

PRESS RELEASE:

ANYWHERE WILD! Coming to Plumas County...Opening wild places to people with disabilities Saturday, June 28th.

Free horsedrawn wagon rides.

When John Muir first arrived in California by ship, he was bewildered and overwhelmed by the raucous energy of San Francisco in 1869. He asked a passerby the quickest way out of the city. "Well, where do you want to go?" the stranger inquired.

"Anywhere Wild!" said Muir.

John Muir's great-grandson is blazing a new trail into the wilderness, opening a path to be traveled by people with disabilities. Fairfield, California horseman Michael Muir, 56, has lived with multiple sclerosis since he was 15 years old. Refusing to be daunted by the relentless course of his disease, Muir believes in challenging the limits of disability. In 2001, he led an international team of people with disabilities driving wheelchair accessible horsedrawn carriages on a three thousand mile, ten month Journey Across America.

Now, after traveling thousands of miles in seven countries, the extraordinary adventures of "HorseJourney" have led to the founding of *Anywhere Wild!* "We have shown that people with disabilities can accomplish amazing things. Horses, combined with innovative adaptive equipment are the links that carry us back into a close relationship with nature and wild places. I know how important this has proven to be in my own life. It is something I want to share with others."

Anywhere Wild! uses Thornlea carriages with a battery operated lift that accommodates up to 500 pounds, to bring aboard people with mobility problems, including those in wheelchairs. A simple lockdown device secures the wheelchair in place. The program has a traditional four-wheel carriage that can handle four passengers, including two wheelchairs, and a twelve passenger trolley that can carry five wheelchairs. *Anywhere Wild!* offers remote, scenic, multi-day wilderness experiences for people living with mobility challenges.

In his second year bringing the project to Plumas County, Muir, with his intrepid traveling volunteers, will drive the trolley in Chester on Saturday, June 28. Come out and enjoy an exciting new adventure. The rides are open to folks with mobility impairments and their companions as well as able-bodied adults and children. Youth groups are encouraged to attend. Volunteers will be rewarded with a ride with Michael and the opportunity to learn about his famous great-grandfather. If you are interested in learning about driving horses this is your chance. *Anywhere Wild!* invites you to get a taste of the adventure and enjoy a wagon ride. Help spread the word!

TIME: 11:00 – 1:00 PM

LOCATION: from Hwy. 36 in Chester, turn on Feather River Rd., drive approximately 1 mile, just past the Church of Christ

Please email or call for information about the rides on the unique wheelchair accessible carriages, or to volunteer to help with the rides.

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For more information regarding our program check out
<http://www.access-adventure.org>