

September 19, 2025

Director
Ecosystem Management Coordination
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
201 14th Street SW, Mailstop 1108
Washington, DC 20250-1124

Re: Race Director Opposition to Rescission of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule

To Whom It May Concern:

We, the undersigned 92 race directors of nearly 550 road and trail running events across 34 states, write to express our strong opposition to any effort to rescind the Roadless Area Conservation Rule ("Roadless Rule"). Our races take place in some of the most iconic landscapes in the nation, many of which are located in or adjacent to Inventoried Roadless Areas managed by the U.S. Forest Service. These landscapes are the lifeblood of our events and the communities that host them, and the integrity of the Roadless Rule is essential to their continued vitality.

Adopted in 2001, the Roadless Rule protects nearly 58.5 million acres of national forest land by prohibiting most new road construction. These protections safeguard ecosystems that are indispensable for wildlife habitat, watershed health, and climate resilience, while also preserving the very qualities that define the sport of trail running. The wild, undeveloped terrain of Roadless Areas provides courses that challenge athletes physically and mentally, while the unfragmented forests and sweeping vistas lend each race a character that cannot be replicated in roaded or developed settings. The ecological health of these areas—clean air, pure water, and intact forests—forms the foundation upon which our sport rests.

Our events are not only athletic competitions; they are cultural gatherings that generate significant economic and community benefits. Each year, small mountain towns such as Auburn, CA; Waterville Valley, NH; Logan, UT; Dayton, WY; and many others welcome thousands of runners, families, and supporters from across the country and the world. Local businesses thrive during race weekends, and the reputation of these communities as outdoor destinations grows with every participant who experiences the beauty and wildness of the surrounding forests. The loss of Roadless protections would jeopardize this sustainable economic model, threatening not only the identity of our races but also the economic lifelines of the communities that host them.

Trail running is one of the fastest-growing outdoor sports in the United States, drawing athletes from every state and from around the world. Our races rely on landscapes that remain wild, undeveloped, and free from the scars of industrial activity. Once roads are built and forest character is degraded, these values cannot be restored. For our athletes, for the communities we represent, and for future generations of runners who deserve the chance to experience these landscapes in their full integrity, we urge the Forest Service to maintain the Roadless Rule in full force.

Sincerely,

Steve Aderholt
[Cocodona 250](#) and other races

Jesse Armijo
[Mt. Taylor 50k](#) and other races

Bryant Baker
[Rim to River 100](#) and other races

Kat Baker
[Mount Laguna Trail Marathon](#)

Victor Ballesteros
[Tamalpa Headlands 50k](#)

Robert Becker
[KEYS100 Ultramarathon](#) and other races

Sharon Bennett
[FullMoon 25k and 50k](#)

Emily Berriochoa
[Wilson Creek Frozen 50k](#)

Brad Bishop
[Never Summer 100k](#) and other races

Eric Bone
[Middle Fork Trail Run](#) and other races

Melanie Boone
[That's No Moon Trail Races](#) and other races

Eric Borer
[Summit North Trail Runs](#) and other races

Magda Boulet
[Miwok100K Trail Race](#)

Porter Bratten
[Devil's Gulch](#) and other races

Lauren Calcagno
[Butte To Butte](#) and other races

Julian Carr
[Cirque Series](#) and other races

Kirk Cherep
[Knobstone 50](#) and other races

Chris Cloyd
[Point Mariah Trail Marathon](#)

Austin Corbett
[Kahtoola Uphill](#)

Scott Crellin
[Cuyamaca 100K Endurance Run](#)

Gerad Dean
[Headwaters Trail Runs](#)

Megan DeHaan
[Crazy Mountain 100](#)

Mark Donovan
[Boilermaker](#) and other races

Noah Dougherty
[Mogollon Monster 100](#) and other races

Peter Downing
[Running Up For Air - Staunton Rocks](#) and other races

Cody Draper
[Bear 100](#) and other races

Trisha Drobeck
[Missoula Marathon Weekend](#) and other races

Mathias Eichler
[Beast of Big Creek](#) and other races

Kim Field
[Gobble Gobble](#) and other races

Julie Fingar
[Rio](#) and other races

Kayla Fitzgerald
[Hell Hole Hundred](#) and other races

Dale Garland
[Hardrock Hundred Mile Endurance Run](#)

