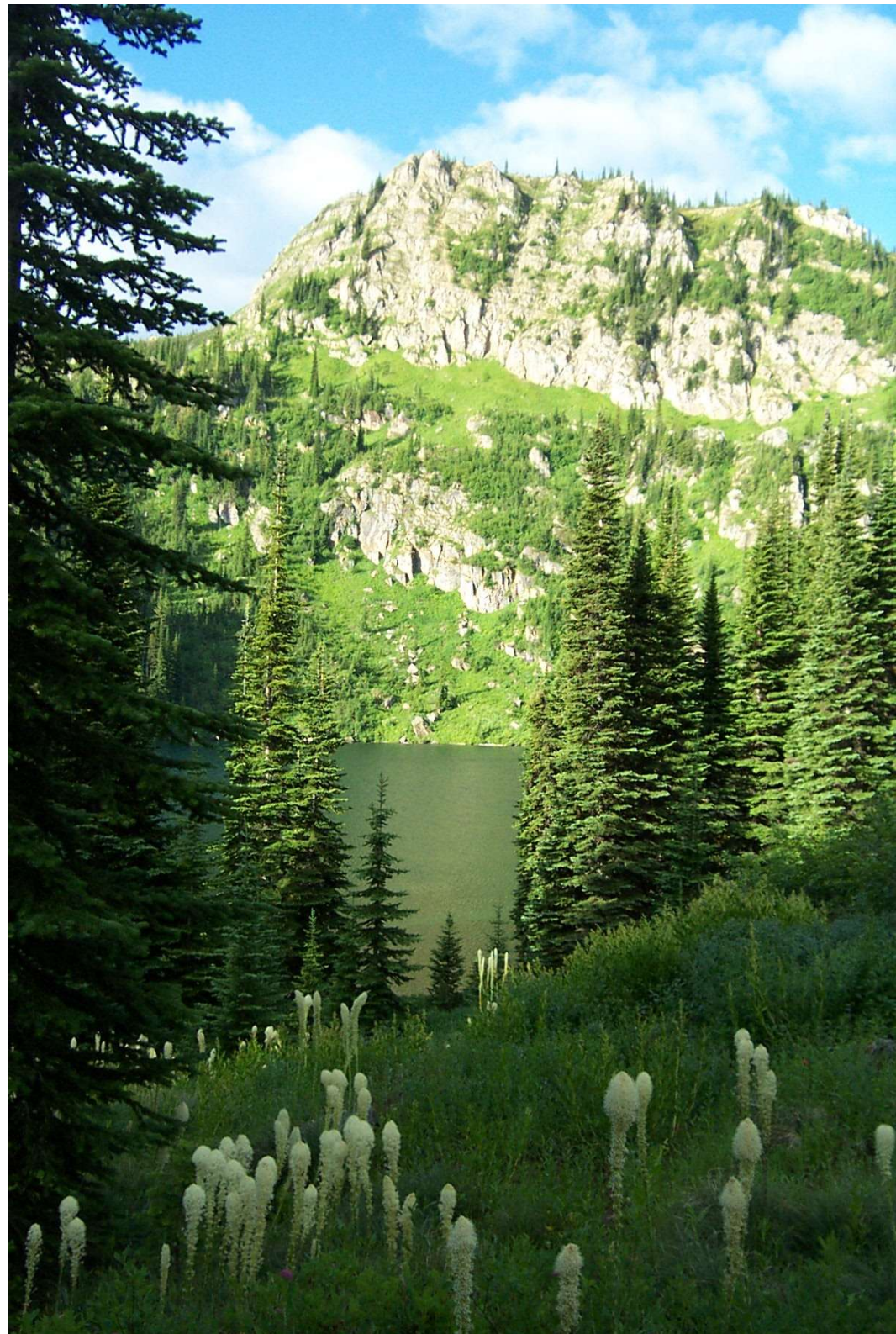


Roadless areas are not leftovers on a map. They ARE the last places where Americans can still experience quiet forests, clean water, abundant wildlife, and true backcountry travel.



What is the Roadless Rule?

