

Glenda Wiles

From: Jim Farley <jpf@sosgeneralstore.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2018 4:38 PM
To: steve@daines.senate.gov; will.carraco@mail.house.gov; feedback@ios.doi.gov; m.rosendale@mt.gov; Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Subject: Public Safety Hazard Complaint Of Trees On Montana Highway 43

To: Pres. Trump, Sen. Daines, Rep. Gianforte, Sec. Zinke, Sen. Candidate Rosendale, Ravalli County Commissioners Jeff Burrows, Greg Chilcote, Ray Hawk, Doug Schallenberger, Chris Hoffman

I have been requested by a community citizen, Rob Mavros, here in the Bitterroot Valley of Montana to forward his letter to you since he does not have computer/internet service. The following is his letter. I appreciate your time in reviewing the letter and replying to Mr. Mavros at the address on his letter and or reply email to me which I will get to him.

Thank you kindly...Jim Farley

First of 2 Letters from Rob Mavros:

From:

Robin Mavros

Mavros Firewood & Timber Prod. & Mining, Inc.

Darby, MT 59829

406-821-1056

To:

President Donald Trump

Steve Daines, MT Senator

Ryan Zinke, Dept. of Interior

Greg Gianforte, MT Representative

Matt Rosendale, Mt. US Senate Candidate

Ravalli County Montana Commissioners: Jeff Burrows, Greg Chilcote, Ray

Hawk, Doug Schallenberger and Chris Hoffman

THE TREES THAT ARE FALLING DOWN ON HWY 43

Since the dead trees along both sides of Highway 43 are such an extreme danger to public safety and the local Forest Service chooses to ignore it, I request that you award my company the job, as the local Hwy Dept. requested namely "Ron Bacon", from Wisdom, of removing the dead and diseased trees from the road right of way and my payment for doing this job be the trees and cut he used for whatever see fit or wish. If this project were put up for bid, and I was allowed to bid, I would bit it at \$8,000 per mile, a total of 26 miles, for cutting, de-limbing and decking the logs. A total of \$208,000, for just the dead and diseased trees, or \$12,000 per mile for clearing all the trees in the 100ft right of way on each side of the highway and decking the logs, a total of \$312,000.

I personally met with "Molly", the Beaverhead-Wisdom district Forest Ranger and her and her sale administrator said that the Montana DOT could pay to have this job done but that the timber belongs to the Forest Service and they would put the logs up for bid and sell them. There was no mention of the Forest Service reimbursing the state for this job. Since the Forest Service will not do their job in the most needed situations, our Montana public lands should be turned over to the state DNRC Forestry Division for management and administration and this highway right of way in question must be administrated by the Montana DNRC immediately. For more cases of unlawful misconduct by the Montana Forest Service that are provable and on record, beginning in the 1970s, contact me.

Thank you,

Robin Mavros

Second of 2 Letters from Rob Mavros:

**MOST PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO RUFFLE FEATHERS ABOUT OPPRESSIVE,
UNCONSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITIES OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY AGENICES**

The USDA Forest Service is so ridiculously mismanaged it is sickening. We, the U.S., could save billions of dollars per year by reforming the Forest Service. Literally multi-millions of dollars per year are spent on road obliteration. They call it "decommissioning roads". When you walk into a Forest Service office and see numerous people sitting in front of a computer screen and they see you and immediately shut it down, you know they're not working. I worked for the FS in 1980 as a faller on a tree thinning crew and I got to see firsthand their policies on work ethics. If you worked too hard, they didn't want you back. I have friends and acquaintances who work for and in the FS. They admit there are at least ten (10) bosses to (1) one worker. The FS claims the timber sales they put up are stopped by so-called environmental groups or a special interest group, but what they don't tell you is that many of these people are actually FS employees. As a FS employee, they don't even have to get an injunction or court order to shut down a timber sale, all they have to do is say "no" for an illegitimate reason. Ground compaction is a hoax. It has been proven to be a hoax and even several retired FS foresters have spoken out and said so.

