

The Estée Lauder Companies Inc.
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Melville - NY 11747
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24 Sept 04

Content Analysis Team
ATTN: Roadless State Petitions
USDA Forest Service
P.O. Box 221090
Salt Lake City, Utah 84122

ESTÉE
LAUDER
COMPANIES

Dear Content Analysis Team;

We believe that the Roadless Area Conservation Rule ("roadless rule") should be reinstated and enforced as issued in January 2001.

In 1998, The Estée Lauder Companies Inc joined with other US companies in opposing the clearcutting of ancient rainforests. At that time the focus was on British Columbia, but our purchasing policies are aimed at protecting all ancient forests wherever located. Our specifications were changed to purchase only wood fibers that originate from managed sustained yield forests or recycled paper/fiber product.

The roadless rule had been a major step in protecting our country's last precious stands of old growth forest within the national forest system. The rule should certainly be kept intact for the Lower 48 states, as well as the Chugach and Tongass National Forests in Alaska. The Tongass alone comprises 30 percent of the world's unlogged coastal temperate rainforest, contains trees that are hundreds of years old, and is home to the world's largest concentration of bald eagles.

I visited some of the coastal rainforest of British Columbia in 1998 and am still emotionally moved by the remembrance of the sights, sounds, and smells of what remains of that magnificent primeval forest. We must not allow America's last remaining national forests to be logged and mined into history.

In addition to the intrinsic beauty of our national forest treasures, we believe that the roadless rule will help to protect clean drinking water for millions of Americans, preserve wildlife habitat and provide tranquil and pristine recreation spaces. Areas within the scope of the roadless rule are found within 661 of the over 2,000 major watersheds in our nation.

We also believe that the roadless rule is fiscally responsible. If it is enforced as issued in January 2001, the rule would allow current US Forest Service funds to be spent for repair of existing roads, instead of requiring additional appropriation of funds for construction and maintenance of new roads.

The roadless rule as issued in January 2001 was based on a broad spectrum of public support. A multi-stakeholder group including International Paper and the Outdoor Industry Association observed recently that the roadless rule was issued after "one of the most extensive rule making processes in the history of the federal government."

We urge you to reinstate and enforce the roadless rule, for the sake of future generations of Americans.

Sincerely,



Phil Barbato

VP Environmental Affairs and Safety