

DEAR EDITOR AND FELLOW METHOW VALLEY RESIDENTS,

Recent articles about the Lloyd Logging gravel pit application miss critical context. As the Operator, I want to share the facts about why this matters to our entire community.

The Reality of Our Situation: Cascade Concrete has served this valley since 1979, we have operated in this stretch of highway alone (Goudy, Reward, and the Lloyd Pit) for nearly 30 years without complaint. We don't want to create a new access road. The undisturbed landscape at mile marker 190.9 should remain pristine. However, current property owners refuse to grant or sell easement rights for the existing road at mile 191.2, despite Lloyd Logging's good faith efforts to purchase it at fair market value.

This isn't about corporate greed; it's about maintaining essential services our community depends on while minimizing environmental impact. However, Lloyd Logging has the legal right to create a new access road into its property without additional permits.

Setting the Record Straight: Recent discussions contain misconceptions that deserve clarification:

Mazama Advisory Committee Overreach: An MDNS was issued on December 26, 2025. While MAC's role is evaluating zoning compliance, they exceeded their authority by offering opinions and falsely claiming Lloyd Logging "agreed to embed conditions" into the CUP.

Operations Reality Check:

- **Scale:** Many community members have expressed concern over the increased acreage included in the current permit application. Yes, the permit covers 51.84 acres, but actual mining will occur in just 5-to-10-acre sections, the same footprint as today. Larger sections are financially impossible due to bonding requirements. These same bonding requirements require reclamation.
- **Hours:** We operate from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., not the 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. emergency hours allowed by county code (used only twice in 40 years).
- **Environment:** We use zero toxic chemicals. We use well water and approved dust control products. We have installed quieter backup alarms across our entire fleet. Our well water use will not increase because our mining size does not increase. The mule deer are habituated to our site and are frequently observed on the property *during* operations. They sleep in the shade under the equipment during hot weather.
- **Traffic:** The temporary increase to 23 trucks daily resulted from hauling materials from neighboring locations due to mining stoppage. The CUP would reduce truck traffic by enabling local sourcing again.

What's Really at Stake: For 45 years, Cascade Concrete has literally built the foundation of our community. Right now, we're helping repair Highway 20 flood damage, building Methow Trails projects, Forest Service infrastructure, municipal projects throughout the valley, the new Jamie's Place elder care facility, and countless homes and businesses.

Every driveway you drive on, every sidewalk you walk, every foundation supporting local businesses: we helped build. This isn't just our livelihood; it's the infrastructure that makes life in the Methow Valley possible.

The Hidden Costs of Denial: Rejecting this permit won't eliminate gravel operations; it will make them dramatically worse:

Environmental Impact: 50 to 65 additional gallons of diesel per truck, massive carbon emission increases, severe wear on rural highways

Economic Impact: Substantially higher material costs when we desperately need affordable housing

Community Impact: Lost local jobs and millions in economic activity leaving our valley

Local sourcing isn't just smart business; it's environmental stewardship.

Our Pledge to You: Cascade Concrete isn't some outside corporation. We are your neighbors who have raised families here and invested everything in this community for nearly half a century.

We commit to:

- Community-friendly 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. operations
- Responsible mining in small sections with reclamation
- Environmental protection exceeding legal requirements
- Keeping essential materials locally sourced and affordable

A Personal Appeal: The county's environmental review found no significant impact with proper safeguards. We're committed to exceeding those standards because this is our home too.

We employ your neighbors, support local families, and provide services that keep our community thriving. We don't want to disturb pristine land any more than you do.

The renderings below show (1) what exists today; (2) what will happen without the easement; and (3) what we can do if the CUP is issued and the easement issue is resolved. Our goal, as the operator, is to work toward number 3.

This permit represents responsible stewardship of resources we all depend on preserving jobs, keeping materials affordable, protecting our environment through local sourcing, and ensuring sustainable growth.

Help us continue being the community partner we've been for 45 plus years and the partner you'll need for the next 45.

Our valley's foundation, literally and figuratively, depends on it

Respectfully yours,

NOTE: Please revise the captions on the 3 renderings as follows:

- (1) What exists today;**
- (2) What will happen without the easement;**
- (3) What we can do if the CUP is issued and easement is resolved**