, dust, petroleum spill potential, etc. will all have negative impacts on the wildlife, water quality, tourism, and quality of life for residents. There are no positive aspects that I can detect, and many, many negatives.

I encourage the county to deny this permit outright. If this is untenable, then an EIS process is the proper next step. I strongly oppose the quarry as currently depicted in their application.

From Host Address: 50.34.101.221

Date and time received: 5/12/2019 9:14:58 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 4:25:01 PM

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Name : Kathryn Wells

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, recreational visitors to the area, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

I understand that communities may need more protection from rising seas. I think we need to consider other options than destroying a critical habitat to provide such protection. This discussion is out of your purview, but think about it, please.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,  
Kathryn Wells

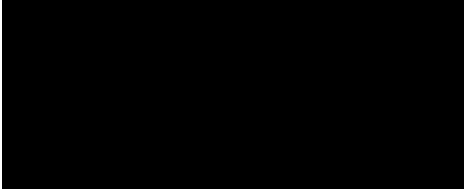
From Host Address: 50.35.51.255

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 4:24:45 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, April 26, 2019 5:50:01 PM

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Name : Janine Weyand



PermitProposal : Kiewit/Marblemount Quarry

Comments : Rockport and Marblemount are very quite rural community's - and thats why we live here.

Living parallel to Cascade Rockport Road you can hear the truck traffic from my yard, (with a good 3 acres between) , so having these huge trucks going back and forth will destroy our neighborhood peace.

Then thinking about all the fuel and explosives that Kiewits equipment will leave behind to infect the soil and then sep into our water system, not except-able.

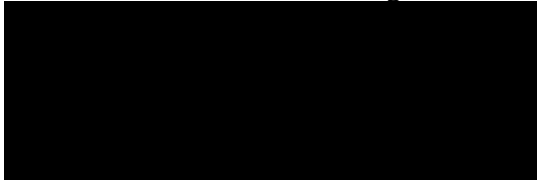
From Host Address: 46.244.28.44

Date and time received: 4/26/2019 5:47:09 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 10:05:01 AM

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Name : Patia C Wiebe-Wright



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : Due to the human and environmental impact, I oppose the creation of a Marblemount quarry.

The area is habitat to many key North Cascades species, including peregrine falcons, eagles, lynx, red fox, and marbled murrelets, all of which have been observed by wildlife biologists and community members on or adjacent to the Kiewit property, as well as newly introduced fishers and wolves. The creation of quarry in Marblemount would greatly affect these animals, some of whom are returning to their traditional habitats after long absences. Furthermore, the area has highest migratory eagle population in the lower 48 states. The stretch of river where the quarry is proposed had 111 eagles last winter.

The noise and chemical pollution would have impacts on local human and animal populations alike. The quarry would add 260 truck trips per day, averaging one truck every three minutes. Heading down the Rockport Cascade Road to SR-530, the trucks would add a significant amount of noise to the area. Furthermore, up to six explosive blasts a day would also add to the noise pollution in the area. These blasts would also involve ammonium nitrate fuel oil (ANFO) or other emulsions and would require huge drilling rigs. Large volumes of lubricant (likely oil- based) would be needed to keep drilling equipment from seizing. Residue from these products would likely run off into the Skagit River, a designated Wild and Scenic River.

For these a numerous other reasons, the Marblemount Quarry would be harmful to the area and should be not allowed to go forward.

From Host Address: 50.197.76.57

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 10:04:06 AM

**From:** [Lori Anderson](#) on behalf of [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**To:** [John Cooper](#); [Kathy Jewell](#)  
**Subject:** FW: PDS Comments  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 7, 2019 12:42:01 PM

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From dept email

**From:** website@co.skagit.wa.us <website@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2019 12:30 PM  
**To:** Planning & Development Services <planning@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Subject:** PDS Comments

Name : Kimberly Wiersma



PermitProposal : Marble mount Quarry

Comments : This is a scenic area that needs to be preserved. The local economy and livelihood will be damaged if a quarry is created. The noise will cause problems in so many of our Skagit ecosystems. We are so tired of large corporations causing environmental damage. This has no benefit for our local economy.

From Host Address: 174.216.9.179

Date and time received: 5/7/2019 12:28:08 PM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 11:45:01 PM

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Name : Terri Wilde

PermitProposal : Proposed Marblemount Quarry PL19-0032 and PL19 -0033, 0046, 0046 BP 19-0070

Comments : Considering the Marblemount Quarry

When considering whether to permit the new proposal for a giant quarry in Marblemount, we must consider the cumulative effects of this project with other simultaneous projects to understand the results of allowing this activity to take place. I will posture that the continuation of allowing such destruction to the earth, air, water and web of life is pure folly and truly threatens future life.

We must look past the small ends; “rock for a jetty”, “taxes/ payment for the county” to understand where we are in history. Certainly an EIS would be a tiny step toward understanding some of the impact.

What is gained or lost must also be measured by the cumulative effects on the systems that support life on this planet. Frankly we are at a crucial juncture where we must decide to turn around this destruction or we will perish with much of the life on earth, if we continue to assault the systems of the earth that support us. There is ample scientific research supporting the direness of the situation, especially with respect to climate change and loss of species that could precipitate an unraveling of the web of life.

The explosions, pollution, logging, runoff, and road kill will certainly affect sensitive species reliant upon the area of this proposed quarry. The mining and extensive transport of rock will surely contribute to climate change.

The burdens that this quarry project would put on natural life systems are heavy. If one considers for instance, the rather considerable total effect of running just one large truck 130 miles up and down SR20, 6 days a week for a hundred years. There is the pollution created from the extraction of fossil fuels and metal for the truck. There is the exhaust from the burning of the fossil fuels. There is the seepage of truck fluids that leak and eventually make it to the river and sea, including: dirty oil, transmission fluids, asbestos from the brake wear, coolant, lubricants, etc. There is the harm caused by the creation and repairs of the roads. There is the disposal of oil cans, old filters, parts, tires and on and on until the truck itself must be “disposed” of. Drivers and neighbors will be exposed to toxic fumes and substances, causing medical conditions (and there are plenty of harmful environmental tolls of medical practices). One truck traveling the highway creates this heavy toll on the water and air and earth and climate and living things. Now we must consider what 75 trucks or 260 vehicles would do.

Next one must consider the harm that will come from the marine transport of the rock . And then the environmental harm to the estuary where the rocks would be dropped and the effect on the natural flows and ecosystems there. Then one must consider the effects of more and larger vessels on the Columbia River.

And then ultimately one must question whether the natural world can support all these assaults at once: pipelines, fracking, oil extraction and spills, mining and collapsing mining dams, clear cutting, herbicide and pesticide use, plastics and other garbage, pharmaceuticals in the water even after “treatment”, the extraction of tar sands, mountain tip removal, nuclear waste, biotechnology, nanotechnology, carbon and methane being released into the atmosphere affecting climate, pollution of the water, land and air and the extinctions and the unraveling of the web of life.

We must turn from this assault and say no.

