

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 04-138

In Support of the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule; Urging the United States Forest Service to Refrain from the Proposed Changes to the Rule and in the Interest of Maintaining the American Peoples' Confidence and Trust in Government, Urging the United States Forest Service to Hold Public Hearings and to Extend the Opportunity for the American People to Fully Participate in Decisions Affecting These Precious Public Resources

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. The National Forests of Oregon are public lands, managed for the benefit of all Americans including the citizens of Multnomah County.
- b. The forests and waters of the Mount Hood National Forest provide clean drinking water for millions of Oregonians.
- c. The United States Forest Service has identified undisturbed National Forest lands and has designated them Inventoried Roadless Areas.
- d. The Inventoried Roadless Areas that remain in the National Forest system, in particular, the Mount Hood National Forest and Columbia Gorge provide easily accessible outdoor recreation, including but not limited to backcountry hunting and fishing, horseback riding, mountain climbing and backpacking, skiing and snowshoeing, mountain biking, canoeing and kayaking, hiking, camping, wild berry picking, wilderness bird-watching and wildlife viewing and countless opportunities for Multnomah County residents and their families to participate in outdoor recreational activities.
- e. The citizens of Multnomah County use and enjoy these National Forest lands in Oregon and throughout the United States and have an interest in their maintenance in a pristine natural condition.
- f. The United States Forest Service developed the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule over a period of 15 months and solicited comments from the American people; including many of the citizens of Multnomah County during over 600 public meetings and that the overwhelming majority of the citizen comments supported protecting the remaining Inventoried Roadless Areas of the National Forest system.
- g. The 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule protects these pristine wild lands from further road building, mining, drilling and other commercial development while providing for management activities to fight forest fires and minimize the effects of disease and insect outbreak.

- h. The United States Forest Service is experiencing budgetary shortages and currently shows a backlog of unfinished and yet to be commenced road maintenance projects.
- i. The United States Forest Service now proposes to repeal the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule and to replace it with a state-by-state petitioning process that diminishes Multnomah County citizens' rights to participate in management decisions of Inventoried Roadless Areas outside of the State of Oregon, such as the Dark Divide in the neighboring Gifford Pinchot National Forest.
- j. The United States Forest Service has scheduled no public hearings and provided only a 60 day period of time for the American people and the citizens of Multnomah County to comment on the proposed changes to the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

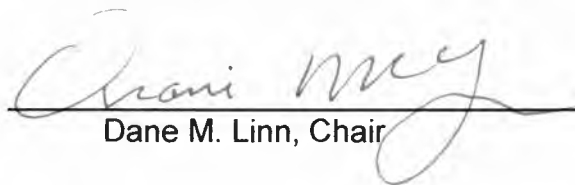
In recognition of the current and future contributions of these lands to the economic and environmental vitality of the citizens of Multnomah County and to the rest of the citizens of Oregon and to the United States of America, the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners declares itself in support of the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule and urges the United States Forest Service to refrain from the proposed changes to the Rule and, in the interests of maintaining the American peoples' confidence and trust in government, urges the United States Forest Service to hold public hearings and to extend the opportunity for the American people to fully participate in decisions affecting these precious public resources.

ADOPTED this 9th day of September, 2004.

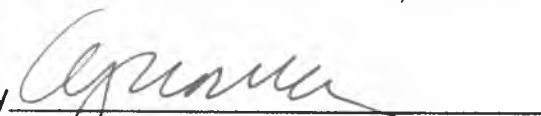


REVIEWED:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON


Dane M. Linn, Chair

AGNES SOWLE, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By 
Agnes Sowle, County Attorney