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## November 2012 Newsletter

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

The Forest Service has been seeking public input for the development of winter and summer motorized recreation in the Lake Davis area. To date there have been three public meetings. The last meeting was July 31.



Last week SAC representatives spoke with Lisa Sedlacek, team leader for the project. She said the project has been on hold for a few months, but district staff is expected to resume work on the project in January. Several alternatives will be developed and will be presented to the public by spring. At that time, the public will have an opportunity to make formal comments on each of the alternatives.

The alternatives are expected to include a "No Action" Alternative, which would propose no changes to the current snowmobile management, plus other alternatives that will likely include groomed snowmobile trails around all or portions of Lake Davis. The Forest Service will select their Preferred Alternative and give the public an opportunity to comment on it.

Local businesses have been very involved in the planning process, and the public should also voice their opinion when the alternatives are presented in the spring. Supervisor Terry Swoford and Plumas County Director of Public Works Bob Perreault have been attending the public meetings and the Plumas County Coordination Council has been involved in the project planning process, as well as several motorized and non-motorized groups.

A representative from the Snowmobile Alliance of Western States is hoping to present information regarding the economic benefits of snowmobiling to the Plumas County Coordination Council in February.

This project, which is funded by a State OHV Grant, was intended to develop plans for both winter and summer recreation opportunities at Lake Davis. But according to Lisa Sedlacek, approximately half of the funding has already been spent. So it is unlikely that the summer recreation portion of the project will move forward.

- Lake Davis planning will resume in January
- Alternatives for motorized winter recreation will be released in the spring

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[Click here for the current Lake Davis Snowmobile map brochure.](#) [Click here to view the grant.](#)

## Lawsuit Still On Hold



We are waiting for Butte County to finish their negotiations with the Forest Service before we move forward with our lawsuit. It is expected that their negotiations will conclude in the next month or two. It is difficult to find the patience to wait to file the lawsuit against the Plumas NF because our members are feeling the impacts of the Travel Management Plan, but SAC supports Butte County in their efforts to do what they feel benefits the citizens of their county.

In the meantime, SAC is exploring additional ways of funding our lawsuit.

We have become involved in a variety of ways to support our long-term goal, which is to preserve access to our public lands. We cannot do this without the support of our members. Your name on our membership list is extremely important, and so is your financial support. Sharing SAC's mission with other people is also very valuable, as well as encouraging them to sign up as members. Thank you all for your support!

**PLEASE HELP US RAISE MONEY FOR OUR LEGAL DEFENSE FUND! We accept donations and are selling t-shirts and hats on our website [www.sierraaccess.com](http://www.sierraaccess.com) Remember donations may be tax-deductible. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

## SAC Receives Grant Funds for Trail Maintenance

Sierra Access Coalition, along with partners Ironman Dual Sport, Paradise Ridge Riders, and Plumas Dirt Riders, received a RAC grant for single-track trail maintenance across the Plumas NF. The grant is for \$14,450, which will fund on-the-ground work on all motorized single-track trails on the Plumas NF next year.

As a matching contribution to the grant funds, volunteers will monitor the trails throughout the 2013 season and report maintenance needs to SAC. A report will be written and submitted to the Forest Service with recommendations for the following year's maintenance.

We hope this is the beginning of a collaborative partnership between the user groups and the Forest Service.

When we demonstrate that we are willing to help take care of the trails we use, we are hoping that the Forest Service will be more likely to designate additional routes for public use.

The RAC Committee funded one year of the two year grant request. However, Deputy Forest Supervisor Laurence Crabtree said he is fully supportive of this project and he will find money to fund it. So we are hoping this will become an annual effort on the part of the Forest Service and the user groups.

Bob Vancourt made an excellent project presentation before the RAC Committee. Bob will be coordinating volunteer workers next year.

Thank you Bob Vancourt, Paradise Ridge Riders, Dave Wood, Plumas Dirt Riders, and SAC members for your help to get this grant funded, as well as your commitment to volunteer your time on this project.

The project will start in spring 2013. We will let you know more details in early spring. And we hope to see you out on the trails!



## OHV and RAC Grants Fund Campground Improvements

This year, several campground improvements have been completed by the Forest Service and volunteer groups.

**Snake Lake Campground**—A RAC grant and a State OHV grant funded improvements at the Snake Lake Campground. Two campsites past the main campground, which have historically been designated as an OHV staging area, were improved by adding picnic tables and fire rings. Also local horse clubs, with a RAC grant, teamed up with the Forest Service to build an equestrian section behind the restrooms at the main campground. Corrals were constructed, roads were built with gravel surfacing, and there will be new tables and fire rings at the new sites. Next year construction will be completed on a ramp to help disabled riders get onto their horses. Thank you to Donnal Nichols, Diane Uchytel, Feather River College, and all the volunteers who donated their time to this project. The Forest Service road crew and fire crews provided clearing and earthwork. Mt Hough District Recreation personnel coordinated the work along with engineering personnel.

**Meadow Camp**—State OHV Funds were also used to construct a new toilet at Meadow Camp, outside of Meadow Valley on Deanes Valley Road.



**Jackson Creek Campground**—At the Jackson Creek Campground, which is currently closed, State OHV Funds were used to remove the old restroom building. SAC volunteers are working with the Forest Service in an effort to get this campground reopened. OHVs and Equestrians are not allowed in most developed Forest Service campgrounds and the new parking restrictions make it difficult to camp safely at dispersed sites in the forest. The Jackson Creek Campground is an excellent choice for people who camp with their green sticker vehicles and horses.