No. The salmon are irreplaceable. We must find what we value and not allow such destruction for the financial profit of a few. Life on earth demands this of us.

We know it can't go on like this. Have the courage and hope to say no to this project and yes to a future with a healthy river and healthy people.

From Host Address: 50.34.208.3

Date and time received: 5/12/2019 11:44:17 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 11:50:01 PM

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Name : Terri Wilde

PermitProposal : Proposed Marblemount Quarry, permits PL19-0032 and PL19 -0033, 0046, 0046 BP 19-0070

Comments : I want to write about my concerns about the effects of the traffic from the proposed quarry in Marblemount. I hold a commercial drivers license and have worked as a professional driver for over 6 years. I have lived and driven in Rockport for 10 years and am very familiar with the roads near the proposed quarry.

The proposal submitted by Kiewit included a Traffic Impact Analysis that claimed that “There are no adverse impacts to local roadways with the proposed quarry.” In their mitigation section, they claim “the Proposed Project is not forecast to adversely impact the local road network and conditions”. I find both of these conclusions to be dis-believable.

The large scope of this project will noticeably increase traffic, increase dangers, and increase road damage. There are many areas that I have concern about. Here are a few.

Traffic:

SR 530 is a very active road in the summer, especially weekends. I have waited considerable time waiting to turn onto it from driveways or Rockport Cascade Road as groups of motorcycles, RVs, cars and logging trucks rumble by. The intersection at 530 near the Rockport Casade Road is also a common place where vehicles are passing and I have on numerous occasions started to make that right hand turn, that the trucks would make, only to have to stop quickly upon seeing a passing car barreling down my lane.

Rockport Cascade Road is frequently used by bicyclists and is in fact highlighted, along with SR20, as a “Regional Bike Route” on the Skagit County BIke Map, and SR20 is a favored route for beginning a cross country bike journey. The county has spent considerable resources mapping and directing bike traffic to this neighborhood and it has been successful. Heavy, large truck traffic is simply incompatible with bike tourism.

Both SR530 and SR20 are highlighted on the WA State Scenic Byways Map, with the state website saying that ”National Geographic Traveler describes the Cascade Loop as "one of America's grandest, most spectacular drives." Tourists are also numerous during the annual winter Skagit Eagle Festival, often stopping on the roadside to view and photograph eagles. The inconvenience, detrimental effect of the visiting experience and the very real dangers of accidents from the heavy quarry truck traffic make this project a very bad idea for this area.

As pointed out by many, the left turn onto SR20 from 530 on that hill is a clear danger. I spun out on it myself right there this winter, unable to navigate the turn. If there had been other traffic, I would likely have been in an accident. A truck trying to make that turn and get up to

speed on the upgrade will slow and potentially collide with SR20 traffic. It will also create significant noise and pollution in the small downtown Rockport, as trucks huff up and jake brake down the hill at that intersection.

#### Road Wear:

I looked carefully and could find no mitigation in the proposal for the extensive wear on County and State Roads that all this heavy truck traffic will cause. Clearly roads will require more frequent repair from the increased and heavy truck use. How will all that extra repair work be paid for? Also the Rockport Cascade Road is chip sealed, a surfacing used for rural roads with less traffic, not expecting the heavy truck traffic proposed. "The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) does not have sufficient pavement preservation funding to keep up with inflation and pavement needs. This has caused WSDOT to emphasize in its preservation program lower-cost options such as chip seals."\* "Traffic moving at higher speeds can create dust, limit visibility, and cause an inconvenience to local residents. Increased speeds can also cause gravel to break loose from a fresh chip seal creating the risk of flying rock. Rocks thrown from your tires may crack or break a windshield. Flying rocks might also injure pedestrians, bicycle riders, or motorcyclists."\*\*

How could we measure the cost and inconvenience of the constant and increased road repair this project will cause? Will the State re-open and run the weigh station on SR20 so that we will have data on truck traffic and accurate weights of these constant heavy trucks? What is the increased likelihood of accidents during all the ongoing road construction that will be needed to repair our roads? How many years will this traffic take off of the life of the bridges they use? How long can the 58 year old Rockport Bridge last with these heavy loads before it will need to be rebuilt? And again, who would pay for that? Is there any way to monitor or control truck traffic from the quarry that may attempt alternate routes that would take them over the Marblemount Bridge considered Functionally Obsolete? Or the Sauk bridge on 530 with Legal Gross Weight limits? Again who will monitor this?

#### Danger:

And then, perhaps my biggest concern about the traffic, is how many people will die on our roads if we allow this project to move forward? I can't imagine that there won't be numerous tragedies from allowing this major project into a quiet, tourist area, not built to handle such. We rely on volunteer emergency services. It is frankly unfair and unrealistic to expect our dedicated volunteers to deal with the increased, and likely more gruesome accidents that may occur from truck and car, bike or pedestrian collisions. And are we expecting those same volunteer fire departments to respond to any on site accidents at the quarry? Incidents like explosion mishaps, mega truck or heavy equipment accidents, landslides, falling rock, road collapse, toxic contamination, falling over cliffs? Is the county prepared to handle this? Will the county pay for some full time emergency responders for up valley?

I truly believe this project is a VERY BAD DEAL for Skagit County and should be denied. Certainly the county would be remiss without studying it further through an EIS if it does not just deny it outright. Also granting a 100 year permit is completely irresponsible. We have no right to sell out our grandchildren like that.

Sincerely,  
Terri Wilde



\*[wsdot.wa.gov/Research/Reports/800/837.1.htm](http://wsdot.wa.gov/Research/Reports/800/837.1.htm)

\*\*[wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/preservation/chip-seal](http://wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/preservation/chip-seal)

From Host Address: 50.34.208.3

Date and time received: 5/12/2019 11:48:29 PM

RECEIVED

MAY 10 2019

SKAGIT COUNTY  
FDS

May 9, 2019

TO: Skagit County Planning & Development Services  
1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

RE: Kiewit's Marblemount Quarry Applications  
(Skagit County PL19-0032, PL19-0033, 0046; 0046 BP19-0070)

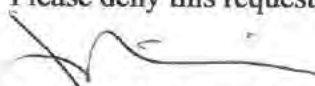

To whom it may concern:

Kiewit Infrastructure Co.'s ("Kiewit") application for a special use permit and associated authorizations from Skagit County to expand a less than 3-acre quarry supplying materials to the local community into a 640-acre mine site to supply jetty stone should be denied.

The proposed activity, while understated in the impact statements, will have tremendous, long-term effects on the area in question. From severe noise pollution 24 hours a day, greatly increased traffic (including heavy equipment that could damage roads and roundabouts on the way to Interstate 5 from the site), to run-off of toxic materials into a river that provides tourist activity, salmon population, eagle habitat, and other sensitive species. The effects would be on environment, wildlife, residents and tourists. It would result in incessant noise, air pollution, and scar an area of current beauty. Also the blasting and removal of an 1100 square-foot ridge will put the area at risk for landslides.

And what is the benefit to our area? Local jobs in very small numbers? This is not a trade-off we should be willing to make. This is a proposal that will have significant negative impact not just in the short term, but for hundreds of years to come.

