



April 14, 2026

Governor Greg Gianforte
State Capitol Room 204
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Montana Land Use
DNRC Headquarters
1539 Eleventh Ave.
Helena, MT 59601

Amanda Kaster
Montana Department Natural Resources & Conservation
1539 11th Avenue
Helena, MT

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Park County Commission. We are writing to inform you that we have met our local needs for gravel resources and no longer require access to State Section 22 for gravel. Our first priority is serving the people of Park County. We are pleased to share that we are able to meet county gravel needs through an existing gravel pit in Paradise Valley, which reduces the cost of road repair for taxpayers while also supporting a local business.

Therefore, we do not support the development of a new gravel pit on the state school section north of Emigrant for the following reasons:

Impacts to taxpayers. It is fiscally irresponsible to truck gravel long distances. To our knowledge, Yellowstone National Park has sourced its own gravel for previous projects, and we believe it is in the best interest of Park County residents and all taxpayers for the Park to continue sourcing gravel from sites within or adjacent to its boundaries.

Health and safety. Transporting large volumes of gravel on U.S. Highway 89 poses safety concerns for Park County residents and our already stretched emergency services. U.S. Highway 89 South is one of the most dangerous secondary highways in the State of Montana. Adding trucks carrying 50,000–80,000 pounds of gravel would only exacerbate an already tenuous situation.

Impacts to our tourism-based economy. U.S. Highway 89 is the primary thoroughfare

supporting our tourism-based economy, and increased truck traffic would place both residents and visitors at greater risk.

Impacts to wildlife. U.S. Highway 89 has a high rate of wildlife collisions. Increased heavy truck traffic has the potential to raise the number of such incidents, as heavy trucks have limited ability to stop quickly or maneuver to avoid wildlife.

Impacts to air quality. Increased heavy truck traffic from Emigrant to Yellowstone National Park would raise diesel emissions and negatively impact air quality for residents and visitors. Yellowstone National Park has a responsibility to protect the environment, including air quality, and should be mindful of the carbon footprint associated with transporting gravel over long distances. This is not in the best interest of Park County or its visitors.

For the reasons stated above, we, the Park County Commissioners, respectfully request that Yellowstone National Park and its gravel suppliers identify sources within or near the park boundary. We therefore oppose the development of a new gravel pit on public lands in Park County to meet the construction needs of Yellowstone National Park.
Sincerely,

Commissioner Bryan Wells

Commissioner Mike Story

Commissioner Jen Vermillion