



Sierra Access Coalition
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February 2012 Newsletter

Mt. Hough Trails Proposal

SAC members have been working on a trail proposal with District Ranger Mike Donald and Greg Williams of Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship.

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.

After meeting with SAC members, a proposal for individual trails including some new construction, was mapped and submitted to the Forest Service last week.

After jumping through a few more hoops, we expect the Forest Service will publish the map soon and begin their 30 day public scoping. Please send your comments to SAC as well as to the Forest Service, whether positive or negative on this proposal.

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.

When a map of the final proposal is available we will post it on our website at www.sierraaccess.com.

Many people have helped GPS the proposed trails including Dave Wood, Greg Williams, Shane Kelley, Mark Tande, Mike Lomas, Jason Marshall, and Jesse Lazzarino. Thank you to all of you for your work on this project.



- Work has begun on 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

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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. 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 fund-

raisers 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

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!



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 may 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_Re-move_Snowmobile_Exemption.pdf

One Vehicle Length Parking Restriction Info Request

Melba Leal is collecting information about the restrictions on National Forests that limit parking to one vehicle length from a designated road. This restriction affects everyone who drives in the forest. Specifically, she is interested in the following questions:

1) Have you personally had any unsafe happenings involving parking due to this policy?

2) Have you had trouble getting to trail heads because of the new parking policy, or favorite recreation site?

3) Have citations been issued? If so, how much did it cost in fines, time, gasoline if appealed?

4) Is the one vehicle length being enforced on the forest you visit by FS Law Enforcement Officers?

5) How does this affect your recreation experience?

6) Any other circumstances you have faced due to the FS policy that was implemented 2009?



7) Do you believe this affects the local community economically?

Responses to these questions can be emailed to Melba at apachejam@hughes.net or to Sierra Access Coalition at sierraaccess@digitalpath.net



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.