



SIERRA CLUB

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Resources, Recreation and Development Committee:

The New Hampshire Sierra Club strongly supports the passage of HR 44. During my 20+ years in leadership positions, I have never seen an issue that resonates with our members more than the threat to the Roadless Rule. Please review the statements below that justify maintaining the roadless rule as it has been for the last 25 years.

Best regards,
Jerry Curran
NHSC Public Lands Committee, Chair

Rollback of the White Mountain National Forest Roadless Area Rule Information Sheet.

Rollback Paves the Way for Logging: The real reason a rollback of the Roadless Rule is being proposed is to re-open the National Forest to logging and other industrial development. It will end protection for 235,000 acres of wild forest in White

Mountain National Forest and allow industrial logging operations.

Eliminates The Forest Buffer Around Wilderness

Areas: Most of the designated roadless areas are actually buffers between the wilderness areas and the rest of the forest. Industrial logging in those areas will make wilderness areas become small islands in what is now a larger contiguous national forest.

Recreation at Risk: Liberty Springs, Falling Waters, Greenleaf, Nancy Pond, Signal Ridge, sections of the Appalachian Trail and many other popular hiking trails will lose roadless protection and become vulnerable to industrial logging.

Vital for New Hampshire's Drinking Water: Watershed protection for 154,000 people served by protected areas overlapping the WMNF will be jeopardized.

Not in the Public Interest: The roadless rule is very popular. In 2001, 95% of the 1.6 million comments collected by the forest service were in support of the roadless rule.

Abandons the Forest Service's Stated Benefits of the Roadless Rule: In 2001 the forest service stated the following reasons for implementing the roadless rule. These reasons are just as valid today.

Roadless Area Values and Characteristics

Fiscal Considerations

National Direction vs. Local Decision-making

Importance of Watershed Protection

Improving Ecosystem Health

The Sierra Club's members are over 2.1 million of your friends and neighbors with over 15,000 in New Hampshire. Inspired by nature, we work together to protect our communities and the planet. The Sierra Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization.

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