



CQ18

July 15, 2002

(sent via FAX and US Mail)

Mike Pool  
State Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
2800 Cottage Way, Ste W1834  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Re: Level of Public Trust at Arcata Resource Area

Dear Mr. Pool:

As the Arcata Resource Area proceeds with the public process associated with the Headwaters Forest Reserve Draft Management Plan EIS/EIR (HFRDMP), I wanted to advise you about the lack of confidence I have in the apparent agenda-driven leadership of the area manager, Lynda Roush. Ms. Roush has already stated (preferred alternative) she wants to close the Forest to all mountain bikes, equestrians, and even ban general public access except for "guided tours."

This predetermined outcome is reminiscent of a previous NEPA process cited below.

In 1997, Ms. Roush told the off-road community that she was starting a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process to close one of the last remaining motorized beaches on the coast of California. She was very upfront about her desire to ban off-highway vehicles (OHVs) in the King Range National Conservation Area. Her public meetings were well attended by those in opposition to the closure including local residents and inholders. Yet, she proceeded with what many considered a front-loaded predetermined decision to close Black Sands Beach to OHVs. Even Daryl Cherney, the leader of Earth First!, basically said at the Matteel hearing that the BLM's process was unfair.

Also, the BLM Resource Advisory Council voted against the closure and wanted the BLM to consider a variety of management options that would allow OHV access. However, in the end... Ms. Roush closed the beach to OHVs despite a petition signed by over 2,000 people in the Garberville/Shelter Cove area!

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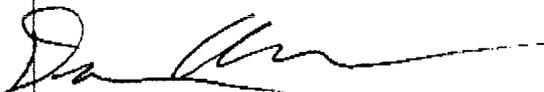
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Another example of hostility towards access interests by the Arcata Resource Area Office is best illustrated by the following statement made in a public meeting -- in front of Congressman Frank Riggs and former BLM state director, Ed Hastey -- "The government does recognize deeded right-of-way, but they deem what right-of-way is, and if they deem you shall crawl on your knees then you shall crawl on your knees," -- Charlotte Hawks, land acquisition specialist, BLM Arcata Resource Area Office. The BLM's apparent silence or lack of correction by Mr. Hastey implies the agency's adoption of that statement.

It troubles me greatly to tell you about my lack of confidence in the fairness of decisions made by Lynda Roush and the Arcata Resource Area Office. However, many of our mountain bike and equestrian members are asking why they should waste their time to participate in meetings and commenting on the HFRDMP since Ms. Roush has already made the decision to close the Forest to said interests.

I look forward to your response. Also, I stand ready to help the BLM proceed with projects that promote fairness and access for both the motorized and non-motorized recreation public.

Sincerely,



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

cc: Congressman Richard Pombo  
Congressman George Radanovich  
Congressman Wally Harger  
BLM Director, Kathleen Clarke  
Resource Education Network  
North Coast Recreation Coalition  
Backcountry Horsemen of California

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# PhoneTools



555 Honey Lane  
Oakley, CA 94561  
Email:brdon\_a@sharetrails.org

Tel. : 925.625.6287

Fax : 925.625.5309

## Message :

Dear CEQ/NEPA Task Force:

Here is a real-time case study of how NEPA can be abused by an agenda driven federal agent.

Don Amador  
Western Representative  
BlueRibbon Coalition, Inc.  
555 Honey Lane  
Oakley, CA 94561  
925.625.6287 Office  
925.625.2551 Home  
925.625.5309 FAX  
925.783.1834 CELL  
www.sharetrails.org  
damador@cwo.com

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

**To :** CEQ/NEPA Task Force

**Date :** 7/16/02

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DATE : JUL-15-2002 04:06 PM  
TO :  
FAX # : 6255309  
FROM : DON. AMADOR  
FAX # : 925 625 5309