

Date: November 28, 2015

To: Ouray County Administrator & Ouray County Commissioners

From: Philip & Jane Sheridan
U LAZY S Ranch
459 Hidden Meadow Lane
Ridgway, CO

Subject: County Road 5 Ouray County

It has come to our attention that the winter plowing of county road 5 is being reviewed and could possibly be eliminated or further restricted. As a property owner on this road we are concerned. When we contracted to purchase 158 Acres in 2004 we were told that winter access was limited at that time and that the county did not currently plow the road on a regular basis due to recreational use and the fact that, at that time, there were no year round residents on the road. We were told that once the area was "developed" and full time residents were there, the county would re-evaluate and that historically they had begun to plow county roads or allow private limited plowing when an area became inhabited. Based on this we purchased our property and subdivided it into lots, built a ranch road (Hidden Meadow Lane), installed underground utilities to each lot line, reseeded the roadside and disturbed areas with native wildflowers, drilled a well, cleared dead fall and erected a worm fence & gate with signage & sold two of the lots. We spent considerable time and money developing covenants and restrictions in line with county laws that would protect this beautiful land.

While we are environmentally conservative... we also believe in private property rights. We feel that land owners have the right to safe passage to their property and access to emergency services when needed. (fire, ambulance, law enforcement).

Property owners on County Road 5 are not demanding that the County plow the road to our Doorsteps. We are simply asking to be *allowed* to provide our own safe access to our land while respecting the needs of recreational users who may want to take advantage of the remote and beautiful nature of our area.

A group of land owners and residents has written a proposal that we feel reasonably accomplishes the goals of both parties. This plan will be presented at the upcoming meeting for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Philip Sheridan
Jane Sheridan
937-298-0056 H
937-623-1133 C

November 30, 2015

TO: Ouray County Administrator
P.O. Box C
541 Fourth Street
Ouray, CO 81427

Subject: Access on County Road 5

We have built a MAJOR real estate investment at the end of Hidden Meadow Lane off County Road 5. The possibility of not being able to access that property year round due to plowing restrictions of the County road is unsettling.

We are not asking the County to add any extra men to run a plow or absorb additional costs to plow another road in Ouray County. We are simply asking you to allow us to exercise our personal property rights by plowing the road ourselves in a manner that respects both recreational users and property owners.

Inability to use our property during winter months would be an enormous financial blemish on our property values let alone deprive property owners the right to enjoy our investments.

Respectfully submitted.



Joel English
585 Hidden Meadow Lane
Ridgway, CO 81432

From: Danika Gilbert [mailto:danika.gilbert@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, December 07, 2015 6:24 PM
To: hhollenbeck@ouraycountyco.gov
Subject: Winter maintenance plans for Cty Rd 5 and 361

Hello Hannah,

Just this afternoon I learned that the County is meeting tomorrow to discuss winter maintenance permits and plans for Cty Rd 5 and 361.

As an Elk Meadow's resident, I ski out CR 5 several times a week and the recent years plowing has greatly changed that experience. I strongly urge the County not to grant that permit. Plowing this road has made it both more dangerous (skiing down the side of plowed road is quite difficult for most) as well as created more conflict among users (3 years ago a friend's car window was broken at the junction of the plowed private road and the county road). I've also seen many, many more people stuck, trying to drive up the narrow, snowy road, which is much more dangerous to drivers. Unless a new trailhead is established at the junction of the private road and Cty Rd 5, and the COUNTY maintains the additional mile of CR5, I STRONGLY object to private plowing of this road.

The same holds true for CR361, in that I ski that road on a weekly basis, both to access the terrain up higher as recreational skier, as well as a professional guide. If that road were to be plowed during the winter, the recreational skiing and professional guiding would be very negatively impacted.

Additionally, I understand the current activity on CR 14 is in San Juan County and the upper portion of that road in Ouray County is private, however the plowing on that road is greatly negatively impacting the winter recreation on Red Mountain Pass.

I hope Ouray County will continue to look at the use/needs of all in the County and appreciate the time to share my opinions.

I am most happy to share more thoughts, but unfortunately cannot attend the meeting tomorrow or on Wednesday. Please feel free to reach me at this e-mail or the numbers below.

Thank you for sharing my concerns with the Commissioners and others.

