

Chief's Review Process for Activities in Roadless Areas

1. PURPOSE

On March 2, 2012, Judge Brimmer (Wyoming) lifted his injunction on the 2001 Roadless Rule. Lifting of the injunction paves the way for implementation of the 2001 Roadless Rule nationwide and provides much needed consistency regarding the management of Inventoried Roadless Areas.

On May 30, 2012, the Secretary's Memorandum 1042-156 requiring review and approval of certain activities in Roadless Areas expired. The Chief is implementing the following process for review of certain activities in Roadless Areas.

2. POLICY

Except as noted below, the Chief will review all projects involving road construction or reconstruction and the cutting, sale, or removal of timber in those areas identified in the set of inventoried roadless area maps contained in the Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation, Final Environmental Impact Statement Volume 2 dated November 2000.

Regional Foresters will review the following activities:

- a. Any necessary timber cutting or removal or any road construction or road reconstruction in emergency situations involving wildfire suppression, search and rescue operations, or other imminent threats to public health and safety in inventoried roadless areas.
- b. Timber cutting, sale, or removal in inventoried roadless areas incidental to the implementation of an existing special use authorization. Road construction or road reconstruction is not authorized through this re-delegation without further project specific review.
- c. The cutting, sale, or removal of generally small diameter timber when needed for one of the following purposes:
 1. To improve threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species habitat;
 2. To maintain or restore the characteristics of ecosystem composition and structure, such as to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects within the range of variability that would be expected to occur under natural disturbance regimes of the current climatic period; or,
 3. For the administrative and personal use, as provided for in 36 CFR 223, where personal use includes activities such as Christmas tree and firewood cutting and where administrative use includes providing materials for activities such as construction of trails, footbridges, and fences.

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3. EXISTING DIRECTIVES

1. This process does not apply to lands subject to 36 CFR 294, Subpart C (Idaho Roadless Rule) and 36 CFR XXX, Subpart X (Colorado Roadless Rule).