



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Pacific
Southwest
Region

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File Code: 2350/5330

Date: November 25, 2013

Mr. Jim McGarvey
Acting Executive Director
Backcountry Horseman of America
PO Box 1367
Graham, WA 98338

Dear Mr. McGarvey:

This letter is in regards to the February 22, 2013, letter from Michael McGlenn (former Backcountry Horseman of America (BCHA) Chairman) regarding concerns with allowing bicycle use on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) and my November 22, 2013, meeting with Randy Rassmussen. I appreciate the long-standing partnership that BCHA has had with the Forest Service in protecting and maintaining the PCT and other equestrian trails on national forest system lands.

I have concluded that Regional Order 88-4, which prohibits using or possessing bicycles on the PCT, should remain in place. This order is consistent with legislation, regulations, directives, the recommendations of the PCT Advisory Council, and the PCT Comprehensive Management Plan. In order to continue to protect the trail as a resource and to provide a safe and unique recreation experience for the primary users – hikers and equestrians – the continuance of Regional Order 88-4 is needed.

I am concerned about the contention that has developed between trail users regarding the PCT and other national scenic trails. I support continuing a dialogue with trail users in the hiker, equestrian, and mountain bicycling communities to identify a balanced solution on our vast national trail system. We will work with stakeholders interested in this issue to organize a professionally facilitated discussion in the coming year, with the goal of finding common ground for resolving disagreements. If you have suggestions regarding potential participants or facilitators to ensure that this is a productive conversation, please contact Kathy Mick, Regional Trails Program Manager at kmick@fs.fed.us or (707) 562-8859 or Beth Boyst, Pacific Crest Trail Program Manager at bboyst@fs.fed.us or (707) 562-8881.

Sincerely,

/s/ Randy Moore
RANDY MOORE
Regional Forester



