

Gravel Pit Would Do More Harm Than Good

Letter To The Editor

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A land-use change in favor of a gravel pit would set a precedent in Josephine County that would ultimately do our local economy far more damage than good.

The Josephine County hospitality industry employs 2,400 people. River related tourist dependent businesses employ over 300. Trickle down from the tourist industries helps keep over 100 restaurants, dozens of gift shops, antique stores, gas stations and real estate agencies in the black.

By contrast, Josephine County mining and logging industries combined employ only 110 people. An aggregate mine employs very few. There are already existing mines in the county with slow moving stockpiles of gravel. The new hype is to peddle our natural resources to provide jobs. Statewide statistics show that this trend does not pencil out.

Sunny Valley and Josephine County as a whole rely heavily on tourist dollars. Most who reside here today and contribute to our local economy came here first as tourists. We must consider the big picture. People do not come to Josephine County because we tear it up. They come here because thus far we have chosen not to.

WAYNE SMITH

Sunny Valley