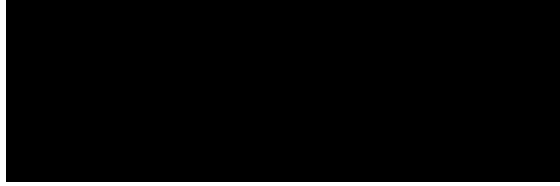
Please deny this request. There are no good reasons to consider this approval.

  
Jessica A Williams, DVM  


**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 7:40:01 AM

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Name : Linda Wright



PermitProposal : Linda Wright

Comments : Dear Skagit County Planning & Development Services,

Thank you for accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

On a personal note my husband and I love to hike and camp in Skagit Valley. If there are quarry trucks crowding the roads and making them much less safe to drive, we are far more likely to do our hiking and camping in Whatcom county. We buy gas and food so Skagit county will lose our revenue. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,  
Linda Wright

From Host Address: 172.56.42.60

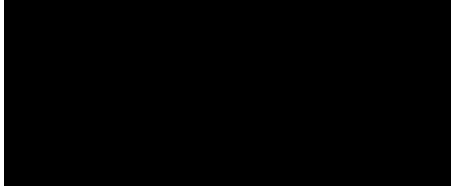
Date and time received: 5/13/2019 7:38:07 AM



**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, May 10, 2019 6:45:01 AM

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Name : Rosann M Wuebbels



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry

Comments : I'm writing with concern of the various impacts this marblemount quarry would place on the existing neighbors, roads , bridges, visitors and wildlife in the area

An EIS is certainly in order, so that the magnitude, complexity and cumulative effects related to Kiewits proposed actions are FULLY considered. Including...

. Massive and frequent dump trucks on roads and bridges not designed for that load or frequency..

The noise from blasting, and equipment along withn polutantsthat no doubt will occur.

This is a quiet , wild area that my family goes to for camping and recreation. I fear for my safety traveling those roads with dump trucks such as those.

Surely, other jetty rocks closer to the Columbia river could be had.

Sincerely, rosann wuebbels

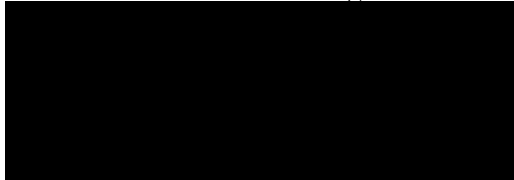
From Host Address: 50.34.108.190

Date and time received: 5/10/2019 6:44:08 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2019 3:10:01 PM

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Name : marren Yarbrough



PermitProposal : Marblemount Quarry expansion

Comments : This is a very fishy expansion to bring largescale mining into a tourism community.. This includes a narrow winding Hwy already full of travelers in the summer... Up to 150 huge boulder filled truck to traverse between Sedro Wooley and Marblemount over old bridges and past driveways of hundreds of homes.. Hwy 20 will fail in many places because of huge trucks going by up to 4 a minute.... Property values will plummet, The revised Glacier Peak resort will have blasting directly in front of it from a half mile away... Hiway 20 is already a dangerous highway and now a certain death trap for those using it.. no shoulders and erosion ... Thousands of vehicles traveling high speeds for the circumstances and animal life trying to cross in search of water and food.... this is not a well thought out plan is most definitely illegal and Monsterous....

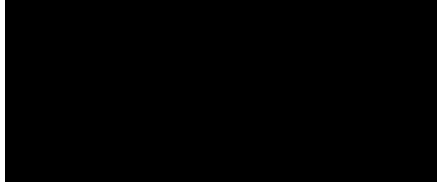
From Host Address: 50.34.20.3

Date and time received: 4/12/2019 3:09:50 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 6, 2019 1:50:02 PM

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Name : Marren yarbrough



PermitProposal : Marblemount quarry

Comments : In my opinion this is a ridiculous plan . It is way too large for the area. A beautiful natural habitat for residence of the area including wildlife. No one needs a mining operation this big

The narrow winding hiway 20 is already dangerous as soon as the pass opens. Plenty of wildlife cross it daily.

The Rockport bridge won't last with the heavy heavy trucks crossing it at 150 per day. Not to mention all the tax payers that have driveways on hiway 20 will have huge trucks speeding by. Any accidents and there will be some could actually take out homes with it as the big trucks hurrying back and forth daily for a hundred years.

Give eastern Skagit valley residents a break and do not let this humongous proposal go through

We ask for a SEPA

Report to see how much devastation this company will cause to the environment and the property owners.

From Host Address: 174.216.20.194

Date and time received: 5/6/2019 1:45:30 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 9:00:01 AM

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Name : Yonit Yogev

PermitProposal : Kiewit Infrastructure Proposed Marblemount Quarry (PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0047, and BP19-0070)

Comments : Dear Planners,

Although I now reside in Olympia, I have strong and deep connections to the Skagit region as I lived there for 16 years, owned a home, hiked, kayaked, and fell in love with the Skagit River watershed and North Cascades NP.

I appreciate that you are accepting public comments on the Kiewit Infrastructure Marblemount Quarry that is being proposed in the heart of critical areas, at the gateway to the North Cascades National Park, nearby wilderness lands, and on parcels that are not all fully zoned for mining.

I am concerned that Kiewit's application for permits is out of order and misleading. At this stage, Kiewit's application for a Mining Special Use Permit (BP19-0070) includes areas that are not currently zoned for mining (MRO). The applicant must have all areas within their application be designated MRO through the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan including for forest conversion and road construction. It is out of order to approve these permits even if they may not be MRO at this time; however, the intent is to extract rock in these areas in the future.

Please do not approve permits for this project before moving forward with a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). What will the impacts of mining and rock blasting be to nearby property owners, wildlife, and cultural resources for the Upper Skagit Tribe? What will the impacts be from 260 vehicle trips six days per week up to 100 years be on carbon and air emissions, water quality in the Skagit River for salmon and the cities that depend on it as a drinking water source, and transportation from Marblemount to Bellingham? All of these questions and more must be studied and their impacts mitigated before this project moves forward.

Thank you for considering my comment.

From Host Address: 73.221.78.197

Date and time received: 5/9/2019 8:56:32 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2019 2:10:01 PM

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Name : Kathy Young

PermitProposal : (PL19-0033),(PL19-0047),(BP19-0070),(PL19-0032).

Comments : My husband and I live ½ mile from the proposed Marblemount Open Pit Mine. When we dug our well 20 years ago we hit water at 15 feet. Many neighbors report the same. Kiewit Infrastructure would plan to use ANFO (Anhydrous Fuel Oil) blasting material to blast away Big Bear Mountain. Studies have shown that 1-15% ANFO is lost during blasting, meaning it does NOT completely explode. So where will it go?

