Member Advisory Newsletter September 2026

Road Rage

FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mark Allison
Executive Director
New Mexico Wild

Beyond the outright sale of our public lands, nothing could be more harmful to our wilderness, wildlife, and water than rescinding the "Roadless Rule." *The US Forest Service just established a comment period for this devastating policy reversal, and we have only four weeks to mobilize our supporters to provide feedback on the proposed rollback of a vital protection of as many as 1.6 million acres in our state alone and more than 45 million nationally.*

I am enraged by this. *We are rapidly mobilizing every resource we have to stop this rule change. Piece by piece, the Trump Administration is attacking the hard won protections of our public lands and waters. We had an enormous outpouring of support for Chaco during a contracted comment period last month. We need even more activism for the Roadless Rule.*

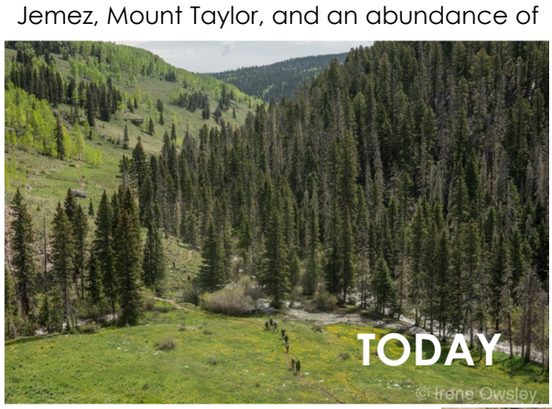
The USFS is providing only a 33-day window for comments on the Roadless Rule. When the Rule was first established, 25 years ago, USFS received 1.6 million comments — more than any federal rule in U.S. history — with the vast majority in support.

If you are also enraged by this rule change, please do all you can to help. *We've provided four important ways to do that on the other side of this Advisory. As always, your support means the world to us.*

New Mexico Wild is part of a coalition of conservation and outdoor recreation groups fighting for the Roadless Rule.

New Mexico's national forests contain some of the most ecologically rich and culturally significant roadless landscapes in the American West. Rescinding the Roadless Rule amounts to a giveaway to the logging and mining industries, opening these invaluable wildlands to extraction. Iconic roadless lands like the hot springs in the Jemez, Mount Taylor, and an abundance of Roadless Areas surrounding the Pecos Wilderness and in the Gila Region face significant threats. Road constructing, logging, and mining will harm wildlife, water quality downstream, outdoor recreation, and increase the risk of wildfires.

To learn more about the impacts of this threat visit our website **nmwild.org** and explore our resources and ways we hope you will engage.



From wilderness to wasteland. *This is what pristine public lands can become when the Roadless Rule is rescinded — forest cover gone, roads cut through what was once untouched.*
Help us stop this. *Take action on the other side of this advisory.*

Four ways you can help

When the Rule was first established 25 years ago, USFS received 1.6 million public comments — more than any federal rule in U.S. history — with the vast majority in support.

1

Send a comment to the US Forest Service.

Submit your comments directly to the USFS through our website: **nmwild.org/get-involved/sign-a-petition/protect-our-roadless-areas**
Comments must be received by **September 21st.**

2

Contact your member of Congress.

Most members of Congress accept email from their constituents and phone calls to their offices. Even if your representative is supportive of the Roadless Rule, adding your voice of support is important. You can find ways to reach your Congress member (Senate or House) at **congress.gov/members**

3

Attend a Roadless Rule event.

New Mexico Wild is organizing many events across the state to inform the public about the Roadless Rule and show legislators and administrators public support for this rule. You can see upcoming in-person and virtual events at **nmwild.org/get-involved/events**

4

Donate to our Legal + Outreach Fund.

Fighting to preserve the Roadless Rule is expensive. Our members are the primary source of funding for the legal and public outreach efforts that we have underway. If you can provide a special donation, visit our website at **nmwild.org/donate**. You can also use the enclosed donation form and envelope.

NEW MEXICO WILD

The fight to save the Roadless Rule and to protect our public lands is fast-changing. We'll provide the most current information on our website. Thank you for all the support you can offer!

nmwild.org

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