

Ravalli County Commissioners Office

From: Kathie Butts <kathie.butts@bhhsmt.com>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 4:22 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Subject: Lost Horse Road

Good Afternoon,

Tomorrow is the day you decide about the fate of Lost Horse Rd, correct? The day you determine spending of the SRS funds. I hope you decide to fix Lost Horse and fix it properly. There are too many issues that are so very wrong with allowing a road to fall into the extensive disrepair that Lost Horse finds itself in.

It is a hazard to all who drive around the worst spots often on the wrong side of the road on a blind hill. Logging Trucks, RVs, and slow farm tractors drive that road, someday there will be an accident.

There are homes for sale in the neighborhood, someday a seller is going to notice that perhaps they aren't able to sell because buyers are choosing homes on accessible roads. I don't know if anyone can claim loss of property value because of a road but I bet someday someone will try.

I do know that the road is contributing to increased wear and tear on vehicles. It isn't imaginary, There are a number of studies available in a simple Google search that demonstrate easily that when a road is allowed to deteriorate from good to poor condition, each dollar saved on road maintenance increases vehicle operational costs exponentially. This includes your snowplows and trucks, the cost of school buses, county emergency responders, and much more. Someday – someone else will do that simple Google search. Lost Horse Rd impacts camping, hunting, hiking, travel and tourism a big factor in our county's economy. Lost Horse is one of just a few roads that can access Idaho by vehicle. It isn't only the folks who live up Lost Horse that are big losers - it's the whole county.

There is one good thing the awful shape of the road has done. Everyone who drives it drives at least 10 to 20 or 30 MPH slower than the posted speed limit. Of course that's only good if you are not waiting for an ambulance or a sheriff.

Thank you for your time.

Kathie Butts

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