

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 25, 2007

Help Protect Our Wild National Forests

COSPONSOR THE NATIONAL FOREST ROADLESS AREA CONSERVATION ACT

Dear Colleague:

We invite you to join us in a truly bi-partisan conservation measure by becoming an original cosponsor of the **National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Act of 2007**. This legislation will help to insure protection for wild areas of our National Forests and the vast wildlife, recreation and economic benefits they provide.

Roadless areas provide clean drinking water for over 60 million Americans; wildlife habitat for over 1,600 threatened, endangered or sensitive plant and animal species; endless recreational opportunities for millions of Americans, and other important ecological values. Additionally, protecting these roadless areas is fiscally responsible as it allows the Forest Service to address the estimated \$10 billion backlog in needed road maintenance instead of using taxpayer dollars to subsidize new roads. Under this balanced legislation, these pristine areas would be protected from most logging and road construction while allowing new roads in order to fight fires, maintain forest health and ensure public safety.

The fate of this country's last remaining wild forests is an issue of great importance for all Americans and has great ramifications for the nation's economy, scenery, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and quality of life. We urge you to join us and cosponsor the **National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Act of 2007** so we can protect these last remaining wild places for future generations to come.

To become an original cosponsor of this bill, or for more information, please contact Joel Merkel in Senator Cantwell's office at x 4-8286 or Tack Richardson in Senator Warner's office at x 4-5494. Deadline to become an original cosponsor is Friday, May 4, 2007.

Sincerely,



MARIA CANTWELL
United States Senator



JOHN WARNER
United States Senator