

June 25, 2021

Ref: Abandonment of Part of Bald Knoll Road

Dear Priscilla Shoup,

We are requesting that the Grant County Road Department no longer maintain the last 4 ½ miles of the Bald Knoll road located in Grant County approximately 9 miles from Cliff. This part of the road starts in Sec 26, T16S; R18W.

The road travels through land owned by Rusty Reed and Edwin Bradberry. This land is private property and doesn't access any NM State Land. The Norris Ranch Trust borders part of our land; while the Bald Knoll Road doesn't run through the Norris Ranch they will be given access and an easement to get to their land.

We are requesting because of the constant issues of people leaving the county maintained road and travelling on private maintained pipeline roads, trails that have been built for livestock and places where they can get off of the road they are driving across range land creating their own roadways. We have placed signage about private roads, private property, etc only to have them ripped down, shot up or vulgar remarks written on them. We've lost livestock after informing people this is private land.

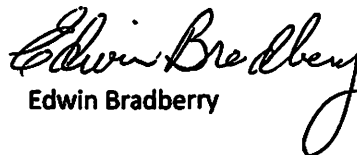
There are several times that we have requested the county to fix this road in order for us to haul cattle and equipment and do maintenance because of the cost and wear and tear on our vehicles. Each time we've been told the county doesn't have the money to do the necessary work that needs to be done. So at our personal expense we have fixed the road to include drilling and blasting, dozer and blade work, hauling in material, changing part of the road to make it easier to travel. This has been to the tune of several tens of thousand dollars. The county doesn't object as long as they didn't have to do it. This last part of the road doesn't have very much dirt in the windrow only rocks. We've requested dirt be hauled in but there's no money in the budget. So when it gets bladed rocks are put in the road and every time right after we have several flat tires and ruin some tires. (This can be confirmed with the people at the service station in Cliff – Chuck's Folly)

Another concern is the folks who are a little shady and known drug users driving around and when approached they reply we're just driving on the county road. When told that it's deeded land on both sides of the road and they can't get off the road it doesn't phase them. My barn and shop is only about 60 feet off the road and 125 yards from my house. These people have no business stopping and looking around here and we can't be around 24/7 to keep an eye on our place.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

  
Rusty Reed

  
Edwin Bradberry

  
Curly Norris

## GRANT COUNTY

**CHRIS M. PONCE**  
*Commissioner, District 1*

**JAVIER SALAS**  
*Commissioner, District 2*

**Alicia Edwards**  
*Commissioner, District 3*



**GERALD W. BILLINGS JR.**  
*Commissioner, District 4*

**HARRY BROWNE**  
*Commissioner, District 5*

**CHARLENE WEBB**  
*County Manager*

July 12, 2021

David Wallace  
Bureau of Land Management  
Las Cruces District Office

Hello David,

I am submitting this letter in addition to a letter from three property owners whom are requesting Grant County abandon maintenance to four and a half miles of Bald Knoll Road. If this request is approved, the property owners do plan on putting a locked gate to restrict access to their property. The reasons these property owners would like to abandon maintenance is because of people trespassing onto their property, removing signage, and they have lost livestock as well. They also have been maintaining that road themselves with their own equipment.

There are many roads in Grant County that need better maintenance, unfortunately the Grant County Road Department cannot always take care of every road because of budget restraints. As this request would benefit the property owners more than the County, the final decision makers are the Grant County Commission. We would like input from the BLM as this would impact the decision of Grant County.

Thank you

Priscilla Shoup  
Grant County  
Planning and Community Development Director  
pshoup@grantcountynm.gov

### Office Of The Grant County Commissioners

1400 Highway 180 East, Silver City, NM 88061 7837 • P. O. Box 398, Silver City, NM 88062-0398  
Telephone: (575) 574-0008 • Fax: (575) 574-0073



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Las Cruces District Office  
1800 Marquess Street  
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005  
<https://www.blm.gov/new-mexico>

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
2800 (L03110)

AUG 3 0 2021

CERTIFIED—RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED  
7019 1120 0002 2036 2435

Ms. Priscilla Shoup  
Director, Grant County Planning and  
Community Development  
1400 Highway 180 East  
Silver City, NM 88061-7837

Dear Ms. Shoup,

Thank you for your letter dated July 12, 2021, regarding a proposal from Grant County to abandon county road maintenance responsibility. Your letter and the landowners' letter are enclosed.

