

EFFECTS OF ROADLESS CONSERVATION IN CALIFORNIA

National Forests in California

- California contains a total of 20,698,000 acres of national forest land, about 20.3 percent of California's landmass.

National Forests in California include:

The Angeles, Cleveland, Eldorado, Inyo, Klamath, Lake Tahoe, Lassen, Los Padres, Mendocino, Modoc, Plumas, San Bernardino, Sequoia, Shasta-Trinity, Sierra, Six Rivers, Stanislaus, and Tahoe National Forests.

Inventoried Roadless Area Acreage:

- California's national forests contain 4,416,000 acres of inventoried roadless areas (IRAs), about 21.3% of all national forest land in the state.¹

Impacts on Logging

- The total estimated reduction in annual logging in IRAs in California is 3.3 million board feet, less than a 1% reduction from recent historic harvest on national forest lands.²

Forest Plans

- Current Forest Service management plans in California prohibit road construction and reconstruction on 1,890,000 acres, or 42.8% of all IRAs. Road building is allowed on the other 2,527,000 acres, or 57.2%.⁴

Public Involvement and Support

- The Forest Service held 61 public meetings in California during the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) comment period on the development of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule throughout the state.⁵
- Nationwide, the Forest Service held more than 600 public hearings during the development of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule.



National Forests in California

More than 1.6 million Americans submitted comments in support of protecting roadless areas, including nearly 1.2 million comments during the DEIS comment period. Of these 1.2 million comments, 95.9% supported the complete protection of all roadless areas.⁴ The Forest Service received 187,695 comments from residents of California during the DEIS comment period. Of these 187,695 comments, 97.6% supported the complete protection of all roadless areas.⁶ A March 2000 public opinion poll conducted by Fairbanks, Masslin & Maulin found that 72% of California residents supported the complete protection of these last remaining wild areas of their national forests.

¹ USDA Forest Service. 2000. Roadless Area Conservation, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Vol. 1, p. B-3.

² Ibid. p. B-3.

³ Ibid. p. B-3.

⁴ Ibid. p. A-3.

⁵ 65 Fed. Reg. 30288 (May 10, 2000).

⁶ USDA Forest Service Comment Analysis Evaluation Team.