

ITEM NO. 33

File No. 25-0002-S137

RULES, ELECTIONS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT and RESOLUTION relative to establishing the City's position on the U.S. Forest Service's proposed rescission of the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule (2001 Roadless Rule).

Recommendation for Council action, pursuant to Resolution (Lee – Park), SUBJECT TO THE CONCURRENCE OF THE MAYOR:

RESOLVE to include in the City's 2025-26 Federal Legislative Program OPPOSITION to the U.S. Forest Service proposed rule to rescind the 2001 Roadless Rule.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted by the Chief Legislative Analyst. The City Administrative Officer has not completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted

Summary:

On September 15, 2026, your Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee considered a September 2, 2026 Resolution (Lee – Park), relative to the U.S. Forest Service's proposed rescission of the 2001 Roadless Rule. According to the Resolution, a peer-reviewed 2026 study in Fire Ecology examined three decades of national forest wildfire records and 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. The U.S. 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. On August 18, 2026, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Forest Service published a proposed rule to rescind the 2001 Roadless Rule in its entirety, 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. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the Resolution. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

COUNCILMEMBER VOTE

HARRIS-DAWSON: YES

SOTO-MARTINEZ: YES

LEE: YES

RM

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-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-