



**Sierra Access Coalition**  
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## April 2012 Newsletter

### Snake Lake CG Improvements for OHV and Equestrians

Snake Lake Campground is being improved with additional campsites for OHV and Equestrians.

The Forest Service has added two additional campsites to the Snake Lake Campground for more OHV use. These are located at the previously used dispersed area down the road from the main campground. This site has been improved by adding two campsites with picnic tables and fire rings.

Also local horse clubs, with a RAC grant, have teamed up with the Mt Hough Ranger District to include an equestrian section behind the restrooms at the main campground. There will be corrals and a ramp to help disabled riders get onto their horses.

The Equestrian section should be completed in late fall. Thank you to Donnal Nichols, Diane Uchtyl, and all the volunteers who are donating their time to this project. The Plumas National Forest road crew and fire crews are providing the clearing and earthwork at the site.

If you are interested in helping build the corrals and the handicap ramp, contact [sierraaccess@digitalpath.net](mailto:sierraaccess@digitalpath.net).

Snake Lake Campground is also being made more fire safe with the clearing of brush and removal of several trees as well as improvements to the loop road in the campground and an addition of a day use parking and picnic area. Come check it out.



- Campground Improvements at Snake Lake
- Equestrian area is currently being constructed
- Grant funds help fund the project
- Volunteers are needed to help complete work

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## USFS “On Top” Project Proposes to Decommission Roads

The Plumas NF is asking for public comments on the Draft Environmental Analysis for the “On Top Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project”, which is located in the Bucks Lake area, from Soapstone Hill on the west, to Mt. Ararat on the east. As part of this project, 6 miles of roads are proposed for decommissioning. [Click here for more information](#) and [click here for a map](#). Send your comments to [sierraaccess@digitalpath.com](mailto:sierraaccess@digitalpath.com) and we will voice your concerns to the Forest Service.

## SAC Lawsuit and Fundraising



Thank you to all of our supporters who have donated to the SAC Legal Defense Fund. Our membership has grown to over 1250 people. We are continuing to work to raise the funds needed for the lawsuit.

We are very frustrated with the legal process and local government bureaucracy. But we believe it is worth the wait. A unified lawsuit will be filed by SAC, Butte County, Plumas County, and the California OffRoad Vehicle Association (CORVA) no later than the end of May. Our lawsuit is already written and we are just waiting for a few more details to be resolved with our partners before the suit is filed.

We haven't raised all the funding that is needed for the lawsuit. To donate, see SAC's website [www.sierraaccess.com](http://www.sierraaccess.com). If you are unable to contribute funding, you can still help by spreading the word about the lawsuit to others. We have held several fundraisers in the past. We expect to raise more funds at this year's Snowmobile Grass Drags on July 21, 2012.

Thank you for your continued support as we fight for your rights to access public lands.

## SAC Sponsors Quad Certification for Kids

Diane Uchtyl of SAC is organizing a quad safety training course for kids. This course is taught by a certified instructor, and will meet the requirements for children ages 5 to 15, who ride quads under supervision of their parents. There is no charge for children. Parents may take the class for a fee. The course will be held this late spring (date to be announced) at the Fairgrounds in Quincy.

For requirements by California State Law go to [www.atvsafety.gov/state/california.html](http://www.atvsafety.gov/state/california.html) or for information go to [www.ohv.parks.ca.gov](http://www.ohv.parks.ca.gov)

If you have questions or to reserve a spot in the class, contact Diane Uchtyl at [tduchy@digitalpath.net](mailto:tduchy@digitalpath.net).

Class space is limited.



## Mt. Hough/South Park Trails Proposal

The public scoping period for the Mt Hough/South Park Trails is over.

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, Ranger 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.

A RAC grant has been approved for some trail work this year. In addition, the Forest Service has already applied for another OHV grant to fund the remaining trail work next year, if the environmental analysis is completed and signed.

[Click here to view the project map.](#)

## 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 will likely 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](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](http://www.winterwildlands.org/news/archive/Groups_Petition_Forest_Service_to_Re-move_Snowmobile_Exemption.pdf)

## OHVs and Snowmobilers: Lake Davis Winter/Summer Recreation Proposal

The Forest Service is seeking public input for the development of winter and summer recreation in the Lake Davis area. To date there have been two public meetings. SAC is meeting with the Forest Service next week to discuss more details of the proposal.

Local businesses are very involved in the planning process, and the public should also voice their ideas and concerns. Supervisor Terry Swofford has been attending public meetings and the Plumas County Coordination Council is becoming involved in the project planning.

Two options for groomed snowmobile

trails have been developed. The Forest Service Preferred Alternative is to groom from Hwy 70 up Jackson Creek (near Cromberg), which is southern exposure and doesn’t have deep snow through the season. The public’s preference is to build a grooming shed at Lake Davis and groom around the lake, north over Bagley Pass, and also down to the lower elevations of Chalet View Lodge and Jackson Creek, as snow conditions permit. The FS is not very supportive of grooming around the lake due to three pairs of bald eagles who nest there in the winter.

Concurrently, there is also a plan being

developed for summer use in the Lake Davis/Jackson Creek area. SAC is also asking the public to propose summer routes, whether motorized or non-motorized, for the area.

SAC is currently working on mapping some trails systems and will be proposing connecting the Mt Hough trails (see the article on page 2) with trails in the Lake Davis area to provide a continuous ride. Please send us your ideas and locations of trails you would like to see built or maintained for use.

## 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](http://www.sierraaccess.com) let us know. Email your news or suggestions to [sierraaccess@digitalpath.net](mailto:sierraaccess@digitalpath.net).

## State and National News

### CORVA is Working for OHVers—Join CORVA Now!

Calling all off-roaders, hunters, houndsmen, 4-wheelers: This year the California Off-Road Vehicle Association (CORVA) has been there for everyone throughout California, from WEMO to Clear Creek, the Rubicon to Pismo. CORVA will be litigating the Plumas NF Travel Management Plan along with Plumas County, Butte County and SAC. They are supporting us, now they need you - JOIN NOW, DONATE NOW, so CORVA can KEEP OFF-ROAD ON TRAIL in California. Go to [www.corva.org](http://www.corva.org) to join or send a donation.

CORVA is a varied group of outdoor recreationists who are extremely active in promoting the positive aspects of vehicular access on public lands and protecting that right.

CORVA is composed of many owners of street legal and "Green Sticker" vehicles such as ATV's, motorcycles, 3-wheelers, trail bikes, and dune buggies, as well as 4X4 vehicles, dual sport motorcycles, bjas, and desert racers. Plus many

others that use access for; hunting, rock-hounding, bird watching, fishing and others activities.



CORVA's main purpose is to work with the land managers for responsible off-highway vehicular access and recreation opportunities. Secondly, they educate their membership on the constantly changing rules and regulations and promote clean-up and trail maintenance projects.

CORVA is very active in the political arena and contributes to a lobbyist in Sacramento. They work closely with the State Department of Parks and

Recreation, [Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation \(OHMVR\) Program](#) from the user's

standpoint. They provide a valuable resource to land managers in the form of dedicated OHV enthusiasts who believe in responsible vehicular access.

CORVA is active at all levels of the land management public process with both the BLM and the USFS. They do this by commenting on environmental documents on as many issues as possible and maintaining close relationships with personnel in the field as well as the staff.

They coordinate with other multiple use organizations ranging from snowmobiles to horse enthusiasts to protect multiple use rights from the environmental extremists. CORVA is "dedicated to protecting our lands for the people, not from the people."

### Wallowa-Whitman NF Withdraws Travel Management Plan Decision

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Supervisor Monica Schwalbach will make access to firewood, particularly for senior citizens, a priority as she and her staff rework the forest's widely maligned Travel Management Plan, a spokesman for U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., said Monday. [Read more.....](#)