

SIERRA ACCESS COALITION NEWSLETTER

August 17, 2011

Snowmobile Grass Drags Fundraiser July 23

On July 23rd, the Snowmobile Grass Drags was held at the Fairgrounds in Quincy. It was a great time with lots of fast sleds and lots of fun.

SAC ran the beer booth and had an information booth, all staffed by volunteers. Thank you everyone who came to help, including Amy Granat of the California Off-Road Vehicle Association from Sacramento and Sylvia Milligan of Recreation Outdoors Coalition in Anderson/Mineral. SAC made approx. \$4000 at the event. This really helped with our Legal Defense Fund. See http://sierraaccess.com/list_of_donors_1.html to see a list of people who have donated to the cause over the past couple of years. Thank you everyone!

Plumas County Board of Supervisors Joins SAC Lawsuit

Last week the Plumas County Supervisors voted to join in SAC's lawsuit as a co-litigant. They have committed to contributing one third of our legal fees up to \$15,000. Having the county's support is huge!

The Butte County Supervisors are also discussing joining in the lawsuit. Supervisor Kim Yamaguchi has been especially supportive of SAC in past years as we've tried to work with the Forest Service on the Travel Management Plan. We are hoping that Butte County will also join in the lawsuit as a co-litigant.

Lawsuit to be filed soon

SAC hopes to file the lawsuit by the end of September. We are meeting with our attorney in Truckee August 18 to get things started. 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 now 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 make the Forest Service be responsive to public needs. But that's the reality. Thank you for your donations to continue the fight. Your donation will strengthen our case.

Critical - SAC Legal Defense Fund

Thank you to those who have already donated to our Legal Defense Fund. We understand times are hard and we appreciate any amount that you can donate. We have raised nearly \$40,000 so far but we will still be needing more for our legal fees.

Donations can be made on SAC's website at <http://www.sierraaccess.com> using Paypal or credit cards. Donations can also be mailed to SAC at PO Box 944, Quincy CA 95971. For a \$25 donation you will receive a free SAC t-shirt.

SAC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization so all donations are tax deductible.

Thank you for helping us help you!

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 maps will be free. And they are also available online. The USFS website currently isn't working, but keep trying. [Click here to go to the USFS website, then click on "Motor Vehicle Use Maps"](#)

Meeting with Laurence Crabtree

Today Corky Lazzarino met with Laurence Crabtree, acting Forest Supervisor. Laurence was instrumental in the Modoc Travel Management Plan, which is undoubtedly the best plan in California. We are lucky to have him here on the Plumas.

Issues discussed included firewood retrieval, additional road closures, communications with the counties and the public, and concerns about several specific projects on the forest.

Laurence is the Deputy Forest Supervisor and will be the acting Forest Supervisor until the new Forest Supervisor Earl Ford arrives in Quincy, probably in late September.

Plumas NF Cleanup Day July 30

Seventeen people volunteered to help at the Forest Cleanup Day off LaPorte Road just outside of Quincy. Skip Partlow of Skip's 4x4 & Diesel was there with his backhoe to load the garbage. Don Johnson of Johnson's Metal Recycling was there to haul off the appliances and other metal. The Forest Service Road Crew was there with their dump truck to haul the trash to the transfer site. There was about 3 10-yard dump truck loads of garbage that people had dumped illegally along the road. This was a lot of work to clean up, but well worth the effort.

Thank you Diane Uchytal for coordinating this event.

If you are interested in volunteering to clean up another dump site on Forest Service land near your community, send SAC an email and we will coordinate your cleanup event. We care about the forest and we care about our communities.

Children's OHV Certification Class

Dianne Uchytal of SAC is working to organize an OHV safety and certification class for children. This class will be geared towards children who ride quads. If you are interested in this class, email SAC at sierraaccess@digitalpath.net

Travel Management Subpart A and Subpart C

Travel Management Subpart A is the next step in the Travel Management process. However, according to the Forest Service, the Subpart A analysis has been put on hold so the Forest Service can work to mend their relationships with the counties before additional road closures are considered. 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 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.

Plumas County Sheriffs Dept.

Sheriff Greg Hagwood has said his department will not enforce the Plumas NF Travel Management Plan. He will not enforce these restrictions which he believes will “cause reasonable people to do unreasonable things”. [Click here](#) to see an article about the Sheriff and the Travel Management Plan. We applaud Sheriff Hagwood for his support of the citizens of Plumas County.

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.

Now it is critical for our group to gather our strength to preserve access to public lands.

We need your donations for our Legal Defense Fund – Silence is Consent

Thank you for helping us help you.