

March 17, 2010

Sent via Email and U.S Mail

FOIA Appeals Officer
U.S Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Mail Stop 6556-MID
Washington, D.C. 20240

RE: Freedom of Information Appeal

Dear FOIA Appeals Officer:

The BlueRibbon Coalition is exercising our appeal rights by filing this Freedom of Information Appeal.

BRC believes the agency arbitrarily restricted its initial search to the "*Secretary's Immediate Office and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.*"

BRC's initial (Feb. 19, 2010) request was for "*any and all correspondence between the Department of Interior and environmental groups...*" That request did not mention the aforementioned narrow scope because BRC is aware that little if any such information could be expected to be found in the physical office of either secretary.

BRC requests that DOI uses the search terms in the original FOIA request and to apply those terms to the various national and local department/agency branches within the DOI that include, but are not limited to, the Bureau of Land Management, USFWS, and the National Landscape Conservation System.

BRC appreciates your effort to comply with the original intent of our FOIA because of potential impacts that such a designation could have on our members who recreate in the Mendocino National Forest.

I may be called at the telephone number listed below during business hours to discuss this appeal, if necessary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Don Amador
Western Representative
BlueRibbon Coalition, Inc.
555 Honey Lane
Oakley, CA 94561
Office: 925.625.6287
Email: brdon@sharetrails.org

Enclosed: Copies of March 4, 2010 DOI "No Records" Found Letter and
February 19, 2010 BRC FOIA Request



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240



IN REPLY REFER TO:
7202.4-OS-2009-00166

March 4, 2010

Mr. Don Amador
Western Representative
Blue Ribbon Coalition, Inc
555 Honey Lane
Oakley, California 94561

Dear Mr. Amador:

On February 19, 2010, you filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, **OS-2009-00166**, with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, seeking:

" Any and all correspondence between the Department of Interior and environmental groups, conservation groups, outdoor groups or their representatives including but not limited to; The Wilderness Society; the Sierra Club, the California Wilderness, Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited, Natural Resources Defense Council, etc. which mention creation or designation of National Monuments on federal lands (Snow Mountain and Goat Mountain) contained with the Medocino National Forest or on federal lands (Cache Creek) managed by the BLM'S Ukiah Field Office. We request information dated between January 1, 2007 and February 19, 2010."

With respect to your request:

The Office of the Secretary initiated a search for responsive records in the Secretary's Immediate Office and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fish Wildlife and Parks. After a thorough search, we have determined that there are **no records** responsive to your request within the Office of the Secretary.

Appeal Rights

Under law, we are required to advise you of your appeal rights whenever informing you that we believe that we have no records responsive to your FOIA request. Therefore, if you have additional information (not provided in your request letter) that would lead you to believe that documents responsive to your request are, indeed, on file in files maintained by the Office of the Secretary, you may file a FOIA appeal by writing to the FOIA Appeals Officer, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, N.W., Mail Stop 6556-MIB, Washington, D.C. 20240. Your appeal letter must be marked, both on its

envelope and at the top of its first page, with the legend "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEAL." Your appeal letter should be accompanied by a copy of your original FOIA request (a copy of which is enclosed with our response, for your convenience) and an indication of where you believe responsive documents might be filed within the Office of the Secretary. Your appeal letter must be received by the FOIA Appeals Officer no later than 30 workdays after the date of the final response (this letter).

This concludes the Office of the Secretary's response to your request.

If you have questions about our response to your request, you may contact Jessica Charles by phone at 202-208-3552, by fax at 202-219-2374, by email at osfoia@nbc.gov, or by mail at U.S. Department of the Interior, 1951 Constitution Ave, N.W., MS 116 SIB, Washington, D.C. 20240. Within the Office of the Secretary, we are committed to providing you, our customer, with the highest quality of service possible.

Sincerely,



Ray J. McInerney
Office of the Secretary
FOIA Officer

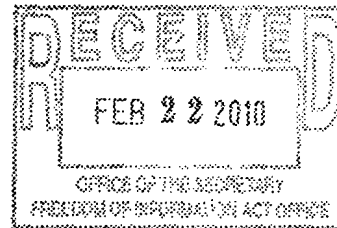
Enclosure: copy of request

PRIVACY ACT notice: Before you choose to contact us, electronically, there are a few things you should know. The information you submit, including your electronic address, may be seen by various people. We will scan a copy of your request into our electronic OS FOIA administrative/image file. We will key the information that you provide to us into our electronic OS FOIA tracking file. We may share it with other individuals, both within and without the Department, involved in Freedom of Information Act administration. You may be contacted by any of these individuals. In other limited circumstances, including requests from Congress or private individuals, we may be required by law to disclose some of the information you submit. Also, e-mail is not necessarily secure against interception. If your communication is very sensitive, or includes personal information like your bank account, charge card, or social security number, you might want to send it by postal mail, instead.



February 19, 2010

Department of Interior
Office of the Secretary
FOIA Coordinator
MS-116 SIB
1951 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C 20240



Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear FOIA Officer:

This request for information is filed under the Freedom of Information Act. It is submitted on behalf of the BlueRibbon Coalition, a national trail-based recreation group.

BRC learned yesterday about the agency's effort to develop a plan to designate a number of new National Monuments under the Antiquities Act. A number of these potential designations appear to include destination OHV areas, including the Stonyford OHV Area on the Mendocino National Forest in Northern California.

Because of potential impacts that such a designation could have on our members who recreate in the Mendocino National Forest, BRC requests that a copy of the following communications (letters, emails, faxes, or memos) be sent to the address given below.

Those requested documents include any and all correspondence between the Department of Interior and environmental groups, conservation groups, outdoor groups or their representatives including but not limited to; The Wilderness Society, the Sierra Club, the California Wilderness Society, Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited, Natural Resources Defense Council, etc. which mention **creation or designation of National Monuments** on federal lands (**Snow Mountain and Goat Mountain**) contained within the **Mendocino National Forest** or on federal lands (**Cache Creek**) managed by the **BLM's Ukiah Field Office**. We request information dated between January 1, 2007 and February 19, 2010.

As a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt non-profit group, BRC believes that it qualifies for a fee waiver under the Department of Interior's FOIA regulations (43 CFR Part 2, Appendix D).

BRC publishes a monthly online magazine for our membership and that publication is also distributed to Members of Congress, various land managers, and the media so they can better understand how federal decision-making affects our access to public lands and waterways.

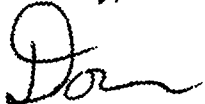
Information received from FOIA requests and other sources is often used by BRC staff to prepare for testimony before Congress. In fact, I have used such information in my capacity as the Western Representative for the BRC in testimony before Congress – as an invited panelist -- regarding the Clinton-Gore Roadless Plan and the Boxer-Thompson Wilderness Bill.

BRC does not have any commercial interests regarding the designation of National Monuments. Because of the aforementioned facts regarding how BRC will use information obtained by this FOIA request to help our membership, Congress, and the media better understand how the agency developed this plan to designate a National Monument on the aforementioned lands, BRC again believes it qualifies for a fee waiver.

I request that this information be provided in electronic format and sent on a personal computer disk (or a CD-ROM).

I may be called at the telephone number listed below during business hours to discuss my request, if necessary.

Sincerely,



Don Amador
Western Representative
BlueRibbon Coalition, Inc.
555 Honey Lane
Oakley, CA 94561
Office: 925.625.6287
Email: brdon@sharetrails.org