The U.S. Forest Service is on the verge of making a devastating decision to remove the [Roadless Area Conservation Rule \(Roadless Rule\)](#), a bedrock policy safeguarding some of our last remaining natural, wild and intact landscapes in the United States. Enacted 25 years ago, the Roadless Rule protects roughly one-quarter of all national forests from road construction and large-scale industrial development. Exceptions can be made for fire protection or emergency situations. These protections have been instrumental in ensuring portions of the national forest system remain intact and continue to support natural ecosystems ensuring clean water, biodiversity and recreation.

- **What the Roadless Rule Actually Does**

- Adopted in 2001 after extensive public input.
- Protects 58.5 million acres of National Forest land.
- Limits new road construction and large-scale industrial development.
- Important Clarification
 - ✓ Does NOT create wilderness
 - ✓ Does NOT close access
 - ✓ Allows:
 - Hunting & fishing
 - Horse and stock use
 - Hiking & backpacking
 - Trail maintenance
 - Fire management
 - Recreation
 - Grazing
- **The rule protects land character — not restricts responsible use.**

Consequences of Repealing the Rule

IF REPEALED, EXPECT:

More road construction will result in:

- Habitat fragmentation.**
- Spread of invasive species.**
- Increased erosion.**
- Statistically, roads increase fire risk**
- Permanent loss of backcountry character.**
- Higher long-term management costs.**

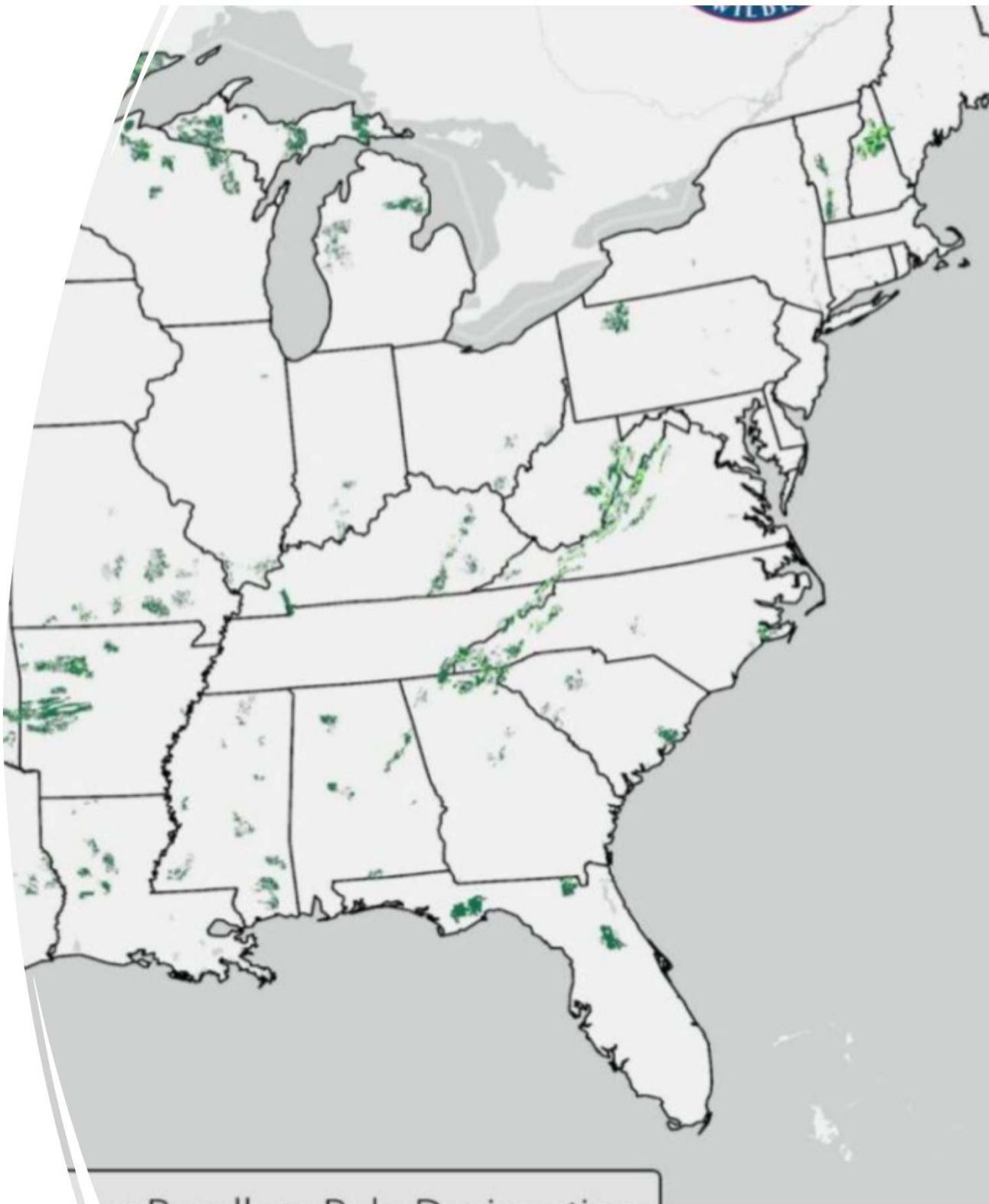
Without roadless conservation protections



