

Meeting Summary
Roadless Area Conservation National Advisory Committee
August 30-31, 2006
Yates Building, U.S. Forest Service, Washington, DC

Participants

Committee Members Present:

- Darin Bird – Utah Department of Natural Resources
- Adena Cook – Blue Ribbon Coalition
- Robert Cope – County Commissioner Lemhi ID
- Paul Hansen – Izaak Walton League of America
- Dale Harris, Co Chair – Montana Wilderness Association
- Jim Riley – Intermountain Forest Association
- Greg Schaefer, Co Chair – National Mining Association and Arch Coal
- Todd Schulke – Center for Biological Diversity
- Ray Vaughan – WildLaw
- Chris Wood – Trout Unlimited

Committee Members Absent:

- Jeff Eisenberg – National Cattlemen’s Beef Association
- Geraldine Link – National Ski Areas Association
- Denny Scott – Carpenters Union

Forest Service

- Mark Rey, Under Secretary NRE
- Susan Yonts-Shepard, DFO
- Garth Smelser, WO, USFS
- Bill Supulski, WO, USFS
- Bob Davis, Director of Planning, Watershed and Air, Region 3 USFS
- Tom Tidwell, Deputy Regional Forester, Region 5, USFS

States

- Joanna Prukop
- Mike Chrisman

Facilitators:

- Kathleen Rutherford, Kearns & West
- Janet Thomson, Kearns & West

Committee Agreements

Report Drafting:

Darin Bird and Paul Hansen will draft the response to the New Mexico petition and Chris Wood and Jim Riley will draft the response to the California petition. The schedule for submission of these narratives to the RACNAC co-chairs will be established post-meeting through correspondence with the petition drafters. The deadlines for petition responses are September 19, 2006 for New Mexico and October 10, 2006 for California.

Meeting Summary
Roadless Area Conservation National Advisory Committee
August 30-31, 2006
Yates Building, U.S. Forest Service, Washington, DC

Temporary Roads Subcommittee:

The RACNAC resolved to convene a Temporary Roads Subcommittee in order to examine circumstances governing temporary road use and draft principles and standards to address issues including the use, non-use, and closure of temporary roads. The products of this subcommittee will be reviewed and deliberated at the next RACNAC meeting. Subcommittee participants will include Robert Cope, Paul Hansen, Dale Harris, Jim Riley, Greg Schaefer, Todd Schulke, Ray Vaughan, and Chris Wood.

| |
|---|
| <u>Additional Meeting Highlights</u> |
|---|

Welcoming Remarks and Introductions:

Greg Schaefer, RACNAC Co-Chair, welcomed the Committee and members of the public. Kathleen Rutherford, Kearns & West, reviewed the agenda, operating protocols, and ground rules.

The Committee reserved the following dates for potential future meetings: October 18-19, November 29-30, December 4-5, January 9-10, and February 13-14.

Bill Supulski provided an update on Roadless Rule litigation and a summary of petition status. The two lawsuits dealing with the 2005 Roadless Rule have been consolidated under one judge. The judge heard arguments and has requested additional information, due on Friday, September 1st. Regarding petition status, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) expects documents from Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Oregon, Utah, and Wisconsin. Maine and Montana may also submit petitions.

State Presentations:

Joanna Prukop, Cabinet Secretary for the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department, and Bob Davis, Director of Planning, Watershed, and Air for the USFS Region 3, delivered presentations describing New Mexico's petition. The New Mexico petition requests ongoing protection of Inventoried Roadless Areas identified through RARE II and subsequent forest plans, and would extend those protections to the Valle Vidal, a region placed under USFS control in 1982 and currently under USFS management. The petition permits continued maintenance of classified roads within Inventoried Roadless Areas. Committee members requested additional information on public support for inclusion of the Valle Vidal, public involvement efforts performed to date by New Mexico, and whether the petition allows for the creation of temporary roads for timber harvest.

Mike Chrisman, Secretary of the California Resources Agency, and Tom Tidwell, Deputy Regional Forester for Fire and Aviation Management, Recreation, Engineering, State and Private Forestry and Tribal Relations for the USFS Region 5, presented information on the California petition. The petition requests ongoing protection of all Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRA's), asks that the inventory be updated with assistance from the USFS, and prohibits construction of temporary roads. The Committee raised questions regarding the use of temporary roads for forest health treatments, the likelihood of temporary roads being decommissioned, and whether or not the petition offered relaxed roadless restrictions within recommended wilderness areas.

Meeting Summary
Roadless Area Conservation National Advisory Committee
August 30-31, 2006
Yates Building, U.S. Forest Service, Washington, DC

Evaluation Discussion:

Deliberations focused mainly on clarifications regarding lands included in the petitions, the circumstances governing temporary road use, the feasibility of providing forest health treatments in wildland-urban interfaces, and the scope of public involvement in the upcoming rulemaking processes. With respect to the addition of the Valle Vidal, the Committee chose to recommend the provisions of petition as submitted apply to the Valle Vidal with the understanding that information generated through Forest Service analysis will be utilized in rulemaking. Results are documented in the New Mexico and California matrices, this will be reflected in the letters of recommendation to the Secretary.

Public Comment:

Oral public comment was offered to the Committee by:

- Dave Finigan – Del Norte County, California
- Ryan Henson – California Wilderness Coalition
- Matthew Jacobson – Heritage Forests Campaign

Written public comment was offered to the Committee by:

- Regional Council of Rural Counties