

The Following document dispels the false stereotype of landowner vs recreationist, the haves vs the have nots. That is not the case. These access obstructing landowners in the Crazy Mountains are hurting other landowners as well, including some who sold them their lands!

**For example:** In response to a 1999 letter from Chuck Rein of the Rein Anchor Ranch about the Sweet Grass Road/Trail being signed (pics above I took on June 28, 2015 when I began on the ground documentation of the access obstructions), part of the road has been renamed to Rein Lane, landowners [Ralph and Barbara Cosgriff replied in 2003](#). The Cosgriffs were trying to maintain their friendship, but stated they were going to, "preserve our right to free and unrestricted access to our properties along Sweet Grass Creek and the general area." The Cosgriff's wrote that since 1916 their family had used the road, including commercial use, as well as contributed to it's improvements; as did others, including the Federal government. The Cosgriffs did not want to limit their access or that of any potential future buyer's access. "We don't intend by this letter to take any action with regard to your sign or Carroccia's sign, but we don't necessarily agree that the road is not public and certainly don't intend to restrict our future use of the road." In 2001, the Cosgriff's got in touch with USFS Frank Cifala who recorded, "Mr. Cosgriff was rather upset with a letter he had received and stated the Carroccias had gone 'too far'. The Carroccias are limiting public access across their property... Mr. Cosgriff stated he had proof that the County and Forest Service had maintained portions of the road/trail across his father-in-law's private land in the Sweet Grass Creek drainage within the National Forest." When asked if Cosgriff would be willing to exchange easements, Cosgriff replied, "...**there was no need since it was a 'public road' through both.**" The Cosgriffs provided historical proof to the Forest Service and statements. The Cosgriff's friends and guests were at times also harassed while trying to visit them.

Another group of letters from my FOIA, involves the Van Cleves being obstructed from using these public trails to get to some of their other checkerboarded land or the public land beyond. They were obstructed by the Langhus' of the Hailstone Ranch. So this is very clearly not a landowners vs recreationist issue, it is privatizing landowners against other landowners, the public ownership and the Federal government which manages on our behalf concerning access.