Another major harm of the open pit mine and the mine tailings is that a large volume of rock that has been buried for millions of years, away from air and oxygen, is suddenly exposed to the rapid chemical weathering that exposure to air and rain causes. As certain minerals and elements in these mine wastes are oxidized, they can become acidic(or alkaline) and water soluble. They then can get washed into the ponds in the pit, or leach into ground water, or get washed into watersheds. The issue isn't that these are vastly foreign substances, just that so much of them brought to the surface in relatively quick timeframes compared the geological timeframe of natural erosion. And it means that highly toxic conditions can be created, like acidity(sulfuric acid), alkalinity(sodium, potassium and calcium carbonates and bicarbonates and phosphates), and heavy metal contamination(lead, mercury, cadmium, selenium etc.)

So eventually we and our neighbors will be making our morning coffee and showering with water laced with these harmful chemicals. Our gardens will be watered with contaminated water. Our children and grand children and their children...I imagine it will be too late at that point to live on our beloved property and this area will become a environmental embarrassment. The clean, calming, beautiful "Entrance to the American Alps" will join the many moonscapes of destruction now dotting our country and planet.

"Potable water is an essential life-sustaining element. Skagit County's potable water comes from groundwater and surface water. Once the source of potable water is contaminated, it is difficult, costly and sometimes impossible to clean up. Preventing contamination is necessary to avoid exorbitant costs, hardships and potential physical harm to people." ( taken from Skagit County Comprehensive Plan, Goals and Strategies, Aquifer Recharge Areas, p 163)

"If our salmon are not healthy, then our watersheds are not healthy—and if our watersheds are not healthy, then we have truly squandered our heritage and mortgaged our future." — former Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber

Skagit County's Skagit watershed is important to both local citizens and the entire state of Washington. The Skagit River is the largest source of freshwater and home to some of the largest salmon runs in Puget Sound. The Skagit River watershed is the third largest watershed on the west coast of the contiguous United States and the largest and "one of the most

unspoiled strongholds of fish and wildlife habitat in the Puget Sound.”<sup>1</sup> The Skagit River hosts all five species of Pacific salmon. It has six independent populations of threatened Chinook salmon, six populations of threatened steelhead, at least 26 local populations of threatened bull trout, three populations of chum salmon, two populations of Coho, and one each of pink and sockeye.

Skagit County is often called the “last, best hope” for 1 salmon recovery in Puget Sound. If the state of the salmon is an indicator of overall watershed health, then our watersheds are sick. Skagit River Chinook salmon stocks have been declining since at least 1935. Despite occasional short-term increases, the long-term trend for Chinook populations is inexorably negative. Where Chinook catches once numbered in the tens of thousands, in the 1990s they fell to several hundred. Given climate change and increasing conversion of habitat to human uses, the prognosis for long-term species survival—absent decisive action—is poor.

<sup>1</sup> Skagit Chinook Recovery Plan 2005, at 2.

Seeking to remedy these deficiencies, as well as set the county on a decisive path toward salmon recovery, the Skagit County Board of Commissioners approved a new salmon recovery strategy on October 8, 2007.<sup>2</sup> Known as the Salmon Policy Resolution (SPR), the plan is an executive order to county departments to consider the needs of salmon in all their actions.

<sup>2</sup> Skagit County Resolution R20070499.

When researching the cumulative effects of open pit mining, it is mentioned over and over how water moves. It is common sense. Rain falls (and we get a lot of that here in the rainforest), chemicals and mining residues are carried down into the groundwater and underground fractures and streams and eventually streams and rivers. A relatively small quantity of ANFO is very detrimental to fish, and the people who eat them I suppose. So there goes the salmon, and the fishing/tourism industry.

So, are we then in the path of progress??

I have a list of at least 17 State and Federal Organizations who agree that this destructive plan will rob us of a quality of life not seen in many places in the world any longer. Did you realize that 40% of the world’s population does NOT have clean drinking water?

When reviewing this proposal, imagine the pride your constituents will have if you choose clean air, water and land over financial gain.

I implore you to consider our rights as Skagit County citizens to have clean water.

Thank you for your consideration in these matters.

From Host Address: 72.168.145.155

Date and time received: 5/13/2019 2:07:35 PM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 23, 2019 9:50:01 PM

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Name : Michiel Young

PermitProposal : PL19-0033 Marblemount Mine

Comments : After studying the sound analysis of this proposal I believe it is misleading and deceptive and seeks to minimize the huge impacts it would have . The analysis uses a decibel measurement filtered specifically for human hearing, there is no mention of wildlife or how sound might affect it.

Two methods are used to describe how they measure sound.

1) Equivalent sound level -Leq, which was used in the analysis is defined as; The level of constant sound that over a period of time contains the same sound energy as the fluctuating sound.

A complicated way of saying sound is averaged out overtime. I believe this is misleading, humans or animals don't have the ability to average out the sounds.

2) Maximum sound level Lmax, defined as: The highest instantaneous sound level for a given sound source. Because the Lmax method has such large fluctuations it is seldom used except in cases where brief high level sound is causing an impact such as sleep disturbance.

This is realistically the sound we hear and this is the method that should be used.

The backup horns are not considered since they are exempt' but we would hear them.

No consideration is made for the affect the removal of material will have on sound levels. The site will soon resemble an amphitheater with the open end facing the valley. This would have a huge impact on sound transmission.

The hours of operation proposed are 6am To 6pm Maintenance 6pm to midnight and night shifts added for certain contracts (contracts not defined) that seems to say that if there were contracts they wanted to fill it could be a 24 hour operation.

I think with all of the misleading analysis and studies in these permits it should be denied.If that

can't be done at least an EIS at least should be done to study the real impacts.

Thank you Mike Young

From Host Address: 72.168.144.206

Date and time received: 4/23/2019 9:47:38 PM



From: [website](#)  
To: [Planning & Development Services](#)  
Subject: PDS Comments  
Date: Friday, May 10, 2019 11:50:01 AM

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Name : michiel l young

PermitProposal : marblemount quarry

Comments : The blasting plan is not adequate for environmental assessment. The plan states if the best industry standards are used, losses of (ANFO Residues) nitrates and ammonia would not be even measurable. This is not true according to numerous sources ( listed below) and especially considering our wet climate. The detonation of ammonium nitrate-fuel oil (ANFO) is often incomplete in a wet environment leaving behind toxic and water soluble products and the use of packaged ANFO/emulsion is acceptable in very dry conditions. Bailey et.al (2012). A major drawback of ANFO is its hygroscopic nature. Moisture content as low as 5% can cause detonation failure. Bailey et.al (2013). Explosive residue in cases in the form of unexploded material is detected even in cases of complete detonation. Kedlleher J.D.et.al(2002). It is important to recognize any residue polluted water collected in sediment ponds cannot be restrained from entering the aquifer. The Plan states the groundwater within the alluvium/outwash unconfined aquifer is hydrogeologically connected to the Skagit River and therefore groundwater within the aquifer would discharge into the Skagit River when the base flow of the river is less than the mean groundwater level. This statement is hypothetical no research stated backs this up. The Plan also states three potential but unconfirmed springs are located within the project area. This would need to be confirmed as to recharge source and future flow ie would they be adjacent to or under waste rock sites. Are there fractures that would lead to recharge of downstream flows with contaminated water. The waste rock Areas could eventually cover 28 acres up to 200 feet high and would be placed on an impermeable base with probable fracturing. Blast contaminates as well as leached rock materials would enter the base areas of these sites. During the recent past during heavy rain periods standing water has been observed covering the existing quarry site and has flowed over the Rockport-Cascade Road nearby. With most vegetation removed from this site flow would be even greater. Flooding would be a risk as well as overflow of the sediment ponds. In this regard any removal of water from these ponds should be strictly prohibited. A Kiewit company in California was fined 5 million dollars for pumping contaminated water from sediment ponds into the San Joaquin River. The blast noise assessment on wildlife is not adequate or realistic. A comparison of confined Zoo animals conditioned to a noisy unnatural setting to wildlife in the project area would be a joke if it were not such a serious matter. From this information it is clear there will be a significant amount of blast residue which cannot be restrained from entering the groundwater or steam flows. The cumulative effects of ammonia nitrate and other toxins cannot be mitigated. This being the case the risk to the watershed and Skagit River is too great and this permit should be denied.

