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01 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
02 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
03 CALIFORNIA DESERT DISTRICT, RIDGECREST FIELD OFFICE

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11 MEETING DATE: JULY 30, 2002

12 MEETING TIME: 3:10 P.M.

13 MEETING PLACE: DOUBLETREE HOTEL

14 BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

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20 Transcribed by: Jill Inman-Ferguson

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APPEARANCES

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03 Meeting Facilitator: John C. Jostes, AICP
04 30 West Mission Street
05 Suite 4
06 Santa Barbara, California
07 93101

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10 General Public Speakers: Jon Aichele

11 Andrew Simkins

12 Mike Kunz

13 Ken Lollich

14 Dawnett Brewster

15 Rod Brown

16 Geroldine Stewart

17 Brian Lollich

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BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA;
TUESDAY, JULY 30, 2002; 3:10 P.M.;
DOUBLETREE HOTEL

05 MR. JOSTES: We should probably get things
06 started here.

07 My name is John Jostes. I'm an independent
08 contractor who's been retained by the Bureau of Land
09 Management to facilitate a series of scoping meetings
10 on Surprise Canyon access alternatives.

11 I'm glad to see you all here today, and for
12 the folks who are just coming in, feel free to come up
13 to the front.

14 While this is a formal process of providing
15 comments on focus and the alternatives to be considered
16 in the Environmental Impact Statement, I'd like to run
17 this in a fairly informal way just because we have a
18 much smaller number of people here this afternoon than
19 we had yesterday afternoon at Ridgecrest, or last night
20 in Ridgecrest, as well.

21 Before I get started, I'd like to give you
22 a little overview of why we're here, how I can help you
23 to be productive in the time we spend either listening
24 or speaking.

25 We have a court reporter here today to take
0004 down, verbatim, folks' comments about the issues of
01 focus and the alternatives to be talked about this
02 afternoon in the EIS.

03 I'll probably be taking some flip-chart
04 notes, as well, just to make sure I get things down
05 because I'll be developing a scoping that will be
06 published after our series of meetings here.

07 This is one of a series of meetings we're
08 having. As I said, we had two meetings yesterday in
09 Ridgecrest. We have two meetings today here in
10 Bakersfield. Tomorrow we move to Lone Pine for an
11 afternoon meeting and an evening meeting. Then we
12 follow up next Monday with a meeting in Pasadena, both
13 an afternoon and an evening meeting, and then Tuesday
14 in San Diego.

15 The overall goal of this meeting is to
16 solicit comments on what will be used to develop an
17 EIS that's responsive to your concerns about what are
18 the environmental issues of focus, what are the
19 questions that you think should be answered, and what
20 are the alternatives that should be reviewed as a part
21 of this whole environmental review process.

22 This is not a meeting where decisions are
23 going to be made. It's simply a meeting to provide an
24 opportunity for listening and input.

25
0005 Following this series of meetings, the BLM
01 will prepare a draft Environmental Impact Statement
02 which they will release for public review and comment.

03 There will then be one or more
04 opportunities for the public to comment on the
05 completeness, the accuracy of that environmental
06 document. Then the BLM will take the public and agency
07 comments they receive and turn that draft into a final
08 document and chose a preferred alternative.
09

10 The third opportunity for comment will be
11 one in which, after they have chosen a preferred
12 alternative, there will be a 30-day period for protests
13 to be filed, for concerns to be raised as far as their
14 preferred course of action.

15 That's the overview of the public
16 participation process for the environmental review of
17 Surprise Canyon and the access alternatives.

18 The EIS that is going to be prepared has
19 been, we call it, "scoped" to focus on 10 different
20 clusters of environmental issues. And I've listed
21 them up here on a -- on a flip-chart note.

22 But just to summarize, the first one is
23 natural resources. We're going to look at cultural
24 resources, geology and soils, water quality, and water
25 quantity, air quality and noise, land use and
0006 transportation, recreation, aesthetics and visual
01 impacts, social and economic impacts, the wild and
02 scenic river issues.

03 If you think there are other issues that
04 need to be addressed, we want to hear from you as to
05 what those are and why.

