



Sierra Access Coalition
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March 2012 Newsletter

Mt. Hough Trails Proposal

The public scoping period for the Mt Hough/South Park Trails is in progress. Your comments should be submitted to the Forest Service, with a cc to SAC, by March 31.

The area known as "South Park", which is generally located between Chandler Road and the Cascades on Spanish Creek is being proposed as a non-motorized trail system to be set aside for bicycles, equestrians, and hikers. In exchange for this non-motorized area, Mike Donald has agreed to create a new motorized trail system on Mt. Hough, from the railroad tracks above Chandler Road northwest, to Crystal Lake, Taylorsville, east to Grizzly Ridge and down Grizzly Ridge to Squirrel Creek.

The trail system can be accessed from the Quincy side of Mt. Hough as well as from the Taylorsville side. The long-term vision for the trail system is to connect it to Lake Davis, which would be an incredible ride. See the article below for more information on trails at Lake Davis.

A grant has already been approved for some trail work this year. The Forest Service will apply for another OHV grant to fund the remaining trail work next year.

A map and more information of the proposal is posted on our website at www.sierraaccess.com.

Lake Davis Winter/Summer Recreation Proposal

The Forest Service is seeking public comments for the development of winter and summer recreation in the Lake Davis area. To date there have been two public meetings.

Local businesses are very involved in the planning process, and the public should also voice their ideas and concerns. Supervisor Terry Swofford has been attending public meetings.

Two options for groomed snowmobile trails have been developed. The Forest Service Preferred Alternative is to groom from Hwy 70 up Jackson Creek, which is southern exposure and doesn't have deep snow through the season. The public's preference is to groom a loop

around Lake Davis. The FS is not very supporting of grooming around the lake due to three pairs of bald eagles who nest there in the winter.

Concurrently, there is also a plan being developed for summer use in the Lake Davis/Jackson Creek area. SAC is trying to get the Jackson Creek Campground reopened. The Forest Service is also asking the public to propose summer routes, whether motorized or non-motorized, for the area. We are currently working on mapping some trails systems and will be proposing connecting the Mt Hough trails, mentioned in the above article, with trails in the Lake Davis area to provide a continuous ride. Please send us your ideas and locations for proposed trails.

- Plans have begun for a new trail system proposal in the Mt. Hough area
- Grant funds have been approved for the first year's work
- The Forest Service will apply for additional grant funds to complete the project
- Plans for winter and summer recreation are being made for the Lake Davis area
- SAC needs your feedback on these trail proposals

Inside this issue:

SAC Fundraising	2
SAC's Lawsuit May Affect Other Forests'	2
CNSA Snowmobile Awards	2
Snowmobile Use At Risk	3
Congressional Hearing in Elko	3
SAC on Facebook	3

SAC Lawsuit and Fundraising



The filing of SAC’s lawsuit against the Plumas National Forest Travel Management Plan has been delayed again. We expect to file the lawsuit along with Butte County, Plumas County, and the California Off-Road Vehicle Association (CORVA) no later than May. Our lawsuit is already written and we are just waiting for a few more details to be taken care of before the suit is filed.

We are looking forward to having our issues brought before a judge. However we haven’t raised all the funding that is needed for the lawsuit. Donations are accepted by credit card or through Paypal on SAC’s website www.sierraaccess.com or at SAC, PO Box 944, Quincy CA 95971. If you are unable to contribute funding, you can still help by spreading the word about the lawsuit to others.

We are 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.

SAC’s Lawsuit May Impact Other Forest’s Plans

SAC’s 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.

Others 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.

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

CNSA Snowmobile Awards



The California Nevada Snowmobile Association recently announced awards to recognize a select few who have worked hard for the snowmobilers in our area.

Keith Barnett was awarded Snowmobiler of the Year, and Jay Grubbs was awarded Groomer of the Year.

Both of these gentlemen have worked hard to support and promote their sport. Even with the disappointing lack of snow this year, their efforts year-long to promote snowmobiling have been recognized.

Congratulations to both of you for your hard work. You guys rock!

Snowmobiling at risk

The Winter Wildlands Alliance (WWA), a group based in Idaho dedicated to “human powered” winter recreation and strongly opposed to snowmobile use, recently failed to persuade the Forest Service to require snowmobiles be addressed in all

National Forest Travel Management Plans. Now they have filed suit against the Forest Service. They maintain that snowmobiles “must” be managed in every forest’s Travel Management Plan.



This would result in Forest Travel Plans across the country being rewritten and rehashed out, and in our current political climate it’s likely that the end result will be additional net loss of snowmobile acreage in many forests. If this precedence is established in Idaho it will likely affect snowmobilers nationwide.

Keep informed and be proactive.

For more information see:

Idaho State Snowmobile Assn
<http://www.idahosnow.org/idaho-state-snowmobile-association-news?mode=PostView&bmi=802327>

American Council of Snowmobile Associations
http://snowmobilers.org/press_release_article.asp?prid=122

Winter Wildlands
http://www.winterwildlands.org/news/archive/Groups_Petition_Forest_Service_to_Remove_Snowmobile_Exemption.pdf

Congressional Sub-Committee Hearing in Elko

The House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands held a Congressional Hearing in Elko on March 12, 2011. Amy Granat of the California Off Road Vehicle Assoc. (CORVA) was slated to testify, but at the last minute her spot on the panel was “bumped” in favor of an Elko businessman. All the testimonies were excellent.

See the Natural Resources Committee website for a press release on the hearing. <http://naturalresources.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=284693>

To see written testimony from the individual panel members and watch a video of the hearing, go to <http://naturalresources.house.gov/Calendar/EventSingle.aspx?EventID=282979>



Elko County Commission Chairman Demar Dahl

It is evident that other states are having the same issues with the USFS Travel Management Plan as we are here in California. There is great frustration as local governments across the nation have been unsuccessful dealing with the Forest Service on the Travel Management Plan.

Sierra Access Coalition on Facebook



Check out Sierra Access Coalition’s group on Facebook. The Plumas Dirt Riders Club also has a page on Facebook.

If you have items you’d like us to post on Facebook or on SAC’s website (www.sierraaccess.com) let us know. Our email is sierraaccess@digitalpath.net