With roadless conservation protections

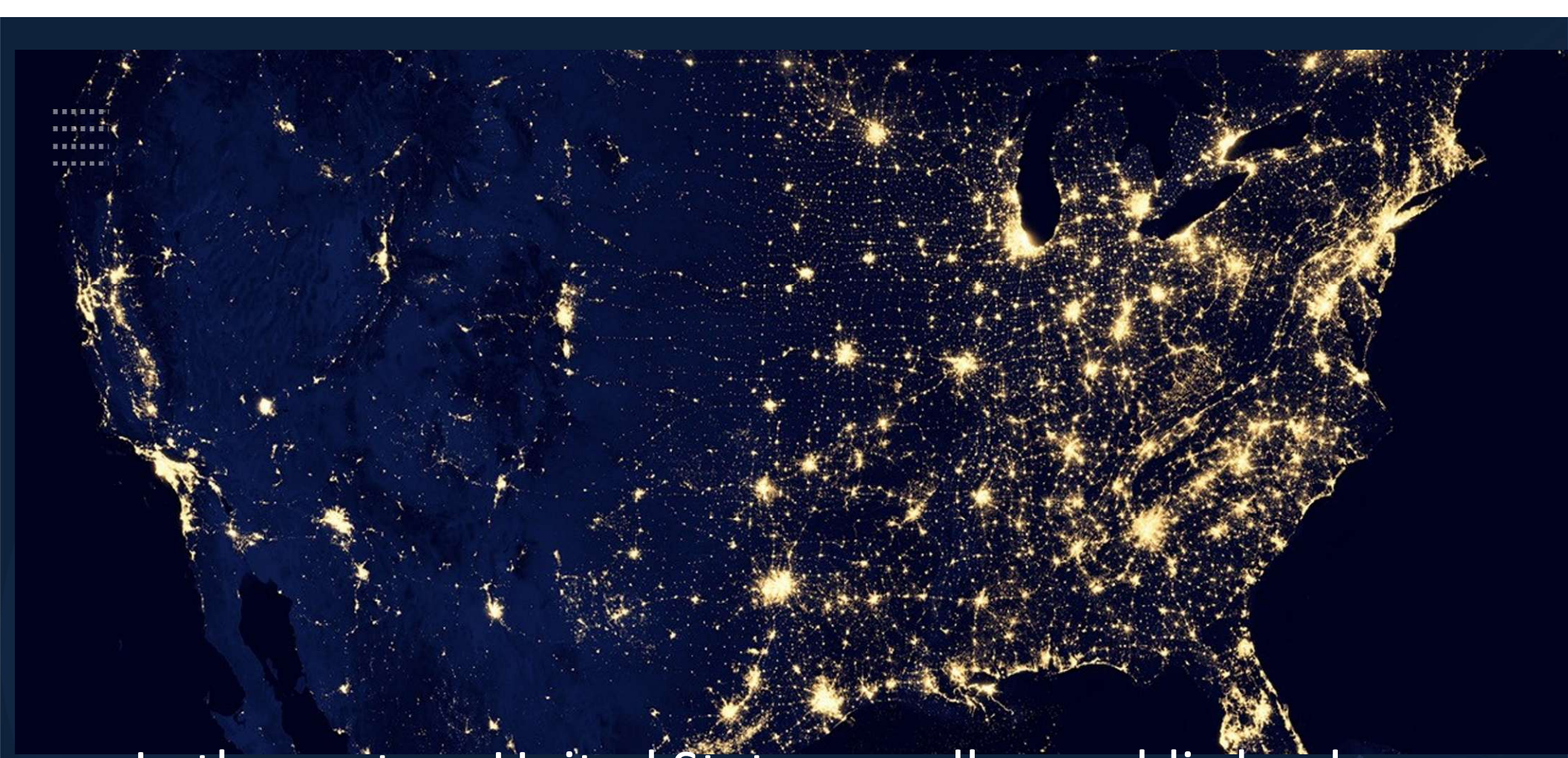


-
- **IN THE EASTERN STATES, ROADLESS AREAS ARE SMALLER, RANGING IN SIZE FROM 5000 TO 100,000+ ACRES.**





- **BECAUSE THEY ARE RARE AND FRAGMENTED IT MAKES THEM EVEN MORE CRITICAL AND IMPORTANT!**



- In the eastern United States, roadless public lands are not vast—they are rare, hard-won, and irreplaceable. These landscapes survived waves of clearing, logging, mining, and development that followed the era of Manifest Destiny. What remains today are the last quiet backcountry strongholds in a region where nearly every acre has felt the mark of human use.

The White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire and Maine is nearly 800,000 acres in size, containing about 148,000 acres of designated wilderness and approximately 368,000 acres of inventoried roadless areas.



