

THE 2001 ROADLESS AREA CONSERVATION RULE

BALANCED PROTECTION FOR OUR FUTURE

Issued in January 2001 following the most extensive public rulemaking in history, the Roadless Area Conservation Rule protects 58.5 million acres of wild national forest land from most commercial logging and road-building.

With more than one-half of America's national forests already open to logging, mining, and drilling, the rule preserves the last third of undeveloped forest lands as a home for wildlife, a haven for recreation, and a heritage for future generations.



PROVIDING PROTECTION:

- Protects 58.5 million acres of national forest land in 39 states;
- Maintains current public access and recreational opportunities, including hiking, horseback riding, camping, hunting and fishing;
- Preserves critical habitat for more than 1,500 species of fish and wildlife, including many threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant and animal species;
- Safeguards clean water from forest headwaters and streams, the source of drinking water for than 60 million Americans.

STRIKING A BALANCE:

- Allows new roads to be built in specified circumstances, such as to fight fires or in the event that other natural events threaten public safety;
- Allows limited logging of certain timber to reduce the risk of wildfire;
- Does not prohibit motorized use;
- Does not close any existing road or trail and provides full access for non motorized recreational activities such as hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, camping, hunting and fishing;
- Permits expansion of oil and gas operations within existing and renewed leasing areas;
- Does not change state or private landowners' right to access their land.

"With this plan the Forest Service strikes a balance, too often missing in the past, between the importance of exploiting natural resources and the value of preserving wilderness. It's the right balance and it ought to be maintained."

-- (Editorial, *The Washington Post*, January 7, 2001)

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WORLD-CLASS RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

The Roadless Area Conservation Rule offers a safeguard for the last wild forests which protect our water, sustain our wildlife and guarantee that current and future generations will have access to some of America's most pristine outdoor playgrounds.

“Our studies prove the best wildlife habitat is found in roadless areas. Hunters and anglers have to let this administration know that dismantling roadless protections will hurt our recreational opportunities for generations to come.”

-- Terry Turner, Washington Council President, Trout Unlimited

“Roadless forests are critical to preserving wildlife habitat for endangered species, safe and clean drinking water for millions of Americans, recreational opportunities for the public, and the unique quality of life and natural heritage that we all enjoy here in the Pacific Northwest.”

--- John McGlenn, President of Washington Wildlife Federation.



WILD FORESTS ARE GOOD FOR BUSINESS

Active outdoor recreation, including bicycling, camping, fishing, hunting, paddling, snow sports, wildlife viewing, trail-running, hiking and climbing, is a huge economic driver throughout the United States. Additionally, about 85 percent of the revenue generated from national forests comes from recreational activities--more than five times the amount generated by logging.

- Wild Forests add \$730 billion to the US economy.
- Wild Forests support nearly 6.5 million jobs in the US.
- Wild Forests add \$289 billion annually in retail sales and services in the US.
- In Washington, Wild Forests contribute \$11.7 billion annually.
- In Washington, Wild Forests support 115,000 jobs.
- In Washington, Wild Forests generate \$8.5 billion in retail sales and services.

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WILD FORESTS OFFER PRISTINE RECREATION

Each year nearly 150 million Americans enjoy the outdoors by hiking, rock climbing, bird-watching, mountain biking, skiing, snowshoeing, paddling and fishing. Our national forests offer outdoor enthusiasts both the opportunity for adventure and the occasion for peace and solitude, especially within the roadless areas of these forests.



Roadless areas provide large, contiguous blocks of exceptional habitat for big-game species such as mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats.



Creation of too many roads is associated with increased big game vulnerability and fewer mature bucks and bulls, often resulting in shorter seasons and fewer available tags.



Roadless areas offer the least degraded streams and lakes where trout, salmon and other desirable fish species - dependent on clean water, stable streamflows and consistent lake storage - can thrive.



Too many roads can decrease the quality of important spawning habitat for trout, salmon, and steelhead.



The Roadless Areas Conservation rule expresses a basic, strong value widely held among bicyclists and the general public: There are enough roads and developments on our public lands and the remaining unroaded places are precious and worthy of preservation. (International Mountain Bicycling Association website)



Often located at lower elevations, Roadless Areas include scenic landscapes, ancient forests, and wild rivers that are enjoyed by the public. Protecting these wild places from road building is critical to protecting the wild rivers that flow through them and the unique experience of paddling them. (American Whitewater)

“Paddling along remote rivers and waterways – the original highways used to explore our great nation – offers a truly unique way to experience our national forests and some of the last vestiges of wild and unspoiled lands in America. Indeed, roadless areas are home to some of the most scenic and challenging whitewater paddling opportunities around.”

-- Thomas O’Keefe, Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director, American Whitewater

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MAKES ECONOMIC SENSE

The Roadless Area Conservation Rule makes economic sense by protecting our nation's Roadless areas, which stimulate a profound economic benefit across the country. Fiscal Conservatives and tax payer advocates agree that building more roads within National Forests that already have a substantial maintenance backlog makes no sense.



