

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.

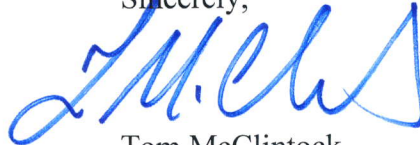
Enclosed is a letter I have received from Butte County Supervisor Bill Connelly on behalf of his constituents protesting the Forest Service's decision to further limit the use of ML-3 roads and place additional restrictions on parking within the Plumas National Forest. To his protests I must vigorously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



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