Keller j.d. Explosive residue origin and distribution Forensic Science Communications Vol. 4 No 2 (2002) Bailey B.L., Smith L.s., Rtacek C.J., Smith L., Segó D.C. (2013) Diavic Waste Rock Project Applied Chemistry 36, 256-270

From Host Address: 72.168.144.206

Date and time received: 5/10/2019 11:48:44 AM

**From:** [website](#)  
**To:** [Planning & Development Services](#)  
**Subject:** PDS Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 11:50:01 AM

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Name : Heidi Zeretzke

PermitProposal : . PL19-0032, PL19-0033, PL19-0046 and BP 19-0070

Comments : I'm writing in opposition to the proposed mining operation of Big Bear Mountain by the Kiewit mining corporation.

I am a life long resident of Skagit County. I have seen many changes to this valley over my life time. This proposal (along with the long ago proposal of a nuclear plant) is one of the most ill conceived and short sighted proposals that would affect our valley for generations to come. Giving a corporation the rights to haul away our resources for 100 years is completely irresponsible and unconscionable. The far reaching effects on future generations and the unforeseen consequences many years down the road are not worth the few jobs that might be available now.

Our valley, and this county are known far and wide for the natural beauty and bountiful opportunities to explore and be part of that natural environment. Eastern Skagit County is the gateway to the North Cascade Mountains and all the beauty there. This mining operation would so clog the roads leading to and from that area as to make it impassable to recreational vehicles. The roads and bridges from I-5 all the way to Marblemount are not constructed to handle massive truck traffic and the weight of the rocks that these trucks haul. I have seen these trucks on the freeway. They are very long and carry usually only 1 rock at a time. With trucks running every 3 minutes, there would be little room on the road for anyone else. During the 3/4 of the year when the North Cascade Highway is open, it is very busy with traffic headed across the pass. The truck congestion would have a definite impact on the tourism that the businesses up valley depend on for their business and lively hood.

The Eagle Festival is a well established winter event and attraction for tourists through the winter months. So even when the pass isn't open there are plenty of tourists that travel up valley to view the eagles. What effect would the mining have on the eagles populations that come to feed annually at the river. And what of the increasingly important task of protecting salmon habitat?

The Skagit River in that part of the county is part of the Wild and Scenic River designation. How can an operation of this size possibly be compatible with the protections that designation is supposed to afford. I am also a river rafter and have spent countless hours rafting the upper stretches of the river. The beauty, peacefulness and wildness of that section of the river is incomparable. The noise and destruction of an entire mountain would reverberate far beyond that actual blast zone.

I have many friends that live up valley in the area of this proposed operations. The noise, truck traffic and and destruction of the environment would have a profound and long lasting impact

on their day to day lives. Not to mention how it would affect the values of their properties should they try to sell and move.

What are the comprehensive environmental impacts of a proposed operation this big? How can you possibly in all good consciousness as representatives of the people of this county vote to advance such a short sighted proposal. I can see nothing but negative impacts for many years and generations to come. Once you have blown up the mountain, you can't put it back. At the very least, a proposal of this magnitude warrants an EIS. There are so many complex and inter related components to consider and far ranging consequences that the citizens of this county deserve nothing less.

From Host Address: 67.183.71.225

Date and time received: 5/12/2019 11:45:34 AM



## United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
North Cascades National Park  
Lake Chelan National Recreation Area  
Ross Lake National Recreation Area  
810 State Route 20  
Sedro-Woolley, Washington 98284-9394

RECEIVED

MAY 10 2019

SKAGIT COUNTY  
PCS

IN REPLY REFER TO:

May 10, 2019

Mr. John Cooper  
Skagit County Planning and Development Services  
1800 Continental Place  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Dear Mr. Cooper,

This letter and enclosure serves as official comment on behalf of North Cascades National Park Service Complex (NOCA).

On March 27, 2019 NOCA submitted public comments in response to Skagit County's notice of filed application by Kiewit Infrastructure Co., LLC mining special use permit (PL19-033), forest practice conversion application (PL19-0047), grading application (BP19-0070), and SEPA application (PL19-0032). The substance of the comment letter noted the need for additional time to review the permit application package with regard to potential impacts to NOCA resources and visitor experiences. Subsequently, Skagit County extended the comment period for the proposal to May 13, 2019. Enclosure (1) provides a detailed set of comments on both potential impacts to park resources and visitor use and inadequacies in the data, analysis, and completeness of the submission package for the proposed project and permits.

Our review of the permit application package leads to the conclusion that a Determination of Significance is warranted under WAC 197-11-330 and that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required for this project. The robust analysis required of an EIS will better determine, analyze, and characterize impacts associated with a project that is proposed to span up to 100 years, which is clearly significant and is likely to result in adverse impacts.

Thank you,

Karen F. Taylor-Goodrich  
Superintendent

Enclosures

(1) Review comments on Kiewit Infrastructure Co., LLC permit application package



## **Introduction**

Wide-ranging fauna often depend on resource use across large, connected landscapes in order to survive and sustain healthy populations. Animals that depend on protected federal lands may therefore be severely affected by human activities such as resource extraction outside these boundaries. Although the quarry expansion area lies approximately five miles outside the North Cascades National Park Service Complex (NOCA) boundary, project activities could have adverse impacts wildlife, which include federal and state listed species.

After review of the project application materials, NOCA scientists have found the Biological Assessment and other analyses to be deficient, misleading, and/or incorrect in describing the scope and depth of impacts to wildlife. Our comments on the proposed projects contain a review of the Biological Assessment prepared for Kiewit by Element Solutions, a summary of our chief concerns, and recommendations for future actions is contained below.

## **Review of Kiewit Biological Assessment – Element Solutions**

3.1 Action area boundary is supposed to be based on limits of the effects of a proposed action, but the only potential effects addressed for the entire project is 1) water quality and 2) potential for elevated noise levels produced by construction equipment. There are many more potential effects that were addressed in other project analyses or not addressed at all in any documents, and should be given full weight (e.g. increased traffic, blasting, vibrations, soil and water contamination).

