

May 31, 2021

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Lawrence County Board of Commissioners

Richard Sleep, Chairman
Bob Ewing
Randall Rosenau
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This letter is written concerning the issue of ATV's and other similar vehicles traveling on our county roads. My property is on FS 222—School House Gulch Road, about ¾ of a mile SW of FS 134. The traffic has increased to the point it is almost unbearable on our roads with sightseers, people playing and kicking up dust and being general nuisances. My land is primarily used for a cattle grazing lease to Boyd and Cameron Larson. There is a three-mile stretch from the NE corner of Billie Evans's property to the far western edge of my land which is sometimes even open range. Cattle owned by Larsons also graze on the Evans property. Neighbors with government leases include the Reineckes from Beulah and Aaron Thompson also of Lawrence County. I would imagine the safety of their cattle is also a concern. There is a little-used road connecting the north loop of FS 222 with School House Gulch known as Lap Circle Lane which runs between the Sager and Reinecke properties. This is not regularly maintained, but these machines will, in time totally ruin it for the ranchers' use moving cattle and fixing fences and such.

In visiting with property owners in the neighborhood to the south on FS 105. Hank White, Rodney Hodgson, and Doug Watson, I understand the problem exists over there too as it's the most accessible road to the Cement Ridge Lookout, a popular scenic attraction. However ATVers also use a trail from School House Gulch up to Cement Ridge. Doug Watson who also runs cattle in the area is from Sundance.

Tourism is an important economic factor for the Black Hills. However I feel these ATVers need to be considerate of us and to pay their fair share, such as an extra tax for the purpose of county maintenance. I realize that we have a public throughfare through our properties, but it would be great if signs about "Open Range", perhaps a speed limit of 20 MPH or less for the 3 miles which we and the Evanses own, and maybe I'm pushing this too far but limiting the number of ATVs in a group to 4 at a time! Last week I had to pull over on FS 222 between Savoy and the Roughlock Falls parking area, while I waited for a string of 10 of them to come down the hill. They were very dirty and caked with mud, indicating they not only use the gravel roads but do off-roading and tearing up the trails as well.

I would appreciate a response and to know your intentions in addressing this matter, and perhaps a session where we could meet with you and express our individual concerns.

Yours truly,

Margaret Sager(S)

Cc: Boyd & Cameron Larson
Billie Evans