



*Roads, roads, roads...*

*Here's where we're going!*



There are several Forest Service initiatives that focus on managing the existing and future roads within the National Forest transportation system:

*Roadless Area Initiative*

*Road Management Policy*

*National Forest Planning Rule*

## *Definition of Terms and Abbreviations*



**Inventoried Roadless Areas** - These are public lands typically exceeding 5,000 acres that met the minimum criteria for wilderness consideration under the Wilderness Act of 1964. The Forest Service used the most recent inventory available for each national forest and grassland to identify the inventoried roadless areas addressed by this proposal.

**Timber harvest stewardship projects** – Projects where harvest or vegetation management:

- Maintains or improves roadless characteristics
- Improves threatened, endangered, proposed or sensitive species habitat
- Reduces the risk of uncharacteristic wildfires, or
- Restores ecological structure, function, processes or composition.

**Road** - A **road** is a vehicle travel-way more than 50 inches wide, unless managed as a trail.

A **classified road** is constructed or maintained for long-term highway vehicle use.

An **unclassified road** is not constructed, maintained, or intended for long-term highway vehicle use, such as roads built for temporary access.

Different classifications of roads include arterial, collector, and local.

## *Road Management Policy*



This policy revises how the Forest Service manages over 380,000 miles of roads already in the National Forest transportation system. The policy is intended to:

- ∞ Make the existing forest road system safe, responsive to public needs, environmentally sound, affordable, and efficient to manage.
- ∞ Be implemented through extensive public involvement and analysis at the local level.
- ∞ Implement a scientific analysis procedure to help land managers and the public identify heavily used roads that need to be maintained or upgraded, and roads that are unused or environmentally damaging that can be decommissioned.
- ∞ Place a new emphasis on maintaining and reconstructing existing roads, rather than building new roads.
- ∞ Ensure that new roads that are necessary for resource management have a minimal long-term adverse environmental impact.
- ∞ Ensure the rehabilitation of ecological processes disturbed by past road construction.

## *How it works together*



The Planning Rule provides the overarching framework for implementing the Roadless Area Initiative and Road Management Policy.

Under the Planning Rule, the Forest Service will evaluate whether Inventoried Roadless Areas and other unroaded areas need additional protection. This will occur during the forest plan revision process.

The Road Management Policy describes analysis methods and procedures that would complement forest planning activities on national Forests and Grasslands.

The Road Management Policy also provides basic procedural protection for contiguous unroaded areas until a forest completes a forest-scale roads analysis and incorporates it into their forest plan.

All of these initiatives seek to:

- Provide long-term sustainability.
- Ensure collaboration with the public.
- Integrate science into the processes.
- Incorporate new information and opportunities.

## *National Forest Planning Rule*



The new Planning Rule released in November 2000, rewrites the existing Forest Service regulations implementing the National Forest Management Act.

The rule will:

- ✎ Base planning on the principles of ecological, economic, and social sustainability.
  
- ✎ Actively engage the public and other federal, state, local, and tribal partners in the planning and management of national forests.
  
- ✎ Integrate science and scientists into the planning process and focus on managing entire ecosystems rather than single species or outcomes.
  
- ✎ Integrate planning and management activities more closely to new information and to opportunities in a timely manner.

## *Websites to browse*

Roadless Area Initiative.....[www.roadless.fs.fed.us](http://www.roadless.fs.fed.us)

Road Management Policy....[www.fs.fed.us/news/roads](http://www.fs.fed.us/news/roads)

Planning Rule.....[www.fs.fed.us/forum/nepa/rule](http://www.fs.fed.us/forum/nepa/rule)

Rogue River National Forest...[www.fs.fed.us/r6/rogue](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/rogue)

Siskiyou National Forest.....[www.fs.fed.us/r6/siskiyou](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/siskiyou)

Pacific Northwest Region.....[www.fs.fed.us/r6](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6)

Forest Service National Headquarters....[www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)

## *Roadless Area Initiative*



Within Inventoried Roadless Areas, the Forest Service will prohibit certain activities that pose the greatest risk to social and ecological values. Most road construction and reconstruction will be prohibited except when necessary for public safety and resource protection. Timber harvesting will also be prohibited except for stewardship purposes that maintain or improve roadless characteristics. This proposal was analyzed in the Forest Service's Final Environmental Impact Statement published in November 2000.

The Forest Service undertook this initiative because:

- ☞ Of the rapid loss of “open space” and need to conserve the remaining roadless areas for future generations.
- ☞ Road construction and other activities on public lands can compromise the significant social and ecological values of remaining roadless areas.
- ☞ With a backlog of road maintenance and reconstruction on the current forest road system, public investment should focus on maintaining current system rather than building new roads into roadless areas.
- ☞ Activities in roadless areas can alter roadless characteristics and create public controversy, appeals, and lawsuits.



This information provided by:

Rogue River and Siskiyou National Forests  
Supervisor's Office  
333 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
PO Box 520  
Medford, OR 97501  
(541) 858-2200



The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status (Not all bases apply to all programs). Person with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Ave. S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA Forest Service is an equal opportunity provider and employer.