

-----Original Message-----

From: Judy Hutchins <jhutch7494@aol.com>

To: comments-northern-kootenai-cabinet@usda.gov <comments-northern-kootenai-cabinet@usda.gov>

Cc: katelyn.miller2@usda.gov <katelyn.miller2@usda.gov>; michael.feiger@usda.gov <michael.feiger@usda.gov>; Judy Hutchins <jhutch7494@aol.com>; tysonjerald@columbiaresearchonline.com <tysonjerald@columbiaresearchonline.com>; troy.hidy@usda.gov <troy.hidy@usda.gov>

Sent: Sat, Nov 26, 2022 11:38 am

Subject: BMU 4 comments

To whom it may concern:

I would like to make a very simple comment on a proposed road closure in the Blue Creek drainage. I request that the Broken Hill Road # 2290 remain 'gated', not 'stored with barrier closure', for the next 10 years. As the owner of the bulk of the patented mining claims up there I would like to maintain reasonable access to my private property. Last summer's Billiard Fire fire burnt a substantial portion of the property and I would like to have access to check on the roads and vegetation post burn. Fire operations did some damage that needs to be monitored. There are also tailings piles up there that should be checked periodically.

Right now I do not have my own padlock on the #2290 gate. It was cut during the initial fire attack and was not replaced by your fire crews. Hence my access is currently denied without going to the Cabinet Ranger District and requesting the USFS key.

Please note:

- 1) I have no intention of going up there more than 2+3 times a year max unless there is a compelling management reason
- 2) The private road through the NW portion of the claims is a high risk road. Tyson Jerald drives it but he has nerves of steel. I do not.
- 3) 'Walking in' as a means of access is not reasonable for me. I am almost 70, my knees hurt and I have issues with asthma. It is also an 'ageist' comment.
- 4) There is substantial lingering history with those claims and access going back 20 years or so to Kree Kirkman, one of the most destructive human beings imaginable. I see no reason why I should be held hostage to his poor management decisions decades later.

My future plans for the claims are to donate them to the Wilderness Land Trust. It will then work to transfer the claims back to the USFS somehow removing them from the potential for future mining exploitation. I have a right of first refusal to purchase Mr. Jerald's parcel but he currently has no interest in selling.

Otherwise I strongly support what the USFS is trying to do in BMU 4 to reduce road densities and secure bear habitat. I would just like reasonable gated access and a few years to complete my goals for my claims.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.
Judy Hutchins

Judy Hutchins
PO Box 104, Heron, MT 59844
phone: 406-847-2717
jhutch7494@aol.com