

**File Code:** 1900**Date:** MAY 24 2016**Route To:****Subject:** Boundary Modifications and Administrative Corrections Process, Idaho and Colorado Roadless Rules**To:** Regional Foresters, Regions 1, 2, and 4

The 2008 Idaho Roadless Rule (36 CFR 294, Subpart C) and 2012 Colorado Roadless Rule (36 CFR 294 Subpart D) allow for modifications and administrative corrections to Idaho Roadless Areas and Colorado Roadless Areas, respectively. However, the process for making these changes is not well-described in either rule.

As the responsible official for all Idaho and Colorado Roadless Area boundary correction and modification decisions, I want to clarify the processes we will use to consider and accomplish such actions. The enclosed framework outlines the distinctions between corrections and modifications to Roadless Area boundaries. In both cases, notification and approval of these projects will follow a process that ensures we are applying a consistent approach across the applicable Regions with early coordination through the National Roadless Area Coordinator prior to any decisions.

As before, close coordination with the Idaho Governor's Roadless Commission and the Colorado State Department of Natural Resources, and with our National Roadless Area Coordinator will be important to the long-term success and implementation of these rules.

Please ensure Line Officers in Colorado and Idaho are aware of the updated process for boundary modifications and corrections. If you have questions about the process or a particular project, please contact Sam Gaugush, Roadless Area Coordinator, Ecosystem Management Coordination, at (202)205-0917 or (sfgaugush@fs.fed.us).

THOMAS L. TIDWELL

Chief

Enclosure



Project Modification and Correction Process
Idaho and Colorado Roadless Rules

April 18 2016

The processes for Project Modifications and Administrative Corrections to the Idaho and Colorado Roadless Rules are essentially the same, with minor differences in timing. Administrative Corrections require a 30-day public notice and comment period, while Modifications require 45 days (Idaho) or 90 days (Colorado).

Rulemaking may or may not be required for Modification or Corrections – if changes in the applicable rule text (including tables) are necessary, or if changes alter the original intent of the rule established by the Secretary of Agriculture, then rulemaking is required. In other cases, the Chief may decide that rulemaking is warranted given the size or degree of change of the proposed modification, the level of public interest, or whether regulatory impact analysis is necessary.

Where modifications are associated with a project, the two actions should be analyzed together in the same NEPA document as connected actions. In these cases, there will likely be two decisions -- the deciding officer for the project will sign the NEPA decision, and the Chief will authorize the boundary modification.

For both Modifications and Corrections, depending on the degree of change and public interest, the Chief may accomplish the public notice and comment requirements of the applicable rule through the Federal Register or local newspaper of record. The administrative processes for making Corrections or Modifications under the Idaho and Colorado Roadless Rules are as follows:

Definitions and Authorities

Colorado Roadless Rule

Administrative Corrections -- Administrative corrections to the maps of any designated Colorado Roadless Areas identified in § 294.49, including upper tier acres, are adjustments to remedy errors, such as clerical or topographical errors, or improvements in mapping technology. Other than clerical errors, an administrative correction is based on improved field data due to updated imagery, global positioning system data, or other collected field data (36 CFR 294.47(b)).

Modifications -- The Chief of the Forest Service may modify the boundaries of any designated Colorado Roadless Area identified in § 294.49 or add new Colorado Roadless Areas based on changed circumstances.

Idaho Roadless Rule

Administrative Corrections -- Administrative corrections to the maps of lands identified in § 294.22(c) include, but are not limited to, adjustments that remedy clerical errors, typographical errors, mapping errors, or improvements in mapping technology.

Modifications -- The Chief may add to, remove from, or modify the designations and management classifications listed in § 294.29 based on changed circumstances or public need.

Colorado and Idaho Roadless Rule

Boundary modifications may include adjustments to roadless boundaries to conform to Executive proclamations or Congressional designations (such as designation of a roadless area as Wilderness).

Procedure

- Depending on the Roadless Rule, the applicable Region coordinates with either the Idaho Governor's Roadless Commission or the Colorado Department of Natural Resources.
- The Region informs the National Director of Ecosystem Management Coordination (EMC) of the proposal. The Region and EMC prepare a briefing paper, map of proposed corrections, and draft Federal Register notice or other public notice. The Region and EMC brief the Deputy Chief's Office for the National Forest System on the proposed correction(s).
- The Region, in coordination with EMC and the Deputy Chief's Office, brief the Chief.
 - If the Chief concludes that rulemaking is not necessary, the Washington Office publishes the notice soliciting comments for 30 days (for Administrative Corrections) or 45/90 days (for Idaho/Colorado Modifications, respectively). EMC posts the notice and map of proposed corrections to the respective roadless rule webpage.
 - If the Chief concludes that rulemaking is necessary, the Region and EMC will prepare a regulatory Workplan to initiate the rulemaking process by coordinating with the Office of Regulatory & Management Services (ORMS). The Chief signs the Federal Register Notice and the Washington Office publishes the notice of proposed rulemaking and solicits comments for 30 days (for Administrative Corrections) or 45/90 days (for Idaho/Colorado Modifications, respectively). EMC posts the notice, proposed rule, and map of proposed corrections to the respective roadless rule webpage.
- The Region collects and analyzes public comments. If necessary, the Region and EMC prepare a second notice that responds to public comments, an updated briefing paper, and map. If the proposal results in rulemaking, the Region and EMC prepare a second Federal Register Notice for final rulemaking, which will respond to comments.
- The Region, in coordination with EMC and the Deputy Chief's Office, brief the Chief. The Chief signs the final notice announcing the correction(s), and the Washington Office publishes the notice in the newspaper of record or Federal Register. EMC posts the notice and final map to the respective roadless rule webpage. The Region works with the Geospatial Services and Technology Center to update the official dataset for the respective roadless rule.