



GOLDEN STATE LUMBER, INC.

September 21, 2004

Content Analysis Team
Attn: Roadless State Petitions
USDA Forest Service
P.O. Box 221080
Salt Lake City, UT 84122

Dear Content Analysis Team:

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

In 2001, Golden State Lumber joined with other US companies in adopting a strong policy in favor of protecting endangered forests. Since then, we have worked with our suppliers to make sure that we avoided purchasing wood products that threaten endangered forests such as those in Alaska, Chile and British Columbia.

In the United States, the roadless rule was a major step in protecting our country's last remaining and endangered old growth forests. Golden State believes that the roadless rule will also 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 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 rulemaking process 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,

Rick Zasjave
Vice President
Golden State Lumber

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