October 6, 2026

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

Re: Running Event Organizer Opposition to Roadless Rule Rescission and Support for the No Action Alternative

To Whom It May Concern:

The undersigned 110 running event organizers who represent over 650 trail and road races across 33 states and Washington, D.C. write to oppose rescission of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule and to support the **No Action Alternative** in the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Many of our events rely on national forest landscapes that remain largely undeveloped, including areas within or adjoining Inventoried Roadless Areas. Those settings are not incidental to races. They help define these events' character, challenge, and connection to the communities that host them.

For the trail running community, roadless areas protect the qualities that make running on public lands distinct: quiet, clean water, intact habitat, scenic integrity, and long stretches of backcountry trail. Those values are reflected in nationally known places across the country, including the Mount Hood area along the Pacific Crest Trail, the backcountry trails of the North Cascades in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Arizona's Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, and George Washington and Jefferson National Forest in Virginia where roadless protections help sustain non-motorized and dispersed recreation opportunities. When roads and associated development move into these places, the running experience changes in lasting ways.

The current Roadless Rule gives national forests a clear, uniform framework for keeping these undeveloped areas intact. Rescinding the rule would replace that clarity with a patchwork of forest-level and project-level decisions, creating uncertainty for the places our events rely on and for the organizers, runners, volunteers, and host communities who plan around them. Trail races are built around the enduring appeal of these landscapes. As those conditions are diminished, so too are the experiences and traditions that depend on them.

Trail races also contribute meaningfully to local economies. Race weekends bring runners, families, crews, and volunteers to gateway towns, supporting lodging, restaurants, stores, and outfitters. Many communities have come to rely on recreation tied to healthy, undeveloped public lands, and maintaining Roadless Rule protections helps sustain that long-term model. Weakening those protections risks harm not only to the running experience but also to the communities and small businesses connected to it.

As areas like the Pacific Northwest face increasingly severe fire seasons, rescinding the Roadless Rule would not address the main drivers of rising wildfire risk and could increase human-caused ignitions, which occur overwhelmingly near roads. The existing rule already

allows emergency road construction for imminent fire threats and permits fuel reduction work. Just as importantly, the U.S. Forest Service's own proposal makes clear that this rulemaking is about more than fire: it is expressly tied to increased timber production, energy and mineral development, and deregulation. Rather than eliminating protections across millions of acres, the U.S. Forest Service should focus on strategic treatments near communities, prescribed fire, and the Roadless Rule's existing management exceptions.

For all of these reasons, we urge the U.S. Forest Service to reject rescission of the Roadless Rule and to select the **No Action Alternative** in the DEIS. Race directors need confidence that the places their events depend on will remain intact, and future runners should have the same opportunity to experience these forests in a condition that still feels wild, connected, and undeveloped.

Sincerely,

(in alphabetical order)

Fred Abramowitz
Run, Rabbit, Run

Randy Accetta
Grand Canyon Trail Marathon and other races

Jesse Armijo
Mt. Taylor 50k and other races

Shane Asbury
Ruidoso Grindstone Trail Runs and other races

Bryant Baker
Rim to River 100 and other races

Victor Ballesteros
Tamalpa Headlands 50k and other races

Robert Becker
KEYS100 Ultramarathon and other races

Emily Berriochoa
Wilson Creek Frozen 50k

Brad Bishop
Never Summer 100k and other races

Tyanna Blaschak
Headwaters Trail Runs

Brian Bohrer
Winter Park Trail Runs and other races

Eric Bone
Middle Fork Trail Run and other races

Melanie Boone
That's No Moon Trail Races and other races

Terry Borneman
Run Past Cancer

Magda Boulet
Miwok 100K

Skip Brand
Sonoma Fall Classic 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

