

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE

Wasatch National Forest  
4311 Federal Bldg., 125 S. State  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138

7700 (2700)

June 30, 1976



Honorable Frank E. Moss  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Moss:

I am writing in reply to your letter of May 18, 1976 to Regional Forester Hamre concerning the Lambs Canyon road in Salt Lake County. Your letter was forwarded to me for a more detailed reply.

The Lambs Canyon road has generated considerable controversy over the past few years, principally from the private land owners in Lambs Canyon. Maintenance on this road has been somewhat "hit and miss" and the extreme snowmelt runoff problems experienced in May, 1975, accelerated the problem. The road serves principally as access to the private land in Lambs Canyon and the several summer homes developed thereon. The principal uses made by the public are fishing and sightseeing and are generally only of a transient nature. Were it not for the private land developments, there would be essentially no need for this road as the canyon would lend itself better to foot travel.

Several years ago Salt Lake County, in an effort to help the canyon residents, improved the road, paved it and has since then performed various maintenance tasks on the road. This work done in the past was performed essentially without authorization inasmuch as the road is a National Forest System road and not under permit or easement to the County. This has led the canyon summer home owners to feel that there is a shared responsibility on the part of the Forest Service and Salt Lake County and have, therefore, made their request through both for assistance in maintaining the road.

The Salt Lake District Ranger has attempted to work out an agreement with Salt Lake County on this road. At one point we had agreed to go fifty percent of the annual cost of maintenance, not to exceed \$500.00, and to split the cost of the one-time expenditure to bring

the road up to an acceptable standard, the total cost of which was estimated at \$5,000. This would have been accomplished under a cooperative road maintenance agreement.

The Salt Lake County Attorney's office then ruled that it would not be desirable for the County to enter into such an agreement and that they could expend monies on such a road only if they had what amounted to a proprietary right. This decision was then transmitted to the County Commission and, at a recent meeting of that body, they voted to apply for a special use permit and to take full responsibility for the Lambs Canyon road including maintenance. Salt Lake County is presently in the process of completing their application for a special use permit. If they are able to return the application promptly, we will be in a position to issue a permit sometime during this summer field season.

Should you have any further questions on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

**C. P. ST. JOHN**

CHANDLER P. ST. JOHN  
Forest Supervisor

cc:  
Honorable Frank E. Moss  
United States Senate  
5430 Federal Building  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138

Honorable Pete Kutulas w/copy of Senator Moss' ltr. 5/18/76  
Commissioner, Salt Lake County  
City & County Building  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Regional Office, Ogden  
✓ Salt Lake Ranger District