

# Colorado Roadless Update

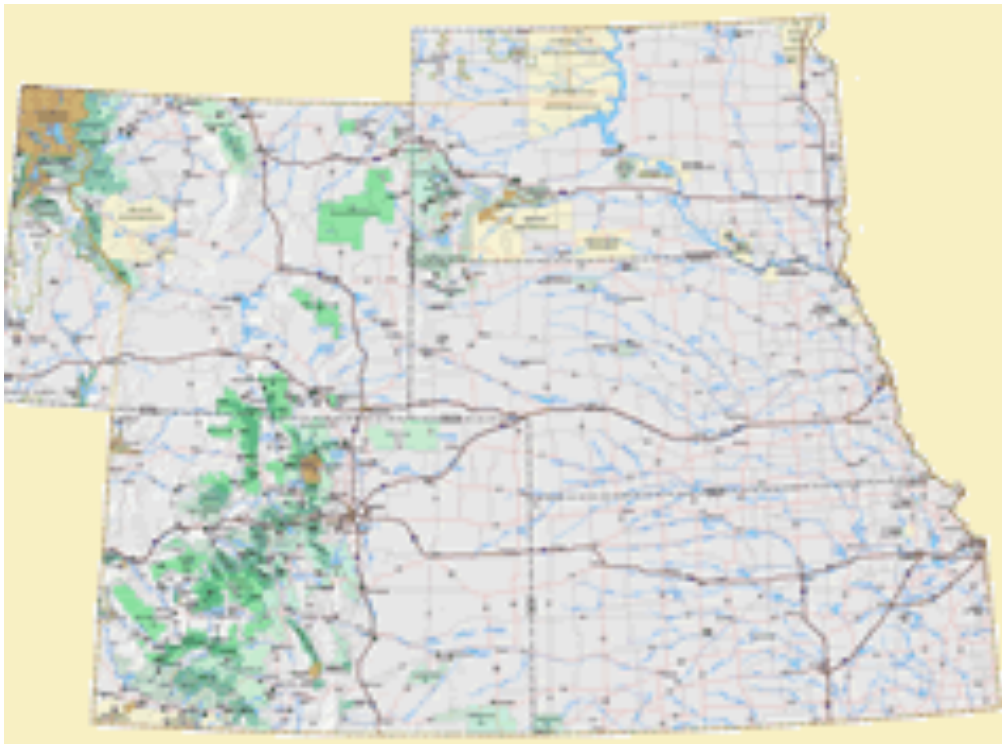


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Service

# The Rocky Mountain Region

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- ❑ US Department of Agriculture
- ❑ 17 National Forests and 7 National Grasslands
- ❑ Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas

# Presentation Road Map

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- A Brief History of the Roadless Rule
- Current Status
- Comparison of Task Force Recommendations, Proposed Rule, and Current Considerations
- Summary

# A Brief History

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## 2001 - 2003

- ❑ January, 2001 – Roadless Area Conservation Rule established (2001 Rule)
- ❑ May, 2001 – Idaho District Court enjoined Rule
- ❑ April, 2003 – 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit reversed Idaho decision, 2001 Rule reinstated
- ❑ July, 2003 – District Court of Wyoming (J. Brimmer) enjoined 2001 Rule

