

RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal government body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, on August 18, 2026, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Forest Service published a proposed rule to rescind in its entirety the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule (2001 Roadless Rule), which for twenty-five years has prohibited road construction, road reconstruction, and commercial timber harvest across approximately 44.7 million acres of National Forest System lands; and

WHEREAS, approximately 4.4 million acres of inventoried roadless areas across twenty-one California national forests would lose these protections, including lands in the Angeles, Los Padres, San Bernardino, Cleveland, and Inyo National Forests that ring and supply the Los Angeles region, and the Forest Service anticipates that permanent roads could be constructed across 18.2 million acres nationwide and temporary roads across an additional 11.3 million acres; and

WHEREAS, human activity, not remote wildland ignition, is the dominant cause of wildfire in the United States, accounting for roughly 89 percent of wildfires nationwide, while fewer than one percent of wildfires in the lower 48 states since 2010 have ignited within inventoried roadless areas; and

WHEREAS, a peer-reviewed 2026 study in *Fire Ecology* examining three decades of national forest wildfire records found wildfire-ignition density was lowest in designated wilderness (1.75 fires per 1,000 hectares) and in inventoried roadless areas (1.97 fires per 1,000 hectares), and highest within 50 meters of roads (7.99 fires per 1,000 hectares), with ignition density declining steadily as distance from roads increases; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service reached this same conclusion in its own environmental impact statement for the 2001 Roadless Rule, finding that building roads into inventoried roadless areas would likely increase the chance of human-caused fires because of the increased presence of people; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles and its neighboring communities continue to recover from the January 2025 Palisades and Eaton Fires, and any federal action that measurably increases ignition risk in the mountains above Los Angeles threatens the lives, homes, air quality, and insurance affordability of Angelenos, and falls heaviest on low-income and frontline communities with the fewest resources to evacuate, rebuilt, or relocate;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2025-2026 Federal Legislative Program OPPOSITION to the U.S. Forest Service proposed rule to rescind the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule.

PRESENTED BY:


JOHN LEE
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY:



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