



# State of New Mexico

*Office of the Governor*

March 29, 2006

Bill Richardson  
*Governor*

Dale Bosworth  
Chief, US Forest Service  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-0003

Dear Chief Bosworth,

I am writing to ask the United States Forest Service to take no action that would change the roadless quality of inventoried roadless areas in New Mexico. This will allow me to pursue the petition process adopted by the Department of Agriculture for permanent protection of these areas without concern that roadless area qualities' are being changed by administrative action

I have made two requests to the USDA for funding (as provided to several other states) that will assist New Mexico in the petitioning process. Although the first request was made in August 2005, and reiterated last month, and although Undersecretary Mark Rey mentioned my request in a letter published in The New York Times last September, I have received no response.

I have also clearly stated that I expect to petition for full protection of New Mexico's remaining National Forest roadless areas. Therefore I ask the Forest Service to agree to not propose projects in inventoried roadless areas that would alter the roadless qualities of the areas, and to halt and withdraw any such projects under development until the Forest Service has completed and adopted final rulemaking to establish management direction for these areas in New Mexico's National Forests.

As I have stated in my objections to the new roadless rule adopted by the Department, New Mexico's remaining roadless areas should remain roadless because of their importance for our state's hunting and fishing community, for watershed values, and so that the limited funding for maintenance and improvement of existing National Forest roads can be conserved. I am concerned that the Department's failure to respond to my requests for funding, as well as actions it could take reducing roadless quality, adversely affect my state's interests. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Richardson".

Bill Richardson  
Governor