

OPEN LETTER TO THE METHOW VALLEY COMMUNITY

Regarding Public Comments on the Lloyd Logging Permit

Dear Methow Valley Neighbors,

For over three decades, Cascade Concrete has taken pride in being a responsible and respectful member of this vibrant community. We recognize that the Methow Valley is experiencing unprecedented growth, and with that growth comes complex challenges. Navigating these challenges thoughtfully and collaboratively is essential to preserving the character and sustainability of our home.

One area where these complexities are especially visible is in the ongoing permit process for the Lloyd Logging Gravel Pit. While this permit is not held by Cascade Concrete, it is closely tied to our operations due to our reliance on the rock sourced from that site. Cascade Concrete understands there are concerns — and we're committed to addressing them transparently.

First, it's important to clarify a few key facts:

- **The Stop Work Order issued in May 2024** applies to specific aspects of the Lloyd Pit, but not to Cascade Concrete's independently permitted crusher, which has continued operations uninterrupted.
- **The temporary increase in truck traffic** (up to 23 trucks per day since May 2024) is the result of being obliged to haul material from other locations to the crusher. Allowing operations to continue at the Lloyd pit under the new Conditional Use Permit (CUP) would eliminate this problem.
- **Denying the Lloyd Logging CUP will force Cascade Concrete to source rock from outside the Methow Valley.** This will result in increased carbon emissions, higher transportation costs, road wear, and rising costs for essential materials — all of which will impact housing affordability, jobs, and local development.

We have carefully reviewed every public comment submitted through the SEPA process. Many of the concerns raised are understandable, though some appear to be based on misinformation.

To Clarify:

Concern: *Operations will run from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.*

Fact: Cascade Concrete's operating hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We have never operated beyond those hours and have no intention to do so.

Concern: *Expanding the permit area will result in increased noise pollution.*

Fact: Noise levels are dictated by crusher activity, not site size. Our crusher operates within Mine and Safety Health Administration noise limits, as verified by regular testing, and will continue to do so.

The increased acreage requested in the CUP will result in significant noise reduction as the operations continue to move further from the roadway.

Concern: *A larger permitted pit means increased truck traffic.*

Fact: Truck traffic is determined by market demand not permit size. Operations won't expand simply because more land is permitted.

Concern: *Other nearby pits are more suitable.*

Fact: The "other nearby pits" are both located along highway 20. One is two miles from the Lloyd pit and is not permitted for crushing so additional hauling will be necessary. The second alternative pit is located less than a ½ mile from the Lloyd pit. Because the locations are so close to the Lloyd pit, there will be no net change in noise or other public concerns. Neither pit has long-term viability. The only long term resource is the Lloyd pit.

Concern: *The mining operations should be relocat-*

ed outside of the highway corridor.

Fact: Moving operations outside the Valley would increase diesel use by 50–65 gallons per truck per day, increase carbon emissions, and place a heavier burden on rural infrastructure. Responsible local sourcing helps us maintain a smaller environmental footprint.

Concern: The site's well is illegal.

Fact: The well is legally permitted. Furthermore, the water is also used only for dust suppression. There is no water used for processing on-site. All washing occurs at a separate, fully permitted facility.

At Cascade Concrete, our mission is not just about delivering materials — it's about contributing to the responsible and sustainable maintenance and growth of the Methow Valley. We remain committed to transparency, accountability, and listening to community concerns. This is our home too, and we are fully invested in protecting its future.

We appreciate the engagement of those who've taken time to participate in this process and hope this letter helps provide clarity and reassurance.

With respect and appreciation,

Cascade Concrete

54 Horizon Flat Rd, Winthrop

509-996-2435

cascadeconcrete.com

