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

From: Mark Weber
To: Bradach, Steve-Kathy
Date: 2/27/2014 4:22 PM
Subject: Re: Support for Prescriptive Easement on RD-ID-40520
CC: Meyer, Jason

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

Thanks,
Mark

Mark Weber
Land Commissioner
St. Louis County Land and Minerals Department
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>>> Steve-Kathy Bradach <skbradach@gmail.com> 2/26/2014 9:56 PM >>>
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).
I am an adjacent land owner (Parcels # 677-0011-00730 & 740) that has been accessing my land through the north end of the Fire Trail for 35 years (since 1979). My parent's owned the land prior to me and my grandparent's prior to them. I do not have the exact year that my grandparent's acquired the land but I do know it was prior to my birth in 1964 so we are over 50 years of using this north access of this road to access our property.
In 2012 Potlatch sold a parcel of land that the road is located on to Paul Weisinger (Parcel #677-0011-00220). Shortly after his purchase he blocked the road off with brush piles and logs. I called him that fall (2012) and he said for that year I could move the brush pile, put it back in place, and use the road to access my property.
Late that fall (2012) there was a slash pile that someone set on fire on this property adjacent to the road. I was heading home from my property with my niece's husband one evening after mowing the grass on my road when we came across the fire. Fortunately someone else had already called 911 and the Lakeland Fire Department was on the scene extinguishing the fire. Then in the summer/fall of 2013 Mr. Weisinger used a bulldozer to make the brush pile on the north end of Fire Trail so large that it could not be moved. I again called him and he said that he was no longer allowing anyone to use this road through his property at this time. He also used his equipment to remove a culvert on this road located along his southerly boundary of his adjacent 40 acre parcel (#677-0011-00320). This creek/ditch is a drainage ditch for alot of the properties located to his north and west. Let's hope we don't have flooding this year in our are adue to his removing the culvert.
I only note this because had the fire mentioned above occurred in 2013, vs. 2012, the Lakeland Fire Department would not have been able to access the fire from the north or the south leaving thousand's of acres of public and private land at risk of a very large fire.
I would also like to note that there is an additional land owner on the Fire Trail to the south of my property. If that landowner were to block the road from the south, in the same manner as Mr. Weisinger, I would be land locked without any access. Not to mention that the south access adds an additional 30 minutes drive time for myself, any ambulance or any fire truck that would need to get to the northly part of this Fire Trail in case of an emergency.
This road has always been accessible by the public for my entire 50-year life and I would like it to remain so for public enjoyment (berry picking, hunting, horse back riding, etc), public safety (in the event of a fire or health emergency), management of public lands by St. Louis County and my ability to continue to access my property in the same manner we have for the past 50+ years.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steve Bradach
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