

IDAHO SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ada County Fish & Game League ** Blackfoot River Bowmen ** Bonner County Sportsmen
Deer Hunters of Idaho ** Foundation for North American Wild Sheep ** Idaho Bird Hunters
Idaho Falconers Ass. ** Idaho Houndsmen Ass. ** Idaho Wildlife Fed. ** Idaho Poachers Club
Idaho Rifle & Pistol Ass. ** Idaho State Bowhunters ** Idaho Salmon Steelhead Unlimited
Idaho Trappers Ass. ** Idaho Traditional Bowhunters ** Idaho Walleye Unlimited
Idaho BASS Fed. ** Idaho Trout Unlimited ** National Wild Turkey Fed. ** Pheasants Forever
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation ** Safari Club International ** Snake River Cutthroats
www.idahoscac.org

**To: Honorable Dirk Kempthorne & Idaho Office of Conservation
Director Jim Caswell**

From: Idaho Sportsmen's Caucus Advisory Council (ISCAC)

Subject: Idaho Roadless Petition to the Secretary of Agriculture

On July 12, 2004 the Secretary of Agriculture released a second National Forest Roadless Rule to replace the 2001 Roadless Rule with a process that would allow state governors to petition for changes to management direction for inventoried Roadless Areas (IRA's) within National Forests in their respective states. This rule effectively ended the federal moratorium on road building within IRAs imposed by the 2001 Roadless Rule unless individual governors specifically requested via petition for that protection. The Secretary reserved the right to affirm or deny all, or any part of, requests made by a governor through this process. In the absence of any petition from the state, or input from the Secretary, management of individual IRAs would be determined by individual national forest management planning processes.

Idaho currently has over 34,000 miles of National Forest roads, more than 6 times the length of the State's highway system. The IRAs were first inventoried during the Roadless Areas Review and Evaluation studies during the 1970's. Since that time some roads and motorized routes have been built by the Forest Service or simply created by users within these IRAs. But, in general, the 9.3 million acres of IRA's within Idaho remain roadless and contribute greatly to Idaho's hunting and fishing heritage as well as to the economy of the State.

HUNTING: Idaho's IRAs not only provide some of the state's best wildlife habitat, they help protect the longest and most liberal big game hunting seasons of any western state. Because elk and mule deer migrate over large landscapes and move out of IRA's and into roaded lands, those who hunt predominately roaded lands benefit from IRA's.



IDAHO SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ada County Fish & Game League ** Blackfoot River Bowmen ** Bonner County Sportsmen Deer Hunters of Idaho ** Foundation for North American Wild Sheep ** Idaho Bird Hunters Idaho Falconers Ass. ** Idaho Houndsmen Ass. ** Idaho Wildlife Fed. ** Idaho Poachers Club Idaho Rifle & Pistol Ass. ** Idaho State Bowhunters ** Idaho Salmon Steelhead Unlimited Idaho Trappers Ass. ** Idaho Traditional Bowhunters ** Idaho Walleye Unlimited Idaho BASS Fed. ** Idaho Trout Unlimited ** National Wild Turkey Fed. ** Pheasants Forever Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation ** Safari Club International ** Snake River Cutthroats www.idahoscac.org

ANGLING: Recent research shows that Idaho's best fish habitat is protected by IRA's. For instance, 74 % of Idaho's Chinook salmon and steelhead spawning and rearing areas are found within IRA's. Protecting headwaters in Idaho's IRA's provide important downstream fishing to hundreds of thousands of anglers within Idaho as well as other western states.

ECONOMICS: According to the latest data (2001) from a USFWS survey, the annual economic input from hunters and anglers in Idaho is over \$542 million. That is over \$628 million in today's dollars.

Idaho's IRA's, as outlined above not only cradle much of Idaho's wildlife, but also support an outdoor industry worth over half a billion dollars. ISCAC's mission is to promote and pass on the tradition of our hunting, angling, trapping heritage to future generations. It's our position that no new roads in Idaho's IRAs be built except those that may be absolutely critical to Wildlands Urban Interface fire management and human safety. It's also our position that those public roads that are presently legally open on our National Forests should remain open and federal funding be provided for their long-term maintenance so that reasonable and traditional access to Idaho's public lands are ensured.

The ISCAC encourages Idaho's Governor as well as the state Congressional delegation to help Idahoans perpetuate this State's special outdoor legacy and endorse a petition to the Secretary of Agriculture that will keep Idaho's National Forest Inventoried Roadless Areas unchanged.

Voting Data: 18 Member Organizations Support Position, 3 Member Organizations Abstained & Idaho Traditional Bowhunters did not cast a vote.

