

**From:** John Hauge <[jdhaug44@gmail.com](mailto:jdhaug44@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2020 5:14 PM  
**To:** Bergquist, Darin <[Darin.Bergquist@state.sd.us](mailto:Darin.Bergquist@state.sd.us)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: [EXT] 385 ditch closure on 385

Darin,

I live on Holso Rd, 2 miles south of Brownsville Rd.

My vote is to close the ditch to off road vehicles. It is a mess with two deep ruts and a lot of damage.

**But you also have to consider snowmobiles for several reasons:**

1. They ride when there is patchy snow cover and start the whole damage problem for the year. Snowmobilers in many cases show little respect or concern for the damage they are causing. Where one goes, they all go. Ten to fifteen at a time in some cases. On any of the hilly or rough spots along the highway, their drive tracks remove the snow and tear up the ground below. It is a thrill to power up the hills, shoot the top, thus destroying the hillside. Many want to get that last ride even if there is minimal snow cover.
2. They destroy the grass, brush and other growth that would stabilize the ditch during the summer.
3. They can be dangerous in the winter at night. There have been numerous times when we have been blinded or distracted while driving down 385 when a one or a group of snowmobiles are approaching us head on. They do have powerful headlights and the curves and rough terrain causes them to shine directly into oncoming traffic.

With the above in mind, for highway safety reasons, I am formally requesting that you close the 385 ditches to snowmobile traffic also. Please let me know if there is more I must do to include snowmobiles in this closure.

Thank you,

John Hauge  
11898 Holso Rd.  
Deadwood, SD 57732

605-584-4886

My name is Ernie Nauman I am from Spearfish and have lived in Spearfish since September of 1969 when my wife Sandi and I moved here three weeks after getting married in Hot Springs. The ditch damage described in the news article has been ongoing for years and it is a horrible thing that is happening to the ditches and the environment and must be stopped. I am 100% in favor of closing the ditches to ATV, UTV and all off road vehicles unless it is an emergency. We go camping a lot at various campgrounds in the areas described and we have noted for years and complained for years about the ditch damage but so far nothing has been done to stop it. Signs were erected several years ago about illegal ditch damage but never enforced and the off road vehicles drive around the signs as if they were not there. Now it has become a huge problem and must come to an end and please do whatever it takes to stop it.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact me below if you need anything more.

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