

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Citizen input sought

Proposed Colorado Roadless Rule comment period ends Oct. 23

GOLDEN, Colo., October 8, 2008 – With the end of the 90-day public comment period nearing, the U.S. Forest Service and State of Colorado continue to encourage citizens to submit comments and substantive recommendations on the proposed Colorado Roadless Rule and associated Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The comment period ends Oct. 23.

The State and U.S. Forest Service have been working together to develop a Colorado Roadless Rule that would conserve the character of Colorado roadless areas while addressing the needs and interests of Colorado. The public's substantive input and comments on the proposed rule and DEIS are a key element in achieving that goal.

Comments received thus far have included such topics as an emphasis on maintaining roadless areas in their current natural state; impacts of oil and gas exploration; environmental analyses of proposed road construction; ski area expansions; and effects on motorized & non-motorized recreation, tourism-related businesses and local economies.

The proposed rule and DEIS culminate ongoing, intensive and cooperative work with the Colorado Governor's office that began in 2005. The undertaking also represents the State of Colorado's support for a roadless area protection strategy after years of concern to the State of Colorado and its residents regarding the ebb and flow of administrative regulation and litigation concerning the now enjoined 2001 Roadless Conservation Area Rule. The proposed Colorado Roadless Rule is built on the work of the State of Colorado Roadless Area Task Force as well as ideas and concerns raised during a 2006 public involvement effort led by the State.

Comments or information

Comments on the proposed Colorado Roadless Rule and its DEIS can be emailed to COcomments@fsroadless.org; can be sent via postal mail to Roadless Area Conservation – Colorado, P.O. Box 162909, Sacramento, CA 05816-2909; or can be faxed to (916) 456-6724. Comments are due by Oct. 23.

Information regarding the proposed rule, including official documents such as the proposed rule, DEIS, background papers and information updates can be found on the U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region website at www.fs.fed.us/r2/roadless. Individuals needing additional information may call the information line at (303) 275-5567.