06 The alternatives that are required to be
07 addressed in the EIS is really a full range of
08 possibilities from no action, keeping the status
09 quo -- and in this case that means that temporary
10 access for vehicles until June 30th of 2004, which was
11 the date that was specified in a settlement agreement
12 between the Bureau of Land Management and some
13 litigants.

14 I believe it's the Southwest Center for
15 Biodiversity who brought a court -- a lawsuit against
16 BLM, and they've settled. This process is the result
17 of that settlement.

18 In addition to that no-action alternative,
19 the EIS will also look at designating an open-vehicle
20 route, a limited route, and possible reconstruction of
21 a roadway.

22 If there are -- again, if there are other
23 alternatives that you think should be addressed, we
24 want to hear about those today.

25 You've been provided with a couple of
0007 01 pieces of paper. Hopefully you've all gotten the
02 information sheet that was out in the front hallway
03 there as well as an Agenda and a Public Comment Form.

04 And this comment form is for either
05 providing your written comments this afternoon or
06 taking it home with you and making a written comment,
07 if you like, and getting those back to the BLM by
08 mailing it back in. And there's an address on the back
09 if you'd like to mail it in.

10 The deadline for comment, as far as this
11 scoping period goes, goes until August 30th, I believe
12 it is. And at that point they'll close the scoping
13 part of it and get on with their due diligence in terms
14

15 of identifying environmental impacts, mitigating those
16 impacts, and assessing the full range of alternatives.

17 So we're looking for comments in writing
18 or, today, in person.

19 I typically run meetings. This is what I
20 do for a living. I typically run meetings with a set
21 of ground rules or boundaries for how we interact.
22 Those ground rules are intended to make sure that
23 everybody treats each other as human beings,
24 participates in a civil and productive way. And
25 basically, I'm here to help you to productively

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01 interact.

02 You probably don't know that, but when
03 passions run high, it's important to focus on the
04 problem as opposed to the people.

05 So I'm asking you to -- if you've got some
06 strong feelings -- and I believe you're all very
07 passionate, or you wouldn't be here today -- to be
08 disciplined, as well.

09 And so we'd like to hear what types of
10 issues need to be addressed and why. If you've got
11 questions, I'm going to take those down, as well.

12 Am I going too fast?

13 MS. INMAN-FERGUSON: No.

14 MR. JOSTES: Okay. Good.

15 If you can share information you have about
16 Surprise Canyon, that would probably add to a more
17 complete document; so if you have insights that you
18 think are valuable for the BLM to understand, this will
19 be a good time to do it.

20 I've got a -- I had originally
21 suggested limiting our comments to no more than three
22 minutes, but because we have a small and intimate group
23 today, I'm going to really leave that up to you to take
24 the time you need, but at the same time be focused.

25 We've got speaker slips here, and because

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01 this is going to be written down, I'd appreciate it if
02 you can hand those in, and I'll walk around and pick up
03 any who want to speak.

04 And our court reporter here may need to ask
05 you to spell your name; or if you've got, particularly,
06 difficult acronyms that she may not be used to, to let
07 her know what that is; so she'll -- she'll interrupt me
08 or you, depending on what she needs, as far as to get
09 them down straight.

10 If I write something up on the board here
11 that's not quite what you said, I'd appreciate hearing
12 from you about that because my role is to try to get it
13 right the first time, but I may not.

14 So feel free to say, "Wait a minute, John.
15 You did not get it quite right there. This is what I
16 really meant to say, and you didn't hear it quite
17 right."

