



October 5, 2026

Joshua White, Acting Director
Ecosystem Management Coordination
United States Forest Service
201 14th Street SW, Mailstop 1108
Washington, DC 20250-1124

[https:// www.regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov)

Re: 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule Rescission Draft Environmental Impact Statement:
Docket FS-2025-0001; RIN 0596-AD66

Dear Director White,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule Rescission Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I submit the following comments regarding the aforementioned Federal Register notice.

As previously stated during the scoping review, it is Wyoming's firm belief and experience that local management plans are inherently more responsive to the specific ecological, economic, and social conditions of individual forests. Unlike a broad, one-size-fits-all federal rule, local planning allows for tailored solutions that consider the unique biodiversity, wildlife, habitat, water resources, timber potential, recreational uses, grazing opportunities, and cultural heritage of each area. This localized approach fosters greater collaboration with state and local agencies, local communities, tribal governments, and stakeholders who possess invaluable on-the-ground knowledge and a vested interest in the long-term health of their surrounding forests.

This will also guarantee the planning process recognizes the local authority granted to state agencies for managing wildlife, air quality, water rights, and water quality; thus ensuring state agencies manage the resources they are legally mandated to oversee.

As specifically captured in Alternative 2 of the Draft Environmental Statement, it has been Wyoming's experience that local forest-level management can streamline the decision-making processes, reduce bureaucratic hurdles, and allow for quicker adaptation to changing

environmental conditions and emerging situations. Additionally, I support the flexibility allowed through Alternative 2 and strongly advocate for and acknowledge the clear benefits of localized management and decision-making that will be afforded through choosing it as the Preferred Alternative. Alternative 2 allows the greatest opportunity for decisions, which can be formally established through Forest Plan Amendments or Revision. Desired conditions for vegetation, soil, timber, and riparian areas are best determined at the Plan level. This approach to localized planning will help to ensure local effectiveness in forest management planning, help provide long-term durability, resilience, and legal defensibility of the planning and rule making process, thereby safeguarding both ecological integrity and the public interest for years to come.

Wyoming looks forward to continued engagement in the ongoing NEPA process, exercising its rights and expertise as a cooperating agency. USDA should anticipate receiving comments from the following State of Wyoming agencies: Wyoming Department of Agriculture, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Wyoming State Forestry Department, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, and Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources.

My office, along with Wyoming's state agencies, look forward to continuing to work with the USDA in a meaningful collaborative and cooperative manner. If you have any questions or concerns please contact, Linda Cope, Senior Policy Advisor, at 307-777- 7942 or linda.cope3@wyo.gov.

Sincerely,



Mark Gordon
Governor of Wyoming

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