

Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society

PacWest Silicon Smelter EIS

The Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society, Inc., Sandpoint, Idaho advocates for the conservation of native plants in Idaho and elsewhere. The proposed location of the smelter makes us very concerned that air and water quality will be impacted in Bonner, Boundary and Kootenai Counties in Idaho.

We strongly encourage that you closely examine and quantify:

The extent of the air shed affected by the emissions from the smelter.

The potential impacts, by species of all native plants found within the air shed. These should focus especially on trees and lichens, the latter being highly sensitive to degraded air quality.

Work with the U. S. Forest Service and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to identify sensitive plant species in the air shed that may be impacted and study impacts of degraded air quality on them.

Identify any acidification and airborne pollutants that could affect native plant habitat, both terrestrial and aquatic. North Idaho soils are acidic, so additional acid deposition from the smelter emissions are likely to lower pH significantly.