18 So with that -- do you have any -- is it
19 Jill?

20 MS. INMAN-FERGUSON: Jill.
21 MR. JOSTES: Do you have any other comments
22 you'd like to make?
23 MS. INMAN-FERGUSON: Just speak slowly, and
24 that's all.
25 MR. JOSTES: Great.
0010
01 Does anybody like to be the lead-off
02 speaker? Don't be bashful. Anybody?
03 If we don't have anybody to talk, we won't
04 have a meeting.
05 Are some of you coming back this evening,
06 or is this your only opportunity?
07 Great. Come on up.
08 MR. JON AICHELE: Well, I'm not much of a
09 public speaker, and I don't have a whole lot to say.
10 MR. JOSTES: Jon, if you could state your
11 name for the record.
12 MR. JON AICHELE: J-o-n, first name. Last
13 name, A-i-c-h-e-l-e.
14 I was probably -- I was among the first
15 group to go up Surprise Canyon with a vehicle after the
16 original washout that closed it, and looking at the
17 terrain that was there at that time, there's places
18 that the canyon washed down this far below, where
19 we were driving before, by five to six feet in places.
20 The water has moved that much soil.
21 We blew up some pictures if anybody's
22 interested in looking at them. A couple years after we
23 went up -- I don't have the pictures of the first trip,
24 but the water that moves through that canyon does a
25 whole lot more damage than what we do in a vehicle.
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01 MR. JOSTES: Okay. Any other things you
02 think we need to know about?
03 MR. JON AICHELE: Like I said, just like
04 to see it stay open. That's about all I got.
05 MR. JOSTES: Okay. Okay.
06 Okay. Who would like to speak next?
07 Thank you.
08 MR. ANDREW SIMKINS: Well, I'm at the
09 opposite end from Jon. I was one of the last people to
10 go up there before it was closed, and I have a -- sort
11 of a question, which I don't expect to get answered
12 today.
13 But I would like to know -- something
14 that's bothered me for a while and that is that after
15 seeing the damage done by the flash flood -- and I
16 should mention I hiked up the canyon again last
17 Panamint Valley Days after the September flash flood,
18 and that was about eight months, seven months after I
19 drove up earlier in the year, and as far as I can see,
20 it was a complete different place. It was
21 unrecognizable.
22 So much damage had been done by the water
23 in the September of the last year flash flood that I
24 cannot possibly see how any vehicle going up there

25 could do more damage than nature's done already.

0012

01 And my question is concerning some weed,
02 the name of which, I forget, in which the
03 environmentalists say is endangered and which why --
04 one of the reasons they want it closed. How can a
05 vehicle do more damage to that weed that nature hasn't
06 already done to it? The habitat is completely
07 destroyed; there's nothing left. There's just mud and
08 gravel and rocks.

09 That's what I have to say.

10 Thanks.

11 MR. JOSTES: Thank you, Andrew.

12 Anybody else like to speak?

13 Great. Please state your name.

14 MR. MIKE KUNZ: Mike Kunz.

15 Okay. I have a little -- prepared notes.

16 I'm a disabled veteran. And I spent 25 years
17 protecting the --

18 MS. INMAN-FERGUSON: Please slow down just
19 a tiny bit if you're reading.

20 MR. MIKE KUNZ: Okay.

21 I spent 25 years protecting the freedoms we
22 enjoy, including the freedom to enjoy public land
23 without interference. I have, and will continue to
24 have, economic impact in the area around the
25 Surprise Canyon.

0013

01 Closure of Surprise Canyon has meant that
02 I'm locked out of valuable and historical, geological,
03 and aesthetically beautiful lands to which I have
04 devoted my life to preserving.

05 I can no longer hike up to Surprise Canyon.
06 Okay. My Jeep can take me there. If it is closed to
07 public travel, to vehicle travel, I'm denied access to
08 my public lands.

09 The economic impact that I have in that
10 area -- I wrote down some notes, some examples.

11 The Panamint Springs Resort, I've stayed the night.
12 I've eaten at the cafe. I've shopped in their little
13 market, and I probably spend around \$200 there each
14 time I visit.

15 In the city of Trona, I've purchased fuel;
16 food; ice; camping supplies, such as tarps, rope,
17 pegs -- all the things you've forgot; and I've eaten in
18 the restaurants.

19 We've even tried to buy a tire there one
20 weekend, but we had to go to Ridgecrest because they
21 didn't have the proper size.

22 In Trona I've probably spent 150 to \$200
23 each visit. Trips up Surprise Canyon, themselves, have
24 cost about \$300 each time. That counts fuel, food,
25 special equipment, donations to the kitty for upkeep on

0014

01 the cabin and surrounding area, and the parts used to
02 get there.

