

Does the Roadless Rule prohibit all road construction?

The Roadless Rule generally prohibits construction or reconstruction of roads in inventoried roadless areas of the National Forest System, but with some exceptions. The Roadless Rule allows the Forest Service Line Officer to authorize construction or reconstruction of a road in an inventoried roadless area if he or she determines it is needed for one of the following reasons:

- To protect public health and safety;
- To conduct environmental response under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) or to conduct a restoration action under CERCLA, the Clean Water Act, or the Oil Pollution Act;
- To allow for reserved or outstanding rights or as provided for by statute or treaty;
- To prevent irreparable resource damage under certain circumstances;
- To implement a road safety improvement project under certain circumstances;
- When the Secretary of Agriculture has determined that a Federal Aid Highway project is in the public interest or is consistent with the purposes for which the land was reserved or acquired and no other reasonable and prudent alternative exists; or
- When a road is needed in conjunction with mineral leases on lands that were under lease as of January 12, 2001 and were immediately extended upon the expiration of the leases.

For additional information concerning road construction and reconstruction in inventoried roadless areas of the National Forest System, see the 2001 Roadless Rule.

Does the Roadless Rule prohibit all timber harvest?

The Roadless Rule generally prohibits the cutting, selling, or removal of timber in inventoried roadless areas of the National Forest System, but with some exceptions. The Roadless Rule allows the Forest Service Line Officer to authorize these activities in the following circumstances:

- The cutting, sale, or removal of generally small diameter timber is needed for one of the following purposes and will maintain or improve roadless area characteristics;
 - To improve endangered, proposed, or sensitive species habitat; or
 - To maintain or restore the characteristics of the ecosystem.
- The cutting, sale, or removal of timber is incidental to another activity that is not otherwise prohibited;
- The cutting, sale or removal of timber is needed and appropriate for personal or administrative use; or
- The roadless characteristics of the area have already been substantially altered by road construction and timber cutting within certain parameters described in the Roadless Rule.

For additional information concerning timber harvesting in inventoried roadless areas in the National Forest System, see the 2001 Roadless Rule.