

EFFECTS OF ROADLESS CONSERVATION IN UTAH

National Forests in Utah

- Utah contains a total of 8,179,000 acres of national forest land, about 15 percent of Utah's landmass.

National Forests in Utah include:

The Ashley, Dixie, Fishlake, Manti-La Sal, Uinta, and Wasatch-Cache National Forests.

Inventoried Roadless Area Acreage:

- Utah's national forests contain 4,013,000 acres of inventoried roadless areas (IRAs), about 49% of all national forest land in the state.¹

Impacts on Logging

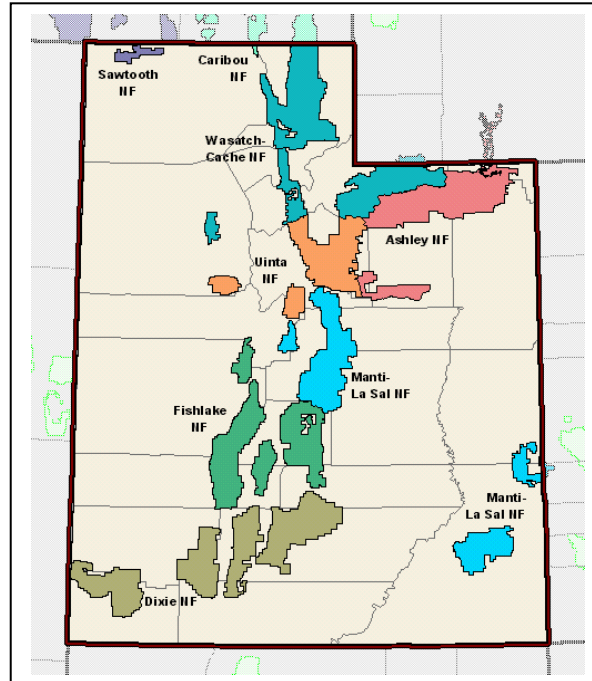
- The total estimated reduction in annual logging in IRAs in Utah is 11.2 million board feet, an 18% reduction from recent historic harvest on national forest lands.²

Forest Plans

- Current Forest Service management plans in Utah prohibit road construction and reconstruction on 446,000 acres, or 11% of all IRAs. Road building is allowed on the other 3,567,000 acres, or 89%.³

Public Involvement and Support

- The Forest Service held 17 public meetings in Utah during the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) comment period on the development of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule.⁴
- These meetings were held in Green River, Vernal, Roosevelt, Cedar City, Richfield, Dale, Monticello, Manti, Provo, and Salt Lake City.
- Nationwide, the Forest Service held more than 600 public hearings during the development of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule.



National Forests in Utah

- 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.⁵
- The Forest Service received 25,984 comments from residents of Utah during the DEIS comment period. Of these 25,984 comments, 73% supported the complete protection of all roadless areas.⁶
- An April 2001 public opinion poll conducted by The Mellman Group, Inc. found that 64% of the residents of the West 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. A-4.

⁴ 65 Fed. Reg. 30288 (May 10, 2000).

⁵ USDA Forest Service Comment Analysis Evaluation Team.