



# Idaho Chapters of the Society of American Foresters Position Statement

## Idaho Roadless Rule

### Position

The Idaho Chapters of the Society of American Foresters (SAF) support the Proposed Action of the USDA Forest Service to adopt the Idaho Roadless Rule as petitioned by the State of Idaho for the management direction of 9.3 million acres of inventoried roadless areas on National Forest System lands in Idaho.

The SAF advocates, as does the Forest Service and the State of Idaho, the reduction of significant risk situations before they become imminent threats to local communities and water supplies and that this can be better achieved with additional flexibility beyond that provided by the 2001 roadless rule. The SAF supports implementing limited but necessary projects to allow the Forest Service to be a good neighbor for adjacent landowners and communities and to help insure continued forest health and protection for life and property.

### Issue

The Forest Service identified as significant issues those resources that could directly or indirectly be affected as a result of implementation of the Proposed Action. The Forest Service identified the following significant issues during scoping that represent possible effects of implementing the proposed Idaho Roadless Rule:

- Changes to roadless characteristics;
- Ability to address forest health and fire ecology;
- Ability to utilize minerals and energy resources;
- Social factors; and
- Economic factors.

If the Idaho Roadless Rule is not adopted, the 2001 roadless rule is in effect and it provides less flexibility for Forest Service managers. The 2001 roadless rule was established at the national level with little or no consideration of state and local issues, and would eliminate timber cutting activities and road construction/reconstruction. A third alternative is to decide the management direction for the roadless areas through land and resource management planning processes, however, a court order has imposed the 2001 roadless rule regardless of plan determinations.



*Adopted March 20, 2008, by the Inland Empire Society of American Foresters Executive Committee and April 4, 2008, by the Intermountain Society of American Foresters Executive Committee at the request of the Idaho Chapters of the Society of American Foresters and approved by the Forest Policy Department, Society of American Foresters, Bethesda, Maryland.*

*This statement will expire in one year unless revised or extended by the Executive Committees.*

## Background

The proposed action was published in the Federal Register on January 7, 2008 and the public comment period closes on April 7, 2008.

The purpose of the proposed Idaho Roadless Rule is to respond to the State of Idaho's petition to provide State-specific direction for the conservation and management of inventoried roadless areas within the State of Idaho. The proposed Idaho Roadless Rule integrates local management concerns with the national objectives for protecting roadless area values and characteristics.

Figure S-1 (from the Draft Environmental Impact Statement available online at <http://roadless.fs.fed.us/idaho.shtml>) summarizes the allocation of roadless areas to five categories along a continuum:

