

March 31, 2006

Dale Bosworth
Chief, US Forest Service
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-0003

Dear Chief Bosworth,

As members of America's recreation-based business community, we are writing to urge you to enact a moratorium on logging and other development in pristine roadless areas within Oregon's national forests until a roadless area conservation policy for these lands is adopted.

Oregon's backcountry roadless forests are widely enjoyed by many for hiking, climbing, mountain biking, kayaking, cross country skiing and a host of other outdoor recreation activities. The quality and availability of superb outdoor recreation opportunities, like those offered in National Forest System roadless forests, are important to the success of our businesses.

However, these outstanding recreation areas are threatened by a new rule announced on May 5, 2005 by the Department of Agriculture. The new rule allows for mining, logging, and other development within National Forest System roadless areas, which would ruin the special qualities of the land enjoyed by Oregonians and visitors from all over the United States.

The new rule requires governors to file petitions with the US Forest Service in order to receive protections for roadless areas within their states above those afforded by the forest planning process. After a state's petition is submitted it will be reviewed, and if it is accepted, a final rulemaking will be issued by the Secretary of Agriculture. No guarantee is given that recommendations contained in each state's petition will be followed.

According to a statement by Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns, the rule would "advance President Bush's commitment to cooperatively conserve inventoried roadless areas within our national forests."

In order to ensure that no actions are taken which might preclude a full range of options for consideration by the state, we write to request that the Forest Service agree to not propose projects in inventoried roadless areas that would alter the roadless qualities of the areas, and to halt and withdraw all such projects under development until the disposition of these areas is resolved.

As businesses involved in outdoor recreation services and product manufacturing, design, and/or retail, we depend upon our customers' continued participation in a wide variety of outdoor activities. Any losses to the scenic trails, waterways, lakes, and forests of Oregon's 1.9 million

acres of public roadless areas would degrade these important backcountry lands, constrain our customers' activities, and diminish our business opportunities. Based on broad and overwhelming public support, State of Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski has publicly and repeatedly expressed the need to safeguard all roadless forests in the state. In October 2005, he petitioned you, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns, and Under Secretary of Natural Resources and Environment Mark Rey, to reinstate the 2001 Roadless Rule so Oregon could quickly and efficiently resume protection on all inventoried roadless areas.

Despite the Governor's efforts to protect pristine roadless forests, the Forest Service is currently proposing at least four commercial projects in inventoried roadless areas in the state of Oregon. If all these projects were approved as proposed, a significant amount of Oregon's inventoried roadless areas would be degraded or lost.

Given the Governor's action to protect roadless forests, and considering the importance of these public lands to our businesses, we again urge you to enact an immediate moratorium on any proposed or on-going development in Oregon's National Forest System roadless areas.

Sincerely,

Blue Sky Whitewater Rafting, Inc.

Estacada, OR

Entre Prises USA

Bend, OR

Metolius Climbing

Bend, OR

Norm Thompson Outfitters, Inc.

Hillsboro, OR

Ruff Wear

Bend, OR

Sahalie

Hillsboro, OR

Salomon North America

Portland, OR

Solstice, Inc.

Portland, OR

Yakima Products, Inc

Beaverton, OR

