

Glenda Wiles

From: Glenda Wiles on behalf of Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Sent: Friday, September 7, 2018 10:20 AM
To: 'ndjlaw@aol.com'
Cc: John Horat
Subject: RE: DANGEROUS ROAD CONDITION

Thank you for your email, it will be placed in commissioners and general correspondence. I will also forward this to the Road Department Administrator. Glenda Wiles, Commissioners Adm Assistant.

From: ndjlaw@aol.com [mailto:ndjlaw@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 6, 2018 4:23 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners Office <commissioners@rc.mt.gov>
Subject: DANGEROUS ROAD CONDITION

Gentlemen:

We live on Coal Pit Road in Corvallis. It is a dirt road, and we are writing because at present it is in a dangerous condition. The washboarding effect is so bad that in places, no matter what speed one is driving, it is difficult to even keep the vehicle the road. We've lived here for 24 years and it is as bad or worse now than we've ever seen it. One neighbor runs a small business that requires that he drive a truck with ladders and other equipment on it.

He advises that he is literally having a problem keeping the equipment on the truck when he leaves and returns to his home. Two days ago, a driver went off the road into an irrigation ditch.

As have our neighbors we've made several telephone calls to the road department. We are told that it is "on the list" but maintenance is delayed because (1) the department has not been given the adequate resources and man-power to take care of it and (2) maintenance of paved roads has not yet been completed and receives priority. This is disturbing to hear. Is that to say that taxpayers who live on dirt roads have a lower priority of maintenance service that those on paved roads? If so, why is that, and how is that justified?

As for lack of adequate resources, I am well-aware that that is endemic to departments of government. However, it seems to me that aside from police and fire protection, maintaining our roads in a reasonably usable and safe condition should be a top priority of local government. It's our roads that allow us to function together as a community.

We ask the Commission to take note that Coal Pit Road is in a dangerous condition and is nearly unusable. Please inquire of the road department when this will be dealt with.

We've driven on lots of dirt roads, and they are not all in the same condition at any point in time. Priority must be given to those that are dangerously lacking in maintenance.

Thank you for your attention.
Norman and Carol James