



Public Lands/Water Access Association
PO Box 80987
Billings, MT 59108
www.plwa.org

Greg Chilcott
Chris Hoffman
Jeff Burrows
Ravalli County Commissioners
215 S 4th Street
Suite A
Hamilton, MT 59840

Dear Commissioners:

I represent the Public Land/Water Access Association (PLWA). It recently came to my attention that certain landowners have requested that the Commission continue to delay the opening of Hughes Creek road. It is my understanding that supposedly “new” arguments were raised regarding both the position of the old Alta Post Office and the location and nature of the mining claims at the terminus of Hughes Creek Road.

I submit this letter to point out that these issues are nothing new. In fact, they were addressed at the outset, in PLWA’s first letter to the Commission. I am resubmitting that first letter, attached, in the hope that the Commission will once again review it. I hope that it might restore confidence that the Commission reached the correct decision when it took a close look at the evidence several years ago.

Montana law is clear: if a gate prevents the use of a public highway, this Commission has an obligation to “immediately remove the encroachment.” 7-14-2134, MCA. The continual delays created by rehashing settled issues must come to an end. PLWA supports the reopening of Hughes Creek Road to the public, and is prepared to act if the public’s rights are not resolved. Support for maintaining public access is strong across Montana. It is critical that the Commission take action to protect the public’s right to use and enjoy Montana’s public lands.

Sincerely,
Paul Burdett

paul@plwa.org
PUBLIC LAND/WATER ACCESS ASSOCIATION, INC.

www.plwa.org

Keeping the public on public land and waters