

TOM McCLINTOCK  
4TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

508 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2511

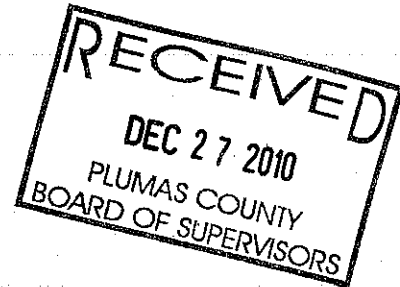
4230 DOUGLAS BOULEVARD, SUITE 200  
GRANITE BAY, CA 95746  
(916) 786-5560

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0504

COMMITTEE ON  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER  
RANKING MEMBER  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS,  
FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS  
COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION AND LABOR  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD,  
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH,  
EMPLOYMENT, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

December 22, 2010

Chief Thomas Tidwell  
USDA Forest Service  
Mailstop 1144  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250



RE: Record of Decision – Plumas National Forest

Dear Chief Tidwell:

During the despotic era of Norman and Plantagenet England, the Crown declared one third of the land area of Southern England to be the royal forest, the exclusive preserve of the monarch, his forestry officials and his favored aristocrats. The people of Britain were forbidden access to and enjoyment of these forests under harsh penalties. This exclusionary system became so despised by the people that in 1215, five clauses of the Magna Carta were devoted to redress.

In May of 2009 and April of 2010, some of my California colleagues and I sent letters expressing concern with needlessly stringent travel management restrictions across Region 5. I have also had several conversations in my offices with you personally in which I expressed the growing perception of my constituents that an attitude now permeates your agency that its principal purpose is to discourage the public's use of the public's land. Throughout these discussions, you have assured me that the Forest Service fully recognizes its responsibility to facilitate and maximize the public's use, access and enjoyment of its forests.

In my judgment, your deeds have belied your words.

Enclosed is a letter I have received from Butte County Supervisor Bill Connelly on behalf of his constituents protesting the Forest Service's decision to further limit the use of ML-3 roads and place additional restrictions on parking within the Plumas National Forest. To his protests I must vigorously add my own and those of my constituents.

The Record of Decision in this matter makes it crystal clear that the public comment period following publication of the Plumas National Forest Motorized Travel Management Plan was a sham, and that the voluminous public protests accounted for precisely nothing.

As Supervisor Connelly notes, the plan makes "collecting firewood, retrieving game, loading or unloading horses or other livestock and camping," a practical impossibility. Ironically, these activities are eerily similar to those proscribed to the people within the royal forests.

During our discussions, I avowed my intention to seek redress by Congress if the Forest Service continued to drift back to the exclusionary policies of pre-Charter England. I write today to affirm that intention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom McClintock', written in a cursive style.

Tom McClintock

CC: The Honorable Doc Hastings, Chairman-elect, Committee on Natural Resources  
The Honorable Rob Bishop, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests  
and Public Lands  
Randy Moore, Pacific Southwest Regional Forester  
Alice Carlton, Plumas National Forest Supervisor  
Bill Connelly, District 1, Butte County Board of Supervisors  
Plumas County Board of Supervisors  
Sierra County Board of Supervisors

Enclosure



# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ADMINISTRATION CENTER  
25 COUNTY CENTER DRIVE - OROVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95965  
TELEPHONE: (530) 538-7224

BILL CONNELLY  
First District  
JANE DOLAN  
Second District  
MAUREEN KIRK  
Third District  
STEVE LAMBERT  
Fourth District  
KIM K. YAMAGUCHI  
Fifth District

November 30, 2010

Senator Dianne Feinstein  
331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Constitution Ave. & 2<sup>nd</sup> St., NE  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Barbara Boxer  
112 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Constitution Ave. & 2<sup>nd</sup> St., NE  
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Wally Herger  
242 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Tom McClintock  
508 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Plumas National Forest Motorized Travel Management Plan and Record of Decision**

Dear Legislative Leaders:

The Butte County Board of Supervisors seeks your help and support in persuading the Plumas National Forest to rescind its Record of Decision in approving its Motorized Travel Management Plan (Plan) and reopen the planning process so that it is transparent and collaborative.

Throughout the planning process, the Plumas National Forest disregarded the public's input as well as repeated requests from this Board to allow mixed use on the ML-3 designated roads. In addition, the Plan established a regulation that only allows a vehicle to be parked one vehicle length off of a designated road at any time. The restriction applies to such activities as: collecting firewood, retrieving game, loading or unloading horses or other livestock, and camping. Besides being inconvenient, in many cases when children and animals are involved it clearly can be a safety concern.

The National Forests are part of the local fabric. The roads within National Forests are used by thousands of residents and visitors for transportation and recreation. These activities generate revenue for our rural communities, which are critical for their survival. The Forest Service's Plan severely limits access to these roads and will have a detrimental impact on Butte County.

Page ~2~

Plumas National Forest Motorized Travel Management Plan and  
Record of Decision

Once again, we are asking your assistance, so the Plumas National Forest will rescind its Record of Decision and allow more input by Butte County and the public. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact the Butte County Public Works Director, Mike Crump, at (530) 538-7681.

Sincerely,

Bill Connelly, Chair  
Butte County Board of Supervisors

cc: Butte County Board of Supervisors