REDUCE BURDEN ON ENVIRONMENT, TAXPAYERS

- The National Forest System contains over 380,000 miles of roads and 60,000 miles unmapped logging roads, enough to circle the globe 17 times.
- Only 21 percent of these roads meet adequate road maintenance standards. Many have been rendered un-drivable and even more are in such poor shape that they can cause erosion which can flood municipal water supplies with silt and mud.
- **The current road maintenance backlog is estimated at \$10 billion**, with 16 states maintaining a backlog of \$100 million each.
- From 1998 to 2001 taxpayers have provided more than \$116 million in direct subsidies to the timber industry for construction of logging roads at a cost of nearly \$30 million per year and \$15,000 per mile of road.

"As a business leader in the outdoor industry, REI knows that continuing protection is good for recreation, good for the outdoors, good for jobs and good for wildlife. Roadless forests here in Washington State provide a playground for our customers, and add immensely our quality of life."

**-- Matt Hyde, Vice President for
Merchandising for REI**

WILD FORESTS ARE GOOD FOR THE ECONOMY

Wild Forests generate millions of dollars for the US economy through the travel they encourage, through small and large retail sales, and through the millions of jobs that they create. 85 percent of the revenue generated from national forests comes from recreational activities--more than five times the amount generated by logging. Protecting these wild places from road building is not only critical to preserving the ecosystems they sustain, but is critical to preserving the quality of life that their economic benefit ensures.

NATIONAL TOTALS

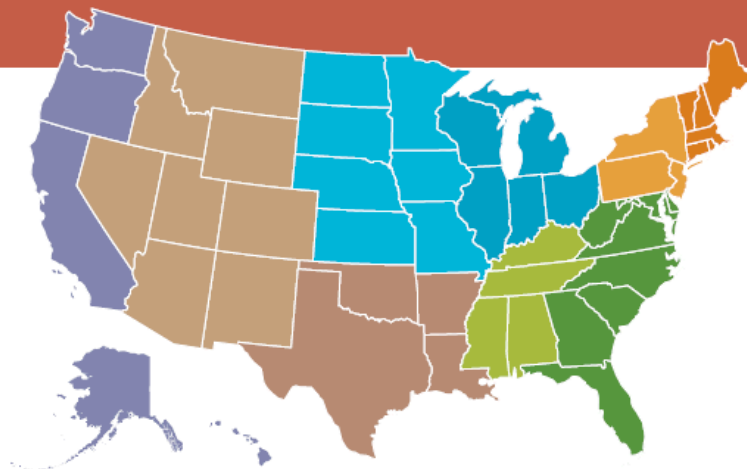
Total Contribution: \$730.9 billion

Jobs Generated: 115,000 jobs

Gear Retail Sales: \$46.2 billion

Trip-related Sales: 243.2 billion

Taxes (federal, state): \$87.9 billion



RECREATION EQUALS REVENUE FOR WASHINGTON

Washington offers spectacular recreation top to bottom from Mt. Baker and Snoqualmie Park to the Columbia River Gorge as well as east to west from Olympic National Park to the Colville National Forest. These Wild Forests and other treasured destinations bring in valuable tourist dollars from the many active outdoor recreation participants that enjoy Washington's majestic wild forests. Protecting Washington's Roadless areas ensures continued and sustained growth in Washington's economy.

WASHINGTON TOTALS

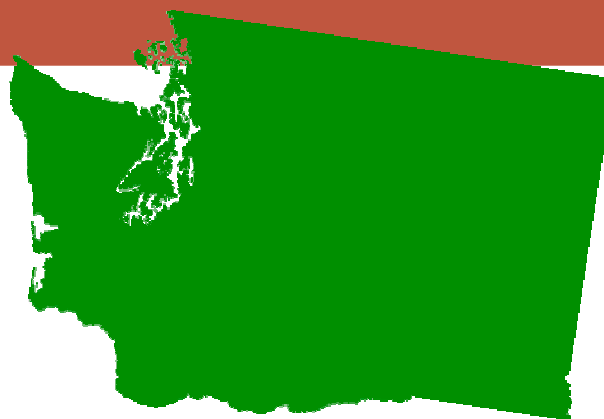
Total Contribution: \$11 billion

Jobs Generated: 115,000 jobs

Gear Retail Sales: \$8 billion

- accounting for 3.5% of gross state product

Taxes: \$650 million



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UNPRECEDENTED PUBLIC SUPPORT

The Roadless Area Conservation Rule was enacted following more than two decades of broad debate and three years of official review and public participation. More Americans took part in this rule-making process than in any other federal rule making in history.

- The Forest Service held over 600 public meetings, including more than two-dozen here in Washington State in places like Colville, Morton, Port Angeles and Wenatchee.
- A record-breaking 2.2 million official comments were received -- five times more comments than in any other federal rulemaking process.
- More than 95% of these comments supported the strongest possible protection for all of our nation's remaining roadless areas.
- According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, "Never before have the American people so actively participated in helping to decide how their public lands should be managed."

