



September 21st 2015

FR: Wild Rivers, Wild Brews Coalition
TO: Jerome E. Perez, Oregon State Director
Bureau of Land Management
Oregon State Office
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208-2965

RE: Comment Regarding 5-Year Mineral Withdrawal for SW Oregon

Dear Oregon State Director Perez:

We the undersigned breweries of southwest Oregon are writing in support of the proposed withdrawal of approximately 95,805 acres of National Forest and 5,216 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) managed land in southwest Oregon's Kalmiopsis region from entry and location under the mining laws of the United States. We make this request for the multitude of benefits that come from protected watersheds.

For starters, clean water is essential for great tasting beer. Clean water also plays a critical role in providing drinking water for healthy communities, providing habitat for fish and wildlife and supporting local agriculture. Our coalition of breweries stands together to support protections that would keep the crystal clear, salmon-studded waters of the Kalmiopsis clean for our communities, fish and wildlife and local businesses that depend on clean water.

The communities that surround the Smith, Illinois, and Pistol rivers and Hunter Creek have so much to gain from healthy, protected watersheds. Investment in sustainable industries and community infrastructure will add to the attractiveness of the region, bringing new businesses and residents alike. Craft brewing, tourism, and recreation based business ventures are growing industries and assets to Curry and Josephine counties and the surrounding areas of southwest Oregon. With the threat of destructive nickel strip mining, these natural treasures and related local industries of southwest Oregon are endangered.

We believe that clean water, fish and wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities must be protected now, and preserved for future generations. These uses represent the highest and best use of our public lands and resources. The high quality of life in southwest Oregon attracts new residents and creates jobs that strengthen our small businesses and local communities.

We appreciate the BLM and the US Forest Service working together to initiate a process to limit mining in the Kalmiopsis. Please protect the headwaters of the Smith, Illinois, Pistol and Hunter Creek to support the community's efforts in promoting sustainable economic development in southwest Oregon's Wild Rivers Country.

Sincerely,



Gold Beach, OR



Brookings, OR



Brookings, OR



Coos Bay, OR



Grants Pass, OR



Grants Pass, OR



Medford, OR



Medford, OR



Medford, OR



Medford, OR



Medford, OR



Ashland, OR



Ashland, OR



Ashland, OR



James & Kristen Smith
Head Brewer &
Chief Operating Officer
Arch Rock Brewing Co.
Gold Beach, OR

Mike Frederick & Alex Carr-Frederick
Owners & Brewers
Chetco Brewing Co.
Brookings, OR

Mark, Hanna and Matt Camarillo
Owners & Brewers
Misty Mountain Brewing Co.
Brookings, OR

Carmen Matthews & Annie Pollard
Co-owners & Brewers
7 Devils Brewing Co.
Coos Bay, OR

Brandon Crews
Head Brewer
Climate City Brewing Co.
Grants Pass, OR

Jon Conner
Owner & Brewer
Conner Fields Brewing Co.
Grants Pass, OR

Scott Saulzbury
Head Brewer
Southern Oregon Brewing Co.
Medford, OR

Nick Ellis
Owner & Brewer
Opposition Brewing Co.
Medford, OR

Neil Smith
Head Brewer
Bricktowne Brewing Co.
Medford, OR

Cameron Litton
Head Brewer
Walkabout Brewpub
Medford, OR

Alex & Danielle Amarotico
Co-owners
Common Block Brewing Co.
Medford, OR

Brandon Overstreet
Owner & Brewer
Swingtree Brewing Co.
Ashland, OR

Larry Chase
Head Brewer
Standing Stone Brewing Co.
Ashland, OR

Jim Mills
Owner
Caldera Brewing Co.
Ashland, OR