



**COALITION OF LARGE TRIBES**

Blackfeet Nation • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe • Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation • Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation of Oregon • Crow Creek Sioux Tribe • Crow Nation • Eastern Shoshone Tribe • Fort Belknap Indian Community • Hopi Tribe • Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation • Mescalero Apache Tribe • Muscogee (Creek) Nation • Navajo Nation Northern Arapaho Tribe • Northern Cheyenne Tribe • Rosebud Sioux Tribe • San Carlos Apache Tribe • Shoshone-Bannock Tribes • Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation • Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe • Spirit Lake Nation • Spokane Tribe Standing Rock Sioux Tribe • Ute Indian Tribe • Ute Mountain Ute Tribe • Walker River Paiute Tribe

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**Resolution: 12-10-2025 Resolution # 15-2025 (WR-Las Vegas)**

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE RESCISSION OF THE 2001 ROADLESS AREA CONSERVATION RULE AND REQUESTING AN EXTENSION OF THE TRIBAL COMMENT PERIOD FOR MEANINGFUL GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT) was formally established in early April 2011, and is comprised of Tribes with large land bases, including the Blackfeet Nation • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe • Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation • Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation of Oregon • Crow Creek Sioux Tribe • Crow Nation • Eastern Shoshone Tribe • Fort Belknap Indian Community • Hopi Tribe • Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation • Mescalero Apache Tribe • Muscogee (Creek) Nation • Navajo Nation Northern Arapaho Tribe • Northern Cheyenne Tribe • Rosebud Sioux Tribe • San Carlos Apache Tribe • Shoshone-Bannock Tribes • Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation • Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe • Spirit Lake Nation • Spokane Tribe Standing Rock Sioux Tribe • Ute Indian Tribe • Ute Mountain Ute Tribe • Walker River Paiute Tribe; and

**WHEREAS**, COLT was organized to provide a unified advocacy base on all issues affecting tribes that govern large trust bases and that strive to ensure the most beneficial use of those lands for tribes and individual Indian landowners. COLT tribes encompass more than 50 million acres of land across their reservations; and

**WHEREAS**, the sovereignty and self-determination secured for federally recognized tribes is disrespected by lack of meaningful government-to-government consultation by the U.S. Forest Service with the Department of Agriculture on the Roadless Area Conservation Rule recession and other federal actions; and

**WHEREAS**, COLT member tribes have stewarded the lands now encompassed by the U.S. Forest Service since time immemorial, maintaining these ecosystems through traditional ecological knowledge and management practices for thousands of years; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 29, 2025, the U.S. Department of Agriculture published a Notice of Intent to rescind the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule, which currently protects approximately 44.7 million acres of National Forest System lands from road construction and commercial logging; and



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**WHEREAS**, the proposed rescission was announced without prior consultation with tribal governments, violating the federal government's trust responsibility and Departmental Regulation 1350-002, which requires consultation "early in the process of developing the proposed regulation or policy"; and

**WHEREAS**, Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) within our ancestral territories encompass:

- Sacred sites essential to our spiritual and ceremonial practices
- Traditional cultural properties and cultural landscapes
- Subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering areas protected by treaty rights
- Watersheds providing clean water for our communities
- Habitat for culturally significant species
- Traditional use areas for medicinal plants and cultural materials
- Burial sites and areas of cultural patrimony; and

**WHEREAS**, COLT member tribes rely on innumerable plant species from these forests for food, medicine, ceremony, and traditional practices, knowledge passed down through generations; and

**WHEREAS**, the rescission of the Roadless Rule could result in:

- Irreparable harm to sacred sites and cultural resources
- Degradation of subsistence resources essential for food security
- Violation of Treaty-protected hunting, fishing, and gathering rights
- Increased wildfire risk from human-caused ignitions along new roads
- Loss of carbon sequestration capacity critical for climate resilience
- Contamination of water sources from road construction and logging
- Disruption of wildlife migration corridors and habitat connectivity; and



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**WHEREAS**, the federal government has binding legal obligations to tribes under:

- United States Constitution
- Federal trust doctrine
- Antiquities Act of 1906
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA)
- American Indian Freedom of Religion Act (AIFRA)
- The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
- The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
- The Tribal Forest Protection Act
- And many other federal statutes and policies

**WHEREAS**, the inadequate 21-day comment period for the Roadless Rule decision affecting millions of acres failed to provide meaningful opportunity for tribal input on matters directly affecting tribal sovereignty, treaty rights, and cultural survival; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department's assertion that rescission is needed for wildfire management contradicts scientific evidence showing that roadless areas have fewer fire ignitions and that roads increase fire risk through human-caused ignitions and invasive species spread; and

**WHEREAS**, economic analysis demonstrates that:

- The Forest Service faces an \$8.6 billion deferred maintenance backlog
- Timber sales in Roadless areas consistently operate at taxpayer expense
- Roadless areas provide annual benefits of \$500 million in recreation value
- Intact forests save communities millions in water treatment costs; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Roadless Rule rescission raises environmental justice concerns as it disproportionately impacts tribal citizens who depend on these lands for physical, cultural, and spiritual survival;



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**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the COALITION OF LARGE TRIBES (COLT):

1. OPPOSES the rescission of the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule and requests its continuation to protect our ancestral lands, Treaty rights, and cultural resources;
2. REQUESTS an extension of the tribal comment period to engage in immediate and meaningful government-to-government consultation consistent with the federal trust responsibility, including:
  - Face-to-face consultation sessions with decision-making officials
  - Full consideration and incorporation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge
  - Written responses addressing how tribal concerns will be addressed;
3. REQUIRES that any changes to roadless area management must:
  - Obtain free, prior, and informed consent from affected tribes
  - Include tribal co-management provisions
  - Protect all Treaty and subsistence rights
  - Preserve sacred sites and cultural resources
  - Maintain ecosystem integrity for future generations;
4. DIRECTS that copies of this resolution be transmitted to:
  - Secretary of Agriculture
  - Chief of the U.S. Forest Service; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of COLT until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.



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**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was enacted at meeting of the Coalition of Large Tribes held December 10, 2025 at which a quorum was present, with the resolution approved unanimously.

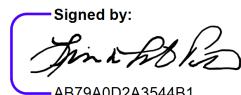
Dated this December 10, 2025.

Attest:

 Signed by:

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J. Garret Renville, Chairman, Coalition of Large Tribes

 Signed by:

AB79A0D2A3544B1...

Lisa White Pipe, Secretary / Treasurer, Coalition of Large Tribes