Sincerely,

Danika Gilbert

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Danika Gilbert
Consultant, Owner
Danika Gilbert LLC
68 Aspenglow Lane
Ridgway, CO 81432
303-503-9070 (mobile)
970-626-4090 (home)

From: Paul Cammack [mailto:paulcammack1171@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, December 07, 2015 8:45 PM
To: hhollenbeck@ouraycountyco.gov
Subject: Plowing county road 5

I am 15 years old and I have been living in elk meadows for almost 11 years and all that time county road 5 has been my family's number one favorite place to walk all year long. My mom and many of her friends love to go cross-country skiing there, and they have for longer than radio dog ranch has existed. My family has been walking and skiing on county road 5 for over 14 years. When we lived in Durango before moving here when I was 3 we would drive up here for the weekend to see friends and walk at county road 5. We still walk there very often these days in the winter time and one of the cool things is to walk in the glistening and shiny snow and not a sloppy muddy roads. I believe that it would be unthoughtful of the owners of radio dog ranch to ruin county road 5 so that they can easily get up to their house to only be up there for a few days when they obviously have the right vehicle to get to their house with out much trouble at all. One of those vehicle even has snow tracks and a snow plow. I believe that the county should not pass this proposition to plow and ruin a very lovely place for many people in this county to ski and walk.

Thanks,
Paul Cammack

From: Betsy Baier [mailto:betsy.baier@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, December 07, 2015 9:09 PM
To: Hannah Hollenbeck
Subject: Re: Plowing on County Road 5

Thank you, Hannah. I have, in the last 1/2 hour, found out that plowing the road does NOT benefit skiers, as there will be no parking up at the split. If skiers have to use a plowed road, that is not the best option. I am so sorry, but perhaps I need to re-think my stance. Please consider this a neutral stance, as I am unable to attend the meeting to hear the options. Thank you.
Betsy Baier

On Monday, December 7, 2015, Hannah Hollenbeck <hhollenbeck@ouraycountyco.gov> wrote:
Hi Betsy--
I have provided your comments to the BOOC. Your comments will also be included in the public record for this agenda item.

Best,
Hannah Hollenbeck

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 7, 2015, at 20:29, Betsy Baier <betsy.baier@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello there!

I would like to voice my support for the County's discussion and hopeful decision to plow County Road 5 approximately one mile farther at the top, past the mailboxes, to the split in the road. There is a good parking area, and skiers and snowshoers could then take off from there, where the views are open, rather than slogging up the road in the trees. Thank you for this consideration. It is a joy to live in a County that is as beautiful as Ouray, and one that renders so many recreational activities right out our doors.

Elizabeth (Betsy) Baier

555 Sabeta Drive

Ridgway, CO 81432

"Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wildness is a necessity" - John Muir

Proposed plowing of CR5.

I am writing to voice my disapproval on plowing CR 5. I feel that there are very few places near town that are accessible for recreating, open to the public and give you a sense of getting off the beaten track that are not private property. Top of the Pines is a county park and is groomed for Nordic skiing and snowshoeing. Since I moved here 13 years ago, classic/Nordic skiers that want to get that “back country” experience enjoy fresh snow, breaking your own trail and bringing your dog along, use CR5. While TOP is certainly a wonderful amenity for immediate winter recreation, it is not the same “raw” experience one gets with CR5. Not only is it an access point/trail head for the San Juan Hut Systems but also it provides easy winter access for locals who want to get out in Nature and may only have only a short amount of time. The road provides a gentle grade that all families can enjoy together and is right out our back door. Growth in our beautiful town will certainly occur with individuals choosing to build further into the backcountry but also wanting the amenities of being in town. I believe having easy access to recreation without having to drive further in your car is something we need to hold on to. I feel if one chooses to build off the grid (as in San Juan Vistas) that access to your home should continue to be ski in or snowmobile access only - not plowing by County officials or other private entities.

Sara Ballantyne
Ridgway, CO
970-318-8806
saraballantyne@gmail.com

From: Joshua Gowans [mailto:josh@3plumes.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2015 5:51 AM
To: hhollenbeck@ouraycountyco.gov
Subject: I support snow on CR5

Hi Hannah,

Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend the meeting today to review winter access on CR5. Having said that, I, along with several friends and family, do use CR5 during the winter as it is close to Ridgway and offers a fantastic training and scenic area for winter enthusiasts. I am opposed to plowing the lower portion as that connects directly to the only viable parking lot in the area.

I understand the homeowner's desires regarding plowing the road and, like many, am open to determining a good, workable solution for everyone. That said, allowing the first mile to be plowed would be detrimental to the area's winter use in my view.

Thank you for considering this email and for the work you do.

Best wishes,

Josh

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Joshua Gowans
Peak Media Company, LLC
302 Escalante Circle
Ridgway, CO 81427

803.258.0277 | phone
www.peakmedia.co

From: Terri Lizzio [mailto:tlizzio@ouray.k12.co.us]
Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2015 6:09 AM
To: hhollenbeck@ouraycountyco.gov
Subject: Please say no to plowing at Elk Meadows...

