

# Okanogan Open Roads Coalition



Our Community is on the front lines in the fight against Privatization of Public Lands. We Need Your Help.

## What's at Stake:

- Our way of life. Private takeover of our public lands, and the roads that lead to them, signals the end to hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, four wheeling, dirt bike riding and touring on public land for us, and for our children.
- Critical access to emergency escape routes in times of fire, flood and natural disasters.

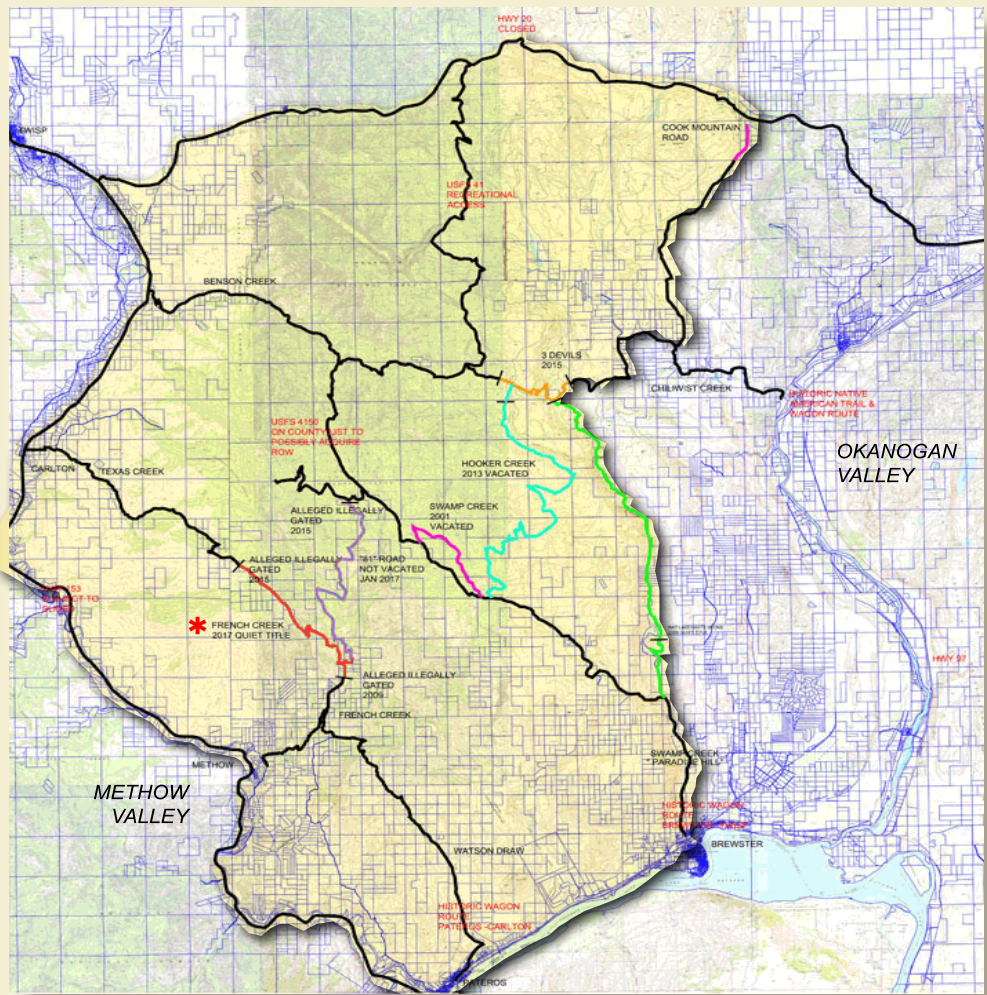
- Our Rural economy depends on access to public lands for hunting, fishing, recreation and tourism.
- It starts with privatizing roads- it ends with public lands in private hands. Forever.

Join Us

## This is what Privatization looks like –

**MAP KEY**

- Swamp Creek Road:** Vacated 2001
- Whitestone Canyon Road/Rat Lake-Mouse Lake Road:** Quiet Title 2008
- \* French Creek Road \*:** Subject of vacation hearing in 2009: Not Vacated; subject of current Quiet Title lawsuit in 2017
- Swamp Creek/Hooker Creek:** Vacated 2013
- Three Devils Road:** Vacated 2015; appeal to WA Supreme Court denied in 2017: Road Closed
- "81" Texas-Benson Road:** Subject of vacation hearing January 2017: Not Vacated
- Loup Loup Highway (20)** Closed from April – July 2017 due to landslides



Help us fight it.



## Okanogan is a Dirt Roads County

Okanogan County is blessed with an historic network of dirt roads that connect our small towns. Some are parts of ancient trails traveled by Native Americans. Some served as freight and stage coach routes for the pioneers and have been used ever since. Others were built by locals, often maintained and patrolled cooperatively with the county or the state.

Dirt roads connect us to tens of thousands of acres of public land. They provide the only access through adjacent private lands.

*In recent years, more and more of these roads have been gated off. Powerful corporate interests are putting up No Trespassing signs and claiming the roads, and public land behind the gates, as their own.*

There seems to be a game plan to privatize virtually all of the back roads between the Okanogan and Methow Valleys, and to develop commercial and industrial operations on the surrounding public lands.

**The fight is on for access to Public Lands.**

**We need your help NOW.**

## Okanogan Open Roads Coalition (OORC)

### ABOUT THE COALITION

Okanogan Open Roads Coalition (OORC) is a committed group of citizens from across Okanogan county, working together to prevent the privatization of public lands and the historic dirt roads that provide access to them.

### ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN

- OORC is engaged in a legal battle with a corporation that has deep pockets and tremendous political influence.
- The current lawsuit concerns a corporate Quiet Title claim to French Creek Road. Vital fire escape for citizens on Texas Creek and French Creek roads, lost access to the French Creek basin and thousands of acres of public land are at stake.
- The suit seeks to put the legitimacy of the entire Okanogan County road system on trial.
- OORC has intervened in this case on behalf of taxpayers to protect public access.
- This is not merely a local problem. It is a regional issue of large scale divestment of public lands through the courts to private corporations.
- We need your help to win this fight. Our legal fees are mounting, and if our opponent is successful in their strategy to take this issue to trial, we're going to need resources to persevere.

It takes money to fight money.

We need help now.

Please consider joining our cause, and making a generous donation to keep us in the fight.

**GoFundme link:**  
[www.gofundme.com/okanoganopenroads](http://www.gofundme.com/okanoganopenroads)

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