The FS is not what it was created to be. It hasn't been since the 80's. The FS now claims ownership of our public lands. This is a total fraud. There is nowhere in our constitution that allows for the federal government to own our timber land or any land, as far as that goes, except for offices and facilities as such. Not like the

state “School and Highway Endowment land”. If I had a ranch manager that claimed ownership of my land, without being part owner in it, I would fire him or her so fast it would make his/her head spin. The Montana state policy on obstructionists working in the forestry or water department used to be, when they were recognized as such, to fire them. But now some have even made it to upper positions in state government in areas of forestry, water, and even minerals. Several of the good foresters have quit their state positions and are starting to speak out against state management and ridiculous policies adopted by the special interest infiltrators.

When my new firewood customers say that they won't go out in our forests “public land” and cut firewood anymore because of the way they were treated when encountering the FS, it's time to speak out and say enough is enough, and that this is ridiculous. Our public lands are literally being held hostage by the FS. We have more than enough wilderness lands, but some politicians are trying or pretending to bargain with the FS and environmental groups to release timberland for timber harvest in exchange for locking away more of our public land wilderness. Most of this land targeted for wilderness is roaded land with old mines and good mineral deposits that could pay you or I good money if we staked a mineral claim on it and worked it. In the past, real, physical work was promoted and looked upon as a good and noble thing. Not anymore. Go to the top of Lost Trail Pass and turn SE on Hwy. 43. This is just a small example of how the FS is mismanaging our public lands. 60 to 70% of the trees you see on your way to Wisdom are dead, yet the FS won't sell them or give them away. The highway dept. has tried now for almost 3 years to get the FS to allow the removal of the dead hazard trees that are falling down on the highway. The FS refuses. Offers have been made to buy and remove these trees, but the FS refuses to agree to any proposal. Reality is, the FS doesn't care about making sense or doing right anymore. If things are as they appear, the FS only cares about control. Did you know that the FS requires that you register with the nearest FS office before you enter a wilderness area? The FS is making up policies and rules that aren't even close to legal. FS employees can cut firewood in areas that are closed to the public. They do so, and haul it home in FS trucks! There is a double standard for federal and state employees that the public --unless someone is rich enough to buy someone off.

The FS is putting out money for their employees to do jobs that aren't even forest land management jobs, such as doing studies on predators like wolves, badgers, grizzly bears, and so on. These are fish and game officer jobs. They are cataloging and counting rock size, amount per square yard, shocking and counting fish in our streams, and cataloging woody debris size and volume, 100 ft at a time, up our streams. Don't believe me? Ask a FS employee who will talk to you and tell you the truth. The people who get the upper positions in the FS and federal jobs (district rangers, regional supervisors), are the best at misinformation and/or creating a fog or distraction. Shut down the FS and restructure it in a sensible manner where it works right with the public servants again instead of having obstructionists and dead weight, and our federal deficit will save billions per year. The same applies with fire management by the FS. Everyone needs to call Zinke and Trump and back me on this. All you people who want our country returned to the people, this is our chance—don't pass it up. Remember the invasive species of wolves that “we the majority” said **not** to introduce? They said they were reintroducing our eco systems, and part of them weren't even a species we ever had here. Look what they've done to our elk and deer population at the cost of billions of our dollars. We have to stop this *ridiculous* crap. Let your voices be heard too, not just mine. Put good people in the FS and state again, and get rid of the trash.

