

# EFFECTS OF ROADLESS CONSERVATION IN NEW MEXICO

## National Forests in New Mexico

- New Mexico contains a total of 9,327,000 acres of national forest land, about 12 percent of New Mexico's landmass.

## National Forests in New Mexico include:

- The Carson, Cibola, Gila, Lincoln, and Santa Fe National Forests.

## Inventoried Roadless Area Acreage:

- New Mexico's national forests contain 1,597,000 acres of inventoried roadless areas (IRAs), about 17% of all national forest land in the state.<sup>1</sup>
- The recently acquired Valle Vidal Area, located in the Carson National Forest, is an additional 101,285 acres

## Impacts on Logging

- The total estimated reduction in annual logging in IRAs in New Mexico is .2 million board feet, less than a 1% reduction from recent historic harvest on national forest lands.<sup>2</sup>

## Job Impacts

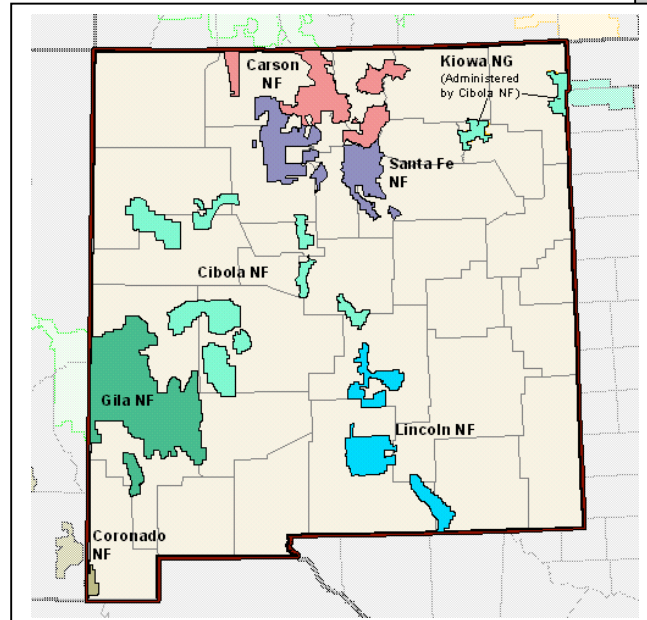
- The estimated statewide reduction in employment related to timber harvest from IRAs in New Mexico is 2 jobs.<sup>3</sup>

## Forest Plans

- Current Forest Service management plans in New Mexico prohibit road construction and reconstruction on 1,167,000 acres, or 73% of all IRAs. Road building is allowed on the other 430,000 acres, or 27%.<sup>4</sup>

## Public Involvement

- During the development of the original Roadless Area Conservation Rule, finalized in 2001, the Forest Service held 16 public meetings in New Mexico during the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) comment period alone.<sup>5</sup>



**National Forests in New Mexico**

- Nationwide, the Forest Service held more than 600 public hearings during the development of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule.
- Nearly 18,000 citizens of New Mexico commented during that comment period, over 96% supporting the complete protection of all roadless areas. Nationally, more than 1.2 million Americans submitted comments during the DEIS comment period. Of these 1.2 million comments, 95.9% supported the complete protection of all roadless areas.<sup>6</sup>

## Public Support

- A statewide poll by *Research & Polling, Inc* released on May 31, 2006 showed broad public support for protecting roadless areas. In total, 71 percent of voters say they either strongly support (50 percent) or somewhat support (21 percent) the state's petition to protect roadless areas.

<sup>1</sup> USDA Forest Service. 2000. Roadless Area Conservation, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Vol. 1, p. B-4.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. p. B-4.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. p. B-4.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. p. A-3.

<sup>5</sup> 65 Fed. Reg. 30288 (May 10, 2000).