

## Visual Impacts and Impact on Rural Business

Good morning. My name is Don Carroll. My wife Kat and I are long-term Lewis County residents who own several rural businesses. I've served this community through my optometry practice for more than four decades. We have spent the last twenty years building a small agri-tourism tourism and hospitality business called Adytum Sanctuary ([www.adytumsanctuary.com](http://www.adytumsanctuary.com)) overlooking Lake Mayfield. Kat Carroll provided an approximately 3000-word document and 26 pictures to Mr. Pinkerton.

When we first stood on the property that would become Adytum Sanctuary, we saw something rare: a place on the edge of wilderness with old fir forests, wildlife habitat, and sweeping views of the surrounding valley and mountains. That natural beauty is what inspired us to invest years of work developing a retreat and eco-agriculture business that welcomes guests seeking peace, quiet, and connection with nature.

Over the years, we have hosted thousands of guests from across the United States and from many countries around the world. Many of them come from dense cities where they rarely experience true quiet or dark skies. They come here to disconnect from technology and reconnect with nature.

Our business depends entirely on the scenic natural environment and peace and quiet.

The surrounding forests, wildlife, and scenic landscape are not just background scenery. They are the very reason people travel here and stay in our community. Guests regularly tell us how remarkable it is to experience the peacefulness of this area, the wildlife, and the sense of being somewhere truly natural and undisturbed.

Over the past twenty years we have also worked hard to steward the land itself. Our property, nearly 16-acres, is managed organically, without pesticides or herbicides, and we've planted orchards, vineyards, and native vegetation while maintaining wildlife habitat across our acreage.

We see ourselves not just as business owners, but as stewards of a landscape that makes Lewis County unique. A cell tower would be visible on the White Pass Scenic Byway...

Projects like the one being proposed raise important questions about how we balance infrastructure with the character of rural communities. Mossyrock and the surrounding area are a destination precisely because they still offer open views, natural beauty, and a sense of escape from the built environment.

That character is something that takes generations to build but can be changed very quickly.

I respectfully ask that the county carefully consider the long-term effects on the scenic and rural qualities that attract visitors, support small tourism businesses like ours, and define this community.

Thank you for your time and for the work you do for Lewis County.