



File Code: 1010
Route To:

Date: OCT 24 2018

Subject: Approval of Exceptions to the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule

To: Regional Foresters, Station Directors, WO Directors

In the aim of maintaining the integrity of roadless areas, the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule (36 CFR Part 294, Subpart B) established prohibitions on road construction and reconstruction, and timber harvesting. Exceptions to these actions are provided and detailed in §294.12 and §294.13.

In March 12, 2012, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretarial Memo 1042-157 delegated authority to the Chief of the Forest Service, to approve exceptions in roadless areas consistent with the 2001 Roadless Rule. In June 2012, the Chief implemented a process for review of certain activities in roadless areas. This retained some exception approvals with the Chief and delegated some exception approvals to the Regions. Activities undertaken in conformance with the Idaho and Colorado State-Specific Rulemaking were exempted from the Chief's 2012 review process.

In the last six years, the Chief has provided limited and minor corrections to requests for exception approvals. All recent proposals for exceptions within the Chief's review process have met the requirements of the regulations. In light of the well understood implementation of the Roadless Rule, project-by-project oversight by the Washington Office is no longer necessary, so I am delegating this authority to the Regional Foresters. By doing so, we can streamline decision-making and further meet our objectives to reduce unnecessary procedural burdens and more efficiently accomplish our mission.

My expectation is Regional Foresters give thoughtful consideration in making decisions for exceptions to ensure we maintain roadless characteristics as the 2001 Roadless Rule intends. The Director of Ecosystem Management Coordination will also maintain oversight to support and guide Regional Foresters, as well as inform national leadership of our consistency in meeting the intent of the 2001 Roadless Rule.

If you have further questions pertaining to this delegation, please contact Christine Dawe, Director of Ecosystem Management Coordination.


VICTORIA CHRISTIANSEN
Chief

