



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

FEB 19 2010

Mr. Robert Klavins
Roadless Wildlands Advocate
Oregon Wild
5825 North Greeley
Portland, Oregon 97217

Dear Mr. Klavins:

Thank you for your letter of December 10, 2009, regarding the redelegation of authority to the Forest Service for certain activities in inventoried roadless areas. You also raised concerns over the proposed D-Bug project on the Umpqua National Forest.

The redelegation memorandum dated October 16, 2009, is part of the implementation of the original May 28, 2009, directive reserving final decision authority regarding certain activities in inventoried roadless areas. While I understand your concerns regarding the October 16 memorandum, the language in that memorandum was derived directly from the 2001 Roadless Rule. Our intention remains focused on protecting and conserving roadless areas.

I have also passed along your concerns regarding the D-bug timber sale project to the Forest Service. I did want to address one of your concerns directly, however. In your letter, you stated that the D-bug sale would violate the 2001 Roadless Rule by constructing roads in inventoried roadless areas. My staff has checked with the Forest Service and no roads will be constructed or reconstructed in inventoried roadless areas as part of that project.

The Forest Service has stressed to its field units that advance communication and coordination on all activities associated with roadless projects are essential. The Department will continue the same vigilance. These instructions are intended to assure the careful evaluation on actions in inventoried roadless areas while long-term roadless policy is developed and relevant court cases move forward.

The Obama Administration strongly supports conservation of roadless areas. We will continue to monitor activities in inventoried roadless areas, including activities where decision authority has been redelegated to the Forest Service, such as the D-Bug project.

Again, thank you for writing. I appreciate your views on this important issue and your interest in the management of National Forest System lands. Please share this response with your colleagues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Vilsack", written over a horizontal line.

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary