



SIERRA ACCESS COALITION NEWSLETTER

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Plumas Dirt Riders Club

There is a new dirt bike group in Quincy. The Plumas Dirt Riders Club is being formed by Julie Tanaka. See the club's page on Facebook. There are many riders coming together to speak with a unified voice, which is exactly what is needed on the Plumas N.F.

On the Mt Hough District there are only 2 miles of single track trails. On Beckwourth District there are none. On Feather River District there are approx 20 miles, but many of those have seasonal restrictions. Dirt bikes don't want to ride on roads. They want challenging single track trails. Join this group and help make a difference!

SAC Lawsuit to be filed in November

Our attorney, Greg Gatto of Stole Rives in Truckee, expected to file our lawsuit against the Plumas National Forest Travel Management Plan this month. Joint plaintiffs in the lawsuit include the California Off-Road Vehicle Association (CORVA), and Butte County. Plumas County has not made an official decision on joining the lawsuit yet, but they have been extremely supportive. Extra time is needed to coordinate issues with the counties, but our members need to trust that things are moving forward.

It's a somber note when local governments and citizens need to litigate our own federal government to preserve access to our public lands. But SAC, CORVA, and Butte County feel we have been left with no other option. Having several litigants listed on the lawsuit demonstrates wide disapproval of the Plumas NF Travel Management Plan, not only by the public but by local government as well.

We are all working to figure out the finances for the lawsuit. People have been incredible with their generosity, especially in this tough economy. SAC has received tens of thousands of dollars in donations, we have sold t-shirts, sold raffle tickets, and the Snowmobile Grass Drags helped us by giving us the opportunity to raise money selling beer at their event. We have been overwhelmed by your support.

Amy Granat, Managing Director of the California Off-Road Vehicle Association (CORVA) has been a **major** force in helping SAC with this lawsuit and CORVA is a co-litigant. Amy believes this lawsuit is important to motorized recreationists throughout the state, not only on the Plumas NF. It's time for us to have a unified voice. If you must choose only one organization to support, we recommend CORVA.

Butte County will also be a co-litigant. They should be commended for standing up for the rights of the citizens of their county.

Friends of Tahoe is also supporting us.

Thank you all!

Non-motorized Uses of the Plumas NF

SAC wants the public to understand that we are working to protect access to public lands, not only for motorized vehicles but also for non-motorized users who are seeking quiet areas in the forest. Everyone who travels to the forest to enjoy their chosen form of recreation is affected by the Travel Management Plan. When you drive a vehicle in the forest, you are limited to designated roads. You can only park within one vehicle length from a designated road. Some areas, particularly on the west side of the forest, have seasonal closures where you cannot drive on some designated roads at all. This all means if you want to hike, fish, camp, watch wildlife, look at wildflowers and scenery, you will be affected by this plan.

SAC believes the forest belongs to everyone, and should be managed so all the uses that the public desires are protected. The land needs to be protected, as well. We support environmentally conscious and responsible use of our resources.

Legal Defense Fund

We need the continuing support of SAC members, local businesses, the counties, and other user groups. We have raised substantial cash and have promises of more funding from various supporters. SAC is operated by unpaid volunteers. 100% of your donation will go directly to legal costs.

See www.sierraaccess.com/list_of_donors_1.html to view a list of people who have generously donated to SAC's Legal Defense Fund. We still need more donations. For a \$25 donation you will receive a free t-shirt. Go to http://www.sierraaccess.com/Note_Cards_and_Donations.html to donate using credit cards or Paypal. Checks can be mailed to SAC, PO Box 944, Quincy CA 95971. SAC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization so your donations are tax deductible.

It has been a long, hard road the past 8 years as we've tried our best to work with the Forest Service. It has been an excruciatingly slow, convoluted, ever-changing government process. We have exhausted all avenues that are available to us to work with the Forest Service, and our only remaining option is litigation. It is unfortunate that good people have to contribute their hard-earned money to a lawsuit to force their own government to be responsive to public needs. But that's the reality. Thank you for your donations to continue the fight for ourselves and for the generations that will follow us. Your donation will strengthen our case.

Lawsuit May Impact Other Forest's Plans

This lawsuit is against the Plumas NF Travel Management Plan. However, we believe that if we prevail on our lawsuit it could set precedence on other forests in California. So this is not just a local suit, it has the potential to be very far reaching.

- Many people are joining this lawsuit because they are frustrated and discouraged with Forest Service management and policies across the state and the entire nation.

- People are joining this lawsuit because they want to express their anger and mistrust of the Forest Service.
- Some are joining in an attempt to reduce the extreme environmental groups' control of the Forest Service and make the general public's opinion be heard.
- This lawsuit is a grass roots effort which will be a clear voice of disapproval from the public.
- See a video of the [Congressional Hearing](#) concerning Forest Service issues that was held in Sacramento 9/19. Plumas Co Sheriff Greg Hagwood and others testified against the Travel Management Plan. There were several excellent testimonies in this 2-hr video, but you can fast forward it to 1:21 if you only want to see the Sheriff. (See <http://www.sierraaccess.com> for a listing of the other testimonies.)
- Eight Northern California Sheriffs voiced concerns about several issues, including Travel Management. See the links below for the videos. For us in Plumas County, Sheriff Greg Hagwood has once again spoken for us.

✓ This is the full length version of the Sheriff panel:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4RuWK2Ww-4>

✓ Here are all the links to each of the sheriffs' comments:

✓ Intro - Sheriff Jon Lopey – Siskiyou County, CA

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ilrGFRMlryk>

✓ The videos below titled WATER RIGHTS will be replaced but are still presently active:

✓ Sheriff Greg Hagwood – Plumas County, CA

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_fhPEMFOxk

✓ Sheriff Greg Growden – Lassen County, CA

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXd9M0Um3YY>

✓ Sheriff Dean Wilson – Del Norte County, CA

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ceNEpwAdFF0>

✓ Sheriff Bruce Haney – Trinity County, CA

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KucFBCihnx0>

✓ Sheriff Tom Bosenko – Shasta County, CA

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jRyhXsl9fFg>

✓ Sheriff Jon Lopey's second address

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=duG9uvD3VqQ>

✓ Sheriff Glenn E. Palmer – Grant County, OR

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ild07EuVqCY>

✓ Sheriff Dave Hencratt Tehama County, CA.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ar4p9dSjqWc>

✓ Karen Budd-Falen - Wyoming Property Rights Attorney

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y2OckIXXico>

Motor Vehicle Use Maps are now available

The Motor Vehicle Use Maps are now available at all Forest Service offices. With the release of the maps, the new plan is officially in effect. The new plan will restrict access to the forest in many ways.

- The Forest Service definition of an Off Highway Vehicle is any vehicle with a motor.
- All motorized travel (cars, trucks, motorcycles, motorhomes, etc) are limited to driving only on "designated routes".

- Nearly 800 miles of existing roads have **not** been designated for public use and are no longer available for motor vehicles, including Forest Service vehicles.
- Parking is limited to within one vehicle length from a designated route. This includes parking for camping and firewood cutting.
- Green sticker vehicles are no longer allowed to use the main gravel “maintenance level 3” roads.
- No special provisions are made for the disabled or elderly.

The maps are free at all Forest Service offices. They are extremely hard to read and you will need another forest map with more detail to find your way. The maps are also available online. [Click here to go to the USFS website, then click on "Motor Vehicle Use Maps"](#)

If you have trouble with Law Enforcement Officers, SAC asks you document the incident with information including the officer’s name, location of the incident, date and time, and what happened. Send the information to SAC at sierraaccess@digitalpath.net. We do not encourage the public to travel illegally, but if you are not treated courteously during this transition time we want to know about it. We also want to control unjustified rumors.

It’s late in the season, but we need people to “ground truth” the Motor Vehicle Use Maps. If you see errors on the Motor Vehicle Use Maps, please send the information to SAC. This info may be useful for our lawsuit.

Mt. Hough Motorized Trail Proposal

The Plumas County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) has recommended funding a grant to build a motorized trail from the edge of Quincy to the Mt Hough and Crystal Lake area. This project grew out of negotiations between motorized users, represented by SAC, and non-motorized users. District Ranger Michael Donald facilitated negotiations between the two groups.

The area known as “South Park” located generally between Chandler Road and the Cascade Trail on Spanish Creek is proposed by non-motorized users to be exclusive for non-motorized use (bicyclists, hikers, equestrians, etc) in exchange for a new motorized trail system that is acceptable to SAC and the public. SAC is working on proposing the specific trails that the public would like to see for this trail system. If you are interested in submitting some of your favorite trails and roads, or if you would like to be on the committee to work on the proposal, please contact SAC at sierraaccess@digitalpath.net. We are currently working on this proposal on behalf of motorcyclists, mountain bike riders, quad riders, equestrians, and others. Please let us know what you would like to see for a trail system. We want to give a special Thank You to Dave Woods who rode, mapped, and GPS-ed many of these routes the past weekend.

Lake Davis Snowmobile Trail Proposal

The Plumas NF has received an OHV grant to enhance snowmobile use and summer routes in the Lake Davis area. The grant will fund the NEPA and planning for a staging area and proposed groomed trails around Lake Davis. It will also do the required NEPA to reopen the Jackson Creek Campground just east of Cromberg, which would provide a staging area and camping for OHVs and equestrians.

SAC will be working with the Forest Service to propose details for this project. This is another project with potential to increase tourism and benefit the local economy, as well as provide recreation opportunities for local residents. If you are interested in helping on this project proposal, contact SAC at sierraaccess@digitalpath.net. The Forest Service has been slow to start on this project, but we will notify all SAC members and local snowmobile clubs when the planning process begins.

Travel Management Subpart A and Subpart C

Travel Management Subpart A is the next step in the Travel Management process. However according to Alice Carlton, the Subpart A analysis has been put on hold so the Forest Service can work to mend their relationships with the counties before analysis for additional road closures begins. We will let you know when Subpart A begins, which will affect the main roads in the Plumas NF transportation system. It is expected that a significant number of roads will also be closed during the Subpart A process.

Subpart C involves possible restrictions for Over Snow Vehicles. We will keep you informed as that study evolves.

Thank you for your support

Over the past 8 years that we have been working on the Plumas NF Travel Management Plan, your support has been overwhelming. SAC is a grass roots organization and we are now recognized across the state as one of the best groups working to preserve access to public lands.

After we file our lawsuit we will have a meeting for all SAC members. We will notify you of the time and date of that meeting.

If you are not receiving emails from SAC monthly, your email address in our records may not be correct. If you have changed your email in the last 6 or 7 years, we may not have your current address.

Now is the critical time for us to gather our strength and file the lawsuit to preserve access to our public lands.