

# Oregon Wild



Britz Meddings

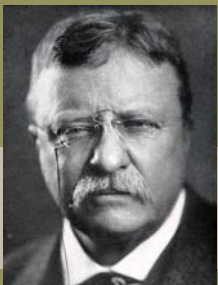
## Wildlife Need Wild Places

### Protect Our Roadless Wildlands

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

In Oregon, and throughout the West, roadless wildlands provide some of the best places to hunt, fish, hike, and camp. However, those places are threatened.

In 2001, after unprecedented public participation and an extensive process, 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) of our most pristine backcountry from commercial logging and road-building while allowing for commonsense exceptions for public health, firefighting, and recreational access.



Unfortunately, the rule was immediately attacked by the Bush administration and development interests. Sportsmen, citizens, and businesses rallied to defend it. As a result, only 7 miles of roads were built in roadless areas. However, due to lawsuits by the logging industry, less than half of 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.

*“Preserve large tracts of wilderness...for the exercise of the skill of the hunter, whether or not he is a man of means.” – Theodore Roosevelt*

# The Roadless Rule Makes Sense

**We don't need more roads!**

Our National Forests are already crisscrossed with nearly 400,000 miles of roads (nearly twice as many as the entire US Highway System) and face a \$10 billion maintenance backlog. Roads fragment habitat, cause direct mortality and changes in animal behavior, aid the spread of invasive species, and damage water quality.

## Roadless backcountry deserves protection!

Nationally, roadless wildlands provide critical habitat for more than 1,500 species of fish and wildlife. Additionally, recreation in our National Forests generates more than 5 times more revenue than logging! In fact, the outdoor industry contributes \$730 billion annually to the nation's economy and supports nearly 6.5 million jobs.

photo: Dang Ngo



**ODFW states that elk in Roadless Areas are larger, healthier, and more numerous.**

photo: USFS

## The Roadless Rule:

- Was supported by 95% of an unprecedented 1.6 million public comments.
- Was the result of an extensive rule-making process.
- Is supported by sportsmen's groups, the outdoor industry, and conservation groups across America.
- Protects unique recreational opportunities, solitude, and scenic landscapes.
- Protects critical habitat for many of our most at-risk plant and animal species.
- Makes commonsense exceptions for public health, fire fighting, and access.
- Protects the source of drinking water for 60 million Americans and 80% of Oregonians.

# Get Involved!

Oregonians have always led the charge to protect our roadless backcountry. Help keep us at the forefront!

- **Join** Oregon Wild and help protect the wildlife, wildlands, and waters that make our state special.
- **Contact** your senators and President Obama. Let them know why roadless wildlands are important to you!  
 Senator Wyden (503) 326-7525  
 Senator Merkley (503) 326-3386  
 President Obama (202) 456-1111
- **Visit** our website, stay up-to-date, and **take action!**

## For more information contact:

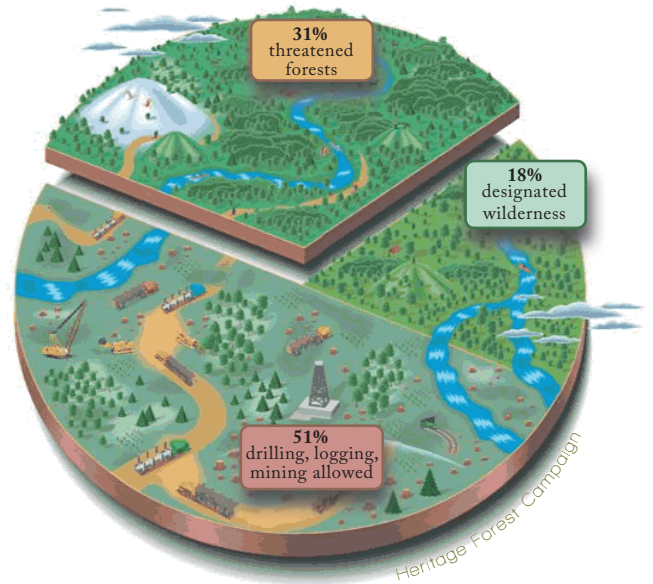
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## America's National Forests



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