

N E W S R E L E A S E
SENATOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

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**SENATOR CLINTON PROTESTS BUSH ADMINISTRATION
DECISION TO ALLOW OLD GROWTH LOGGING IN ROADLESS
AREAS OF NATIONAL FORESTS**

New York, NY - Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton today protested the Bush Administration's decision to repeal laws that protect the most pristine areas of our National Forests from road building and logging.

"The Bush Administration's decision to gut the roadless rule is a gift to special interests and a blow to the environment. The revised rule immediately eliminates protection for 34 million acres of the most pristine areas in our National Forests, and opens the door for development of the remaining roadless areas in the coming years," Senator Clinton said. "This decision flies in the face of overwhelming public support for protection of roadless areas. Since 2001, over 4 million comments have been submitted--including more than 100,000 from New York--and 97% of those comments opposed weakening protections for roadless areas."

The Bush Administration announced substantial changes today to the "roadless" rule for National Forests. The law, which protected more than 60 million acres of National Forests from road-building and logging, was introduced under the Clinton Administration. The Bush Administration's revisions to the rule will immediately open 59% of roadless areas to logging and would allow the remaining 41% to be opened to logging as their forest management plans are revised. While the revised rule establishes a process whereby governors could petition to protect roadless areas in their states, the Administration does not have to honor those petitions.

While the plan would not affect New York's only National Forest in the Finger Lakes, Senator Clinton stressed that the Administration's plan will allow logging in old growth forests and other ecologically important areas in our National Forests.

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