Jason Meyer - Re: Support for Prescriptive Easement on RD-ID-40520

From: Mark Weber
To: LaMotte, Amy
Date: 2/27/2014 4:26 PM
Subject: Re: Support for Prescriptive Easement on RD-ID-40520
CC: Meyer, Jason

Amy,
I received your written comments and will make sure they are made a matter of public record for the prescriptive easement project.

Thank you,
Mark

Mark Weber
Land Commissioner
St. Louis County Land and Minerals Department
Government Services Center
320 West 2nd Street, Rm 208
Duluth, MN 55802-1495
218-726-2606
weberm@stlouiscountymn.gov
>>> Amy LaMotte <amynado@hotmail.com> 2/27/2014 2:23 PM >>>
To whom it may concern;

I am writing you to ask that St. Louis County strongly support the prescriptive easement process to re-open the Fire Trail located off Hwy 20 that runs through to the Bodas Road (RD-ID-40520).

My uncle (Steve Bradach) is an adjacent land owner and has been accessing his land through the north end of the Fire Trail for the past 35 years, just as generations before him have done. My grandparents owned the land before him, and my great-grandparents owned the land prior to them). Our family has been accessing this land via this northern route for over 50 years.

Because of my love for Northern MN, I relocated to the Range after living in the cities most of my life, now living in Lakeland. About 5 years ago, I got married, started a family, and now have three young children (Twins ages 3 1/2, and an almost 5 year old). We decided (my husband and I) to move to the Range because of it's beauty and our appreciation/love for the outdoors. We want to raise our children with the same respect for the land that we have. We have spent a lot of time at my Uncle's property hunting, camping, exercising our dogs, as well as maintaining his property.

Currently, with the north end of the Fire Trail blocked off, our drive in and out is very slow (about 45 minutes vs. 15 minutes). Having the north end of the Fire Trail blocked adds unnecessary drive time in case of an emergency, and with 3 small children, accidents are very possible. And it may not be our emergency that would

require a quick exit, but it could also happen to anyone else. Two years ago, there was a slash-pile fire in the woods, and the Lakeland Fire Department was able to get to the fire and extinguish it quickly, because at that time, the trail was not blocked. However, as the Fire Trail sits now (with the north end blocked, and a culvert dug up by the new land owner), the Fire Department could not have gotten to the fire quickly, possibly resulting in a much larger forest fire. And what about the water drainage that is being altered by this land owner digging out a culvert? This will be interesting to see come spring, when our large snow pack begins to melt, and flooding will almost be certain.

This Fire Trail has been a long time access for public land, allowing people to enjoy all that it has to offer. Please take all this into consideration, and allow my family, and the public, to access land as it has for well over 50 years.

Thank you for your consideration.
Amy LaMotte
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