Bald Knoll Road provides limited legal and physical access to approximately 5,000 acres of contiguous public and state lands and is on record as being held legally on public land by Grant County under BLM serial number NMNM 052981. A County decision to abandon this road would likely negatively affect the public's use of these lands. The public should be afforded the right to legal and physical access for the continued use and enjoyment of their public and state lands.

I would like to visit with Grant County management before any final decision to abandon is made to discuss options to keep the road as public access, or BLM requirements should the County decide to move forward with vacation of Bald Knoll Road.

Sincerely,

Dave Wallace  
Assistant District Manager  
Multiple Resources

3 Enclosures:

Grant County Letter  
Bald Knoll Rd Map  
Letter from Property Owners

Bureau of Land Management  
Las Cruces District Office  
Dave Wallace Assistant District Manager  
1800 Marquess Street  
Las Cruces, NM 88005

Dear Mr. Wallace,

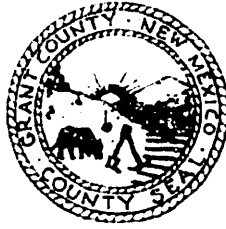
Thank you for your letter, received on August 30, 2021, in response to the Grant County proposal to abandon Bald Knoll Road.

The committee agrees that this road does provide limited access to BLM and New Mexico State Trust land. Further, most access to these lands is via foot travel or other approved means of travel such as horseback. We believe that the closure of this road will not deny access to these lands since Bald Knoll Road will still access public land that is contiguous to almost all of the BLM and New Mexico State Trust Land.

As you know County Road budgets were slashed many years ago by the Richardson Administration, to help fund public transportation in more populated areas of NM. This has caused many county road maintenance budgets to cut back on road maintenance and focus on higher use roads. We understand from landowners and county road maintenance staff that this road is rarely maintained by county staff and equipment and thus private users in the area have had to resort to maintaining the road themselves to conduct business and access private property and residences.

Thus our recommendation is to abandon the Bald Knoll Road because of lack of maintenance and little to no impact to access of BLM land or New Mexico State Trust Lands will occur.

W



January 31, 2022

Grant County Board of Commissioners  
Grant County Admin Center  
PO Box 898  
Silver City, NM 88062

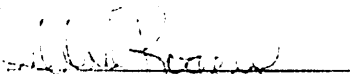
Re: Bald Knoll Road

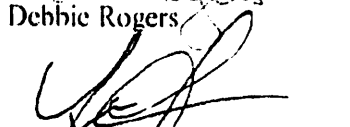
Dear Commissioners:

We have reviewed the Part of Bald Knoll Road, Cliff NM, as identified on the attached map. We find that the road is not needed by Grant County and recommend that the Board of Commissioners abandon and vacate the property.

