



BlueRibbon Coalition  
**END OF YEAR  
REPORT  
2008**

## **BRC's many legal accomplishments in 2008 include:**

### **Roadless victories both in travel planning and litigation**

BRC assisted in seeing to it that the federal court for the District of Wyoming once again declared that the Clinton/Gore 2001 Roadless Rule is illegal. BRC remains a vigilant party in cases targeting the 2005 State Petitions Rule, now before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. BRC participated in numerous plans and agency appeals involving "roadless" issues, including the Idaho and Colorado State Petitions. BRC's own Adena Cook serves on the USDA Roadless Area National Advisory Council, which has achieved unique solutions to these issues supported by key players across the spectrum of interest groups.

### **Forest Service Travel Planning**

BRC has devoted a significant part of its planning and advocacy effort to the ongoing implementation of the Forest Service Travel Management Rule. This activity ranges from written input and personal meetings with national/regional agency leadership to filing administrative appeals on behalf of local BRC clubs and members. BRC has formed a unique partnership with the Motorcycle Industry Council and Specialty

Vehicle Industry Association to combine forces in strategy and marshalling of resources on the TMR chessboard. Specific Forests where BRC is actively involved in planning and/or administrative appeals include the Holly Springs (MS), Eldorado/Tahoe and other California Forests, Colville (WA), Payette/Clearwater/Salmon-Challis and other Idaho Forests, Black Hills (SD), Ozark (AR), Dixie (UT), Coconino/Gila (AZ), San Juan/White River/GMUG (CO), Sandia(NM), Superior (MN), and Chequamegon-Nicolet (WI).

### **Still Sledding in Yellowstone After All These Years**

Still sledding after all these years- After a three year planning process, it's déjà vu all over again as federal courts in DC and Wyoming are both ruling in simultaneous lawsuits challenging the excess, and inadequacy, of snowmobiling allowed under the new Park Service Rule. The Wyoming court has acted most recently, ordering the Parks to reinstate the 2004 "interim" rule which allows for daily entry of up to 720 commercially-guided "best available technology" sleds. BRC has been and remains a party to all these cases with its partners ISMA and ACSA.

## Lewis & Clark National Forest

BRC and numerous partners launched another pro-access offensive in the late August filing of a lawsuit against the Lewis and Clark National Forest (MT) "Little Belts" travel management plan. We hope that this suit will send the message that management via closure is not an alternative to active and effective management. This action follows and complements BRC's involvement in litigation over the Gallatin (MT) Forest.

## Sawtooth National Forest

The newest project as this update goes to press is intervention in a preservationist lawsuit against the Sawtooth (ID) National Forest on behalf of motorized recreation interests. In this suit we hope to assist in defending the Forest's decision to allow mechanized travel on what our opponents claim to be excessive "user created" routes long in use but never formally designated in decades of laissez-faire trail management.

*BLM Utah has completed its Approved Resource Management Plans for six Field Offices in Utah – Kanab, Moab, Monticello, Price, Richfield and Vernal. These plans cover roughly 10 million acres on the eastern half of the state.*



Further information about these and other BRC Legal projects is available online at: [www.sharetrails.org/legal](http://www.sharetrails.org/legal)

## Tellico OHV Area

It's true the bulk of our public lands are in the West, but BRC fights for access throughout the country, as exemplified by the historic "Rescue Tellico" partnership between BRC, United Four Wheel Drive Associations & Southern Four Wheel Drive Association. These groups filed a lawsuit challenging the Nantahala (NC) National Forest's knee-jerk closure order in response to preservationist threats. We recently voluntarily dismissed this suit after the Forest conducted a more thorough public planning process.

## California Key Areas

We've all learned that OHV issues only evolve, they never go away. BRC continues its involvement in the agencies, congress and courtrooms over key areas such as the California Desert Conservation Area, Clear Creek Management Area, and Eldorado National Forest.

## BLM Travel Planning

It's not just the Forest Service doing route/area designations. BLM is committed to the concept too. BRC, in close cooperation with local and regional partners, is participating in planning and protests affecting traditional riding at areas like Moab (UT) and the Owyhee (ID) Front.

## Leadership & Collaboration

BRC continues to create and extend its relationships with enthusiast organizations, and diverse industry and business interests, agencies and elected officials, and media. These are complex and multi-faceted issues frequently requiring the unique talents and experience of the BRC Legal team and staff.