



News From Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis 32nd Congressional District of California

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Statement by Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis regarding Bush Administration's action to repeal the Roadless Area Conservation Rule

WASHINGTON, DC.- *Today, Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis (CA-32), Ranking Democratic Member of the Environment and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee, issued the following statement regarding the Bush Administration's action to repeal the Roadless Area Conservation Rule:*

"In another swipe at public health and our environment, the Bush Administration today gave away America's most prized possessions – our undeveloped, roadless, national forests – to the mining, logging, and road building industries. In California, that means that more than four million acres could now be open for development. In the San Gabriel Valley, 150,000 acres could be open to mining, drilling and road building in the Angeles National Forest.

"National forests are more than just 'pretty' places. These areas are culturally important, homes to sensitive wildlife and the source of drinking water for more than 60 million people in 3,400 communities in 33 states. These actions have been taken against the wishes of more than 1 million Americans and more than 400,000 Californians have commented against the Administration's proposal to lift protections for these roadless areas.

"This Administration has polluted our water with chemicals, allowed power plants to continue spewing toxics into our air, and is giving away our last and most precious possessions – our national forests – against the wishes of Californians and all Americans. The Administration continues to shamelessly exploit our environment."

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