



## JOSEPHINE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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To: House Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee  
Representative Wally Hicks  
Dennis Dickson (committee member)

*Current State of Mining*  
MEASURE: *2 Practices in S Oregon*  
EXHIBIT: *2*  
2012 SPECIAL SESSION H AG & NAT RES.  
DATE: *2/26/2012* PAGES: *1*  
SUBMITTED BY: *Dennis Dickson*

From: Gil Gilbertson

Re: Land use issues in Josephine County

I was asked today to provide a short message regarding my concerns on the proposed land use issue.

Given such a short notice of this presentation, my recommendation would be to divert this project into a "holding pattern"; until all aspects and impacts are thoroughly vetted, questions asked and answered.

There are many factors needing attention such as proper assessment of the lands in question, their composition in terms of value as agricultural, timber, or minerals. The conflicting FLPMA and other federal rules and regulations should be addressed; false science is often applied – these lands are not pristine untouched by humans; proper ownership of the lands regarding time of Statehood, vote of the people at that time, equal footing doctrine, ORS regarding forests within a County jurisdiction must be voted upon; Safety of individuals within the areas closed off in terms of criminal activity, life threatening responses, fire-fighting equipment, etc.

I will share this with you. After expressing my concerns regarding safety of people within these areas I was provided two keys, one from USFS and the other from BLM. Wouldn't you know it the very first gate I came to neither key allowed me access.

If a life were lost because we were denied access, the liability would be huge.

I am concerned that rushing into any final decisions may cause irreparable harm to the citizens of Josephine County and the generations to follow.

I would enjoy the opportunity to work closely with the committee, and provide input at some time in the future on the many issues that I feel are germane to this issue.

Gil Gilbertson