

EFFECTS OF ROADLESS CONSERVATION IN NORTH CAROLINA

National Forests in North Carolina

- North Carolina contains a total of 1,244,000 acres of national forest land, about 3.6 percent of North Carolina's landmass.

National Forests in North Carolina include:

The Croatan, Nantahala, Pisgah, and Uwharrie National Forests.

Inventoried Roadless Area Acreage:

- North Carolina's national forests contain 172,000 acres of inventoried roadless areas (IRAs), about 13.8% of all national forest land in the state.¹

Impacts on Logging

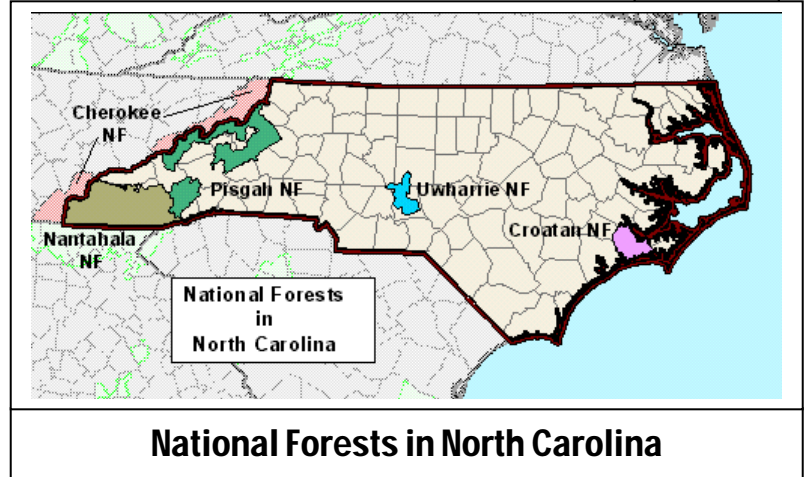
- The total estimated reduction in annual logging in IRAs in North Carolina is .1 million board feet, less than a 1% reduction from recent historic harvest on national forest lands.²

Forest Plans

- Current Forest Service management plans in North Carolina prohibit road construction and reconstruction on 31,000 acres, or 18% of all IRAs. Road building is allowed on the other 142,000 acres, or 82%.³

Public Involvement and Support

- The Forest Service held 2 public meetings in Asheville, North Carolina during the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) comment period on the development of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule.⁴
- Nationwide, the Forest Service held more than 600 public hearings during the development of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule.



- 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 29,489 comments from residents of North Carolina during the DEIS comment period. Of these 29,489 comments, 99% supported the complete protection of all roadless areas.⁶
- An April 2001 public opinion poll conducted by The Mellman Group, Inc. found that 65 % of the residents of the Southern US 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-4.

² Ibid. p. B-4.

³ Ibid. p. A-4.

⁴ 65 Fed. Reg. 30288 (May 10, 2000).

⁵ USDA Forest Service Comment Analysis Evaluation Team.