Jamil Coury
Aravaipa Running

Alice Curley
Mountain Tiger Donner Summit and other races

Megan DeHaan
Crazy Mountain 100

Alex Docta
Snowbasin by UTMB and other races

Mark Donovan
Boilermaker and other races

Jacki Doppelmayer
HURT 100-mile Endurance Trail Run

Noah Dougherty
Mogollon Monster 100 and other races

Peter Downing
Running Up for Air - Staunton Rocks and other races

Cody Draper
The Bear 100 and other races

Trisha Drobeck
Missoula Marathon Weekend of Events and other races

Caleb Efta
High Lonesome 100 and other races

Mathias Eichler
Beast of Big Creek and other races

Kim Field
Ugly Sweater and other races

Robert Fiero
Ghost Train Trail Races and other races

Julie Fingar
Way too Cool 50k and other races

Kayla Fitzgerald
Swamp Fox Ultra and other races

Mike Foote
Rut Mountain Runs and other races

Dale Garland
Hardrock Hundred Endurance Run

Matthew Goda
Peacock Challenge 55 Miler

Robert Goyen
Rise in the Pines and other races

Justin Grigg
City to Sky Trail Races

Sean Harrasser
Dark Divide Trail Races and other races

Keira Henninger
Ray Miller and other races

Jakob Herrmann
Mount Disappointment Mountain Race 25/50K and other races

Nancy Hobbs
American Trail Running Association

Tom Hooper
Sunapee Scramble and other races

Daniel Hughes
The Huron 100 and other races

Fred Irby
Run Juneteenth Half Marathon & 10K

Renee Janssen
Mountain Lakes 100 and other races

Leslie Keener
Running Up For Air and other races

Jason Keith
Running Up For Air - Moab

Max King
Bend Marathon and other races

Jean Knaack
Road Runners Club of America

Aimee Kohler
Climb It For Climate and other races

Chris Kostman
Badwater 135 and other races

Nick Kovaleski
A Runner's Mind Gobble Wobble

John Lacroix
Silverheels 100 (Human Potential Running Series) and other races

Cliff Lentz
Star City San Bruno Mt Half Marathon

Kim Levinsky
Sassquad Trail Running and other races

Marianne Loheide
Silverton Alpine Marathon/Kendall Mountain Run and other races

Jeremy Long
Gorge Waterfalls and other races

Gina Lucrezi
Lake Sonoma 100K, 50K, TS Half Marathon and other races

Brendan Madigan
Broken Arrow Skyrace

Chuck Magera
Palmetto Peach Half Marathon and other races

Chris Martin
Forever Young

Zach Mayfield
Grand Island Trail Runs and other races

Kelsey McGill
Cline Buttes Trail Races

Sean Meissner
Peterson Ridge Rumble and other races

Meira Minard
Rothrock by UTMB and other races

Krissy Moehl
Chuckanut 50k

Ruairi Moynihan
Flagstaff Doggie Dash and Buffaloops Ultra and other races

Mort Nace
Muddy Sneaker 20K Trail Race

Matthew Nelson
Colossal Vail 50/50 and other races

Luke Nelson
Scout Mountain Ultras

Ryan Niccum
Old Pueblo Endurance Runs 50mi/50k

Kyle Osborne
Helena Hundred and other races

Jubilee Paige
Javelina Jundred and other races

Nicholas Panebianco
Potomac River Marathon and Half

Alexander Papadopoulos
WV Trail Fest and other races

Wes Plate
Copper Kings 100

Allison Powell
Montana Meltdown

Mauricio Puerto
Coyote Two Moon and other races

George Ruiz
Tahoe Rim Trail Endurance Runs

Amy Rusiecki
Vermont 100 Endurance Race and other races

Andrew Ruthenbeck
Kokanee Trail Runs

Caryn Sandoval
Black Mountain 50k

Adrienne Schaefer
Sunflower Marathon, Half Marathon, & Relay and other races

Susie Schmelzer
HOKA Kodiak Ultra Marathons by UTMB and other races

Craig Schmidt
Marin Ultra Challenge and other races

Jan Seeley
Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend and other races

Stacey Shaver
Arkansas Traveller 100 and other races

Chaz Sheya
The Canyons Endurance Runs by UTMB and other races

Jennifer Shultis
Olympic Mountains Trail Races and other races

Kristi Siman
Grand Mesa Ultras and other races

Ginny Smith
Stump Jump 50K and other races

Paul Stofko
Tombstone 30k/50k/50 miler and other races

Craig Thornley
Western States 100-Mile Endurance Run and other races

Tim Tollefson
Mammoth Trailfest and other races

Ian Torrence
Flagstaff to Grand Canyon Stagecoach Line 100 Mile and other races

Gilbert Turner
Bluewater Canyon Trail Race

James Varner
Sun Mountain 50M/50K/25K and other races

Dick Vincent
Escarpment Trail Run

Katie Wallace
Over the Rainbow Runs

Neil Weintraub
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flagstaff Half Marathon and 5K and other races

Daniel Weissauer
Bulldog Ultra and other races

Jennifer Wierman
Finger Lakes Fifties

Mark Wilkinson
Island View Trail Run and other races

Brandon Wood
Resurrection Pass Ultras

Marian Yasuda
Maunawili Out and Back and other races

Clark Zealand
Grindstone Trail Running Festival by UTMB