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MONTANA TWENTY FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, RAVALLI COUNTY

PUBLIC LAND/WATER ACCESS
ASSOCIATION, INC.

Plaintiff/Petitioner,

vs.

RAVALLI COUNTY and BOARD OF
RAVALLI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,

Defendants/Respondents.

Cause No. _____

Hon. _____

DECLARATION OF JIM OLSON

I, Jim Olson, hereby state under penalty of perjury that:

1. I am an adult resident of Hamilton, Ravalli County, Montana.
2. I am a member of Public Land/Water Access Association, Inc. (PLWA).
3. I make this declaration on my own personal knowledge.
4. I am aware of Respondent Board of Ravalli County Commissioner's (Board)

February 6, 2017 order declaring the Hughes Creek Road to be a public highway pursuant to the statutory petition process for at least 11.8 miles in length. I also attended the Board's January 25,

2017 public hearing on certain landowners' petition to abandon the Hughes Creek Road, which the Board denied.

5. I am further aware that the Montana Supreme Court, in 2019, affirmed the Board's determination that the Hughes Creek Road is a public highway for at least 11.8 miles.

6. In July 2021, after Ravalli County removed a gate at approximately 8.5 miles up the Hughes Creek Road, I travelled up the Hughes Creek Road and discovered a new gate about 150 yards further up the road but still on the portion declared to be public by the Board. I also observed several felled trees and other brush on the other side of the gate obstructing the road. The gate included a menacing sign, which I photographed.

7. I took the photographs embedded in PLWA's complaint of the gate and the obstructions beyond the gate.

8. The gate obstructs and prevents the use of the Hughes Creek Road for vehicles beyond the gate.

9. The brush and felled timber on the other side of the gate would remain indefinitely if not removed.

10. In July 2021, I notified Ravalli County Commissioner Greg Chilcott and former deputy county attorney Royce McCarty of the gate and obstructions and asked for their removal.

11. In October 2021, I again travelled up the Hughes Creek Road and found the gate, with several new menacing signs, still in place and the felled timber and brush still present.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED this 21 day of October, 2021.

By: Jim Olson
Jim Olson