**Meadowview Campground**—This campground, at the top of Doyle Grade, has been improved using State OHV funds to install bear boxes for campers to store their food. Grant funds also paid to drill a well.

## Crocker Campground Negotiations

The Crocker Campground in Clover Valley along the Beckwourth-Genesee Road is a favorite for OHVs. [\(click here for a map\)](#) However, there will soon be no legal access in and out of the campground for green sticker vehicles. The Travel Management Plan closed the road over to Lake Davis to green sticker vehicles, and the planned paving of the county road in Clover Valley will make that road illegal for OHV use. The project is funded by the Federal Highways Administration. SAC objected to this situation since OHVs have very limited camping options available to them.

SAC spent several weeks negotiating with the Forest Service, Plumas County, and Federal Highways Admin. We believe a solution has been found. The Forest Service has agreed to build an alternate OHV route out of the campground that will let green sticker vehicles (quads, motorcycles and side-by-sides) travel to the end of the pavement in Clover Valley, heading towards the Clover Valley Ranch and other points north. The trail can also be used by mountain bikes and equestrians.



The Forest Service has made it a priority to do the environmental analysis for the new route. If an agreement would not have been reached with SAC, the funding for the multi-million dollar paving project would have been at risk. So we are pleased that the project will move forward and that the Forest Service is working with the OHV community to preserve access to the few campgrounds that still allow access for OHVs.

The Crocker Guard Station, pictured above, is 100 years old.

## Mt. Hough/South Park Trails Proposal

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 an effort to balance land uses, 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.

The Forest Service received a RAC grant for some of the planning and trail maintenance.

SAC volunteers flagged in a new trail location on Grizzly Ridge for quads and motorcycles. This trail will have incredible views of American Valley, Sierra Buttes, Genesee Valley, Mt Lassen and many points east. It feels like you're on top of the world and can see forever. We know OHVs, hikers, and bicyclists will enjoy the new trail.

SAC is working with the Forest Service to relocate a few segments of the Grizzly Ridge trail which are near a Special Interest Botanical Area, and a non-motorized area to the east. We believe a solution can be found that will be acceptable to all parties.

The road that connects the Brady's Camp area to the Walker Mine area remains closed to green sticker vehicles. This is a critical part of the project which has been denied by the FS. SAC has been discussing this issue with Ranger Mike Donald and it has yet to be resolved. SAC wrote a letter to Deputy Forest Supervisor Laurence Crabtree asking for green-sticker vehicle use on this road, and the Plumas County Dept. of Public Works has also requested for this road to be open to OHVs.



Above, Devils Postpile on Grizzly Ridge



Left, view from Grizzly Ridge looking over Genesee Valley

## National News



## New Mexico Travel Management Plan Appeal

### Jemez Springs and Acequia Coalition Join OHV Appeal against Forest Closures

Albuquerque, New Mexico - August 20, 2012 - The Village of Jemez Springs and the Jemez River Basin Coalition of Acequias have joined with the New Mexico Off Highway Vehicle Alliance (NMOHVA) in filing an appeal against the Santa Fe National Forest. The groups oppose the Travel Management Decision made by Forest Supervisor Marcia T. Garcia. The decision eliminates all public motorized use on more than 75% of the existing roads and trails in the Santa Fe National Forest. It also bans using a vehicle to retrieve game and vehicle camping on more than 99% of the Forest.

"Most people have no idea how much of the Forest is lost with this decision or how much it will affect them. For example, the decision bans ALL car-camping along Forest Road 376, even on the side of the road opposite the river. That's the most popular camping area in the whole Forest," said Mark Werkmeister for NMOHVA. "This isn't just about OHV's."

"The Village of Jemez Springs views the Travel Management closures as a drastic measure that we believe will have severe economic consequences for the Village," said Mayor Edmund Temple. "As the Village exists as an in-holding within the Santa Fe National Forest, these restrictions to the public's access to public lands pose a threat to the very existence of the Village. Fishermen, hunters, wood cutters, campers, families on day trips, and tourists from around the United States and the world are the life blood of the Village. The Village supports responsible and reasonable restrictions to protect the health of our national forests, but the Village believes these proposed regulations go far beyond that standard.

We are proud the Village and Acequia Coalition joined with us to oppose this decision," said Werkmeister. "We must all work together to protect everyone's right to use our public lands."

More information is available by visiting [www.nmohva.org](http://www.nmohva.org) or by contacting NMOHVA at 505-321-3155.

## Idaho Wilderness Challenged

The Idaho State Snowmobile Association and Blue Ribbon Coalition have filed a lawsuit against the United States Forest Service, challenging the Clearwater National Forest's decision to impose restrictions on areas they have recommended for possible Wilderness classification.

The Clearwater NF recently issued a new Travel Plan limiting motorized and mountain bike access to designated trails and areas. Motorized vehicles and mountain bikes are prohibited uses in the 1964 Wilderness Act. However, these uses have previously been allowed in areas recommended for Wilderness designation unless they were proven to negatively affect future Wilderness qualification. The new Travel Plan changes that, imposing the same prohibitions on motorized and mechanized transport in areas the Forest considers Wilderness candidates, as are found in formal Wilderness, such as Idaho's Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness areas.



For more information, go to <http://www.sharetrails.org/news/2012/08/29/recreation-groups-file-suit-stop-illegal-wilderness>.

## Statewide

### 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. Donations can be earmarked for SAC's Legal Defense Fund, if desired.

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