



File Code: 2730
Date: March 15, 2022

BRENTEN LAVELLE
20140 BEAR RIDGE ROAD
SPEARFISH. SD 57783


Dear Mr. Lavelle:

I am in receipt of your letter, postmarked February 23, 2022, regarding your concerns on the public use of Bear Ridge Road. The United States of America was the grantee of three separate rights-of-way Easements on portions of Bear Ridge Road, National Forest System Road 131, 131.1 and 131.2 in the County of Lawrence, Sections 7, 8, 17 and 18, Township 6 North, Range 1 East, Black Hills Meridian, South Dakota.

The prior landowners granted to the Grantee and its assigns, a 66 ft. wide Easement for these three portions of road that cross through private property. The Forest Service has been maintaining these roads commensurate with National Forest management activities, with the last maintenance being performed on 5.1 miles of road in 2018. My staff have ascertained that the Forest can maintain these roads for both administrative and public access per the acquired rights-of-way Easement deed.

If you have questions regarding this position, please contact Steve Kozel, Northern Hills District Ranger at (605) 642-4622 or by email at steven.kozel@usda.gov.

Sincerely,



Jeff Tomac
JEFF TOMAC
Forest Supervisor

cc: Steve Kozel, Callie Ackerman, Eric Carney, Brandon Taglioli, Meagan Buehler