NATIONWIDE SUPPORT OF THE ROADLESS AREA CONSERVATION RULE BY STATE

Alabama 5,302	Montana 13,891
Alaska 10,786	Nebraska 2,874
Arizona 19,767	Nevada 18,824
Arkansas 4,231	New Hampshire 9,005
California 187,695	New Jersey 48,521
Colorado 36,331	New Mexico 20,041
Connecticut 25,222	New York 54,748
Delaware 3,476	North Carolina 29,489
Florida 109,939	North Dakota 3,329
Georgia 42,623	Ohio 50,436
Hawaii 2,991	Oklahoma 5,637
Idaho 12,670	Oregon 79,676
Illinois 55,761	Pennsylvania 61,622
Indiana 12,342	Rhode Island 8,794
Iowa 10,996	South Carolina 7,183
Kansas 5,031	South Dakota 3,786
Kentucky 5,201	Tennessee 11,147
Louisiana 7,251	Texas 36,708
Maine 6,092	Utah 25,984
Maryland 70,434	Vermont 3,734
Massachusetts 131,901	Virginia 68,586
Michigan 39,376	<i>Washington 81,762</i>
Minnesota 31,338	West Virginia 4,095
Mississippi 2,680	Wisconsin 26,260
<u>Missouri 17,732</u>	<u>Wyoming 2,758</u>
TOTAL	2,213,748



"Conservation rules painstakingly developed in the Clinton administration to protect millions of acres of roadless forests from logging, mining and drilling have been restored by a federal judge. This is good news for the environment and taxpayers"

--- Seattle Times Editorial, September 25, 2006

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WA STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT FOR THE ROADLESS RULE

- 60 WA Local Elected Officials
- 30 + WA Outdoor Industry Businesses
- 40 WA Religious Leaders
- 20 WA Hunting & Angling Organizations
- 30+ WA Recreation & Conservation Groups

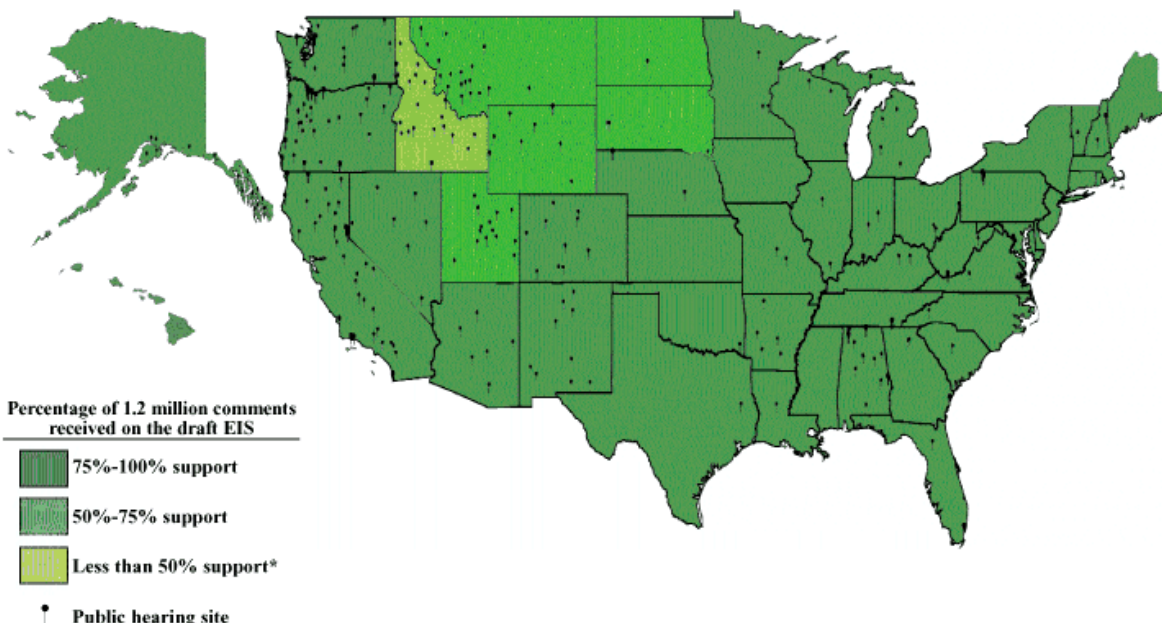
"We remember that these special lands are a gift of the Creator. We are entrusted as stewards, to protect and cherish our Roadless Areas and the wild plant and animal life that depend upon them. Our spirituality reminds us that the way through the wilderness is not to build more roads that destroy forests. It is to walk a higher path."

-- Rev. John Boonstra, Executive Minister, Washington Association of Churches.

"...it makes no sense to continue to build new roads at the public's expense when we can't even afford to maintain the ones we already have. Leaving roadless areas roadless not only saves tax dollars, it also helps local economies. Roadless areas provide scenic vistas, hunting, camping, fishing, hiking and touring opportunities that can retain current residents and businesses, while also attracting non-resource extracting businesses."

--Jim Dipeso, Republicans for Environmental Protection

BROAD SUPPORT OF US FOREST SERVICE ROADLESS AREA CONSERVATION POLICY



* approximately 44 % of Idaho comments supported the policy.

Source: U.S. Forest