Hi my name is Terri Lizzio and my family and I have lived in Ouray County for 12 years. We have lived at Elk Meadows for close to 11 of those years. My family and I have enjoyed countless walks through out all seasons up County road 5 past the mail boxes because of the spectacular views. We even used to drive 2 hours from Durango during the 12 years we lived there to visit Ouray and a friend here. Every visit included a walk on County Road 5 to see Mount Sneffels. Since living in Elk Meadows I have enjoyed cross country skiing each winter with friends. Every year it is a wonderful experience to glide through one of my favorite places in the world either on a stunning sunny day or a grey snowy day. The best part I can get to this location in a 5 minute drive from my Elk Meadows home. The parking lot is full most every winter weekend as well as those lucky people that are there during the week too. County road 5 supports a vast majority of hikers, bikers, skiers, and snow shoe enthusiasts. I am even seeing fat tire bike riders up on the snow packed road. Also each year I always see many skiers traveling to the hut system up County Road 5. They are packed up and excited for a beautiful weekend adventure.

So therefore I am confused and concerned when so much of the population of Ouray County counts on this area for tons of outdoor pursuits, how two home owners want to destroy this opportunity for so many others. Especially for just a few days at the holidays. Also seems crazy when they own 3 snow vehicles to bring them to their home with out damaging the road for all of the outdoor enthusiasts. Seems completely unfair. The one year plowing occurred the road was a mess and the narrow ledge next to the trees was super precarious for skiers. Please do not allow this permit for plowing to be passed. I think it would be a detrimental, unfair and very wrong decision.

Please consider all the people that choose to live in Ouray County to enjoy the beauty of this area.

Thanks so much for your time and consideration, Terri Lizzio

From: Angela Hawse [mailto:alpinist007@mac.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2015 7:50 AM
To: hhollenbeck@ouraycountyco.gov
Subject: CR 5 - Winter

Dear Hannah,

Unfortunately I am unable to make the meeting today at 11:00, but I wanted to chime in and let you know that I support snow on Country Road 5. The access for skiers and snowmobilers will be compromised if the road is plowed and this right of way for many recreationalists marginalized because of the interests of a private land owner. Thank you for listening and your work on this important community issue.

Kind regards,
Angela Hawse

Angela Hawse, M.A.
AMGA / IFMGA Licensed Mountain Guide
970.318.9000 • alpinist007@me.com
<http://www.angelahawse.com>



From: Nicole Greene [mailto:nicolejgreene@me.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2015 8:48 AM
To: hhollenbeck@ouraycountyco.gov
Subject: Cty Rd 5

As residents of the town of Ridgway, our family supports leaving snow for recreation on County Road 5.

Thank you,

Nicole Greene + Thomas Emilson

Nicole Greene

ngreene@rmi.net

970.729.2526

Please excuse the brevity of this correspondence; it was sent from a mobile phone.

From: Andy Michelich [mailto:andy@sanjuanhuts.com]

Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2015 9:31 AM

To: hhollenbeck@ouraycountyco.gov

Subject: Ct Rd 5 snow plowing

Dear Hannah,

Since I won't be able to attend today's meeting, I'd like to chime in via email and send my thoughts with regards to the proposed idea of snow plowing on County Road 5 in Ridgway, CO.

My thoughts:

- Allowing for snow plows on Ct Rd 5 will allow for more year round vehicle activity increasing the impact on our environment. I will only encourage more traffic and more disruption of wildlife which migrates during the seasons.
- I'd like to also point out that, there is already a grooming machine that packs Ct Rd 5 which allows all residents to be able to snowmobile into their homes, ride an enclosed four wheeler (such as a Arctic Ranger), or to simply skin or snowshoe in.
- Adding more vehicles on Ct Rd 5 will only increase the traffic and encounters between them and snowmobiles, which can be hazardous and dangerous to all parties, especially those on skis and snowshoes.
- Snow plowing Ct Rd 5 will help remove the feeling and actual purity of the backwoods setting by allowing me vehicles into the backcountry and closer to wilderness.
- Is there a true safety issue or concern that snow plowing Ct Rd 5 will remedy? If so, it should be addressed. If not, let's not remove the existing structure that continues to function.
- by snow plowing Ct Rd 5, it wouldn't benefit anyone else but the local residents, who have actually chosen to live there. Their commitment to living in a backroad setting comes with added efforts including access to their properties.
- I think that many (if not most) residents in this area enjoy the outdoor lifestyle and setting that we live in. Many of us have moved and invested our lives into a community that continues to offer a lifestyle that allows everyone to enjoy the pure outdoors.
- Ouray County represents one of the purest and pristine areas of our country. It is a place where people truly enjoy the outdoor access that it has to offer.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Andy Michelich

From: RANDY JEN PARKER [mailto:parkersl1@msn.com]

Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2015 10:04 AM

To: Hannah Hollenbeck

Subject: Plowing of CR 5

Dear County Commissioners,

I regret that I am unable to attend today's meeting regarding the plowing of CR 5. I am of the belief that having this done privately may result in unsafe conditions for those of us who use this resource for xc skiing. While I do not know exactly how many of homeowners there are on this road I am quite certain that the number who use this for recreational purposes far surpasses this number. I wonder what the landowners were told when they purchased their property. In any event, I strongly believe this road should be maintained for recreational purposes and the landowners should be expected to access their homes via snow mobile or snow cat. This is a fantastic place to ski and I (along with many, many others)I would hate to see that change.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Parker

Ridgway

From: Robyn Cascade [mailto:casbyn813@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2015 10:48 AM

To: lpadgett@ouraycountyco.gov; dbatchelder@ouraycountyco.gov; btisdel@ouraycountyco.gov

Cc: hhollenbeck@ouraycountyco.gov

Subject: Winter maintenance of CR 5 and CR 361 - I hope my comments are received in time!

Dear County Commissioners,

I am a resident of Ridgway. I am passionate about enjoying the environment in which we live here in Ouray County. I enjoy wildlife watching as well as recreating in all seasons, and I am committed to the protection of wild lands (and waterways) in our county.

I am writing to comment on the application before you to plow CR 5 from the Elk Meadows mailboxes south for approximately one mile. I am vehemently opposed to the plowing of this section of road and would prefer it be left in its natural winter state for several reasons.

- As a cross country skier, I prefer to ski this length of road rather than trudge the distance carrying my skis.
- Activities by private landowners in years past that have removed snow from this road have encouraged vehicles to attempt to travel it and inevitably resulted in ruts and damage to the road as well as stranded vehicles.
- Travel by vehicles along this roadway also negatively impacts wildlife in region. The noise is a disturbance and traffic cuts through migration corridors and birthing habitat.
- Furthermore, if the county cannot guarantee sufficient parking at the terminus of the plowed road and/or the road will be restricted to private landowners, a decision to plow CR 5 will benefit a few at the cost to many residents and visitors as well as to the business that operates backcountry ski huts in the area.

I understand that it is the right of landowners to access their property, and I can imagine the challenges the property owners face given winter condition. However, I do not support plowing of this road at the risk of altering wildlife behavior and detracting from recreational opportunities and quiet(er) use.

I use county road 361 far less, however I know many ice climbers and winter guides/professionals who rely on this access. Please assure that access is maintained for these users and balanced with the need for safety and access by others.

Thank you so much for your service to our county and receiving my comments.

Respectfully,

Robyn Cascade

From: William H. Chipley [mailto:bchip@cobbluebirdrealty.com]

Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2015 11:13 AM

To: hhollenbeck@ouraycountyco.gov

Subject: Comments Regarding Plowing Agreement between Craig Morrison and Ouray County for CR 5

Hello Hannah,

Sorry I can't make today's BOCC meeting but I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts and comments regarding the proposed plowing agreement for CR 5 between Craig Morrison and Ouray County.

As I understand it, I do not support plowing on CR 5 beyond the CR 5 / CR 5A intersection for approx. 0.9 miles, particularly if County funds are used to provide the plowing.

There is currently a convenient and useful parking area at the CR 5 / CR 5A intersection for those wishing to ski, snowshoe, snowmobile or snow cat beyond that point during the winter. Keeping the road plowed will become an attractive nuisance for those choosing to drive farther up the road and, without a county maintained parking area where plowing stops, people may get stuck and/or block the road or private driveways. Additionally, there is a severe drainage problem near the end of the proposed 0.9 mile plowing section and I have seen 2 propane trucks and a grader stuck there at the same time. Keeping that section of road plowed and seemingly open during the late winter "mud season" will invite more problems there and potentially implicate the County for properly maintaining it.

There are only a few property owners who live beyond the CR 5 / CR 5A intersection and, I believe, some, if not all, of those owners are only in residence during the summer months. I do not support County funds being used to benefit so few property owners. Thus far, these owners have been perfectly able to access their properties during the winter with over-snow vehicles.

Finally, I do not support the proposed plowing beyond the CR 5 / CR 5A intersection for purely aesthetic reasons. Year-round, the .9-mile section of CR 5 is a peaceful walk, bicycle, ski and/or snowshoe outing. During the winter, it is an especially nice ski or snowshoe since few, if any, motorized vehicles are encountered. Plowing the road will potentially increase encounters between self-propelled and motorized users and could result in conflicts given the road conditions. Also, and perhaps more importantly, should the County eventually assume maintenance responsibility for that section of CR 5, widening the road would severely degrade and impact the serene nature of the road and, again, the cost for doing so cannot be justified for the benefit of just a few property owners.

Please contact me with any questions – Thanks,

Bill C.

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William H. Chipley, Broker
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