



CQ101

August 14, 2002

Lynda Roush
Manager, BLM Arcata Field Office
1695 Heindon Rd.
Arcata, CA 95521

Re: Comments on the Draft Management Plan and Accompanying EIS/EIR for the Headwaters Forest

Dear Ms. Roush:

This letter represents the official comments of the BlueRibbon Coalition (BRC), a national recreation group, on the Draft Management Plan and accompanying environmental impact statement/environmental impact report (EIS/EIR) for the Headwaters Forest.

As you know, the BRC represents both motorized and non-motorized user groups which have an interest in access to the Headwaters Forest. However, these comments will only be advocating for our mountain-bike, equestrian, and general use hiking members. This letter does not preclude other BRC members or affiliate organizations from submitting their own comments.

Normally, I would go through the document associated with the Plan and EIS/EIR and comment on relevant sections. However, I feel the "closure oriented" preferred alternatives (which ban horseback riding, bicycling, camping, swimming, and casual day hikes) are fatally flawed so I will ask that the entire process be withdrawn and a new set of preferred alternatives be developed that include a reasonable balance between recreation and preservation. The two should not be mutually exclusive. The implementation of your closure alternatives would be a tragic misuse of almost 1/2 billion dollars of taxpayer funds that were used to "buy this land for the public"

Regardless of whether you withdraw and reissue the Plan or if you do a substantial overhaul of the preferred alternatives within the current public process, I ask that you make a strong commitment to the trail community and consider developing a user committee of hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians to look at developing a quality system of multi-use trails in the Forest.

I believe that a number of looped trail opportunities could be developed using existing logging roads and connecting them with new trail construction. Some of these new trail systems could be "companion trails" that parallel existing and more developed roads in the Forest. I have attached a draft map with potential routes outlined with an orange marker.

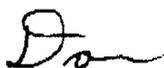
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Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

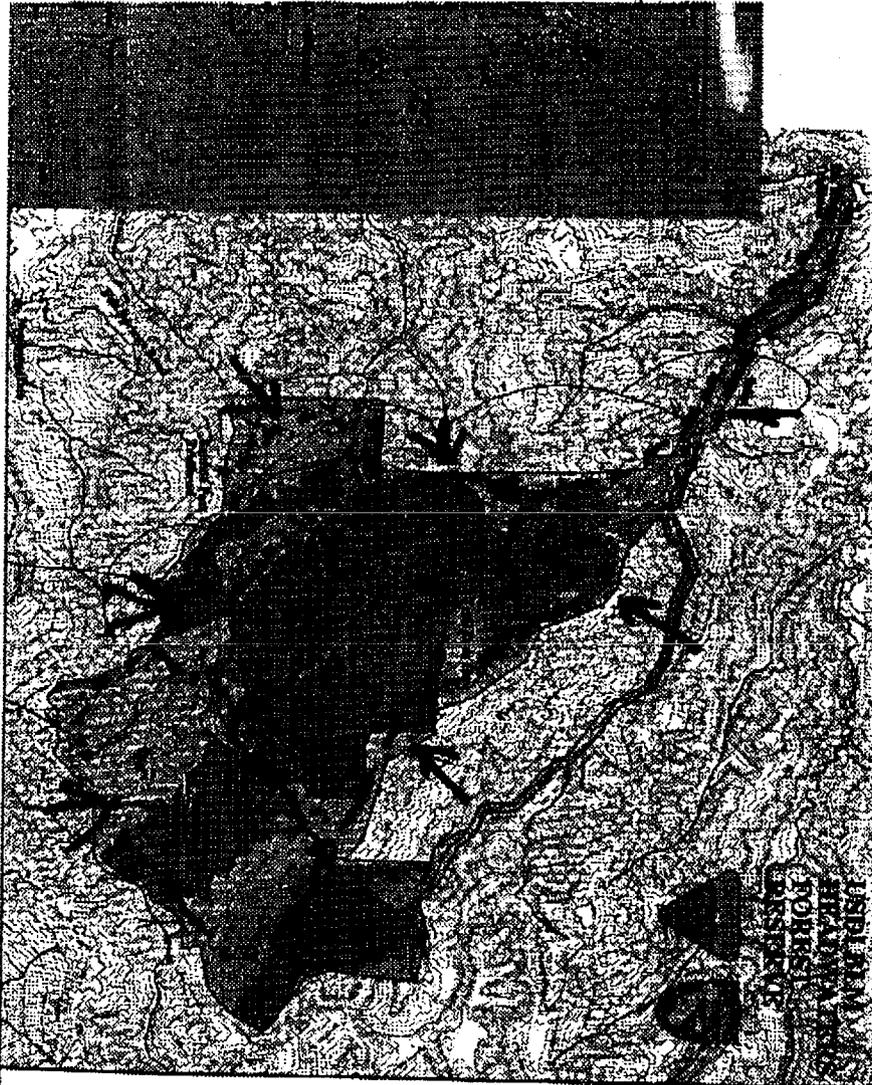


Don Amador
Western Representative
BlueRibbon Coalition, Inc.
555 Honey Lane
Oakley, CA 94561
925.625.6287 Office

cc: Chairman Bill Young
Chairman George Radanovich
Chairman Richard Pombo
BLM Director Kathleen Clarke
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
CA BLM Director Mike Pool
IMBA
Backcountry Horsemen of California
Resource Education Network
CEQ NEPA Review Team
Clarke Guzzi, Humboldt Access Advocate

Attachment: Proposed Trail Map

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New Trails

Draft
Trail Map

AUTOMATIC COVER SHEET

CQ101

DATE : AUG-14-2002 12:02 PM
TO :
FAX # : 6255309
FROM : DON. AMADOR
FAX # : 925 625 5309

CQ 101

PhoneTools



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Oakley, CA 94561
Email: brdon_a@sharetrails.org

Tel. : 925.625.6287

Fax : 925.625.5309

Message :

Dear NEPA Review Team:

FYI - per chance you are following in real-time how NEPA works or does not work in the Arcata Resource Area.

Happy trails,

Don Amador
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From : Blue Ribbon Coalition, Inc.
Don Amador

To : CEQ/NEPA Task Force

Date : 8/14/02

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