Brian Goldman
[Mile Madness Endurance Run](#)

Justin Grigg
[City to Sky Trail Races](#)

Sean Harrasser
[Dark Divide 100 Mile Endurance Run](#) and other races

Jakob Herrmann
[Angeles National Forest Trail Race 25/50K](#) and other races

Marie Hughes
[Silicon Valley Kids Triathlon](#) and other races

Renee Janssen
[Mountain Lakes 100](#) and other races

Jenny Joyes
[Sinks Canyon Trail Races](#) and other races

Leslie Keener
[Running Up For Air](#) and other races

Jeremy Kershaw
[Heck of the North Gravel Classic](#) and other races

Max King
[Bend Marathon](#) and other races

Aimee Kohler
[Climb It For Climate](#) and other races

Chris Kostman
[Badwater 135 Ultramarathon](#) and other races

Nick Kovaleski
[A Runner's Mind Gobble Wobble](#) and other races

Dick Kresser
[Kulshan Randonnée](#) and other races

John Lacroix
[Silverheels Trail Runs](#) and other races

Cliff Lentz
[Star City San Bruno Mountain Half Marathon](#)

Ki Levinsky
[Wild Goose Trail Festival](#) and other races

Shelby Ling
[Noble Canyon 50k](#)

Aaron Long
[Gorge Waterfalls](#) and other races

Brendan Madigan
[Broken Arrow Skyrace](#) and other races

Kelsey McGill
[Cline Buttes Trail Races](#) and other races

Sean Meissner
[Peterson Ridge Rumble](#) and other races

Bea Mickelson
[LOViT 100 mile/100k](#)

Brian Mister
[Around the Crown 10K](#) and other races

Krissy Moehl
[Chuckanut 50k](#)

Stephen Moylan
[Run Baby Run](#)

Jess Mullen
[Cascade Crest 100](#) and other races

Matthew Nelson
[Flagstaff to Grand Canyon Stagecoach Ultra](#) and other races

Amy Nelson
[Baker Trail UltraChallenge](#) and other races

Kyle Osborne
[Helena Hundred](#)

Nicholas Panebianco
[Alexandria Running Festival](#) and other races

Amanda Pennington
[Elder Creek Night Runs](#) and other races

Allison Powell
[Montana Meltdown](#)

Mauricio Puerto
[Coyote Two Moon](#) and other races

Jenifer Rishel
[Burney Mountain 100](#) and other races

Kayla Robertson
[Moran Constitutional Relay](#) and other races

George Ruiz
[Tahoe Rim Trail Endurance Run 100M/100K/50K](#)

Amy Rusiecki
[Vermont 100 Endurance Race](#) and other races

Andrew Ruthenbeck
[Kokanee Trail Runs](#)

Caryn Sandoval
[Black Mountain 50k](#)

Craig Schmidt
[Marin Ultra Challenge](#) and other races

Nathan Schwab
[Newton Hills Trail Races](#) and other races

Jan Seeley
[Christie Clinic Illinois Marathon](#) and other races

Stacey Shaver
[Arkansas Traveller 100](#) and other races

Jennifer Shultis
[Olympic Mountains Trail Races](#) and other races

Marina Steerman
[City to Sky 50K & 25K](#) and other races

Paul Stofko
[Crazy Legs 10k Trail Run](#) and other races

Craig Thornley
[Western States 100-Mile Endurance Run](#) and other races

Tim Tollefson
[Mammoth trailfest](#) and other races

Gilbert Turner
[Bluewater Canyon Trail Race](#) and other races

James Varner
[Orcas Island 100M](#) and other races

Coleen Voeks
[Tale of Two Trails](#) and other races

Katie Wallace
[Over the Rainbow Runs](#)

Katie Warren
[Echo Valley](#) and other races

Neil Weintraub
[Soulstice Mountain Trail Run](#) and other races

Daniel Weissauer
[Bulldog Ultra](#) and other races

Holly West
[Spring Forward](#)

Brandon Wood
[Resurrection Pass 100 Miler](#) and other races

Hilary Yang
[the MAMMOTH 200](#)

Marian Yasuda
[HURT 100](#) and other races