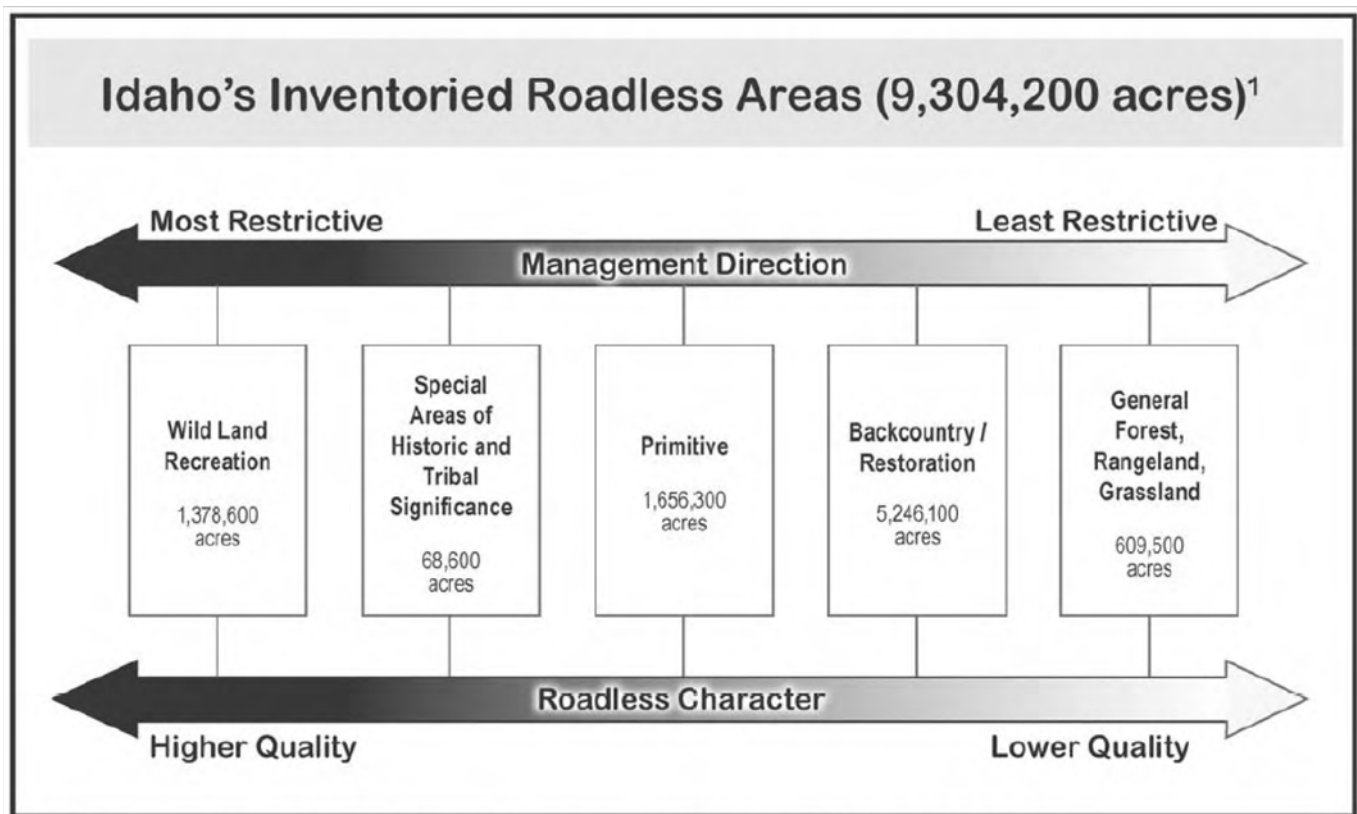


Figure S-1. Idaho Roadless Rule continuum

Table S-1 (from the Draft Environmental Impact Statement) compares the allocations to the five categories according to the three alternatives (see page 3).

**Table S-1. Number of acres represented by Idaho Roadless Rule themes and equivalent themes for the 2001 Roadless Rule and Existing Plans**

Theme	2001 Roadless Rule	Existing Plans	Idaho Roadless Rule
<i>Wild Land Recreation.</i> These lands would show little evidence of human-caused disturbance and natural conditions and processes would be predominant	0	1,320,800	1,378,600
<i>Primitive.</i> These lands would remain relatively undisturbed by human management activities while allowing for limited forest health activities including preserving biological strongholds for a variety of species and protecting ecological integrity.	0	2,131,400	1,656,300
<i>Special Areas of Historic and Tribal Significance.</i> These areas would remain relatively undisturbed by human management activities in order to maintain their unique Tribal or historic characteristics	0	0	68,600
<i>Backcountry/Restoration.</i> These areas would retain their undeveloped character, while providing a variety of recreation opportunities, and allowing for limited forest health activities, including preserving biological strongholds for a variety of species, and maintaining or restoring the characteristics of ecosystem and structure.	9,304,200	4,244,500	5,246,100
<i>General Forest, Rangeland, and Grassland.</i> These areas would provide a variety of goods and services as well as a broad range of recreational opportunities, and conservation of natural resources.	0	1,262,400	609,500
<b>Other lands*</b>			
<i>Forest plan special areas ( appendix H, table H-9)</i>	0	345,100	345,100
Totals	9,304,200	9,304,200	9,304,200

\* The Idaho Roadless Rule would not apply to these other special areas.

## ABOUT THE SOCIETY

The Society of American Foresters, with about 15,000 members, is the national organization that represents all segments of the forestry profession in the United States. It includes public and private practitioners, researchers, administrators, educators, and forestry students. The Society was established in 1900 by Gifford Pinchot and six other pioneer foresters.

The mission of the Society of American Foresters is to advance the science, education, technology, and practice of forestry; to enhance the competency of its members; to establish professional excellence; and to use the knowledge, skills, and conservation ethic of the profession to ensure the continued health and use of forest ecosystems and the present and future availability of forest resources to benefit society.

The Society is the accreditation authority for professional forestry education in the United States. The Society publishes the *Journal of Forestry*; the quarterlies, *Forest Science*, *Southern Journal of Applied Forestry*, *Northern Journal of Applied Forestry*, and *Western Journal of Applied Forestry*; *The Forestry Source* and the annual *Proceedings* of the Society of American Foresters national convention.