Sincerely,

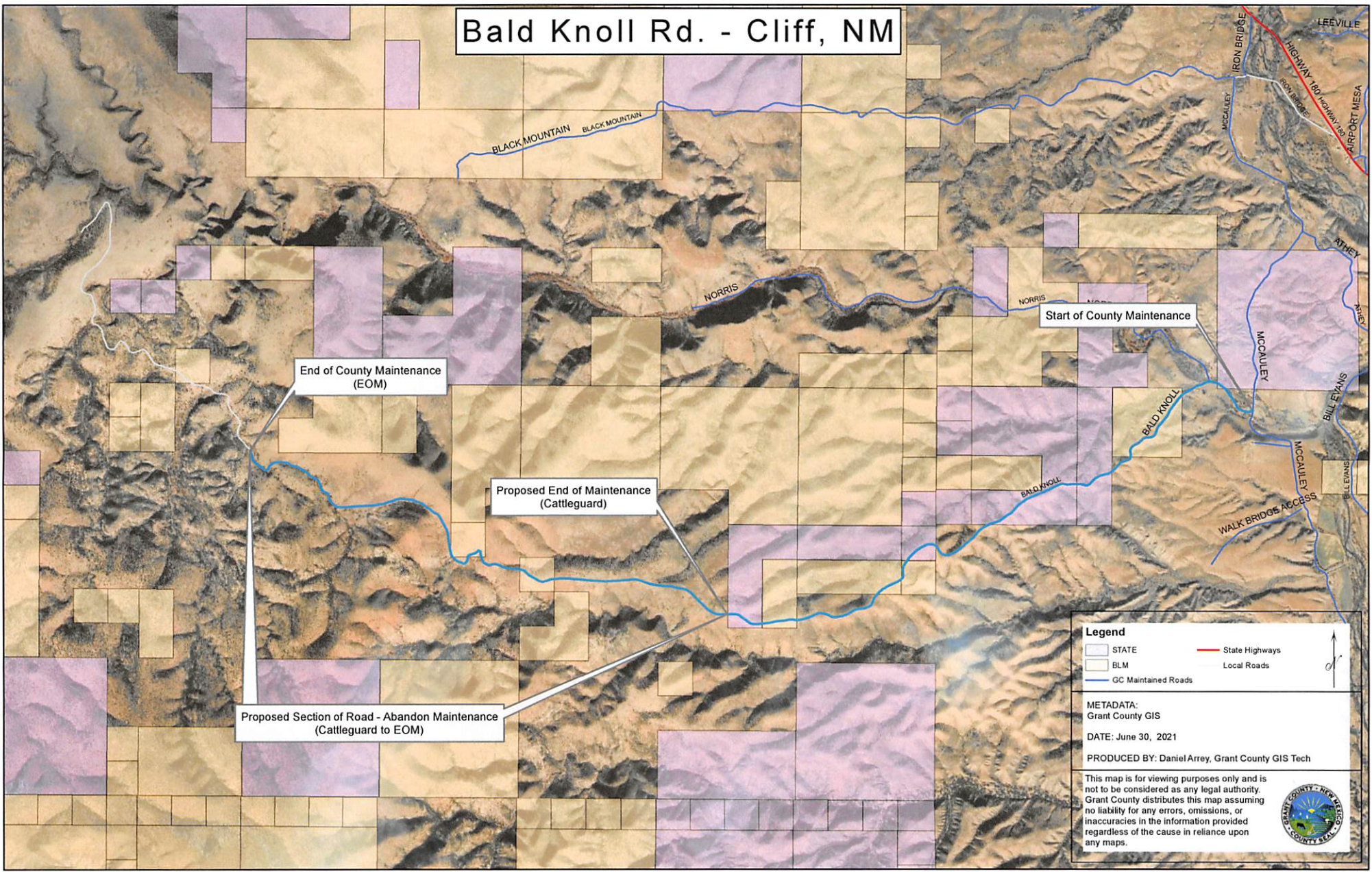
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ty Bays

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Debbie Rogers

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Loren Frost



# Bald Knoll Rd. - Cliff, NM



End of County Maintenance (EOM)

Proposed End of Maintenance (Cattleguard)

Start of County Maintenance

Proposed Section of Road - Abandon Maintenance (Cattleguard to EOM)

**Legend**

- STATE
- BLM
- GC Maintained Roads
- State Highways
- Local Roads

**METADATA:**  
Grant County GIS  
DATE: June 30, 2021

PRODUCED BY: Daniel Arrey, Grant County GIS Tech

This map is for viewing purposes only and is not to be considered as any legal authority. Grant County distributes this map assuming no liability for any errors, omissions, or inaccuracies in the information provided regardless of the cause in reliance upon any maps.

