

## Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) , RARE 2, De-inventoried roads and trails

As I mentioned last night, my friend Gary Straham worked for the Chetco USFS when the RARE Inventory was begun. He was not a road guy, more of a forester. He and another guy were given two weeks to inventory every road in the district. He said they never got all the roads inventoried and the ones they never got to never made the list. RARE preceded the logging boom of the 1980's when many more roads were built. If you look at the "Roadless areas" on the Chetco district you will see that they in fact have roads on them. Good examples are south and east of Mt Emily, but they are everywhere. At one point I went in to USFS to volunteer to work on trails but each trail I named "did not exist". Some like Hazel Camp, I had just ridden the previous weekend. I finally figured out that they had all been "Deinventoried". We are in fact traveling on many, quite a few major, road that don't exist in the inventory. They are still there, but not on paper. Thus they can declare the Mt Emily area to be a roadless area, even when a road goes to the top of Mt Emily and services a transmitter station. As Larry can tell you these IRS's or Inventoried Roadless Areas have turned large areas of roaded areas into No Go areas, no salvage / replant after a fire, de facto wilderness areas. Just looking at our own Chetco district map of IRA's with roads in them will let you see how goofed up this whole thing is.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inventoried\\_roadless\\_area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inventoried_roadless_area)

**Inventoried Roadless Areas** (IRA's) are a group of [United States Forest Service](#) lands that have been identified by government reviews as lands without existing roads that could be suitable for [roadless area conservation](#) as wilderness or other non-standard protections.

The first review of Forest Service roadless lands was started in 1967 after the creation of the [Wilderness Act](#) by Congress in 1964. This effort was called the "**Roadless Area Review and Evaluation**" or "**RARE I**", and culminated in 1972 with a finding that 12,300,000 acres (50,000 km<sup>2</sup>) that were suitable to be designated as wilderness. The RARE I recommendations were abandoned by the Forest Service after courts ruled that the agency had not sufficiently complied with the regulations of the [National Environmental Policy Act](#) (NEPA). A second roadless inventory, RARE II, was initiated in 1977, which culminated in a recommendation of wilderness designation for 15,000,000 acres (61,000 km<sup>2</sup>) of national forest land and further study for another 10,800,000 acres (44,000 km<sup>2</sup>).<sup>[4]</sup> This set of recommendations was also quickly challenged in the courts and largely voided as a result.<sup>[5]</sup>

## 2001 Roadless Rule

The most recent review of inventoried roadless areas began in 1998 under the oversight of [Michael Dombeck](#), then head of the US Forest Service. This review was finished in 2000 and culminated in a set of Forest Service regulations in 2001 that are collectively

known as the Roadless Rule.<sup>[6][7]</sup> The Roadless Rule of 2001 is certainly the most far-reaching conservation action taken by the federal government since the Wilderness Act of 1964.<sup>[8]</sup> The rule does not specifically protect roadless areas from development nor does it strictly prohibit multiple use activities on these lands. Specifically, the rule was aimed at controlling the amount of road-building activities undertaken by the forest service,

Here is what K Wild tells people about our areas IRA's, they should be wilderness  
<https://kalmiopsiswild.org/south-kalmiopsis/>

### **What are the definitions of inventoried roadless ... - Forest Service**

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fsbdev3\\_000250.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fsbdev3_000250.pdf)

More at above link but here is the meat of the issue

What are the definitions of inventoried roadless areas, potential wilderness areas, recommended wilderness areas and designated Wilderness?

Inventoried Roadless Areas refer to those areas identified and mapped in accordance with the Roadless Area Conservation Final Rule (the '2001 Roadless Rule'). Reference 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 294 and 66 Federal Register 3244-3272 (Jan. 12, 2001). The 2001 Roadless Rule defines inventoried roadless areas as "Areas identified in a set of inventoried roadless area maps, contained in Forest Service Roadless

Area Conservation, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 2, dated November 2000, which are held at the National headquarters office of the Forest Service, or any subsequent update or revision of those maps." **The definition of a roadless area for the 2001 Roadless Rule included: undeveloped areas typically exceeding 5,000 acres that met the minimum criteria for wilderness consideration under the Wilderness Act and that were inventoried during the Forest Service's Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) process, subsequent assessments, or forest planning. The 1982 planning regulations and the Forest Service Handbook used the term "roadless areas" when referring to areas to consider for wilderness recommendation. The 2005 Planning Rule (now the 2008 Planning Rule) and the current Forest Service Handbook now use the term "potential wilderness areas" when referring to areas to consider for wilderness recommendation.**

Potential Wilderness Areas refer to those areas identified and evaluated during the development or revision of Forest Plans for administrative recommendation to Congress for wilderness designation. Reference 72 Federal Register 4478-4481 (Jan. 31, 2007) and

Forest Service Handbook 1909.12-2007-1, Chapter 70 Wilderness Evaluation. **The intent is to identify and evaluate all NFS lands that meet the definition of wilderness in section**

**2(c) of the 1964 Wilderness Act.** There are two steps to this process: 1) conducting the inventory (based on the definition of wilderness); and 2) evaluating the areas in the

inventory (based on capability, availability and need).

Recommended Wilderness Areas are those areas (generally identified during the preparation or revision of Forest Plans) that the Forest Service recommends to Congress as candidates for designation as Wilderness. Only Congress can designate wilderness.

Designated Wilderness is any area of land designated by Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System that was established in the Wilderness Act of 1964. **Wilderness is “an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.”** An area of wilderness is further defined in the Wilderness Act to mean “an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.”

Can we add areas to the inventoried roadless area list developed for the 2001 Roadless Rule? We will not be adding any areas to the list of Inventoried Roadless Areas. Under the 2008 Planning Rule **we will inventory additional areas to determine if they meet the definition of wilderness in section 2(c) of the 1964 Wilderness Act. However, we will now call them Potential Wilderness Areas rather than Roadless Areas.** This will keep them separate from the areas whose management was dictated by the 2001 Roadless Rule.

### **What are the limitations on management contained in the 2001 Roadless Rule?**

1) **Prohibits new road construction and reconstruction** in inventoried roadless areas on National Forest System lands, **except:**

- To protect health and safety in cases of an imminent threat of flood, fire, or other catastrophic event that, without intervention, would cause the loss of life or property.
- To conduct environmental clean up required by federal law.
- To allow for reserved or outstanding rights provided for by statute or treaty.
- To prevent irreparable resource damage by an **existing road**.
- To **rectify existing hazardous road conditions**.
- Where **a road** is part of a Federal Aid Highway project.
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Where a road is needed in conjunction with the continuation, extension, or renewal of a mineral lease on lands that are under lease, or for new leases issued immediately upon expiration of an existing lease.

**2) Prohibits cutting, sale, and removal of timber in inventoried roadless areas, except:**

- For the cutting, sale, or removal of generally small diameter trees which maintains or improves roadless characteristics and:
  - o To improve habitat for threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species, or
  - o To maintain or restore ecosystem composition and structure, such as reducing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects.

• When incidental to the accomplishment of a management activity not otherwise prohibited by this rule.

• For **personal or administrative use.**

• Where roadless characteristics have been substantially altered in a portion of an inventoried roadless area due to the construction of a classified road and subsequent timber harvest occurring after the area was designated an inventoried roadless area and prior to the publication date of this rule.

So as you can see, ROADS have nothing to do with "ROAD LESS AREAS" as we could well see when they created the Copper Salmon Wilderness and spent a fortune REMOVING THE EXISTING ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURES... *It is all about Wilderness creation, not about the roads that were and are still there, Guess I can see why USFS ordered so many Concrete Blockades after they burned the area out...*