

January 12th, 2009

To: President Barack Obama's transition Team
From: 91 outdoor recreation businesses
RE: Reinstating the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule

Dear Mr. Hayes,

As members of America's recreation-based business community we write to you today to ask that President-elect Obama fully reinstate and uphold the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule once he takes office. Doing so will positively impact our nation's natural resources and economy, the outdoor experience and quality of life of our citizens and customers, and the continued financial health of our industry.

The 2001 Roadless Rule protected 58.5 million acres of our nation's unspoiled roadless wildlands from commercial logging, road-building, and destructive development while allowing common-sense exceptions for public health and safety, access to private property, and the recreational opportunities that we and our customers so rightly value. The rule was, and remains, immensely popular. In fact, it was passed after the submission of an unprecedented 1.6 million public comments – 95% of which were in favor of the rule.

Unfortunately, the Bush administration has made changes to the rule that have led to conflict and uncertainty. Millions of acres of roadless backcountry in Alaska were removed from its safeguards, and legal battles continue over the future of roadless wildlands throughout the country. Fully reinstating the 2001 Roadless Rule is a popular, common-sense first step in ensuring that America's public lands management reflects the values of our citizens.

Our industry has been a bright spot during an otherwise uncertain economic time. The outdoor recreation industry contributes well over \$700 billion to the nation's economy, supports nearly 6.5 million jobs, and generates \$88 billion in annual state and national tax revenue. Our businesses depend upon our customer's ability to hike, camp, paddle, bike, ski, snowshoe, climb, hunt, and fish on our public lands. Roadless wildlands in our National Forests, in particular, provide important destinations for the 149 million Americans who participate in these activities each year. Fully reinstating their protection will keep intact those qualities that make them some of the best lands available for current and future generations to play and be inspired.

There are many other reasons why America's roadless wildlands deserve strong protection. They contain pristine streams that provide our communities with safe, clean sources of drinking water. Roadless areas provide valuable habitat to fish and wildlife. They contain old-growth forests that serve as the earth's lungs, capturing and storing pollution that causes global warming.

While further degradation of our roadless wildlands constrains our customers' activities and consequently diminishes our business opportunities, continued protection supports the continued vigor and profitability of global, national, and local outdoor businesses such as ours.

For these reasons we are united in asking President-elect Obama to protect America's natural heritage and outdoor recreation-based economy by fully reinstating and upholding the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule.

Sincerely,

Grassroots Outdoor Alliance
Asheville, NC

Patagonia
Ventura, CA

Eastern Mountain Sports
Peterborough, NH

JanSport
Appleton, WI

KEEN
Portland, OR

Ruff Wear
Bend, OR

Scott Fly Rods
Montrose, CO

Berkley Conservation Institute
Spirit Lake, IA

prAna
Vista, CA

Backpacker Magazine
Boulder, CO

Eagle Creek Travel Gear
Vista, CA

Kelty
Boulder, CO

Smith Optics
Ketchum, ID

Crazy Creek
Red Lodge, MT

Metolius Climbing
Bend, OR

Outdoor Research
Seattle, WA

ARTA River Trips
Groveland, CA

The Conservation Alliance
Bend, OR

The North Face
San Leandro, CA

Black Diamond
Salt Lake City, UT

Chaco, USA
Paonia, CO

O.A.R.S.
Angels Camp, CA

N.O.L.S.
Lander, WY

Mountain Hardware
Steamboat Springs, CO

Luminox Watch Company
San Rafael, CA

Clif Bar
Berkeley, CA

eNRG Kayaking
Hood River, OR

Women's Adventure Magazine
Boulder, CO

Filson
Seattle, WA

Clackacraft
Clackamas, OR

Big Agnes
Steamboat Springs, CO

American Alpine Institute
Bellingham, WA

Kokatat
Arcata, CA

Stonewear Designs
Louisville, CO

The Outdoor Industry Association
Boulder, CO

Sierra Designs
Louisville, CO

Cascade Designs
Seattle, WA

Osprey Packs
Cortez, CO

Fishpond, USA
Silverthorne, CO

Vibram, USA, Inc.
Concord, MA

Montrail
Richmond, CA

Petzl
Clearfield, UT

Wilderess Press
Berkeley, CA

La Sportiva, N.A., Inc.
Boulder, CO

CamelBak Products
Petaluma, CA

Quick Feat International
Bend, OR

GoPro
Pescadero, CA

Backwoods Mountain Sports
Ketchum, ID

GoLite
Boulder, CO

AdventureCORPS, Inc.
Oak Park, CA

Peak Exposure
Boulder, CO

Babbitt's Backcountry Outfitters
Flagstaff, AZ

Horny Toad
Santa Barbara, CA

Western Spirit Cycling
Moab, UT

Integrity 7
Burbank, CA

Eco-X Sports
Forest, VA

Backcountry.com
West Valley City, UT

Wild River Outfitters
Virginia Beach, VA

Jackson Kayaks
Sparta, TN

Snow Peak
Clackamas, OR

Tactics Board Shops
Eugene, OR

The Elephant's Perch
Ketchum, ID

Simple Shoes
Goleta, CA

Skinny Skis
Jackson, WY

Longacre Expeditions
Brielle, NJ

DAJO Adventure Gear, LLC
Texas Creek, CO

Pearl Izumi
Louisville, CO

Dansko
West Grove, PA

Virasana Productions, LLC
Mercer Island, CA

Wilson's Eastside Sports
Bishop, CA

Tibetan Trader
Bozeman, MT

Headsweats
Cincinnati, OH

Travelcountry.com
Orlando, FL

Mountain Lake Marketing, Ltd.
Bruceton Mills, WV

PLB Rentals
Mulkiteo, WA

Champaign Surplus
Champaign, IL

MoonFoto
Bend, OR

Adventure Treks
Flat Rock, NC

Polar Bottle
Boulder, CO

Peak Sports
Corvallis, OR

Great Outdoor Provision Company
Raleigh, NC

Vishnu Temple Press
Flagstaff, AZ

Shaman's International
Fort Bragg, CA

Moondance Adventures
Asheville, NC

FootZone of Bend
Bend, OR

Haiku Bags
Oakland, CA

Nau
Santa Barbara, CA

Open Creative
Jackson, WY

Blue Fire, LLC
Elcho, WI

Royal Robbins
Modesto, CA

Mountain Gear
Spokane Valley, WA

cc: President-elect Barack Obama
cc: Interior Secretary-designate Ken Salazar
cc: Agriculture Secretary-designate Tom Vilsack
cc: Senator Ron Wyden
cc: Senator Jeff Merkley
cc: Senator Patty Murray
cc: Senator Maria Cantwell
cc: Senator Barbara Boxer
cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
cc: Senator Harry Reid

cc: Senator Jeff Bingaman
cc: Senator Bob Bennett
cc: Senator Mark Udall
cc: Senator Tom Udall
cc: Congressman Kurt Schrader
cc: Congressman David Wu
cc: Congressman Peter DeFazio
cc: Congressman Earl Blumenauer
cc: Congressman Greg Walden
cc: Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi
cc: Congressman Raul Grijalva
cc: Congressman Jay Inslee
cc: Governor Ted Kulongoski
cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
cc: Governor Bill Ritter
cc: Governor Christine Gregoire
cc: Chairman John Podesta