



July 17, 2000

7a,b

USDA Forest Service  
Roadless Initiative  
P.O. Box 221090  
Salt Lake City, UT 84122

## Big Mountain 7a,b

Dear Forest Service Staff:

### RE: USFS National Roadless Area Initiative Comments

After review and analysis of the Forest Service Roadless Area Protection DEIS, I would like to request that the following comments be included and addressed in the Final EIS.

1. I recommend that the range of alternatives be expanded to include at least three reasonable alternatives that would accomplish the same goals with fewer adverse impacts. Additional alternatives could include (1) the meeting of timber outputs in Forest Plans through more intensive use of open roaded lands; (2) the making of timber roads temporary but with no lockup of roadless areas; and (3) the treating of inventoried roadless areas like uninventoried roadless areas.
2. If we are going to commit a certain amount of acres to be roadless in perpetuity, the remaining USFS acres should be released to expanded forest activities, i.e., forest harvesting and recreation. In addition, the Endangered Species Act should be limited as a decision-making component on the remaining forestlands. If we provide such large areas of wilderness it should reduce the need for additional habitat for ESA species. For example, if Montana ends up with 4.0 million acres of roadless area, the need for habitat for Grizzly Bears and Lynx should be reduced.
3. The economic impact on communities is seriously underestimated in the DEIS and should be reanalyzed using a more realistic baseline and more probable outcome. By using the lowest base available and minimizing the likely impacts, the DEIS shows little to no concern for the economic health of the communities that have relied on the national forests. The Western states will bear the brunt of the negative economic impacts from the proposed actions. The USFS should elaborate a clear plan in the Final EIS on how the Federal Government will mitigate these economic impacts on all these affected communities.

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