

**From:** [Wooden, Daniel D](#)  
**To:** [amhswank@gmail.com](mailto:amhswank@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** [Holt, Michael J](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Complaint re: Nava Ranch PLN-2021-17162, APN# 107-106-006: 5/5/2022 Planning Commission Item  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 04, 2022 3:56:21 PM

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**Caution:** This email was sent from an EXTERNAL source. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hello Allen,

We received the attached letter with your concerns about access to the King Range National Conservation Area (NCA) using the Smith-Etter road, from the Wilder ridge road. I appreciate your concern for the mission of BLM and need for public access to public lands. The BLM has also expressed concerns about the expansion of approved project PLN12657-SP primarily based on impacts to public access and and the resource values of the NCA.

In this particular case, I am afraid there is some confusion as to how one accesses BLM lands using the Smith-Etter road. The gate in your photo is, in fact, a privately owned gate on a private road called the Landergren Rd, which leads to access to APN# 107-106-006. The nearest BLM public access road is Smith-Etter Rd approximately 1/4 mile north of Landergren Rd. along Wilder Ridge Rd.

Smith-Etter Rd does have a different gate and is subject to seasonal closures in the wet winter and spring months, typically Nov 1 - May 1. That gate was recently opened and there is public access to the King Range NCA using the Smith-Etter road. Our Employees have accessed the BLM lands using this route as recently as last week. This kind of confusion is related to the concerns we have already expressed to the county for consideration in the permit expansion.

If you have additional concerns about accessing the King Range NCA, please feel free to to Mike Holt, King Range NCA Manager at (707)986-5402 or [mholt@blm.gov](mailto:mholt@blm.gov).

Thanks for your concern.

DW

***Dan Wooden***

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Assistant Field Manager - Resources  
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dwooden@blm.gov

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**From:** Melinda Swank <amhswank@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 30, 2022 3:33 PM  
**To:** rbohn@co.humboldt.ca.us <rbohn@co.humboldt.ca.us>; mbushnell@co.humboldt.ca.us <mbushnell@co.humboldt.ca.us>; BLM\_CA\_Web\_AR <BLM\_CA\_Web\_AR@blm.gov>; BLM\_CA\_Web\_KR <BLM\_CA\_Web\_KR@blm.gov>  
**Cc:** planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Complaint re: Nava Ranch PLN-2021-17162, APN# 107-106-006: 5/5/2022 Planning Commission Item

TO: First District Supervisor Rex Bohn; 2nd District Supervisor Michelle Bushnell; Bureau of Land Management Arcata Field Manager Molly Brown; and Bureau of Land Management King Range Area Manager Michael Holt

CC: Humboldt County Planning Commission Planning Clerk

FROM: Allen Swank, Resident: Fortuna CA

REGARDING: Nava Ranch, LLC: Honeydew Area Record Number PLN-2021-17162 (filed 4/15/2021) Special Permit for expansion of approved project PLN12657-SP

Attached please find a letter and supporting photographs relative to the Nava Ranch proposal for consideration at the May 5, 2022 Planning Commission Meeting. This information was submitted to the Planning Commission Clerk on April 28, 2022.

Respectfully,

Allen Swank  
Fortuna CA

April 28, 2022

Humboldt County Planning Commission  
Via email: [planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us](mailto:planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us)

Regarding: Nava Ranch, LLC: Honeydew Area, Record Number PLN-2021-17162 (filed 4/15/2021) Special Permit for expansion of approved project PLN12657-SP

Commissioners:

The mission of the County of Humboldt is to "protect and serve our community and to earn the public's trust through compassion and accountability". The Bureau of Land Management's mission is to "sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations". Over 99 percent of BLM-managed lands are open to hunting, fishing and recreational shooting opportunities. The BLM provides important access to hunting and fishing opportunities on public lands and waters, working with local communities and our valued partners to actively expand access to these opportunities.

Unfortunately these two missions collide when the County allows property owners to erect a locked gate preventing use of an easement and thus, access to *our* public lands.

Specifically: the Nava Ranch in Honeydew, Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 107-106-006, has an easement to provide public access to the King Range National Conservation Area. And yet, the County of Humboldt and the Planning Department apparently have no problem allowing the landowner to construct and maintain a locked gate rendering this public easement impassable. How is this possible?

As an outdoorsman, I take every opportunity to enjoy these public lands. I appreciate that some public land is constrained by private land and requires special permissions. I am also a taxpayer and when an easement is granted I expect it to be available.

If this is the first the County is hearing of this, please accept this complaint as a call to action. If instead the County allows this type of infraction to go unanswered, I am concerned particularly with respect to the County's mission of "accountability". In either case, I would appreciate a response.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.



Allen Swank  
Resident: Fortuna CA



