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## October 2014 Newsletter

### Subpart C Snowmobile Restrictions Are Next

The Forest Service Travel Management Plan has 3 phases:

- Subpart A – Main roads
- Subpart B – Less traveled roads and trails
- Subpart C – Snowmobiles

On the Plumas N.F., Subpart B was completed in 2010 and it closed 873 miles of the 1107 mi. roads and trails that were inventoried (over 80%).

Subpart A, which was conducted last year, recommended closing an additional 722 miles of main roads. That's a total of 1595 miles of roads and trails, which is more than 30% of the roads on the PNF that have either been closed or proposed to be closed.



**Now the Forest Service is beginning Subpart C, which is for Over Snow Vehicles (OSVs).** Snowmobilers need to understand the implications of Subpart C, particularly considering that 1595 miles of closures that have happened under Subpart B and A. We have no reason to believe restrictions for snowmobiles will be any less severe.

The Subpart C analysis allows forest personnel to designate areas where OSVs are allowed. They have a choice of using an "open unless designated closed" approach, or the opposite "closed unless designated open".

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## Snowmobiles on the Chopping Block

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County Supervisor Sherri Thrall took the lead on this issue by hosting a Town Hall Meeting in Chester on August 27. An article about this meeting, as well as videos, can be viewed at <http://almanorpost.com/tap/blog/>. The other County Supervisors will be holding public meetings in their districts in the near future.

The following links provide information from the Forest Service:

[Forest Service News Release announcing their public meetings the first week of November.](#)

[Forest Service flyer regarding the public meetings.](#)



The Forest Service has announced dates for public meetings regarding possible snowmobile restrictions on four National Forests, on November 3 through November 6. .

- **Stanislaus National Forest:** Monday, November 3, in Sonora, Calif. at the Best Western Sonora Oaks, 19551 Hess Avenue, at 6:30 p.m.
- **Eldorado National Forest:** Tuesday, November 4, in Placerville, Calif. at the Best Western Placerville Inn, 6850 Green Leaf Drive, at 6:30 p.m.
- **Lassen National Forest:** Wednesday, November 5, in Susanville, Calif. at the Lassen National Forest Supervisors Office, 2550 Riverside Drive, at 6:30 p.m.
- **Plumas National Forest:** Thursday, November 6, in Quincy, Calif. at the Mineral Building on the Plumas County fairgrounds, 204 Fairgrounds Road, at 6:30 p.m.

The Forest Service states that additional public involvement opportunities will be available later during the formal public scoping process - once the NEPA process begins.

But SAC believes it is extremely important to voice your concerns early in the process.

Visit the F.S. website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r5/recreation/travelmanagement> or contact Kathy Mick at the F.S. Regional Office, at 707-562-8859, for more information.

## Tahoe Basin Snowmobile Planning

The Forest Service held a meeting at Lake Tahoe February 1, 2014 to begin planning on Subpart C of the Travel Management Plan, which will restrict snowmobile use on the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU).

Representatives from Sierra Access Coalition, California Off-Road Vehicle Assoc., Friends of Independence Lake, and the California-Nevada Snowmobile Assoc. attended the meeting. Also at the meeting was the [Snowlands Network](#), who are proponents of non-motorized winter recreation such as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.



The Snowlands Network argues that snowmobiles are noisy and have high emissions. This is not the case, especially with newer models of snowmobiles. They are very clean, quiet, and meet State and Federal emission standards. This fact was pointed out to the Forest Service by the snowmobile groups.

It is extremely important to be involved in the LTBMU planning, because the process the Forest Service decides to use for restricting snowmobile use at Lake Tahoe will be the model that will be used across the nation for restrictions on other National Forests. It has the potential to affect your riding areas in Lakes Basin, Bucks Lake, Little Grass Valley, La Porte, Lake Davis, and other favorite areas on the Plumas National Forest.

## Plumas NF Lawsuit filing delayed

*Sierra Access Coalition and the California Off-Road Vehicle Association have joined with Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF) to provide representation in the lawsuit against the Plumas National Forest Travel Management Plan. The Directors of the two organizations, Corky Lazzarino and Amy Granat, will also each be named as individuals in the lawsuit. We anticipate others will join the lawsuit before the complaint is filed.*

*However, in a recent development, our attorney had emergency heart surgery. He was off work for several months. But he expects to have our lawsuit filed before the end of the year. We wish him well in his recovery.*

*The Plumas National Forest Travel Management Plan Decision was signed in 2010 by Forest Supervisor Alice Carlton. The decision was appealed by several parties including Plumas County, Butte County, the California Off-Road Vehicle Association, Jeanne Burroughs, Wayne Johannson, Phyllis Taddei, Misty Banchio, Steve Burroughs, Sierra Access Coalition, and the Wilderness Society. After a lengthy process, the Forest Service categorically denied all the appeals.*

*Following the denial of their appeals, Plumas and Butte Counties continued efforts to try and resolve matters. Both Counties conducted several meetings with Forest Service officials in an attempt to come to agreements on the issues that affect the citizens of their counties. Although there appeared to be some minor progress in project specific matters (including reclassification of some roadway segments for OHV use) and education efforts, there has been no progress in the important matters of "process," especially in the matter of "coordination."*

*Details regarding the lawsuit are confidential at this point. We will keep our members informed, when details can be released.*

*SAC wants to thank all our supporters. It has been a long road, and since we have never been involved in a lawsuit before, we didn't know it would take so long. But the lawsuit will be filed by year's end.*

