

# Oregon Wild



Charles Feneau

## Protect America's Roadless Wildlands

After years of conflict and uncertainty it's time to protect America's most pristine wildlands.

As more Americans turn to the outdoors to play, they need places to do it. In Oregon, and across America, roadless wildlands are some of our best places to hike, ski, hunt, fish, and camp.

In 2001, after unprecedented public participation, the Roadless Area Conservation Rule was enacted as one of the most popular conservation measures in history. Nationally, the rule protected 58.5 million acres (nearly 2 million in Oregon) from commercial logging and road-building while allowing for commonsense exceptions for public health, fire fighting, and recreational access.

Unfortunately, the rule was immediately and relentlessly attacked by the Bush administration and development interests. Citizens, businesses, and organizations around the country responded and rallied to defend it. As a result, only 7 miles of roads were built in roadless areas during the Bush years. However, due to lawsuits by the logging industry, less than half the original land remains protected.

The Roadless Rule maintains a proud American tradition of conservation that preserves our natural heritage for the benefit of all. It's time to fully reinstate and uphold the 2001 rule as an essential and commonsense first step in protecting our last wild places.

*The Roadless Rule provides full access for recreational activities.*

# The Roadless Rule Makes Sense

## We don't need more roads!

Our National Forests are already criss-crossed with nearly 400,000 miles of roads (nearly twice as many as the entire U.S. Highway System) and face a \$10 billion maintenance backlog. More than half of our National Forests are already open to drilling, logging, and mining.

## We do need more roadless wild areas!

Roadless wildlands are some of the most important playgrounds for America's nearly 150 million outdoor enthusiasts. Recreation in our National Forests generates five times more revenue than logging! In fact, the outdoor recreation industry contributes \$730 billion per year to the nation's economy and supports nearly 6.5 million jobs.

photo: Dang Ngo



60 million Americans and 80% of Oregonians get their drinking water from sources that originate on roadless lands.

## The Roadless Rule:

- Was supported by 95% of an unprecedented 1.6 million public comments.
- Was the result of an extensive rule-making process.
- Protects unique recreational opportunities, solitude, and scenic landscapes.
- Protects critical habitat for many of our most at-risk plant and animal species.
- Is supported by the Outdoor Industry Association which represents more than 4,000 businesses nationwide.

# Get Involved!

Oregon Wild is working with a broad coalition of stakeholders to call on the Obama administration to fully reinstate and uphold the Roadless Rule in all of our National Forests.

- **Join** Oregon Wild – as a member or as a coalition partner – and help us protect our wildlife, wildlands, and waters for the benefit of all.
- **Contact** your senators and President Obama. Let them know why roadless wildlands are important to you!  
 Senator Wyden (202) 224-5244  
 Senator Merkley (202) 224-3121  
 President Obama (202) 456-1111

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## America's National Forests



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