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June 2012 Newsletter

SAC Lawsuit Delayed

The lawsuit against the Plumas NF Travel Management Plan (TMP) has been delayed. Sierra Access Coalition and the California Off-Road Vehicle Association have been working with Butte and Plumas Counties on a lawsuit against the Plumas NF TMP. Our attorney has written the complaint which the plaintiffs have approved.

SAC has learned that timing is everything, especially when it comes to filing a lawsuit. Taking on the expense and responsibility of a lawsuit has to be done when the time is right and all parties are ready to take on the hard work associated with being a plaintiff. Right now, both Butte and Plumas Counties are working on negotiations with the Forest Service trying their best to address their residents' concerns, to give the agency one final chance to get it right. SAC supports these efforts in the recognition that the counties are our partners in the lawsuit, and as such, it is in everyone's best interest to work together.



It is difficult to find the patience to wait, but during this time we are continuing to document problems and issues related to motorized access to the Plumas NF. To this end, we need your help.

SAC is asking for your help to document Forest Service unwillingness to work on access issues since the implementation of the Travel Management Plan in 2010. For example, SAC has continued to try to work with the Plumas NF on several issues:

- The FS made a commitment to do mixed-use studies on 7 routes. Two of those routes (Bagley Pass and a portion of the Sloat-McRae Road) were made a lower maintenance level, which allows green sticker vehicle use. However, the other 5 routes were either denied or just simply disregarded. After making a commitment to SAC, we have now been told there is no one on the Plumas NF who is trained to do mixed-use studies.
- The public has asked for groomed snowmobile trails around Lake Davis, which would increase tourism and recreation. Instead the FS says their Preferred Alternative is a groomed trail up Jackson Creek near Cromberg, which is low elevation southern exposure and doesn't have enough snow to groom most of the year which would leave the groomer stranded.
- The FS Schedule of Proposed Actions, which is a list of future projects, calls road decommissioning and road closure projects "Transportation Planning" or "Road Management". So it is difficult for the public to identify projects that propose to close roads.
- Last year the Forest Supervisor said notices of all proposed road decommissioning would be sent to SAC so we could get the information to members. To date, none have been sent to us, yet there are several ongoing projects with road decommissioning.
- There are major mistakes on the Motor Vehicle Use Map, such as the Four Trees Road which encourages trespass, but the FS is not willing to correct them until next July.
- The FS is continuing their pattern of not working with SAC, the public, and the counties.

While SAC is very frustrated with the delay in filing our lawsuit, we believe the counties are doing what is right to represent their citizens and to protect their right to access the forest. We hope the counties will rejoin us and we can file the litigation in the very near future.

- Lawsuit has been delayed
- Butte and Plumas Counties negotiating with FS
- SAC continues to work with FS

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Sled Wars July 21 in Quincy



The Second Annual Quincy Sled Wars Snowmobile Grass Drags will be in Quincy on July 21 at the Plumas-Sierra County Fairgrounds.

The event will be held at the grandstands this year. As part of the show, the LIVFAST free-style motocross team will be performing.

There will be food, beer, and family fun including a vintage snowmobile show and shine.

SAC will be running the beer booth to raise money for our Legal Defense Fund. If you're interested in helping in the beer booth, contact Laurie Fisher at mazy1952@yahoo.com.

Thank you for your help and support.



Snake Lake Campground Improvements

Snake Lake Campground Enhancement Project is funded by a RAC Grant with volunteers of the High Mountain Riders and participation with Mt Hough Ranger District Forest Service. The campground will be a multi use campground and will include 8



new equestrian campsites and corrals. One of the equestrian campsites will be wheelchair accessible with a handicap ramp for mounting a horse. The improvements will also include a day use parking area for horse trailers and a central group day use picnic area with large BBQ and tables.

Recently the Feather River College Rodeo Team and the Ag Metal Fabrication Class installed 2 sets of 4 corrals and two hitching rails. The Plumas National Forest Service road crew is currently working to improve the roads within the campground and adding new fire rings and picnic tables. The improvements should be done near the end of July. This is a non fee campground open to all users including OHV and Equestrian

campsites. This is a "dry" camp (no potable water) so users need to bring their own water and campers with horses can bucket water from a designated location at the dam. Please practice "Pack it in – Pack it out". For more information please contact Judy Schaber, Mt Hough Ranger District jschaber@fs.fed.us

High Mountain Riders and Mt Hough Ranger District want to thank the Feather River Rodeo Team and Ag Metal Fabrication Class and their instructors, Jesse Segura, Russell Reid and Sterling Lambert for their contribution to the equestrian community.

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](#). SAC has submitted comments on this project asking for several of the roads to remain open for public use. Send your comments to sierraaccess@digitalpath.com and we will voice your concerns to the Forest Service.

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.

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 has stated their 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.

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.



However, the road that connects the Brady's Camp area to the Walker Mine area remains closed to green sticker vehicles. This was a critical part of the project which has been denied by the FS. SAC will be discussing this issue with Ranger Mike Donald.

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.](#)

Quad Certification Class for Kids—Update

The kid's ATV Certification Class will still be held on Sunday, June 24 with an option for Saturday June 23. At the instructors request, the location has been changed to Oroville at the Clay Pit SVRA off Larkin Rd near the Oroville Airport. You may sign up on line at www.atvsafety.org and follow the instructions for online enrollment on the left side of the page or contact the instructor, Judy Lacy, at (775) 996-5932

or e-mail jlacysparks@gmail.com , she can sign you up for the class or answer all your questions.

For more information about the Clay Pit SVRA in Oroville go to www.ohv.parks.ca.gov click on "free ATV safety training" then scroll down and click on Clay Pit for info on location and amenities. If you Google Clay Pit SVRA there is a lot more information on this motorized recreation area.



CORVA is Working for OHVs—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 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, bajas, and desert racers. Plus many others

that use access for; hunting, rockhounding, 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."

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. Email your news or suggestions to sierraaccess@digitalpath.net.