

# STATE OF COLORADO

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## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Bill Ritter, Jr.  
Governor

Harris D. Sherman  
Executive Director

DENVER, Colo. - The Colorado Department of Natural Resources has received additional time to work on final revisions to the Colorado Roadless Rule.

Yesterday, DNR director Harris Sherman informed U.S. Department of Agriculture officials by letter that the Ritter administration would need additional time to address the concerns of impacted industries and thousands of Colorado sportsmen, conservationists and recreational enthusiasts before completing the state's recommendations.

This morning, Colorado received assurance from the USDA that the Bush administration would not attempt to finalize the rule until it receives Colorado's final recommendations.

The Ritter administration intends to ask the Obama administration for an expedited review of the Colorado Rule with the expectation that it will be issued within the first three to six months of 2009.

The extension comes days after a San Francisco judge effectively stripped any protection from Colorado's more than 4 million acres of backcountry forests by limiting the reach of the 2001 national roadless rule to California, Oregon, Washington and seven other western states. However, the USDA has assured Colorado that no projects that are inconsistent with the Colorado roadless petition will be advanced during the rulemaking process

"Last week's decision by a San Francisco judge that the 2001 roadless rule would not apply to Colorado shows once again why it's so important to get the Colorado rule completed," said Mike King, Deputy Director of the Department of Natural Resources.

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A copy of the letter is attached.