03 The equipment that I've used to go up

04 Surprise Canyon shocked me when I added up what I spent
05 on the stuff.

06 Okay. A 1981 Jeep CJ5, \$6,000; 2002
07 Fleetwood Revolution, over \$200,000; a 1987 Mallard RV,
08 which is now retired, \$28,000; and a 1998 trailer --
09 car trailer, \$1900. Both those RVs were specifically
10 modified to support Jeep trips, especially to Surprise
11 Canyon.

12 I bring along tools for repairs to my rig
13 and also to help out with maintenance of areas that I
14 visit. I carry two mesh bags -- one for trash and one
15 for recycles. And I always take out more trash than I
16 haul in.

17 I often find those freeze-dried packages
18 that hikers seem to favor, as well as Budweiser cans.

19 Being an economist, I had calculated the
20 total impact my use of Surprise Canyon has on the area
21 and the economy of my local area.

22 I'm going to try not to bore you guys with
23 a lesson from econ, but there is a thing called a
24 marginal propensity to consume. What this translates
25 into is how much money -- income we get and how much

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01 we spend of that money. In other words, how much do
02 you save of your income on an average? Okay. That is
03 90 percent. You spent 90 percent of what you get.

04 That means that the income -- and, again,
05 I won't bore you with the math -- that means that the
06 income -- the amount that you spend on an item
07 effectively multiplies by 10 -- without going into
08 calculus for you. Okay.

09 So the true economic impact on what I
10 spend, you take that number, and you multiple by 10.

11 If I buy \$30 worth of groceries, that pays
12 for the manager's salary in that grocery store. Okay.
13 He's paying rent, and he pays a power bill. He pays
14 his baby-sitter. The money keeps rolling. That's how
15 it multiplies.

16 This takes into account anything I spend --
17 wages to the gas station attendant, tips to a waitress.
18 And that's money they have to spend on goods and
19 services.

20 Every dollar I spend in Trona, the economy
21 of Trona is increased by 10 times that amount. My
22 purchase of \$60,000 worth of parts to build my Jeep
23 caused \$600,000 of economic activity in the U.S.
24 economy. I'll let you do the math on my new RV.

25 Surprise Canyon is a treasure to be savored

0016

01 by its use. Yearly runoff changes the landscape,
02 wiping all previous traces downstream actively,
03 negating any possible effects other than trash dropped
04 of man's incursion and creating a new and beautiful
05 location for peaceful enjoyment.

06 The flash floods of '84 and 2001 are
07 obvious evidence of that, of how man cannot effect what
08 nature does. Locking it up does no one any good,

09 saving the few elite who probably haven't been their
10 anyway.

11 So what we can do is we can restore this
12 treasure to its rightful use by motorized
13 transportation.

14 Thanks.

15 MR. JOSTES: Thank you.

16 And the next person is Ken Lollich.

17 MR. KEN LOLLICH: Well, approximately four
18 years ago, my wife and I purchased our first Jeep, our
19 only Jeep so far, for the sole purpose of being able to
20 access our public lands. My wife is partially
21 handicapped. She cannot physically get out and walk,
22 hike, bike, or do any other thing but go by motorized
23 vehicle.

24 So for a couple of years, we went into the
25 local back county here and so forth. And then I hooked
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01 up with a Jeep club here locally, got interested in
02 what they do, how they protect the land. So I modified
03 my Jeep, just like the last gentlemen did, to be able
04 to access the really back country.

05 I heard a lot about Surprise Canyon. In
06 our Jeep club, it's -- it's the heart and soul of our
07 club.

08 So at Panamint Valley Days this last year,
09 we got the opportunity to go out to Surprise Canyon and
10 look at the damage that had been done by the flash
11 floods and now the gates that are across it.

12 We hiked up about a mile, looked at it.
13 But that's as far as we could go. I stayed back at my
14 Jeep and just kind of wondered, you know, "How am I
15 going to get my wife up here?" This is public land.
16 There's no way now that I can get her up to Panamint
17 City. I've heard so much about this canyon, and it's
18 impossible for her to enjoy it.

19 So my real interest is why -- why do we
20 have to close it to handicapped people? And that's my
21 question to you.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. JOSTES: Other folks who would like to
24 speak.

