



Key Elements of the Final Proposed Colorado Roadless Rule

Summary of the Final Proposed Colorado Roadless Rule:

The final proposed rule provides for management of 4.19 million acres of National Forest System (NFS) land within Colorado Roadless Areas. The rule prohibits tree cutting, road construction and reconstruction, and the use of linear construction zones within roadless areas, with some exceptions. These exceptions address limited state-specific situations. Within a subset of the roadless acres, called upper tier, fewer exceptions apply.

Updated Inventory

- Includes an updated inventory that adds high-quality acres (409,500 acres) not protected by the 2001 Rule.
- Removes areas (459,100 acres) where roadless characteristics were compromised.

Upper Tier Protection

- Identifies approximately 1.2 million acres for upper tier protection, and also provides additional restrictions to non upper tier acres.
- Within upper tier areas, requirements for activities are more restrictive than under the 2001 rule.
- The exceptions allow road construction and reconstruction as allowed by statutes or treaties, and reserved or outstanding rights; and temporary road construction for public health and safety in case of an imminent threat of a catastrophic event that would cause the loss of life or property.



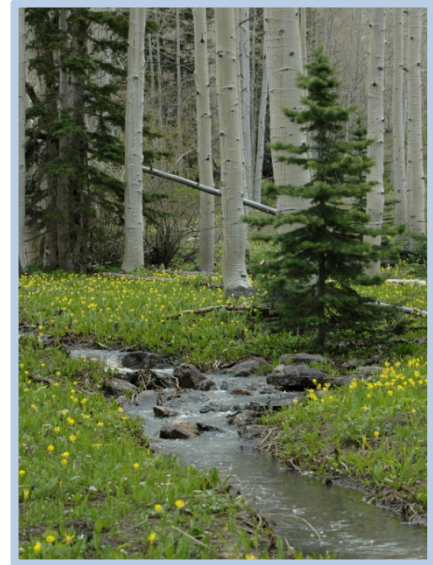
Community Wildfire Protection

- Provides for hazardous fuel treatment by allowing tree cutting and temporary road construction in a defined area of ½ mile from the boundary of an at-risk community, called a community protection zone (CPZ) in the final Rule.
- If specific ground conditions are met, and a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is in place, that boundary may be extended to 1 ½ miles, but temporary roads are prohibited in this additional mile.

Tree Cutting Direction

The proposed rule prohibits tree cutting unless the proposal meets one of the following exceptions:

- Incidental to another use or needed for personal or administrative use.
- Needed to improve habitat for threatened, endangered, proposed, and sensitive species (this exception does not apply on upper tier acres).
- Needed to maintain or restore the characteristics of ecosystem composition structure and processes.



Road Management Direction

The proposed rule prohibits new road construction and reconstruction unless it meets the following exceptions:

- Roads may be constructed if they are needed for reserved and outstanding rights or as provided by statutes or treaty.
- Roads may be constructed or reconstructed if realignment is needed to prevent resource damage, implement a safety improvement projects, or to protect public health and safety in case of catastrophic events such as wildfire or floods.
- Regional Forester approval is needed for roads for authorized water conveyance structures with a preexisting water court decree in addition to temporary roads that are needed for fuel treatment projects within one half mile of an at-risk community.

Linear Construction Zone

A linear construction zone (LCZ) is a temporary linear surface area disturbance that is over 50 inches wide used by vehicles or construction equipment to install a linear facility. It is not used as a motor vehicle route. Pipe lines, electrical power lines, telecommunication lines, ditches and canals can often be constructed using an LCZ without roads.

- The rule limits LCZ construction in CRAs by providing conditions that must be met.
- LCZs are further limited within upper tier acres to reserved and/or outstanding rights, existing uses, and water conveyance structures pursuant to a pre-existing water court decree.
- LCZs are prohibited for future oil and gas leases and utility lines in upper tier acres.