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PRESS RELEASE

Secretary Rollins Rescinds Roadless Rule, Eliminating Impediment to Responsible Forest Management

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(Santa Fe, N.M., June 23, 2025) – Today, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins announced during a meeting of the Western Governors' Association in New Mexico, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is rescinding the 2001

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Roadless Rule. This outdated administrative rule contradicts the will of Congress and goes against the mandate of the USDA Forest Service to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands. Rescinding this rule will remove prohibitions on road construction, reconstruction, and timber harvest on nearly 59 million acres of the National Forest System, allowing for fire prevention and responsible timber production.

This rule is overly restrictive and poses real harm to millions of acres of our national forests. In total, 30% of National Forest System lands are impacted by this rule. For example, nearly 60% of forest service land in Utah is restricted from road development

and is unable to be properly managed for fire risk. In Montana, it is 58%, and in Alaska's Tongass National Forest, the largest in the country, 92% is impacted. This also hurts jobs and economic development across rural America. Utah alone estimates the roadless rule alone creates a 25% decrease in economic development in the forestry sector.

"Once again, President Trump is removing absurd obstacles to common sense management of our natural resources by rescinding the overly restrictive roadless rule,"

said Secretary Brooke Rollins. "This move opens a new era of consistency and sustainability for our nation's forests. It is abundantly clear that properly managing our

forests preserves them from devastating fires and allows future generations of Americans to enjoy and reap the benefits of this great land.”

This action aligns with President Trump’s [Executive Order 14192, *Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation*](#) to get rid of overcomplicated, burdensome barriers that hamper American business and innovation. It will also allow more decisions to be made at the local level, helping land managers make the best decisions to protect people, communities and resources based on their unique local conditions.

Of the 58.5 million acres of inventoried roadless areas covered under the 2001 Roadless Rule, 28 million acres are in areas at high or very high risk of wildfire. Rescinding

this rule will allow this
land to be managed at
the local forest level,
with more flexibility to
take swift action to
reduce wildfire risk and
help protect surrounding
communities and
infrastructure.

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