



FW: Boulder County potential mining

1 message

Johnson, Mike- FS <Michael.Johnson6@usda.gov>

Fri, Sep 30, 2022 at 10:18 AM

To: "McLaughlin, Kevin - FS" <kevin.mclaughlin2@usda.gov>, "patrick.lennberg@state.co.us" <patrick.lennberg@state.co.us>

Kevin,

The situation at [1126 James Canyon Drive](#) is escalating.

Patrick,

We haven't met yet, but I administer mining activities for the Forest Service in Boulder county.

It looks like you've already been made aware of this.

We will be contacting Ms. Engel and Mr. Farr as well.

We approved a Plan of Operations in 2014, but it expired by the end of 2015.

The roads on National Forest are closed to the public, which means Engel/Farr will need authorization to use.

Thanks, Mike



Mike Johnson
Lands and Minerals Staff

Forest Service

Boulder Ranger District

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: ericoharms@gmail.com <ericoharms@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, September 30, 2022 9:56 AM

To: Melching, Chase - FS, BOULDER, CO <Chase.Melching@usda.gov>; Gee, Angela -FS <angela.gee@usda.gov>; Johnson, Mike-FS <Michael.Johnson6@usda.gov>; Mike Johnson <mjohnson10@fs.fed.us>

Cc: 'Hill Amber Vantid' <vantid@gmail.com>

Subject: [External Email]HELP ASAP! Gating input needed! Mining-related trespassing via USFS 287.1 at [1126/1029 James Canyon Drive](#)

[External Email]

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Hello Angela, Chase, and Mike. This is Eric Harms at [1126 James Canyon Drive](#), and I am CCing my wife, Amber. We are very much in need of your help.

I need to report new developments in an ongoing situation that I have already mentioned to Mike, and I believe our neighbors have emailed Angela about it too. This is an escalating situation.

Several weeks ago, a group of miners began prospecting at [1148 James Canyon Drive](#), the Rip Van Dam lode, owned by Pat Farr. They started using USFS 287.1 in front of our house to access the property. We notified them that this was an "Administrative Use Only" road and that they would need an easement from us to cross our property, and that they would need a USFS permit to drive the road beyond that. Despite this, the miners have been repeatedly using the road, often late at night, and they have done damage to our property in the process. Last night was the most recent incident, in which they towed a large RV up past our house in the middle of the night (see attached video).

The miners also made three successive attempts (on Sept 5, 6, and 7) to open two mining adits on our property ([1029 James Canyon Drive](#)), directly alongside James Canyon Drive. They claimed to me that the adits were on their property and that the USFS signs and 2011 survey were just "an illustration".

We filed a complaint with the State DRMS, and they sent an inspector out to review the situation. He found that the prospecting operation is illegitimate and being done on an NOI that is invalid and expired. He has ruled that the prospecting must end and the operation must now be reclaimed. See attached report.

Meanwhile, the miners continue to make use of the road and are becoming more and more emboldened and embedded. We have turned them away on multiple occasions, telling them that we are only allowing them to cross our property to move items out. But we cannot monitor the road 24/7. They last violated this last night in pulling the RV up.

The miners have openly discussed making use of 287.1A, farther downstream, to also gain access. I have notified our neighbors there, and they are on the alert. 287.1A is also "Administrative Use Only" and joins with James Canyon Drive through a County-owned parcel ([639 James Canyon Drive](#)), and I have also been in touch with Boulder County Land Use and Open Space on that front. It is vital that 287.1A not be opened to vehicular traffic, given the ongoing conflict around OHV access to Castle Gulch.

We are working with a lawyer experienced in access issues, especially in the mining arena. I can get you in touch with him, if you'd like.

I have also notified the Sheriff, and a couple of deputies are aware of the situation.

This repeated trespassing is putting our property under increased risk and pressure. I would like to install a gate across 287.1 so that we can protect ourselves, and I would like your input on doing so. I have been told in the past that gating the road is permitted, just as long as I provide keys/codes/access to the authorities, which I am glad to do. I do want to make sure that such a gate would be built correctly so that authorized access is not hampered in any way. I would like to proceed immediately with this, so please advise asap.

I am summarizing many days' and weeks' of incidents and can go into much greater detail if needed.

I hope to hear back from you soon. Thank you!

Eric Harms
EricOHarms@gmail.com

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5 attachments



Map With Annotations.png
234K



Damage Photo.jpg
1247K

 **Boulder Hit.MP4**
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 **Report.pdf**
9059K

 **Excavator.mp4**
150K