



SIERRA ACCESS COALITION NEWSLETTER

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Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser October 15

Tom Caswell of Durham has graciously volunteered to put on a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on October 15th in support of SAC. The event will be held at The Outpost on Humboldt Road in Butte Meadows, Saturday October 15 from 10:00 to 12:00. For a \$10 donation, they'll feed you all the pancakes you can eat! All profits will be donated to SAC. Doug Teeter of the SAC Steering Committee will be speaking and answering questions about the Plumas NF Travel Management Plan. There are rumors of a "Protest Drive" after the breakfast, so bring any type of vehicle you have and enjoy a ride in the afternoon. We have been told the media will be on hand to cover the event. Thank you Tom!

Butte County Board of Supervisors Join Lawsuit

On September 27 the Butte County Board of Supervisors voted to join the lawsuit with Sierra Access Coalition (SAC) and the California Off-Road Vehicle Association ([CORVA](#)).

It's a somber note when local governments need to litigate our federal government. But left with no options, Butte County has admirably made the choice to stand up for the interests of their citizens.

Plumas County has been very supportive of SAC's position. The Board of Supervisors and the Plumas County Coordination Council have given SAC their full support throughout this process. However they have not made a formal decision to join in the litigation yet.

Lawsuit to be filed

SAC has retained an attorney, Greg Gatto of Stoel-Rives in Truckee. We had hoped to file our lawsuit by early October. However, with Butte County joining the lawsuit, it will take a little more time to incorporate their interests and details into the suit. We feel we have several strong points in our lawsuit. 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.

The Plumas NF contains portions of five counties: Plumas, Butte, Lassen, Sierra and Yuba. We are working hard on behalf of SAC members by moving forward on the complaint, with support from others:

- 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 will be a co-litigant.
- Butte County has joined our lawsuit.

- Plumas County has been very supportive of SAC's position. The Board of Supervisors and the Plumas County Coordination Council have given SAC their full support throughout this process. However, no formal decision has been made on joining in the lawsuit.
- Sierra County has some interest in joining, but they are moving extremely slow. If you are a resident of Sierra County, you may want to encourage your supervisor to stand up for your interests.
- Lassen County has not responded to any of SAC's messages regarding this issue. If you are a resident of Lassen County, you may want to try to get your supervisor involved.
- Yuba County has not shown any interest in the Plumas NF Travel Management Plan.

Legal Defense Fund

We need the continuing support of SAC members, local businesses, the counties, and other user groups. We have raised over \$50,000 in cash and commitments so far. This is about half of what we will need for the lawsuit. If everyone who has donated so far gave one more donation, we would be very close to the amount we need for court costs.

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.

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 let the general public's opinion be heard.
- This lawsuit is a grass roots effort which will be a voice of disapproval for 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.)

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.

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. They are extremely hard to read and you will need another forest map with more detail on it 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.

Work Day at Meadow View Camp

There was a work day at the Meadow View Equestrian and OHV Camp north of Frenchman Lake on 9/24/11. Members of the High Mountain Riders and three USFS engine units 13, 15 & 16 (Frenchman and Doyle) worked to improve the campground and construct a fence around the Guard Station. These hard working volunteers accomplished a lot of maintenance and cleanup in the campground. See SAC's website www.sierraaccess.com for photos.

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 Mt Hough and Crystal Lake. 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 will be 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. When we begin work on this proposal, we will notify all SAC members.

Lake Davis Snowmobile Trail Proposal

The Plumas NF has received an OHV grant to enhance snowmobile use 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. 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.

We plan to have a meeting for all SAC members in the near future. 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 continue with a lawsuit to preserve access to our public lands.

