

Alpine Shop, Ltd. * Black Diamond Equipment, Ltd. * Black Creek Outfitters * Buffalo Peak Outfitters * Cascade Designs, Inc. * Casual Adventure * Chaco, Inc. * Champaign Surplus Store, Inc. * Eagle Creek Travel Gear * GoLite * Keen Footwear * Kelty Packs, Inc. * Lorelei * Marmot Mountain, LLC * Massey's Professional Outfitters * Moonstone Mountain Equipment * Mountain Hardwear * Osprey Packs, Inc * Outward Bound Wilderness * Pack Rat Outdoor Center * Patagonia * Pacific Trail * Petzl * Pine Needle Mountaineering * prAna * Retailers of the Outdoor Industry * Salomon North America * Sierra Designs * Simple * Sports-Roush, LLC * Sorensen's Resort * Teva * The Base Camp * The North Face * Travel Country Outdoor * Tubbs Snowshoe Company * Ute Mountaineer * Vasque * Wild River Outfitters * Wilderness Sports, Inc.

March 27, 2006

Dale Bosworth
Chief, US Forest Service
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-0003

Dear Chief Bosworth,

Please accept this letter on behalf of America's outdoor recreation business community. As key stakeholders in America's public lands, we are concerned about proposed and on-going projects that threaten pristine roadless areas in our National Forests. Because of this concern, we write to you today to request an immediate moratorium on logging and other development in backcountry roadless areas and call for the protection of all roadless areas as a lasting cornerstone of America's natural heritage.

Our concern stems from the enactment of a new rule announced by the Department of Agriculture on May 5th, 2005. This new rule is particularly disconcerting for two reasons: 1) it replaces the widely supported 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule, which gave balanced and flexible protection to America's roadless forests, and 2) it allows for mining, commercial logging, and other destructive development within National Forest System roadless areas.

According to the new rule, states may petition the federal government and ask for roadless area protection. This is part of what Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns says is the new rule's commitment "to cooperatively conserve inventoried roadless areas within our national forests."

Governors from several states have indicated their intent to ask for complete protection for all roadless areas. However, before most states have been able to submit their petitions, the Forest Service is planning logging and other development projects in several pristine roadless areas. Any development in roadless areas could preclude them from being protected.

In order to ensure that no actions are taken which might preclude a full range of options for protection of these areas, we write to request that the Forest Service agree to avoid proposing projects in inventoried roadless areas that would alter the roadless qualities of the areas, and to halt and withdraw all such projects under development.

As businesses that provide services and products to outdoor enthusiasts, we depend upon our customers' continued participation in a wide variety of outdoor activities. The nation's backcountry roadless forests are important to millions of Americans who utilize these public lands for hiking, camping, cross country skiing, climbing, mountain biking, kayaking, fishing, and a host of other outdoor recreation activities. Any losses to the scenic trails, waterways, lakes, and forests of

America's roadless areas would degrade these important backcountry lands, constrain our customers' activities, and diminish our business opportunities.

The pristine roadless areas in our National Forests are some of the last wild tracts of public lands in America. They are an essential part of our country's natural heritage, and are important to the American families we serve. We encourage you to use every resource available to safeguard these vital public assets.

Sincerely,

Alpine Shop, Ltd

St. Louis, Missouri

Black Diamond Equipment, Ltd.

Headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah

Black Creek Outfitters

Jacksonville, Florida

Buffalo Peak Outfitters

Jackson and Oxford, MS

Cascade Designs, Inc.

Headquartered in Seattle, Washington

Casual Adventure

Arlington, VA

Chaco, Inc.

Paonia, Colorado

Champaign Surplus Store, Inc.

Champaign, IL

Eagle Creek Travel Gear

Headquartered in Vista, CA

GoLite

Headquartered in Boulder, Colorado

Keen Footwear

Headquartered in Alameda, California

Kelty Packs, Inc.

Headquartered in Boulder, Colorado

Lorelei, Inc.

Headquartered in Bellevue, Washington

Marmot Mountain, LLC

Headquartered in Santa Rosa, California

Massey's Professional Outfitters

Headquartered in New Orleans, Louisiana

Moonstone Mountain Equipment

Headquartered in Seattle, Washington

Mountain Hardwear

Richmond, California

Osprey Packs, Inc

Headquartered in Cortez, Colorado

Outward Bound Wilderness

Headquartered in Golden, Colorado

Patagonia

Headquartered in Ventura, California

Pacific Trail

Headquartered in Seattle, Washington

Pack Rat Outdoor Center

Fayetteville, Arkansas

Petzl

Headquartered in Clearfield, Utah

Pine Needle Mountaineering

Durango, Colorado

prAna

Headquartered in Vista, California

Retailers of the Outdoor Industry

Headquartered in Asheville, North Carolina

Salomon North America

Portland, Oregon

Sierra Designs

Headquartered in Louisville, Colorado

Simple

Headquartered in Goleta, California

Sports-Roush, LLC

Headquartered in Durango, Colorado

Sorensen's Resort

Hope Valley, California

Teva

Headquartered in Goleta, California

The Base Camp

Billings and Helena, Montana

The North Face

Headquartered in San Leandro, California

Travel Country Outdoor

Orlando, Florida

Tubbs Snowshoe Company

Headquartered in Stowe, Vermont

Ute Mountaineer

Aspen, Colorado

Vasque

Headquartered in Red Wing, Minnesota

Wild River Outfitters

Virginia Beach, Virginia

Wilderness Sports, Inc.

Silverthorne and Frisco, Colorado



cc: Governor Haley Barbour
cc: Governor Rod R. Blagojevich
cc: Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
cc: Governor Matt Blunt
cc: Governor Jeb Bush
cc: Governor Jim Douglas
cc: Governor Mike Easley
cc: Governor Chris Gregoire
cc: Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr.
cc: Governor Mike Huckabee
cc: Governor Tim Kaine
cc: Governor Ted Kulongoski
cc: Governor Bill Owens
cc: Governor Tim Pawlenty
cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
cc: Governor Brian Schweitzer