25 Good.

0018

01 DAWNETT BREWSTER: My name's Dawnett.

02 And unfortunately I've only had the option
03 to go up to Surprise Canyon twice, and I enjoyed both
04 times very much. It's a beautiful area.

05 I'm also involved with Bakersfield
06 Trailblazers, and unfortunately my rig at that point
07 wasn't up to par, and I couldn't take my own rig.
08 There were other people in the club that were gracious
09 enough to give me a ride up.

10 Knowing my club and having gone up there,
11 I know that we take care of that land and that the
12 people who are in the club have done so much to clean
13 up the area, to maintain and keep up the cabins that's

14 up there.
15 They are not likely to be up there trashing
16 the area and doing things to violate the terrain.
17 They take care of what they have and what they had.
18 I have two small children that I would love
19 to take up there that, unfortunately, because I was
20 with other people, I wasn't allowed at that time.
21 They didn't have room to take my children.
22 And at this point my children will never be
23 able to see what a beautiful thing -- what a beautiful
24 city there is up there, and I would really love to be
25 able to take my children up there someday.

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01 That's all I have.
02 MR. JOSTES: Okay. Thank you.
03 Okay. Any last comments from folks?
04 Good.
05 MR. ROD BROWN: Rod Brown with the
06 Bakersfield Trailblazers.
07 In around 1988 we got a call
08 from Rick Russel and decided to check the maps.
09 He said the Forest Service has asked him to open up
10 Surprise Canyon.
11 We were -- the Bakersfield Trailblazers
12 and Rick Russel -- we were the first ones to go up,
13 that opened the trail up. It took us four trips before
14 we ever made it up to the city, and it's only a mile up
15 there.
16 So in those four trips we'd go up.
17 We'd stack rocks. We'd drive our Jeeps up. We'd make
18 it a quarter of a mile, come back two weeks later, and
19 the floods would wash it all back out again.
20 We were stacking rocks back up. There's
21 no physical way a Jeep could hurt that terrain more
22 than what the floods do every year.
23 We'd go up there four times a year, when it
24 was open. We'd maintain the cabins. We'd work on the
25 cabins. We'd haul windows up there, do plumbing

0020

01 repairs on the cabins.
02 And like Mike was saying, we haul trash in.
03 My daughter grew up in the backseat of my Jeep. We'd
04 go camping, and we'd pay her a nickel to go pick up
05 trash all over the campground.
06 Wherever we'd go, we'd clean up the
07 campgrounds. Where the hikers and the people that go
08 up there -- they can't haul it out. The Jeeps haul it
09 for them.
10 We went up there and hauled trash up the
11 mountains and burned it up there, buried it up there,
12 and -- just to clean the place up. It's our home. I
13 mean, we -- if there's anyplace that I can go and
14 relate to reality, that's the place I like to go.
15 I mean, we go up there. And you could
16 spend five days up there and not see anybody at first.
17 And then as the years went on, you'd see more and more
18 four-wheel drives, more and more hikers, backpackers.

19 We've took food up there to the -- to
20 the -- shit. That -- that kid --
21 (UNIDENTIFIED PERSON) Boy Scouts.
22 MR. ROD BROWN: Boy Scouts. There you go.
23 -- to the Boy Scouts. I mean, we caught
24 them one time up there in a snow storm. They were on
25 their first trip up there. They took dried food and

0021
01 all this stuff so they could camp out there.
02 We had a steak dinner prepared for them. They all --
03 I mean, all little kids had steak dinners, all their
04 parents had steak dinners.

05 I mean, it's the greatest thing in the
06 world to see the kids enjoy something like that.
07 And now it's not going to happen. That's just not
08 right.

09 You got -- they asked us to open it up.
10 We maintain it. We go up there. We clean it up four
11 times a year, and then all of a sudden, somebody says
12 we can't go up there anymore.

13 We hiked up there, like Ken said, last
14 year, and going half way up the trail, the fence they
15 put in is now covered with debris. Looks worse than
16 what it did when the trail was open.

17 The fence is now within six inches of being
18 covered with debris that has washed down off from the
19 mountainside -- trash, stuff that the backpackers --
20 with everything closed for a year now -- that we
21 haven't been able to clean up, maintain.