### 3.2.1. Potential effects on water quality:

1. Chemical contamination (via runoff) from drilling, blasting, and increased traffic (via copper dust from brakes) should be addressed despite the lack of a permanent water body within the action area.
2. In addition to road construction and culvert placement, increased turbidity in the Skagit River would also likely occur via increased weathering throughout the length of the mining project.
3. The determination of no significant effects to dissolved oxygen and turbidity is based on vague wording and is insufficient as the sole reasons for this conclusion. Empirical evidence and reference to studies should be used as a justification.

### 3.2.2. Noise and vibration:

1. This section states that “overall, mining activities associated with the proposed action are not expected to generate subsurface vibrations at levels that would impact aquatic species”, but terrestrial species are completely overlooked. Additionally, sub-lethal effects on salmonid fitness from such vibrations is not addressed, nor is lethal and sub-lethal effects on any other aquatic or amphibian species.
2. The vibration activities would occur approximately 0.5 miles due east of the Skagit River, not 1.3 miles.
3. The authors address in-water noise levels relative to disturbance thresholds for fish, but is this based on the overstated distance of 1.3 miles?
4. The statement that the areas in the vicinity of the action area do not appear to contain suitable habitat for ESA-listed species is false. At least two gray wolves (federal and state-listed endangered) in the newly designated Diobsud Creek Pack heavily utilize this section of the river for a migration corridor and possibly for hunting, as evidenced by radio-telemetry tracks and trail cameras. Fishers (state endangered and federal candidate) have been confirmed as close as 0.5 miles from the quarry site, as evidenced by radio-telemetry. Local residents reported Canada lynx (as distinguished from bobcat) on their



properties. Residents have also reported sightings of nearby nesting Peregrine falcons that would also likely be impacted by increased air-overpressure levels, if not the complete removal of their nesting cliff site.

5. Effects of exposure to increased air-overpressure levels should be addressed with empirical data using measurements that represent the maximum values ( $L_{max}$ ) that may be experienced.
6. In addition to ESA-listed species, state-listed species and those protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection and Migratory Bird Treaty Acts should also be addressed in these analyses.
7. While National Park lands are unlikely to be directly impacted by noise from the operation, employees work and are housed at the Marblemount Ranger Station compound. Additionally, the Wilderness Information Center is a focal point for park visitors traveling to the park on State Route 20. Blasting operations will likely have a direct and indirect impact on employees and visitors alike. In addition, threatened and endangered wildlife within the park do not recognize human conceived boundaries and can travel into, and thus be affected by, the project area. There is a demonstrated need for a more detailed noise analysis in order to identify potential impacts from the proposed quarry expansion. Characterization of the acoustic environment in the project documents is inadequate, with the majority of the measurements only 15 minutes in length. Within the planning materials it is not stated if Jake brakes will be used on the access road and no analysis is done to determine noise impacts beyond the Rockport Cascade Road adjacent to the project site. Sound from the operation may travel a great distance at higher elevations, particularly if Jake brakes are used on the upper haul road.
8. As proposed, all electricity on site will be provided by generators, thereby creating a constant source of noise that may impact wildlife. Details on what equipment and possible sound buffering structures around electrical generation equipment should be provided in the project plans. Seemingly small increases in sound level can have substantial effects, particularly when quantified in terms of loss of listening area (Payne & Webb, 1971; Barber et al., 2010)<sup>1</sup>. Each 3 dB increase in the background sound level will reduce a given listening area by half. Operations at the quarry may result in masking of natural sounds, which interferes with wildlife communication, reproductive and territorial advertisement, and acoustical location of prey or predators (Barber, Crooks, & Fristrup, 2011)<sup>2</sup>.

### 3.2.3 Effects of interrelated and interdependent actions

1. The only proposed action listed is the construction of the access and staging areas, leaving the most detrimental activities (mining: blasting, drilling, crushing, etc.) out of consideration. The effects of these other actions on fish and wildlife must be thoroughly addressed.
2. The proposed action of staging and access development should be replaced by mining activities in order to evaluate the most detrimental effects possible from project actions.

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<sup>1</sup> Payne, R. and Webb, D. 1971. Orientation by means of long range acoustic signaling in baleen whales. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, v. 188 #1.

Barber, J.R., Crooks, K.R. and Fristrup, K.M. 2010. The costs of chronic noise exposure for terrestrial organisms. *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*, v. 25 #3.

<sup>2</sup> Barber, J.R., Burdett, C.L., Reed, S.E., Warner, K.A., Formichella, C., Crooks, K.R., Theobald, D.M. & Fristrup, K.M. 2011. Anthropogenic noise exposure in protected natural areas: estimating the scale of ecological consequences. *Landscape Ecology* v.26 #9.

#### 3.2.4. Proposed action area boundary

1. This section states “the proposed action would not impact migratory corridors or fish access to habitat” but this is not substantiated, and it is only based on construction of staging and access areas, not on the other most detrimental project actions (mining activities). The entire width of the Skagit floodplain is a valuable migration corridor. Habitat loss within the action area and effects from mining activities beyond would undoubtedly have severe negative impacts on the migration of all species (listed and non-listed) that use the floodplain for this purpose.
2. The action area boundary should be established based on mining activities to all areas exposed to levels above baseline levels (which also includes those measured outside of the current but sporadic extraction activities). Significant impacts to listed and non-listed species from mining activities could reach to the other side of the valley and possibly beyond. In order to evaluate the true extent of the action area boundary, systematic acoustic and seismic testing should be conducted up to distances where effects from mining activities do not exceed existing ambient levels.
3. There is no adequate range provided on the assumed number of round-trips per day for haul traffic as anticipated operations increase over the life of the quarry.

#### 3.3 Conservation measures and BMPs

1. The statement “... no ESA-listed species or critical habitats are present in the area” is false. Comment 4 in our response to Section 3.2.2 also applies here.
2. Night work is discussed, as are the construction of several shed and storage units. No mention of outdoor lighting is included but it seems likely it will be installed. In order to avoid glare caused by unnecessary uplight (the percent of lamp lumens or the luminaire lumens distributed above a luminaire between 90 and 180 degrees vertical), the park would request a lighting plan be submitted so it may be evaluated for potential impacts.
3. Light pollution is detrimental to bats’ feeding, nocturnal bird hunting and bird migrations. The proposed hours of operation guarantee several hours of presumably large spot lights or stadium type lighting, depending on the season. Marbled Murrelets are crepuscular and those in the vicinity of the quarry would likely be impacted.
4. “*Plant an area between the development and the Critical Areas with native vegetation intended to create a barrier to noise...*” Vegetation does not create a barrier to noise.
5. “*All construction equipment would be regularly inspected and cleaned to prevent the transfer of pollutants to waterbodies ...*” The BA does not indicate a designated location for vehicle cleaning or procedures to ensure that pollutants are contained and prevented from reaching waterbodies.
- 6.

