

## Diana Duke

As a family tree farm owner in Priest River my concerns are with the silicon dust and other pollutants that will affect our air, soils, water and inevitably, our entire forest ecosystem. I understand that silicon dust can coat leaves and needles on trees preventing photosynthesis and eventually causing death to trees.

My family also relies on the forest soil to produce forest products such as huckleberries, rose hips and other wild craft herbs. Also our organic certification on vegetables and fruits could be affected by a change in metals or other pollutants in the soil. All of our organic and wild harvested plants and berries could be adversely affected by pollutants and metals that will affect and degrade our soils. Organic certification takes years to achieve and can be revoked at the slightest change in soil pollutants. This could cost us a great deal of money in recertification and soil amendments, or could wipe us out completely.

I also understand that in a silicon smelter in Iceland, the assessment found that within two weeks of opening the Smelter residents were reporting a high incidence of illness in equine. Particularly in their respiratory system. Please look into this, as I am sure many horse folks would love to hear about this assessment. I found the information on line in a minute. I am sure you know of it. Our business will depend on our horses. We will use them to selectively haul out trees from our sustainable family tree farm.

So we would appreciate knowing the full affects of the smelter on our air, water, and soil and how this will affect our trees, plants and animals (horses, in particular, as they have highly specialized respiratory systems).

We are preparing to move out of the area if this Smelter is approved. Thank you. Diana Duke