



National Policy Summary Analysis

Rescission of the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule

The USDA Forest Service is responding to Presidential and Secretarial direction to rescind the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule (hereafter 2001 Roadless Rule) to remove prohibitions on road construction, reconstruction and timber harvest on nearly 45 million acres of National Forest System lands. Doing so will allow for more wildfire risk reduction work, responsible timber production and promotion of jobs and economic development across rural America. Rescinding the rule also would return decision-making on how roadless areas are managed to the local forest level.

This rulemaking responds to Executive Order 14192, *Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation*, to alleviate unnecessary regulatory burden. In addition, this rulemaking is in accordance with Executive Order 14153, *Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential*, section 3(c), which directs the Secretary of Agriculture to exempt the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Rule. With the proposed rescission, a separate Tongass National Forest exemption would no longer be needed.

Work to rescind the 2001 Roadless Rule will include routine notice-and-comment rulemaking with a notice of intent, a proposed rule and a final rule. This will include preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act, compliance with the Endangered Species Act, and tribal consultation.

What could be the substantive proposed changes?

The rulemaking focuses on rescinding subpart B (2001 Roadless Rule), leaving the state-specific

roadless rules in place for Idaho and Colorado at subparts C and D, respectively.

Subpart B, in its current form, describes the State Petitions Rule for inventoried roadless area management. However, the State Petitions Rule is not in effect due to a court ruling in 2006, which reverted subpart B to the original 2001 rule. The regulation was not amended to reflect that ruling. The 2001 Roadless Rule can be found at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/01-726>.

What will the rescission of the 2001 Roadless Rule accomplish?

Rescinding the rule responds to longstanding legal, administrative and policy challenges around the 2001 Roadless Rule. Recent executive orders and Secretarial direction have highlighted the need to reevaluate national roadless area restrictions.

By rescinding the rule, the Forest Service seeks to return decision-making authority for roadless areas to the forest-level planning process. In addition, this action reflects evolving policy and priorities to enhance local collaboration and better align land and resource management with regional and localized economic and environmental goals.

Where can I find more information about Tribal consultation on this rulemaking?

A copy of the notice of the opportunity to consult and this summary analysis are available on the Forest Service Office of Tribal Relations national consultation website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/tribal-relations/national-consultation>.

The site will be updated as the rulemaking progresses.

The current regulation can be found in the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations (eCFR) ([36 CFR Part 294—Special Areas](#)).

Who may I contact to ask questions about the proposed rule?

- Brad Kinder, Acting Director, NFS Ecosystem Management Coordination, bradley.kinder@usda.gov

How can Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations request consultation on the proposed rule?

Tribal governments and Alaska Native Corporations may request consultation with national, regional and local Forest Service consulting officials. The National Office of Tribal Relations will coordinate consultation requests by email at SM.FS.otrtribalcon@usda.gov.