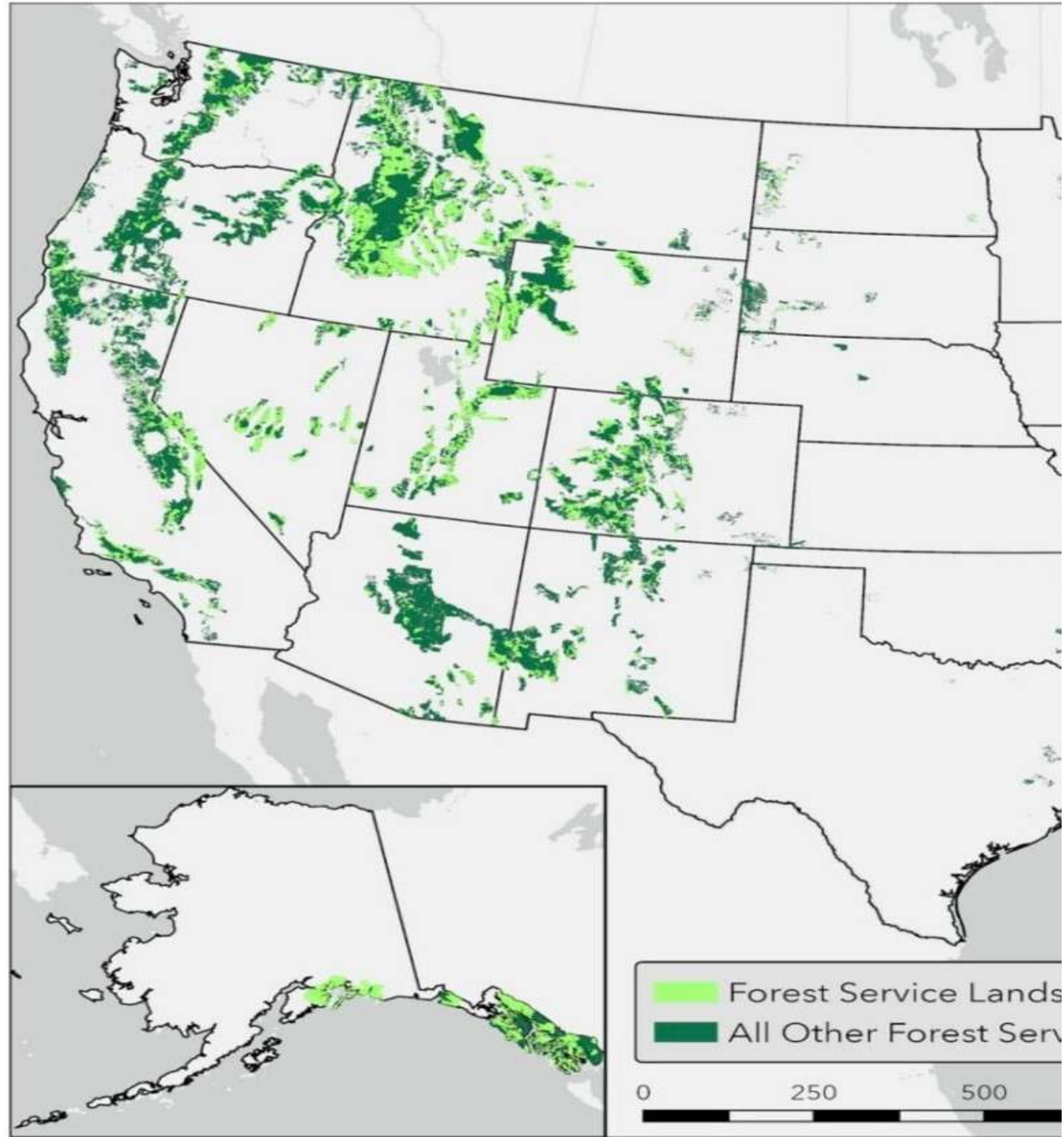


[ENVIRONMENT](#)

Federal rollback of Roadless Rule could imperil some of North Carolina's last wild lands, experts say



95% OF
INVENTORIED
ROADLESS LANDS
ARE IN THE
WESTERN UNITED
STATES



Idaho: A State-Specific Roadless Rule

Idaho, which ranks second only to Alaska in acres designated as inventoried roadless areas, was the first state to develop its own alternative to the 2001 federal Roadless Rule. Then-Governor (now Senator) Jim Risch initiated the process in 2006, and the Idaho Roadless Rule was finalized in 2008. It now safeguards approximately 9.3 million acres of roadless lands under a state-specific management framework.

COLORADO: A

IN 2012, AFTER YEARS OF BIPARTISAN COLLABORATION AND PUBLIC INPUT, COLORADO ADOPTED ITS OWN ROADLESS RULE TO PROTECT ITS ROUGHLY 4.2 MILLION ACRES OF INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREAS. LIKE