

USDA FOREST SERVICE

Alaska Roadless Team

Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue and Alaska Governor Walker reached agreement to pursue a state-specific roadless rule to address access concerns on the Tongass National Forest in Alaska. The USDA Forest Service had convened the resources and personnel to move forward in support of this agreement.

- ▶ Goal is to complete process in 2 years
 - ▶ A specific team is being assembled and will be in place by the July 15, 2018 (some are already in place)
- ▶ Will cost \$4-5 million over the course of 2-years
- ▶ Will require close cooperation with State of Alaska through State Forester
- ▶ Necessitate close coordination with OSEC, OGC, and NRE
- ▶ Will likely result in an addition forest plan amendment or revision.

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- ▶ Actions Taken to Develop an Alaska Roadless Team
 - ▶ Core team at the National Level has been established
 - ▶ Core team in the Alaska Region has been established
 - ▶ Team has started drafting an MOU and will incorporate State of Alaska input
 - ▶ Team will meet as a group in Alaska in mid-July
 - ▶ Funding is being set aside to assure project
- ▶ Next Steps
 - ▶ Transfer core employees to the team full time for the next two years
 - ▶ Meet with a similar team from the State of Alaska
 - ▶ Develop Scope of Work for Contract NEPA
 - ▶ Develop a Purpose and Need
 - ▶ Work with state on a Roadless alternative that will be durable



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Timeline

- ▶ **July 2018** - Work with State of Alaska on MOU/Conduct Tribal Consultation
- ▶ **August 20, 2018** - Publication of Notice of Intent in the Federal Register
 - ▶ Will start a 45-day scoping period
- ▶ **July 2019** - Notice of Availability for Draft Environmental Impact Statement
 - ▶ Begins a 45-60 day comment period
- ▶ **April 2020** - Notice of Availability for Final Environmental Impact Statement
 - ▶ 30-day wait period
- ▶ **June 1, 2020** - Publication of a final Alaska roadless rule