

Submitted by: Bill and Riley Downing.
Residence: 5151 Power Rd., Ontario, Or.

RE: **Opposition** to application filed by Mr. Darren Lee for a gravel mining/
concrete & asphalt operation on the Jasmine Slope.

Mr. Lee has repeatedly referred to our property as “ground that has historically been a rock quarry”.

Facts:

- Gravel removed from our property was nearly **45 years ago**. This was an agreement between Fredrick Coons (previous land owner) and Malheur County Road District. Gravel removed was used for building the road to give access to the Coons property and ultimately end at the Stoneman’s property to the South. These are indisputable facts supported by County documentation and Malheur county records.
- The “Dallas Head” gravel quarries have been dormant for 40+ years as well. This statement is supported by Mr. Dallas Head, himself, in the statement from the “Malheur Enterprise” article by Les Zaitte (dated March 15, 2023):

“(Dallas) Head said in a recent interview that there have been NO GRAVEL OPERATIONS on the (his) property for 40 years”

- Malheur County Planning & Zoning has been approving residential building permits on the Jasmine Slope/Power Road properties since the completion of the road in the 70’s. Prior to that three homes existed on Jasmine.
- Factual evidence clearly shows that these properties are “HISTORICALLY” residential and NOT commercial mining quarries.

Over the past three years, the applicant has continued to disregard Oregon’s governing laws; destroyed the land; and ignores property rights of others. Our largest, single asset, land and home, are located on this land and would be in dire jeopardy if this operation moves forward.

We have all felt the ramifications of Mr. Lee’s illegal operation blueprint. Examples:

- Berms still standing within 15 feet of property fence line
- Noise levels from heavy machinery & backup beepers at all hours (beginning as early as 6 a.m.)
- Blowing dust
- Road deterioration from heavy equipment
- Fire hazard
- Disturbance of the Riparian Corridor (fact check on Gov. Maps)
- Disturbance of the Wildlife Winter Range (fact check on Gov. Maps)
- Plunging property values
- Drinking water contamination (impact testing to be done)

Local land use decisions can indeed have a significant impact on communities. Understandably the members of the Malheur Planning and Zoning Commission will now consider all information and bring a final decision to NOT allow this mining/concrete and asphalt illegal scheme to continue operations. Please do the right thing and permanently deny Mr. Lee’s application