IDAHO'S, COLORADO'S RULE REMAINS IN EFFECT AND INSULATED FROM RESCISSION OF THE FEDERAL ROADLESS RULE. FOLLOWING SECRETARY ROLLINS' ANNOUNCEMENT, GOVERNOR JARED POLIS REAFFIRMED THAT THE STATE'S PROTECTIONS WOULD STAY INTACT—SETTING A STRONG EXAMPLE OF HOW STATE-LEVEL POLICYMAKING CAN SERVE AS A BUFFER IN TIMES OF FEDERAL POLICY SHIFTS.

State	IRA Acres	State	IRA Acres
Alaska	14,779,000	West Virginia	182,000
California	4,416,000	South Carolina	8,000
Colorado	4,433,000	Tennessee	85,000
Idaho	9,322,000	Kentucky	3,000
Montana	6,397,000	Georgia	63,000
Nevada	3,186,000	Minnesota	62,000
Wyoming	3,257,000	Indiana	8,000
Washington	2,015,000		
New Mexico	1,597,000		
Arizona	1,174,000		
Virginia	394,000		
New Hampshire	235,000		
North Carolina	172,000		
Vermont	25,000		
Michigan	16,000		
Minnesota	62,000		
Arkansas	95,000		
Alabama	13,000		
Louisiana	7,000		
Maine	6,000		
Mississippi	3,000		