# A Brief History

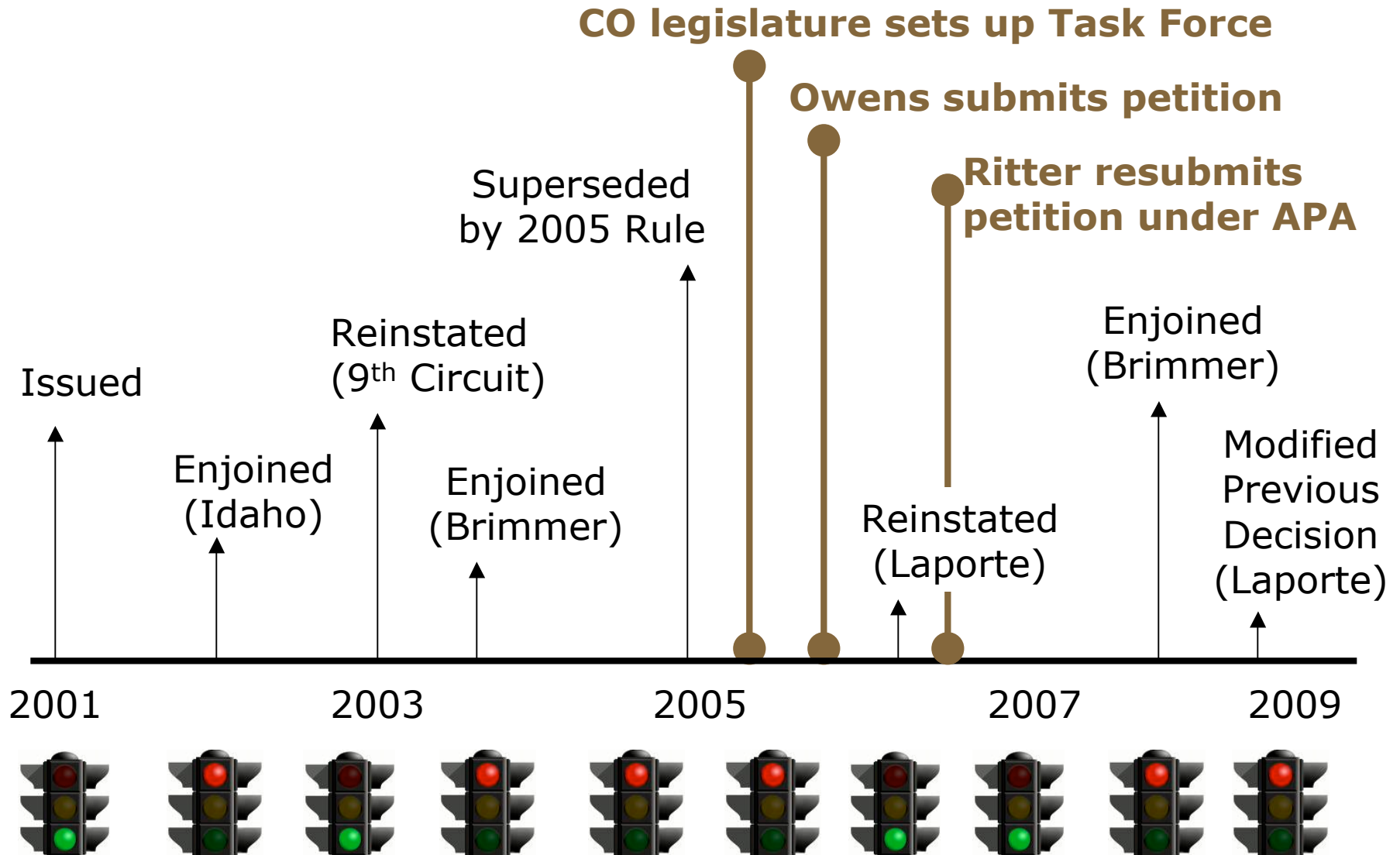
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## 2004 - 2008

- May, 2005 – USFS adopts 2005 State Petition Rule
- September, 2006 – Northern District of California (J. Laporte) enjoined State Petition Process, reinstates 2001.
- January, 2007 - District Court of Wyoming (J. Brimmer) enjoined 2001 Rule
- December, 2008 - Northern District of California (J. Laporte) modified ruling to only affect states in 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit and New Mexico.

# A Brief History: 2001 Rule





# Status of Colorado Roadless Rule

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- Currently: Working closely with Colorado Department of Natural Resources
  - Colorado Roadless Area Boundaries
  - Rule Language
- Next Step: Final EIS for the Colorado Roadless Rule
- Expected Completion: Summer 2009

# Task Force Recommendations and Proposed Rule (page 1 of 4)



<b>Issue</b>	<b>Task Force</b>	<b>Proposed Rule</b>	<b>Current Considerations</b>
Roadless Boundaries	Requests revisions to correct mapping errors	Same as Task Force	Additional updates based on DOW comments and public input
Coal	Temp roads for continuation, extension, or renewal of lease. North Fork Area removed from roadless areas	Same, but North Fork Area remains within roadless areas	Reflect development needs articulated by Task Force and protection of roadless areas

# Task Force Recommendations and Proposed Rule (page 2 of 4)



Issue	Task Force	Proposed Rule	Current Considerations
Oil and Gas leases	Temp roads for continuation, extension, and renewal of leases issued prior to	Same as Task Force	Explore additional ways to retain roadless characteristics while recognizing
Grazing	Final Rule Roads to access existing and future grazing allotments	Same as Task Force	Recognize public rights comments about concerns for grazing exceptions and needs of permit holders.

# Task Force Recommendations and Proposed Rule (page 3 of 4)



Issue	Task Force	Proposed Rule	Current Considerations
Utilities	Roads allowed for future utility and water conveyance	Same, but precludes new reservoirs	Considering existing and future needs for electrical lines and water conveyance structures.
Oil and Gas Pipelines	Allowed, but can't build roads	Similar, but pipelines precluded if source originates outside of roadless area	Protect roadless characteristics, but recognizes potential of greater environmental impacts beyond CRAs.

CRAs.

# Task Force Recommendations and Proposed Rule (page 4 of 4)



Issue	Task Force	Proposed Rule	Current Considerations
Community Protection: Reduce Risk of Wildfire	Temp roads for treatments in CWPP or HFRA	Same as Task Force	Retain options for community protection, while limiting activities to specific zones
Forest Insects and Disease	areas cutting for large scale insect and disease outbreaks	Same as Task Force	Clarify proposed rule; target isolated outbreaks with tactical responses

# Summary

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- The Colorado Roadless Rule: Progress?  
Or a Road to Nowhere?
  
- Update
  - 4.2 million acres in Colorado Roadless Areas
  - Strong working relationship with the State of Colorado – benefits beyond Roadless Rule
  - Colorado Roadless Rule – contemporary rule; provides opportunity to balance current needs with disciplined protection of roadless areas