

RECEIVED
OCT 12 2018

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Victoria Christiansen, Comments on proposed rules
Interim Chief, USDA, Forest Service

My main complaint is what the US Forest Service is charging for access to my Hard Rock underground mining claims. In 1968 we were told that we needed a road permit. However there existed a road partway to the mine and the final part was a wide trail in solid rock in almost vertical terrain that had existed before there was a forest service. The road is almost all on my mining claims or Mill site. My mining partner was a veteran partly disabled from WW11 and he said he couldn't walk the last part any more. Instead of just widening the road he wanted to be sure we didn't need some kind of permit from the forest service, so we consulted an elderly attorney in Nevada City California. He said we needed a road permit. We didn't know his son was a USFS ranger.

We didn't know about R.S. 2447 which was in effect at the time which would have let us upgrade an existing road to a mine on forest service ground without a permit.

We obtained the road permit and the forest service ranger, John Underwood had us put up a five-hundred-dollar surety bond. Upon seeing the mining cabin and fully equipped blacksmith shop Mr. Underwood said, "The Forest Service didn't even know the cabin and blacksmith shop were there." The Forest Service had us put up a gate that said road closed. The road permit was ten dollars a year for several years before the permit cost started to escalate. Last year I paid \$830.

In the fall of 1969 on arriving at the mine we found the cabin burned to the ground and the tools from the blacksmith shop stolen. We lost most of our mining equipment as it was stored in the two-room cabin's attic. The cabin was held in place by cables as it was built on very steep ground. Ranger Underwood was upset and said he had not ordered the cabin burned. The blacksmith shop's equipment belonged in a museum. My partner, a reserve deputy, with the Nevada County Sheriff Department had the Sheriff Department investigate and they said the order to burn the cabin came from the US Forest Services Supervisors office. Ranger Underwood gave us back our surety bond money and said, "Put the road where ever you want." Not much choice on near vertical ground of solid rock. Means it was the Federal Government that burned the cabin my partner just let it drop. I was in my twenties at the time and did what he wanted.

After fighting Crohns disease for several years and then three years of chemotherapy for stage four nonhodgkins lymphoma and now in my later seventies and being on social security I can't afford to pay escalating road fees. This is my last chance to get my mine running.

Sincerely,

Patrick C. Hurley

Patrick Hurley

RE: Road Use Permit

Live

Mar 31, 2016 3:33:57 PM

Subject: RE: Road Use Permit

Date: Fri Mar 04 15:26:29 PST 2016

From: Newell, Heather -FS

To: Greg Schimke

the land value for Nevada county is \$437.96/ac. His permit is for 1.82 acres. There was a big jump between 2009 and 2010 for the land value which put the Nevada County permits into a higher bracket. His bill was \$171 and it went to \$582. That's why... His bill this year is \$797.09. Nevada County land values are not going down. They held and then went up. That's it for here.

Heather Newell
District Public Service Staff Officer

Forest Service
Tahoe National Forest, Yuba River Ranger District

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Caring for the land and serving people

*Greg Schimke is a retired
minerals officer for the
U.S.F.S Tahoe National
Forest.*

*Greg gave me this
paper!*

From: greg schimke [mailto:gregschimke@live.com]

Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2016 11:06 AM

To: Newell, Heather -FS <hnewell@fs.fed.us>

Subject: Road Use Permit

Hi Heather-- I was talking to Patrick Hurley, a miner that has a RUP near Buck's Ranch. He says his annual bill has gone from \$30 to over \$800 in the past few years. Surprised me! Anyway, I told him I'd check into it for him. You're my go to gal for SU questions, so who is doing these now?

Hope all is well, have a good weekend

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