The FS has also been buying up private land for the past 30 years or more, mostly for special interests and limited use and access. Much of the land has been made or deemed conservation lands and conservation easements. On much of these lands, the use has been limited to hunting and fishing and hiking and some are limited to hiking, no hunting, no fishing and so on. Our public lands are supposed to be for multiple-use, not extremely restricted use. Much of the land bought by the FS was actually gold mine or mineral-bearing patented land. Most of these have become restricted use lands also. There is no allowance for such activities in either our state or federal constitutions. These purchases are actually illegal, unless agreed upon by the majority of us citizens. Democratic means controlled or ruled By the People, For the People, by a majority vote. How can we call our country democratic when the federal government makes most of the decisions and rules, and ignores the majority? FS makes up policies and changes policies as they want. Some of these policies aren't even legal, such as limiting the amount of firewood a person can cut for other people off public land. (This has been rescinded because the public and FS employees also declared this rule illegal.) "No firewood cutting further than 150 ft from a road without authorization". I authorize myself as a US citizen and tax payer/public land owner the right to cut firewood farther than 150 ft from the road. No firewood cutting within 150 ft of certain roads, and the FS changes to cutting allowed or no cutting as they want. Many of these rules and regulations are created by the FS regional panel of so-called specialists. Sometimes one person changes rules or policies. No policy is unchangeable and policies are changed as FS wants. Some of these or rule changes are advertised and public comments are requested, but most often the FS so-called specialists make the decisions the way they want no matter what we, the public has to say. The same goes for road closures, road obliterations, wilderness study area closures, land swaps, land purchase, and the list goes on and on.

In 2003, I saw a MT FS sale administrator get a year paid leave for keeping his mouth shut about the blatant mismanagement of public lands by the FS. During the 2000 fire in the Bitterroot, there were homes and properties targeted to be burned out. Ours was one such home. The day the fire burned through our neighborhood, NBC news team rode up to our place in the back of my truck. When we got to our house, a water tender was parked on the road, drawing water out of the creek at our bridge. Firefighters were spraying water on a house across the road that had already burned to the ground. I asked the tender operator why he wasn't putting the fires out in our yard. He said he was told not to. NBC news team didn't put that on the air. Whistle blowers are rewarded all right: by being targeted. They lose their homes, their jobs, their opportunities to work and often even their lives. When something is broke, you fix it or you throw it away. The FS isn't just broke, and its management practices aren't just substandard. They're actually so extremely destructive to our timber land in Montana that the FS can't be allowed to continue managing our public lands like this. If we want the FS to manage our public lands, we have to get rid of all the dead weight, remove all obstructionists, and all the educated idiots that make bad policies and decisions. Get rid of anyone who isn't a benefit to proper management. All complaints must be addressed and investigated by an independent source, not the federal government. Accountability has to be returned to the federal work force, not like it is now, that if a complaint is made, the person or persons who are complained about are transferred to a different location and almost always promoted. This can't continue. There are plenty of people with common sense and good sense. These are the people we need in there. Good policies that worked must be returned, such as over-the-counter small salvage and firewood sales. This ridiculous notion that every piece of wood removed from public land, except if it is firewood, needs an environmental impact study done on it, needs to be

stopped! All agreements with special interest groups to lock away land so it can't be properly managed, must be stopped. We the People need to control our public land again, not the government. The FS is not the only federal bureaucracy that is being managed like this, either. Steve Hilton on Fox Network addressed the problem on Feb 4th 2018. There are over 3 million federal employees in America. Of these, only a fraction are a benefit and worthy of their job. We need an oversight committee, selected by the public, of the public, people who are known to be above reproach, who have common sense to remove the waste from the federal work force. We need good people such as good county commissioners who listen to the public and do as the public demands, retired military, retired fire fighters, etc., including people from the general populace who are known for their good sense. Bring back truth, justice, and accountability, "the American way". Then other countries may start respecting us again. Fire the liars!!! (Not to change the subject, but our military must have their benefits upgraded to the same benefits all the rest of the law enforcement people have.) It makes much more sense to give the dead timber to the people for free than it does to burn it up and spend billions of dollars for fire suppression.

As for accountability—have you seen the United Nations signs when you enter our national parks? Yes, Bill Clinton sold our national parks to other countries. Hold him accountable, because the majority of us didn't know about this when it happened and probably couldn't have stopped it even if we had known. Seize the Clinton's assets, including all the Clinton Foundation and all their accounts. Use the money to buy back our national parks and the mineral rights Hillary Clinton sold to Russia (uranium). Then put them both in prison for treason and fraud and mega grand theft!

President Trump, Zinke, Gianforte—let's see you put your efforts where your mouth is. Fix these problems among others.

Signed

"Us", the general public, who aren't ignoring what is going on!!