22 That's our home, guys. You got to open it
23 back up to us.

24 MR. JOSTES: Okay. Last call. Let's see
25 if anybody else wanted to speak.

0022
01 Okay. Well, I'd like to thank you
02 all for coming and offering your comments and
03 questions.
04 As I said at the beginning, we're going
05 to take these. This is probably started from
06 Page 15 or 16 after last night's, and we've got other
07 5 or 6 here; so we expect to have a substantial number
08 of comments that will be put together into a scoping
09 report.

10 Those types of questions and the
11 issues you've raised here, I think, will help the
12 BLM in focusing their document on issues of
13 concern.

14 So, again, thank you very much.

15 Yes, ma'am?

16 MS. GEROLDINE STEWART: Is it possible to
17 ask questions from the floor?

18 MR. JOSTES: I can't answer those
19 questions. I --

20 MS. GEROLDINE STEWART: No. I -- could --
21 I mean questions to the group.

22 MR. JOSTES: I can certainly put them
23 down if there's questions in your mind. I'm not

24 qualified to answer them because I'm mainly
25 responsible --

0023

01 MS. GEROLDINE STEWART: No --
02 MR. JOSTES: -- for me --
03 MS. GEROLDINE STEWART: Right. But I mean,
04 I -- I listen to this one specialized group, and it
05 sounds like -- sounds great, what they're doing.
06 MR. JOSTES: What you need to do is speak
07 to me so the --
08 MS. GEROLDINE STEWART: Okay.
09 Geroldine Stewart.
10 MR. JOSTES: Thank you.
11 MS. GEROLDINE STEWART: I -- what I wonder
12 is: Does this Jeep group want this area to be opened
13 to the public which would -- to unlimited use to
14 motorized vehicles?
15 MR. ROD BROWN: That would be our ultimate
16 goal, yes, is to open up our public land to us, to
17 everybody, yes.
18 MS. GEROLDINE STEWART: That would
19 include --
20 MR. ROD BROWN: -- hikers.
21 MS. GEROLDINE STEWART: -- motorcycles?
22 MR. ROD BROWN: Yes.
23 MS. GEROLDINE STEWART: You don't feel that
24 they would, perhaps, do damage off-road?
25 MR. JOSTES: Okay.

0024

01 Yes. Would you state your name.
02 MR. KEN LOLLIICH: Ken Lollich.
03 The one area that I see as a real problem
04 in the BLM is I worked for the government for a few
05 years, and I know how they function. They're
06 extremely understaffed. They're extremely
07 underbudgeted.
08 The biggest problem we have, it seems to
09 me, in public lands is lack of law enforcement.
10 You get a renegade group, if it's a
11 Jeoper or if it's a biker or a hiker or whatever
12 out there, they make -- they might make their own
13 trail to bring in their own trash. They don't take it
14 out.
15 BLM, Forest Service, whatever, does not
16 have the manpower physically to go out there and arrest
17 these people and fine them or do whatever they need to
18 do.
19 Yes, we would like to see Surprise Canyon
20 open to everybody. But the overall picture is: Is
21 BLM going to be able to police it in such a way as to
22 not destroy it totally?
23 MS. GEROLDINE STEWART: That is my
24 question. I can see permits, limited use, to groups
25 like yours as very legitimate, but I can also see --

0025

01 just turn it open to everybody and there might be no
02 protection at all.

03 MR. KEN LOLLICH: Well, the forests are
04 open to everybody.

05 MS. GEROLDINE STEWART: But the areas --
06 but the areas -- some are trails; some are motorized --
07 campgrounds, there is a degree of regulation which does
08 protect them.

09 MR. ROD BROWN: The problem is there's no
10 enforcement.

11 MS. GEROLDINE STEWART: Right.

12 MR. JOSTES: Okay. I'll call on --

13 MS. DAWNETT BREWSTER: Dawnett.

14 MR. JOSTES: -- Dawnett first and then --
15 Is it Rod? -- after her.

16 MS. DAWNETT BREWSTER: If the area were to
17 be opened up to all the public like we want -- that is
18 our optimal -- that's what we want to happen -- it
19 could not possibly look any worse than what it does
20 right now.

