

EFFECTS OF ROADLESS CONSERVATION IN SOUTH CAROLINA

National Forests in South Carolina

- South Carolina contains a total of 613,000 acres of national forest land, about 3 percent of South Carolina's landmass.

National Forests in South Carolina include:

The Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests

Inventoried Roadless Area Acreage:

- South Carolina's national forests contain 8,000 acres of inventoried roadless areas (IRAs), about 1.3% of all national forest land in the state.¹

Impacts on Logging

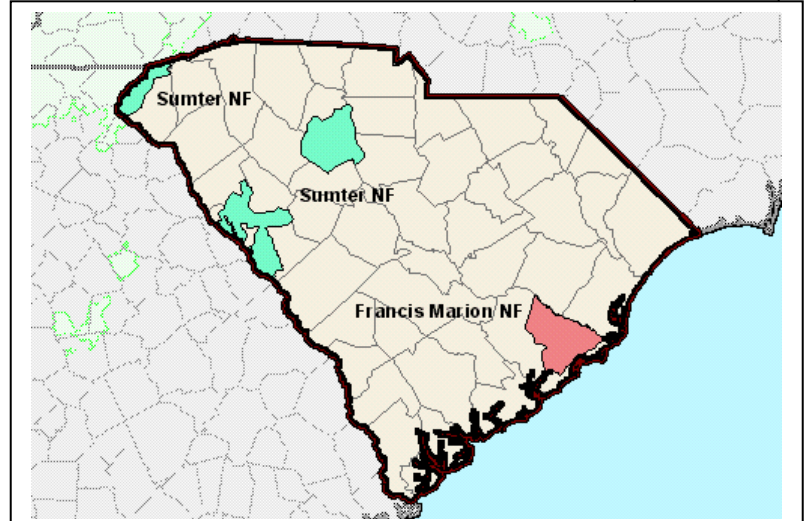
- There is no estimated reduction in annual timber harvest from IRAs in South Carolina.²

Forest Plans

- Current Forest Service management plans in South Carolina prohibit road construction and reconstruction on 4,000 acres, or 50% of all IRAs. Road building is allowed on the other 4,000 acres, or 50%.⁴

Public Involvement and Support

- The Forest Service held 2 public meetings in Columbia, South Carolina during the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) comment period on the development of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule.⁵
- Nationwide, the Forest Service held more than 600 public hearings during the development of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule.



National Forests in South Carolina

- 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 7,183 comments from residents of South Carolina during the DEIS comment period. Of these 7,183 comments, 97.2% 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 residents of the South 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-5.

² Ibid. p. B-5.

³ Ibid. p. B-5.

⁴ Ibid. p. A-4.

⁵ 65 Fed. Reg. 30288 (May 10, 2000).

⁶ USDA Forest Service Comment Analysis Evaluation Team.