#### 4. Status of species and critical habitat

1. The parcel used to generate the WDFW priority habitat and species report (Appendix C) is P45552 and is not listed in the BA or any other application documents as a property on which project activities will occur. This is misleading, and it is essential that all correct parcels (P45543, P128574, P45550, P45548, P45541, and P120304) where project actions will occur are used to generate USFWS and WDFW Priority Species Reports for identifying impacts to protected and sensitive species.
2. The action area boundary should not only include all parcels where project activities occur but also consider impacts to all state and federal listed species that are known to occur in surrounding areas affected by activities. These affected areas should be identified using field-tested acoustic and seismic data.
3. The USFWS and WDFW species reports are not up to date with recent sightings by state and federal biologists and by local residents. Gray wolves are given consideration but the

lack of designated critical habitat within the action area does not reflect long-standing knowledge of wolf use in the immediate area or recent confirmation of the pack. Fishers were not identified as a listed species in the USFWS and WDFW reports, and this is also incorrect and outdated. At least seven of the known 26 individuals in the North Cascades have been documented within five miles of the action area, and the full width of the Skagit floodplain in and around Marblemount appears to be a key movement corridor. Full consideration of project impacts should be given to any other listed species that may occur within the affected area surrounding the project site. Project planners should seek further consultation regarding the refinement of this species list from area biologists (NPS, WDFW, USFS, USFWS, Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, Seattle City Light) and local landowners. Listed wildlife and birds protected under other regulations (MBTA, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act) that were not considered in the impact assessment but have been documented or are likely present within and/or near the currently designated action area are listed below.

- a) Birds: All migratory bird species, including those of special state or federal status, such as Northern goshawk, Bald eagle, Peregrine falcon, Black swift, Vaux's swift, and Pileated woodpecker
  - b) Mammals: Fisher, Cascade red fox, Canada lynx, Pacific marten, Wolverine, Elk, Mountain goat, Columbian black-tailed deer, Townsend's big eared bat, Keen's myotis.
  - c) Fishes: Chinook salmon, Coho salmon, Chum salmon, Steelhead trout
  - d) Amphibians: Oregon spotted frog, Western toad
4. Spotted owl and Marbled murrelet critical habitat is located all around the quarry site as little as 2 miles away, where the birds may be impacted by increased noise or vibrations that would reduce the success of sound-dependent hunting (Spotted owls), nesting (both species), flights to nearshore forage areas (Marbled murrelet), and other essential aspects of life history.
  5. The BA needs to include cumulative effects analysis for all species potentially impacted by the activities associated with the proposed quarry operations; this includes species that were omitted from the BA as noted in other comments.

#### 5.1 Habitat conditions in action area

1. Only one field investigation was completed on November 29, 2018 to evaluate environmental baseline conditions and presence of listed species that may be impacted by the project. This is insufficient to draw conclusions regarding short- and long-term impacts to wildlife.
2. It is not stated here that Hamer employees were also surveying for evidence of nesting and roosting of other bird species, amphibian egg masses, or signs of listed mammals, so the statements that these elements were not observed are unsubstantiated even more. We can easily question whether the employees were asked post hoc if they happened to observe these things while conducting habitat assessments for Marbled murrelet and Northern spotted owl. In future baseline surveys, objectives, effort and methods should be reported.
3. Impacted habitat surrounding the currently designated action area should be determined based on field-tested data. Thorough, systematic habitat investigations should occur for all protected species in the affected zones.
4. Habitat investigations should encompass seasonal changes in wildlife abundance within the affected area. The survey completed in November would overlook use by many species that rely on this reach of the Skagit floodplain for breeding, feeding, and migration.

## 6.2 Potential effects on ESA species

### 6.2.1. Direct effects

1. As described previously, priority species are known to occur in and around the quarry site, and therefore adverse direct effects should be anticipated; most notably noise, vibrations, increased traffic, habitat loss, and chemical runoff.
2. This section states that “it is unlikely that these species [listed mammals] inhabit vicinity forests” in order to justify the effects of increased sustained noise due to blasting and equipment operation. This is incorrect, as shown in above statements. Anywhere affected by the project’s noise and vibration would reduce abundance of sensitive wildlife and negatively affect survival and reproduction, not just those that occur in the action area.
3. There is no scientific basis to state that federally-listed carnivores and Northern spotted owl do not hunt in within the action area.
4. Even though no open water is located near the defined rock blasting areas, runoff from the site that may contain chemicals used in blasting and drilling may have a measurable effect on water and soil quality of the river and adjacent riparian area. Please take runoff contamination into account as a potential effect.
5. A study by the RAI author (Hall et al. 1998) was referenced and used to conclude that noise and vibrations would not have an impact. Citing only one study based on habituated zoo animals is insufficient. Care should be taken to thoroughly review more recent literature in order to ensure the true extent of project impacts will not harm protected species. Many studies have since been published that show evidence for the aversive effects of mining and industrial noise on wildlife.<sup>3,4,5,6,7</sup> While the most relevant and contemporary scientific studies should inform planning of this and other resource extraction activities, evidence from any subset of studies should not be the sole justification for project approvals. Scientific literature would ideally supplement a body of overwhelming evidence that is mostly based on field-tested results specific to the project and its environment. Any lesser justifications should not be used to approve potentially harmful activities.
6. The proposed sound barrier on the North side of the site comprises only a small fraction of the total perimeter of the project area and would likely be ineffective, especially for habitat on the east side of the quarry. At 12’ to 20’, it would be ineffective at mitigating noise/vibration impacts for animals present at higher elevations in all directions.

### 6.2.2. Indirect effects

1. Comments listed under direct effects may be considered applicable to indirect effects and should be addressed as such in the BA.

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<sup>3</sup> Francis, C. D., J. Paritsis, C.P Ortega, and A. Cruz. 2011. Landscape patterns of avian habitat use and nest success are affected by chronic gas well compressor noise. *Landscape Ecology* DOI 10.1007/s10980-011-9609-z.

<sup>4</sup> L. A. Venier, I. D. Thompson, R. Fleming, J. Malcolm, I. Aubin, J. A. Trofymow, D. Langor, R. Sturrock, C. Patry, R. O. Outerbridge, S. B. Holmes, S. Haeussler, L. De Grandpré, H. Y. H. Chen, E. Bayne, A. Arsenault, and J.P. Brandt. 2014. Effects of natural resource development on the terrestrial biodiversity of Canadian boreal forests. *Environ. Rev.* 22: 457-490.

<sup>5</sup> Barber, J. R., K. R. Crooks, and K. M. Fristrup. 2010. The costs of chronic noise exposure for terrestrial organisms. *Trends Ecol. Evol.* 25: 180-189.

<sup>6</sup> Bickley, J. L., K. R. Word, A. H. Krakauer, J. L. Phillips, S. N. Sells, C. C. Taff, J. C. Wingfield, and G. L. Patricelli. 2012. Experimental chronic noise is related to elevated fecal corticosteroid metabolites in lekking male greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*). *PLoS ONE* 7, e50462.

