



2004 Ashley Roadless Inventory



Overview of the inventory protocol
and review process



Why do another inventory?

- ❁ Regulations for implementing NFMA require that “roadless areas ... shall be evaluated and considered for recommendation as potential wilderness during the Forest planning process...”
- ❁ FS also recognizes that roadless and undeveloped areas are important for nonmotorized recreation, ecological and other values



Status of 2001 Roadless Inventory:

- ❁ Current roadless area inventory submitted for Roadless Area Conservation Rule (RACR)
- ❁ RACR has been set aside by courts
- ❁ Inventory “frozen” with RACR (cannot update)
- ❁ Interim Directive applies protections to all roadless areas (similar to RACR)
- ❁ New Proposed Rule would replace RACR



All rules and directives regarding management of roadless areas pertain to the 2001 inventory

This inventory does not replace the 2001 inventory.

Logically, if we are given an opportunity to update the 2001 inventory, we would consider bringing it in line with this (more current) inventory

3 evaluation criteria:

- ⊗ Presence or absence of classified roads
- ⊗ Size of polygon (area)
- ⊗ Presence of other facilities or influences of man



Definition of a road:

- ⊗ Motor vehicle travelways $>50''$ wide, unless designated as a trail
- ⊗ May be classified or unclassified



Classification depends on intent



- ❁ Classified roads are needed and intended for long-term use
- ❁ Unclassified roads are not intended for long term use or were created through unauthorized means



We do not make travel management decisions through this inventory process

We just try to accurately reflect current management strategies

Size:

- Areas \geq 5000 acres qualify as roadless
- Areas $<$ 5000 acres may be included if certain conditions are met
- Review and document decision for each area $<$ 5000 acres





Include areas < 5000 acres if:

- They are manageable in their natural condition
- They are self-contained ecosystems such as an island
- There are other special features warranting its consideration
- They are contiguous to existing wilderness, primitive areas, or roadless areas in other Federal ownership

Presence of other facilities/influences of man:

- ❁ Identify management activities that have changed the natural appearance of a landscape
- ❁ Activities do not disqualify an area if they are “substantially unnoticeable” (as used in the Wilderness Act)



Mapping process to date:



- Used roads and other activities data to map developed areas
- Removed undeveloped areas that didn't meet intent of roadless criteria (small, intermixed with development, etc.)
- Mapped remaining areas \geq 5000 acres as roadless
- Reviewed areas between 500 and 5000 acres for potential inclusion

Next steps:

- Take comment internally and at public meetings
- Complete corrections as new data received



- Finalize inventory for use in identifying potential wilderness recommendations
- Consider roadless areas in development of management strategies in Plan revision