

EFFECTS OF ROADLESS CONSERVATION IN COLORADO

National Forests in Colorado

- Colorado contains a total of 14,509,000 acres of national forest land, about 21.8 percent of Colorado's landmass.

National Forests in Colorado include:

The Arapaho, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison, Pawnee, Pike, Rio Grande, Roosevelt, Routt, San Isabel, San Juan, and White River National Forests.

Inventoried Roadless Area Acreage:

- Colorado's national forests contain 4,433,000 acres of inventoried roadless areas (IRAs), about 30.5% of all national forest land in the state.¹

Impacts on Logging

- The total estimated reduction in annual logging in IRAs in Colorado is 2.8 million board feet, a 6% reduction from recent historic harvest on national forest lands.²

Job Impacts

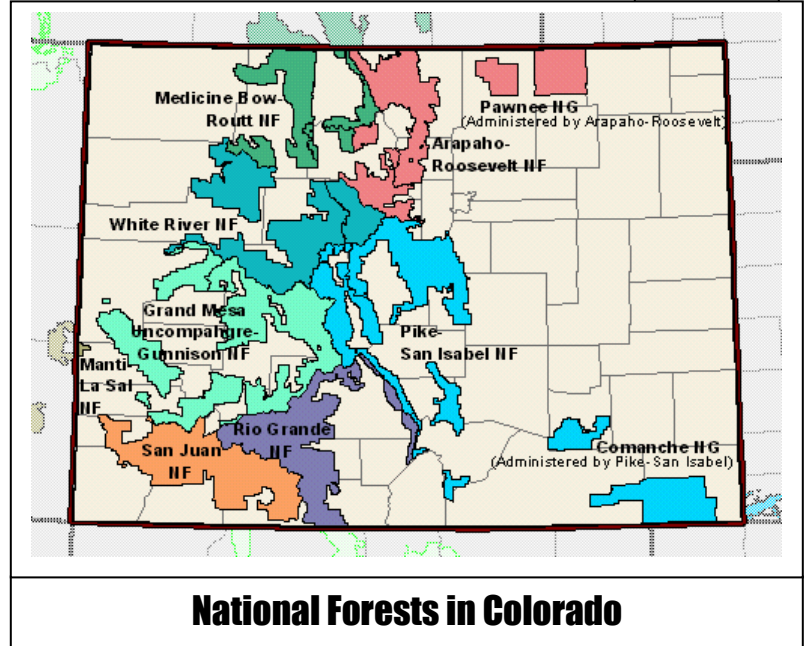
- The estimated statewide reduction in employment related to timber harvest from IRAs in Colorado is 16 jobs.³

Forest Plans

- Current Forest Service management plans in Colorado prohibit road construction and reconstruction on 936,000 acres, or 21.1% of all IRAs. Road building is allowed on the other 3,498,000 acres, or 78.9%.⁴

Public Involvement and Support

- The Forest Service held 18 public meetings throughout Colorado during the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) comment period on the development of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule.⁵



National Forests in Colorado

- Nationwide, the Forest Service held more than 600 public hearings during the development of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule.
- More than 1.6 million Americans submitted comments in support of protecting roadless areas, including nearly 1.2 million comments during the DEIS comment period. Of these 1.2 million comments, 95.9% supported the complete protection of all roadless areas.⁴
- The Forest Service received 36,331 comments from residents of Colorado during the DEIS comment period. Of these 36,331 comments, 91.9% supported the complete protection of all roadless areas.⁶
- A March 2000 public opinion poll conducted by Ridder/Braden found that 75% of Colorado residents supported the complete protection of these last remaining wild areas of their national forests.

¹ USDA Forest Service. 2000. Roadless Area Conservation, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Vol. 1, p. B-3.

² Ibid. p. B-3.

³ Ibid. p. B-3.

⁴ Ibid. p. A-3.

⁵ 65 Fed. Reg. 30288 (May 10, 2000).

⁶ USDA Forest Service Comment Analysis Evaluation Team.