

EFFECTS OF ROADLESS CONSERVATION IN IDAHO

National Forests in Idaho

- Idaho contains a total of 20,458,000 acres of national forest land, about 38 percent of Idaho's landmass.

National Forests in Idaho include:

- The Boise, Caribou, Clearwater, Idaho Panhandle, Couer d'Alene, Kaniksu, St. Joe, Nez Perce, Payette, Salmon-Challis, Sawtooth, and Targhee National Forests.

Inventoried Roadless Area Acreage:

- Idaho's national forests contain 9,322,000 acres of inventoried roadless areas (IRAs), about 45.6% of all national forest land in the state.¹

Impacts on Logging

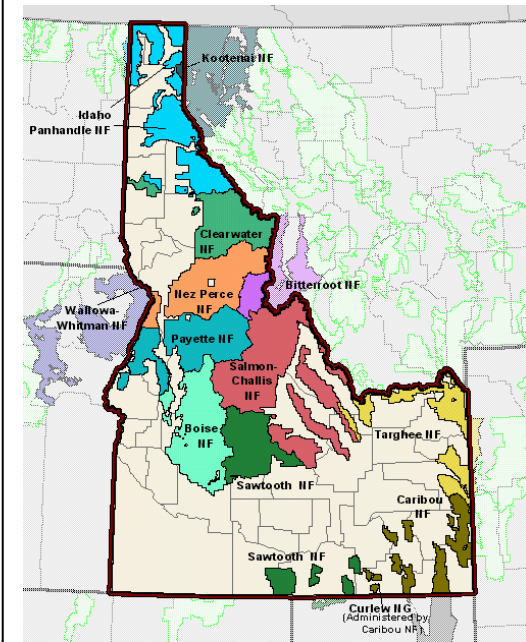
- The total estimated reduction in annual logging in IRAs in Idaho is 9.7 million board feet, a 4% reduction from recent historic harvest on national forest lands.²

Forest Plans

- Current Forest Service management plans in Idaho prohibit road construction and reconstruction on 3,656,000 acres, or 39% of all IRAs. Road building is allowed on the other 5,666,000 acres, or 61 %.³

Public Involvement and Support

- The Forest Service held 33 public meetings in Idaho during the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) comment period on the development of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule.⁵
- These meetings were held in Nampa, Idaho Falls, Coeur d'Alene, Grangeville, Payette, Challis, Salmon, Twin Falls, Ketchum, Orofino, Lewiston, Idaho City, Boise, Pocatello, Kooskia, Riggins, Elk City, McCall, Arco, Mackay, and Moscow.
- Nationwide, the Forest Service held more than 600 public hearings during the development of the Roadless Rule.



National Forests in Idaho

- 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 12,670 comments from residents of Idaho during the DEIS comment period. Of these 12,670 comments, 43.7% supported the complete protection of all roadless areas.⁵
- A March 2000 public opinion poll conducted by Ridder/Braden found that 57% of Idaho residents 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-3.

² Ibid. p. B-3.

³ Ibid. p. A-3.

⁴ 65 Fed. Reg. 30288 (May 10, 2000).

⁵ USDA Forest Service Comment Analysis Evaluation Team.