

Take Action: Defend Oregon's Wild Forests - Oppose H.R. 7695 and S.140

On June 10, 2026, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee voted 11–9 to advance S.140, which would repeal the 2001 Roadless Rule—moving forward without the consultation owed to Tribal Governments and putting treaty-reserved resources, sacred places, subsistence, and clean water at risk. The bill now heads to the full Senate for review. H.R. 7695 is in sub-committee.

Urge your congresspersons and the Forest Service to listen to the American people and scientists and stop rescinding rules that protect our communities and our forests. It will not be simple, but we need to ensure that the agency refocuses its resources on advancing science-based forest management projects. That path will help ensure our forests continue to support wildlife, provide clean drinking water through protection of our watersheds, reduce the threat of wildfires, and offer much-needed places for connection and recreation.

SEND MESSAGES TO YOUR SENATORS, U.S. REPRESENTATIVES AND GOVERNOR

[Senator Jeff Merkley](#)

[Senator Ron Wyden](#)

[Representative Val Hoyle](#)

Governor Tina Kotek: [\(503\) 378-4582 Governor.Kotek@oregon.gov](mailto:(503) 378-4582 Governor.Kotek@oregon.gov)

The Roads Not Taken: How the Roadless Rule Protects Our Forests

The health and well-being of our national forests are under threat and need your help to ensure their continued protection. The 2001 Clinton administration-era rule, which followed an 18-month public review process that accepted 1.8 million comments, prevents new road building and most commercial timber harvesting on more than 58 million acres of undeveloped land within the National Forest System. It is officially known as the National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Rule, or Roadless Rule.

In Oregon alone, 60 percent of the almost 18 million acres of forests are federally managed. Private owners, including Native American tribes, manage 36 percent; state and county governments manage 4 percent.

Two bills in the U.S. Congress right now, H.R. 7695 and S. 140, are advancing efforts to rescind the Roadless Rule.

U.S. Forest Service Chiefs, representing hunters and anglers, are condemning a last-minute “poison pill” amendment to the bipartisan fire-prevention bill that would roll back protections on millions of acres of roadless areas in national forests. As it stands now, the Roadless Rule **does allow** federal agencies to take steps to prevent the spread of wildfires. It also allows prescribed burning and forest thinning for preventing fire and improving habitats for native species. Most research suggests that roads increase wildfire frequency in forests because more roads bring more people, and humans spark most wildfires.

League positions which support our advocacy:

The League of Women Voters of Oregon adopted the following policy at its convention in 2021:

- That all benefits of the forests—ecological, human and economic—are inextricably interconnected. Healthy forests are essential to habitat for a diversity of plant and animal life, to the hydrologic cycle, and to carbon storage to mitigate global warming. In addition, healthy forests are essential to a forest products industry with the jobs and goods they provide, and to the economic and aesthetic values of their recreational opportunities.
- Laws and policies to ensure that forest management (for timber extraction, recreation or any other activity) must be carried out in a manner that will sustain healthy forests, streams and habitats.