



**Hole in the Wall Ranch Property Owner's Association
P.O. Box 26
La Veta, Colorado 81055**

September 15, 2023

Board of County Commissioners
Huerfano County Colorado
401 Main Street
Walsenburg, CO 81089

Re: County Road 363

Dear Commissioners:

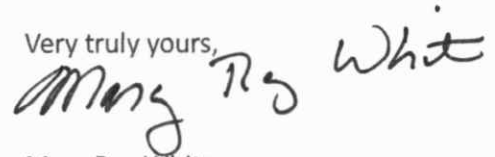
On behalf of The Hole in the Wall Property Owners Association and Firewise Community I write in support of Marta Moore's letter of September 4, 2023, opposing the abandonment, vacation, closure, or restricted use of County Road 363 as well as any obstruction or blockage of that road in the form of locked gates or otherwise. See C.R.S. §§ 43-2-113, 201.1 and 303 as well as § 42-4-106. Any decision that reduces CR 363's public availability must be transparent, made at a public hearing conducted after thorough public notice.

As Marta described, CR 363 is an essential alternative emergency egress to those of us who live in the Wahatoya Creek and School Creek basins, i.e. along County Roads 360, 361 and 362. In the event of major flooding, La Veta will close all roads leading into town. In that event, we will be left without any way to reach I-25, except by using CR363. Please do not interfere with its use, leaving us in such a life-threatening situation - unable to reach any source of food or medicine.

We understand that the county receives Highway User Trust Funds payments for the inclusion of CR 363 in the county's highway system. Receipt of such funding is inconsistent with the surrender of the road to private use. Furthermore, the sentiment to close 363 appears to arise from the Andreatta family which owns property on either side of a major length of the road. Please bear in mind that what is now called CR 363 was a county road in the same location well before the Andreattas acquired the surrounding property. They should not now complain about its continued public use.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Ray White". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "Mary" being the most prominent and the last name "White" following it.

Mary Ray White

President

Hole in the Wall Ranch POA
and Firewise Community

719-742-6164

3286 County Road 361

P.O. Box 26

La Veta, Colorado 81055

cc: Carl Young, Marta Moore, Mayor Brgoch, Joe Edes, HITWR POA members via email