



Sierra Access Coalition
www.sierraaccess.com
P.O. Box 944
Quincy CA 95971
(530) 283-2028

January 2012 Newsletter

Lassen County OHV Ordinance

The Lassen County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt an OHV Ordinance for unpaved county roads.

The Ordinance No. 2011-007 allows both motorized vehicles that are not licensed for on-highway use and highway licensed vehicles to use unpaved non-highway county roads on the public lands.

A copy of the ordinance with a list of roads can be found on SAC's website <http://www.sierraaccess.com>.

Lassen County is the second county moving forward with this action, Plumas County being the first. Sylvia Milligan, who has been instrumental throughout the process in Lassen County, is working with other counties to follow suit. She is currently working with Shasta County on a similar ordinance as well as mixed use roads on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

The California Highway Patrol met with Lassen County and Lassen NF officials to discuss the ordinance. The CHP said that it is up to the counties to determine how they wanted to manage their roads. It was then stated that although the county chose to do this, the USFS still has authority over their National Forest roads and could manage them anyway they chose.

Recreation Outdoors Coalition (ROC), Sierra Access Coalition, and other user groups are hopeful that the Forest Service will choose to manage their roads similar to the counties and allow mixed-use on some maintenance level 3 forest roads in the future.

SAC has asked the Plumas NF to apply for a State OHV grant this year to do engineering studies on several roads to allow mixed-use.



- Lassen County Ordinance allows OHV green sticker vehicles on certain unpaved non-highway roads on public land
- See SAC's website www.sierraaccess.com to read the ordinance and a list of roads
- Other counties may adopt similar ordinances

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SAC Lawsuit and Fundraising

SAC will be filing a lawsuit against the Plumas National Forest Travel Management Plan soon, along with Butte County, Plumas County, and the California Off-Road Vehicle Association (CORVA). 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 through Paypal on SAC's website www.sierraaccess.com or at SAC, PO Box 944, Quincy CA 95971.

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.

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

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.

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.

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

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 sys-

tem 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



Lake Davis Snowmobile Meeting

This project has potential to increase tourism and benefit the local economy but the USFS proposal is not what snowmobilers want

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 environmental documents to plan for a staging area and groomed trails in the Lake Davis area. It will also do the required planning documents to reopen the Jackson Creek Campground just east of Cromberg, which would provide a staging area and camping for OHVs and equestrians.

SAC has requested a meeting to discuss this project with the Forest Service, which will be held on January 26 at the Mohawk Ranger Station at noon. You are invited to attend. The Forest Service's initial proposal is to put a groomer's shed at the Jackson Creek

Campground and groom trails in the Jackson Creek area up to Smith Peak, with no groomed trails around Lake Davis.

This is not what the snowmobile community and businesses want, so a meeting early in the process to voice opinions is essential.

This is another project with potential to increase tourism and benefit the local economy, as well as provide recreation opportunities for local residents. County Supervisors and Congressman McClintock's aide have been invited to the meeting. We hope local snowmobilers will come to the meeting to voice their ideas and concerns.

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, three other national forests in California have already begun the Subpart A process. So it is expected to begin on all the other forests soon.

SAC 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.



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.

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.