<sup>7</sup> Schaub, A., J. Ostwald, and B. M. Siemers. 2008. Foraging bats avoid noise. *J. Exp. Biol.* 211, 3174-3180.



### 6.2.3. Interrelated and independent effects

1. Even though increased traffic would occur on permitted roadways and actions would otherwise meet the purpose and needs of the project, there would be impacts to wildlife communities. There is no justification that soundly and reasonably describes how these impacts (i.e. higher probability of vehicular-wildlife collisions, increased noise and vibrations from constant traffic) are not significant.

### 6.3 Effects to listed species

1. As mentioned previously, it is important to consider effects to other protected species not listed here. In particular, we have significant concern for fishers that were released to the North Cascades throughout winter 2018/2019 in an interagency effort to restore extirpated populations to Washington state. Monitoring efforts are currently underway and have confirmed the use of habitat within five miles of the project site by at least seven of these fishers, three of which were found at locations less than two miles from the Project site. More animals will be released through next year and will subsequently face challenges of surviving in a new environment and establishing a viable population. The floodplain in the immediate vicinity of the project area is a nexus for fishers and other wildlife moving through core habitat on either side of the Marblemount area. In addition, there is an abundance of suitable hunting and denning habitat surrounding the quarry that would most likely be affected by noise, vibrations, and chemical contamination.

#### 6.3.1. Marbled murrelet

- Consideration must be given to suitable nesting habitat outside the action area that would be affected by project activities. These birds have been known to nest in the Cascade River drainage and critical habitat is located all around the quarry area as little as 3 miles away. Project operations, namely noise, vibrations, and dust have the potential to severely impact nesting and travel to nearshore forage areas. Nesting success and overall fitness could be significantly reduced.

#### 6.3.2. Northern spotted owl

1. Designated critical habitat is located in all directions surrounding the action area. There is a large band of critical habitat stretching across the slopes of Helen Buttes that directly faces the quarry site and is as close as two miles from the action area. Other critical habitat is located throughout the Cascade River and Illabot Creek drainages approximately four miles away. The primary concern is noise and vibration. Hunting is highly dependent on their ability to hear prey movements, which could be masked by sounds generated by project operations.

#### 6.3.4. Wolverine

1. Wolverine numbers appear to be increasing throughout the Cascades, and they were recently documented in the Skagit River system in habitat ranging from river floodplain to highlands near the quarry site. The observation of a wolverine on Sauk Mountain was made approximately 6 miles away. Very little is known about their movement patterns in the region, but they are expected to use high elevation habitat surrounding the quarry site at all times of the year. Like all wildlife species, wolverines in the vicinity of blasting and other operations would experience increased stress and the many associated physiological and behavioral impairments.

#### 6.3.5. Gray wolf

1. In 2016, WDFW fitted a wolf with a radio collar and it has been documented routinely using this particular stretch of the Skagit floodplain as a movement corridor

and hunting area. In late 2018, WDFW found this wolf traveling with another individual and subsequently designated the two as the Diobsud Creek Pack. Since then, camera footage has confirmed that the other wolf is a female. Their territory encompasses a large amount of the Upper Skagit River and is shared by the National Park and the quarry action area, and it appears that the Skagit floodplain is a key movement corridor and hunting area. FWS and WDFW is the owner of radio-telemetry data, which may indicate more detailed use of the project area even though the wolves were not observed there during the survey. Increased traffic, vibrations, and noise could degrade the suitability of surrounding floodplain wolf habitat. Floodplains are valuable landscape features for wide-ranging carnivores, especially within more impenetrable mountainous landscapes. At this constricted location within the floodplain, project activities would hinder movement, affect distribution and abundance of prey items, and possibly reduce the breeding success of this pair and long-term viability of the newly established pack.

#### 6.3.6. Grizzly bear

1. As generalists, grizzly bears could feed on many animals and plants that are present in and around the proposed project area<sup>8</sup>. The long-term mine operations could be detrimental to the founding individuals and future generations by restricting use of the Skagit floodplain as well as nearby drainages and high elevation habitat. This section of the BA states that there would be no adequate hunting habitat in or around the action area, but this is not substantiated. Increased traffic, noise, vibrations, and other anthropogenic effects could affect feeding and movement to key areas of the recovery zone beyond current levels.
2. Grizzly bears use salmon when it is available. There would be some possibility they could use spawning channels to clean up carcasses, or even to fish. However, we would not expect them to be reliant on any of the local fish runs, nor to make much use of them given the proximity of human activity (roads immediately adjacent many of the rivers). Instead we would expect them to rely on insects, fruits and vegetation, with carcasses when available and other mammals when the opportunity arises. A grizzly bear's home range would not be confined to the project area, but the project area – being middle-aged burn with rotting logs and snags – could be a part of a home range.

#### 8.1. Listed species assessment conclusions

1. These determinations have been made using out of date and cursory information with minimal to no consideration for the range of species that would be affected by project operations. Justifications for the determinations of “may affect, not likely to affect” and “no jeopardy” are not sufficiently provided.
2. The migratory bird list generated in IPaC should have been disclosed in Table 1 (list of species potentially present in action area) and given meaningful consideration. To go only as far as claiming that nesting and roosting would not occur in the action area (without further scientific reasoning) is unsupported. The list of 8 migratory birds generated in IPaC represents only a fraction of those that use this area, and they specify so on their website. Performing this area search using the Avian Knowledge Network produced a list of 164 migratory bird species.

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<sup>8</sup> Ransom J. I., M. Krosby, and A. L. Lyons. 2018. Climate change implications for grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos*) in the North Cascades Ecosystem. Natural Resource Report. NPS/NOCA/NRR—2018/1814. National Park Service. Fort Collins, Colorado





**From:** [SuJ'n Chon](#)  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Proposed Quarry in Marblemount, WA (PL19-0032 and PL19-0033, PL19-0046, and BP 19-0070)  
**Date:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 7:44:49 PM

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Re: Proposed Quarry in Marblemount, WA (PL19-0032 and PL19-0033, PL19-0046, and BP 19-0070)

To Whom it may Concern:

I oppose the proposed quarry development in Marblemount, WA. The full environmental impacts are not known but almost definitely be *significantly* more harmful and long-lasting than what is suggested in the proposal by Kiewit Infrastructure. Findings from a comprehensive study should be the minimum threshold for further consideration.

There are many reasons to oppose this proposal. Many that you have already heard, and I will just focus on one: Marblemount's economic vitality.

Marblemount and the surrounding upper Skagit communities heavily depend on tourism. Marblemount is the gateway community to the North Cascades National Park; hundreds of thousands of visitors pass through Marblemount to their way to experience the majestic beauty of the North Cascades. Many stop for a night or two; many more stop for parts of the day. They spend money at the cafes, gas stations, overnight cabins, the winery. They take photos of the area, and share them with their loved ones. They entice others to visit. Without the assets that draw people to our small community, we risk deteriorating the residents' livelihoods.

Please do not move forward with approving the quarry proposal. Please help us preserve the precious lands that have been cared for by its residents and lovers since time immemorial.

