

On April 9, 2019, Josh Hicks, Roadless Defense Campaign Manager of The Wilderness Society met with Mary Snieckus of the USDA Forest Service to discuss the petition for state specific roadless rulemaking submitted to USDA by the State of Utah, and Alaska Roadless Rulemaking.

Utah

Topics covered were:

- Process and grounds for submitting a petition requesting a roadless rulemaking
- Schedule once a petition is submitted
- Discretion reserved to USDA in this rulemaking

Josh referred to wildfire research compiled by The Wilderness Society assessing the interaction of wildfire starts and behavior with roadless areas. He also provided copies of correspondence expressing the opinion that USDA should not undertake a state specific roadless rulemaking in Utah.

Alaska

Josh then asked whether additional scoping meetings would be held in the lower 48 during the comment period after the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Rule are published. He also asked whether the comment period would be extended beyond 60 days. At this time, the Forest Service plans to hold meetings in locations similar to those held during the public scoping period following Notice of Intent publication in August 2018, and does not plan to extend the public comment period.