

Back Country Horsemen Of America



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February 22, 2013

Mr. Randy Moore, Regional Forester
United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service Pacific Southwest Regional Office
1323 Club Drive
Vallejo, CA 94592

RE: Enthusiastic Support – Decision regarding Plan Amendment and rulemaking to consider “termination” of the bicycle closure order for the Pacific Crest Trail

Dear Mr. Moore:

This letter is in deep appreciation for your 5 February 2013 response to the “Share the Pacific Crest Trail” initiative. Specifically, we appreciate the wisdom and courage expressed in your response rejecting the petition for rulemaking to consider the use of mountain bikes on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. We are greatly relieved the public will not be dragged into an acrimonious debate about the future of the PCT.

Since passage of the 1968 National Trail System Act, it was the intent of Congress that the PCT is to be used as “primarily a footpath and horseback riding trail.” As stated in your 5 February 2013 letter, the current Comprehensive Plan for the PCT reflects congressional intent by stating the trail should “provide opportunities for hikers, horseman, and other *non*-mechanized travelers”(emphasis added). Consequently, the experience provided along the PCT since its inception has been one that is oriented toward traditional (i.e., historic) and contemplative modes of backcountry travel.

We heartily endorse your stated focus for management of the PCT that continues to include ecological restoration and the backlog of maintenance resulting from wildfires, the Sierra Wind Event of 2011, and the flood events of 2006 and 2009 in Washington State. In our view, these represent higher priorities for the agency’s resources in managing and administering the PCT, versus entering into a multi-year rulemaking process to consider “termination” of the bicycle closure order.

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In closing, BCHA's 13,000+ members from over 185 chapters and affiliates in 26 states applaud your efforts and offer our support to stand by the Forest Service to preserve the longstanding integrity and character of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael McGlenn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael McGlenn
BCHA Chairman

Copies: Tom Tidwell, Chief, U.S. Forest Service
Kent Connaughton, Regional Forester, Pacific Northwest Region
The Honorable Senator Diane Feinstein
The Honorable Senator Barbara Boxer
The Honorable Senator Ron Wyden
The Honorable Senator Jeff Merkley
The Honorable Senator Marie Cantwell
The Honorable Senator Patty Murray