

SIERRA ACCESS COALITION NEWSLETTER

April 24, 2011

At the suggestion of members, we will send out a newsletter on a regular basis to keep SAC members informed about issues concerning public access to the Plumas National Forest and adjoining areas.

Status of Litigation

Sierra Access Coalition and the California Off-Road Vehicle Association jointly filed an appeal to the Plumas NF Travel Management Plan in December 2010. Our appeal, along with 9 other appeals, were categorically denied by the Forest Service Appeals Committee. That leaves us only one last alternative: litigation. Although we prefer not to go to court, the Forest Service is forcing us to take that route.

Representatives from SAC have met with three attorneys independently. They all agree that we have a very good case. SAC asked its members if they wanted to litigate and the overwhelming response was "yes". Our members live within the boundaries of the Plumas National Forest and the Travel Management Plan affects our way of life.

So we are moving forward to represent our members and are in the process of hiring an attorney. More information on this will be coming out at a later date.

Fundraisers

Now we need to raise funds to pay for our legal defense. See our website at <http://www.sierraaccess.com> to donate to the legal defense fund. SAC currently has approx. \$10,000 in the fund. Thank you to all who have donated! We know times are tough. But a donation of any amount is important and is appreciated.

Our big fundraising event will be the Snowmobile Grass Drags at the Plumas County Fairgrounds on July 23, 2011. Profits from the event will be donated to the SAC Legal Defense Fund. Thank you to Keith Barnett and Kenny Chance for organizing this event and pledging the funds to SAC. These guys are awesome! Please support the event and pass the word on. For more information on this event, see their website at <http://www.quincysledwars.com>. SAC will run the beer booth at the event. If you are interested in volunteering your time at the beer booth, selling tickets at the gate, or helping at the SAC information booth please email us at sierraaccess@digitalpath.net.

SAC is also partnering with Plumas County Search & Rescue for a Poker Run on Mt Hough on July 24, 2010. Some of the funds from this event will be donated to SAC. After a Special Use Permit is obtained from the Forest Service we will get the details for that event out to you.

SAC on the radio Tuesday 4/26

Corky Lazzarino will be on the radio April 26, 2011 at 9:00 discussing the Plumas NF Travel Management Plan. This will be on KNLF 95.9 fm in Quincy. Tune in to the show and please call in with your questions and comments. Their phone number is (530) 283-4144.

Forest Planning Rule Public Comment Period

The Forest Service Planning Rule is open to public comment until May 16, 2011.

To read the proposed rule and details regarding how to comment, see

https://fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5270250.pdf

When you comment on the rule, please cc: sierraaccess@digitalpath.net

It is VERY important to comment on the rule by May 16, 2011. When the planning rule is finalized it will dictate how all decisions on the National Forests will be made in the future. This includes recreation, hunting, camping and all forest access issues. ***We cannot stress how important this is.*** Public comment will help shape the rules that will govern use of our forests in the future. It's not easy to read the Federal Register copy of the planning rule. If you are short of time, skip towards the end of the document. The beginning of the document is a discussion of the issues that have been brought up. The end of the document displays the resulting proposed rule. That's the important part. Please make comments on this rule.

Travel Management Subpart A and Subpart C

Travel Management Subpart A is the next step in the Travel Management process. The recent decision that was released in November 2010 was Subpart B, which involved all non-system roads in the forest. The next step is Subpart A, which involves the main transportation system roads. Many of these roads may be slated for closure in the future. We will send you more information on Subpart A when the study begins.

Subpart C involves use of Over Snow Vehicles. Alice Carlton, Plumas NF Supervisor, said there are currently no plans to implement Subpart C which would restrict snowmobile use. We will keep you informed if that changes.