21 In the past when it was open, our group
22 took care of it. They maintained it. They picked up
23 trash, whether or not they left it, whether or not a
24 motorcycle did any damage up there. We took care of
25 it. We pruned the trees so that they would grow back
0026 better the next year. I mean, we did whatever it took
01 to make the land beautiful and to enjoy the land.

02 And so if it's open to the public, that's
03 great. We don't mind picking up after somebody
04 else as long as we can use that land. As long
05 as it's re-opened to us again, we wouldn't mind
06 that.

07 Does that answer your question?

08 MS. GEROLDINE STEWART: Yes.

09 I hear what you're saying. I just have in
10 mind young people and older people on dirt bikes going
11 up and down the sides of the roads, and that can do a
12 great deal of damage to any kind of --

13 MS. DAWNETT BREWSTER: I don't think that
14 any particular area --

15 MR. JOSTES: We're not going to --

16 MS. DAWNETT BREWSTER: -- it could do that
17 type of damage.

18 MR. JOSTES: I'm going to let Rod comment.
19 And then I think we're moving toward such an informal
20 discussion here that it's -- we're not going to be able
21 to capture it from this point.

22 And I encourage that to take place after we
23 conclude the meeting so that you have your questions
24 answered and you get a perspective from the folks who
0027 are here and how they relate.

01 What we're trying to do is kind of keep
02 this thing focused on: What the EIS should cover are
03 the alternatives, I mean, what kind of alternatives.

04 So in that line we're going in a little
05 different direction. I'd like to, you know, encourage
06 you to have that discussion, but I'm not sure it's
07

08 going to feed into the process that we're engaged in
09 right now.

10 Rod, do you have a comment?

11 MR. ROD BROWN: Have you ever been up
12 there?

13 MS. GEROLDINE STEWART: No.

14 MR. ROD BROWN: In order to get -- out of
15 the 20 years I've been going up there, you probably see
16 five motorcycles a year. It is virtual- -- I mean,
17 it's not impossible, obviously. But the biggest
18 motorcycle that ever goes up there is a Honda 50, and
19 it takes about a 195-pound guy to push that thing.
20 I mean, it takes three of them to drag it up the
21 waterfalls. Very, very few motorcycles go up there.
22 I'll bet --

23 Jon, in 20 years I'll bet I haven't seen
24 eight motorcycles up there ever.

25 You see a few bicycles but hardly any
0028 motorcycles.

01 MS. DAWNETT BREWSTER: Once you get up
02 there, you have to --

03 MR. ROD BROWN: They have to drag the
04 motorcycle with a rope and then just pull it up. I
05 mean, it's up there. It's very heavy.

06 MR. JOSTES: What I'd like to do is ask if
07 there's anybody else in the audience who -- who would
08 like to make a comment on the focus of the
09 Environmental Impact Statement as far as any of these
10 issues up here or alternatives that need to be
11 addressed in that document, and if there's no one else
12 who wants to speak, I think I'd like to urge you all to
13 talk more amongst yourselves.

14 But I think we want to bring some closure
15 to, at least, this afternoon session because it's just
16 not quite the format that we can translate into
17 something that we can then go on and provide into the
18 scoping process.

19 Any last calls?

20 Yes, sir.

21 MR. BRYAN LOLLICH: My name's Bryan.
22 You did mention something about, like,
23 repaving the road, you know, and I don't know --

24 MR. JOSTES: Theoretically, that's an
0029 alternative?

01 MR. BRYAN LOLLICH: Yeah. I guess I'll
02 just voice my opinion on it. I don't think that's a
03 good idea just based on past history that --

04 MR. ROD BROWN: They washed that out --

05 MR. BRYAN LOLLICH: -- twice already.

06 MR. JOSTES: For the record, could you
07 state your name and your last name.

08 MR. BRYAN LOLLICH: Bryan Lollich.
09 Bryan, B-r-y-a-n, Lollich, L-o-l-l-i-c-h.

10 That road has washed out twice. I don't
11 think it's an alternative that we should consider.

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Jill Inman-Ferguson