

To: BCHA National Directors:
Subject: BCHA vs US Forest Service, et al
Date: April 13, 2006

Greetings to All:

As many of you are aware, BCHA filed a lawsuit against the Forest Service challenging the method by which the Forest Service developed and was implementing a new trail class system. Our concerns arose from the fact that the new trail class system would allow for trails designated for pack and saddle stock use to be re-classified, without any public knowledge or input, and become no longer safe for such use. The Court agreed with our legal argument and ruled that the Forest Service had violated applicable law by not seeking public comment in its development of the new trail class system. The Court has required the Forest Service to comply with law by involving the public in its development process. The Court's action should prohibit the further implementation of a new trail class system until that is achieved. At this point, we are not aware of precisely how the Forest Service will accomplish this, but we will inform you as soon as we know more.

We are asking any BCHA members to inform us promptly if you are aware of any current effort by the Forest Service to implement a new trail class system in your Forests. We will then be able to assess the situation and decide how best to respond given the Court's ruling.

Sincerely,

Merlyn Huso, Chairman
Back Country Horsemen of America