



NEWS RELEASE

US Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region
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State of Colorado, Department of Natural Resources
<http://DNR.STATE.CO.US>

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Final Public Comment Period Comes to a Close for the Colorado Roadless Rule

DENVER, July 14, 2011 – Today is the final day for public comments on the proposed Colorado Roadless Rule and revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). During the 90-day comment period, the U.S. Forest Service and Colorado Department of Natural Resources engaged with interested citizens during nine public meetings in eight Colorado communities and Washington D.C., to listen to comments and answer questions about the proposed management of Colorado's National Forest roadless areas.

"We have received nearly 55 thousand comments during the past 90 days from people and organizations throughout Colorado and across the country," said Randy Karstaedt, Acting Deputy Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region. "This response is an indicator of how important roadless areas are to the citizens of this state and nationwide."

"The extensive comments from stakeholders and the public will help guide us as we review the proposed Colorado Roadless Rule and work with the Forest Service to finalize it," said Colorado Department of Natural Resources executive director Mike King. "We appreciate the diversity of views from across our state. We want to ensure the rule safeguards our valued roadless areas while also reflecting the broadest range of support from Coloradans."

The proposed Colorado Roadless Rule provides protection for 4.2 million acres across the state. It also identifies more than half million acres as upper tier which provides higher level protection than the 2001 Rule. The rule prohibits tree cutting, road construction and reconstruction, and the use of linear construction zones within roadless areas, with some exceptions to the prohibitions.

In the coming weeks, the U.S. Forest Service, in cooperation with the State of Colorado, will analyze and prepare a response to comments that will be included in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). A notice of availability of the FEIS is expected in late 2011 with publication in the Federal Register of a final Colorado Roadless Rule in early 2012.

For more details about the Colorado Roadless Rule visit:
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/coroadlessrule>

Editors Note: For a comparison chart between the proposed Colorado Roadless Rule and the 2001 Roadless Rule, please contact Janelle Smith at the contact information above.

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