



Sierra Access Coalition
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December 2011 Newsletter

Litigation Update

We expect our lawsuit to be filed within a few weeks. The lawsuit is moving forward, but this process is slower than we would like. Many of you have sent donations and we want to assure you that the funds are being held in SAC's Legal Defense Fund specifically for the Plumas Travel Management Plan litigation.

SAC's lawsuit is important to motorized recreationists not only on the Plumas NF but throughout the entire state, because we believe the "template" used by the Forest Service for the Travel Management process on all the National Forests was flawed. We are not focused on individual local roads and trails, therefore the lawsuit has the potential to affect all forests in California and the nation. It is evident that our supporters understand how far reaching this lawsuit could be by looking at the wide range of towns represented on [SAC's Donor Page](#) and [membership list](#). Across the state people are realizing the potential power of this lawsuit.

In the next few months, more than ever, we need the continued support of SAC members, local businesses, other user groups, and the general public. 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. Go to [SAC's website](#) 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.

Donations made by 12/31/11 are tax-deductible on your 2011 taxes.

SAC is taking the lead in this lawsuit. Butte County and Plumas County will both be litigants, as well as the California Off-Road Vehicle Association (CORVA). Due to confidentiality issues, SAC will not be able to disclose all the details of the lawsuit as it progresses. We ask for your understanding and trust that we are working hard on the lawsuit to represent the issues you have brought to us over the past 7 years. We will only be able to release information that is approved by our attorney and the other litigants. In fact, SAC's Executive Director will not even be allowed to share certain information with the SAC Steering Committee while the lawsuit is active. We must take this confidentiality issue very seriously to protect the integrity of our lawsuit. However, when the complaint is filed the document becomes public information. At that time it will be posted on SAC's website

Stoel-Rives has offered SAC a very generous reduced non-profit rate and our attorney Greg Gatto has personally donated numerous hours at no cost to SAC. We have great confidence in our attorney and his entire firm, which has nearly 400 attorneys operating out of 11 offices in seven states.

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 process. 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. 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.

Summary of Litigation:

- Lawsuit will be filed within a few weeks
- Additional funds are needed for litigation
- Donations are tax-deductible
- Co-litigants are Butte County, Plumas County, and California Off-Road Vehicle Association

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SAC Fundraising

SAC is pursuing a strategic plan for fundraising. We have held several fundraisers in the past, such as our highly successful Snowmobile Grass Drag Races held last July at the Plumas Fairgrounds. Currently there are several members who are organizing events in their areas. We anticipate holding more events as well as reaching out to organizations and their membership to continue building our membership base.

You can help! In addition to sending in personal donations (always needed, of course), you can attend—and maybe even host—

fundraisers in your area. You may be able to provide suggestions of organizations and names of leaders that we might contact for support. You can talk about SAC and the issues with friends and family, inviting them to join. You can even suggest unusual activities that we might hold to raise money and build membership involvement. Just know that if you can help raise money and awareness in your community, your involvement adds power to our cause. Send your ideas to sierraaccess@digitalpath.net.

“If we prevail on our lawsuit it could set precedence on other forests in California”

SAC’s 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, if not nationwide. This lawsuit should not be considered only 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.

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 Beckwouth 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!



Mt. Hough Motorized Trail Proposal

The Plumas County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) has recommended funding a grant to build a motorized trail from the north edge of Quincy to the Mt Hough and Crystal Lake area, and over to the Grizzly Ridge area. This project grew out of negotiations between motorized users represented by SAC, and non-motorized users represented by Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship. 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 user 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. Also Greg Williams of Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship has done a lot of work on mapping.



Lake Davis Winter and Summer Trail Proposal

"This is another project with potential to increase tourism and benefit the local economy"

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.

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 uses of our resources.



Travel Management Subpart A and C

Travel Management Subpart A is the next step in the Travel Management process. According to former PNF Supervisor Alice Carlton, the Subpart A analysis was put on hold so the Forest Service can work to mend their relationships with the counties before analysis for additional road closures begins.

However we have heard that work on the Subpart A process has already begun on at least three other forests in California. We will let

you know when Subpart A begins on our local forests.

The Subpart A process will affect the main roads in the forest transportation systems. It is expected that a significant number of roads will also be closed during the Subpart A process.

Subpart C involves 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.

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.