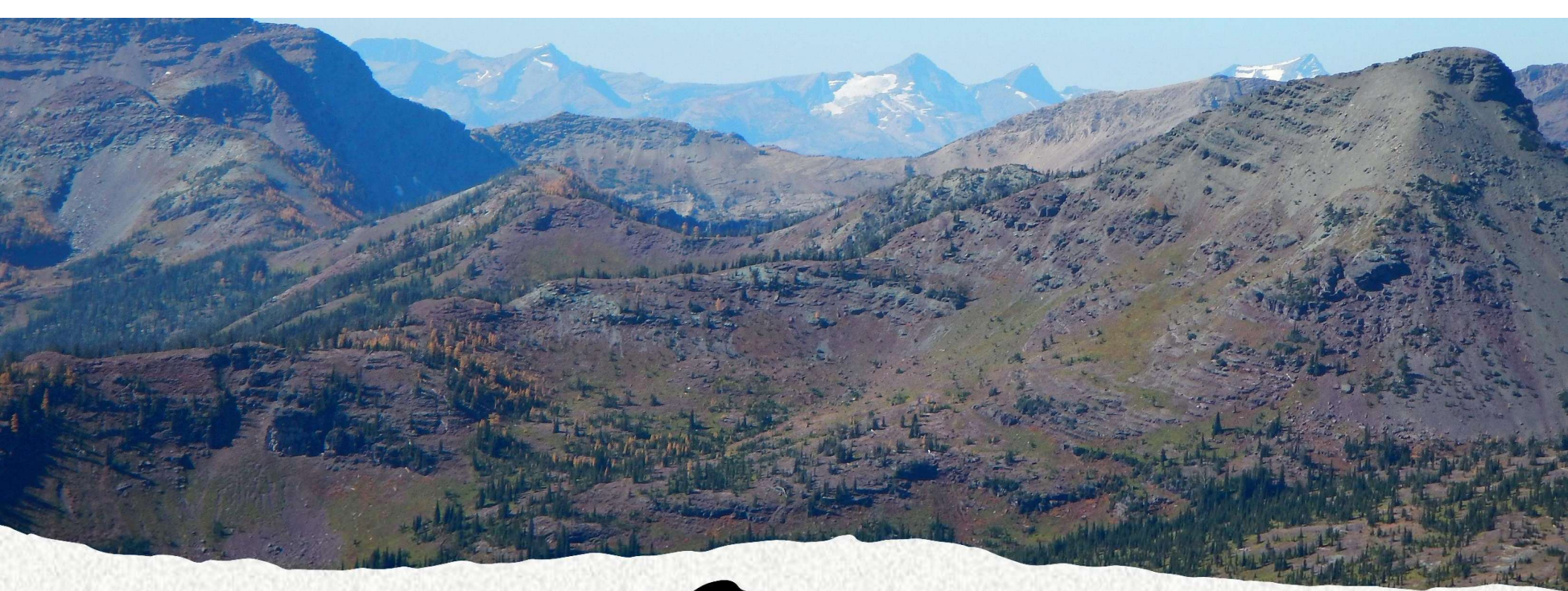
MONTANA

NBC
MONTANA

**DEBATE GROWS OVER
ROADLESS RULE REPEAL**

CURRENT CHALLENGE'S WORKING WITH FEDERAL LAND AGENCIES ON PUBLIC LANDS ISSUES

- In the NBC News segment, they reached out to FS, but was referred to USDA in D.C. USDA PROVIDED THE RESPONSE
- They say local control but then don't allow local FS to comment.
- **IDAHO & MONTANA CONVENTION EXAMPLES**
- Don't be offended (currently) if your local USFS or BLM seems, distant or detached. They are basically under a gag order, and their working environment is changing by the minute. They are not being told what is going on within their agency. Just trying to do their jobs.
- Continue to reach out to your local FS or BLM District and Forest. Build a relationship with your local Forest Supervisor, Area Manager, District Ranger and Recreation Manager.
- It's a difficult time, but as partners, we need to stay engaged and supportive.



Public lands are not disposable assets—they are irreplaceable. Sell them, fragment them, or open them to unchecked development, and they are lost forever. We must stand now to keep them public, wild, and accessible.

It's easy to forget how short our memory really is. The great surge of westward expansion—driven by ideas like Manifest Destiny—reached its height only about 174 years ago. That's barely more than a human lifetime or two.



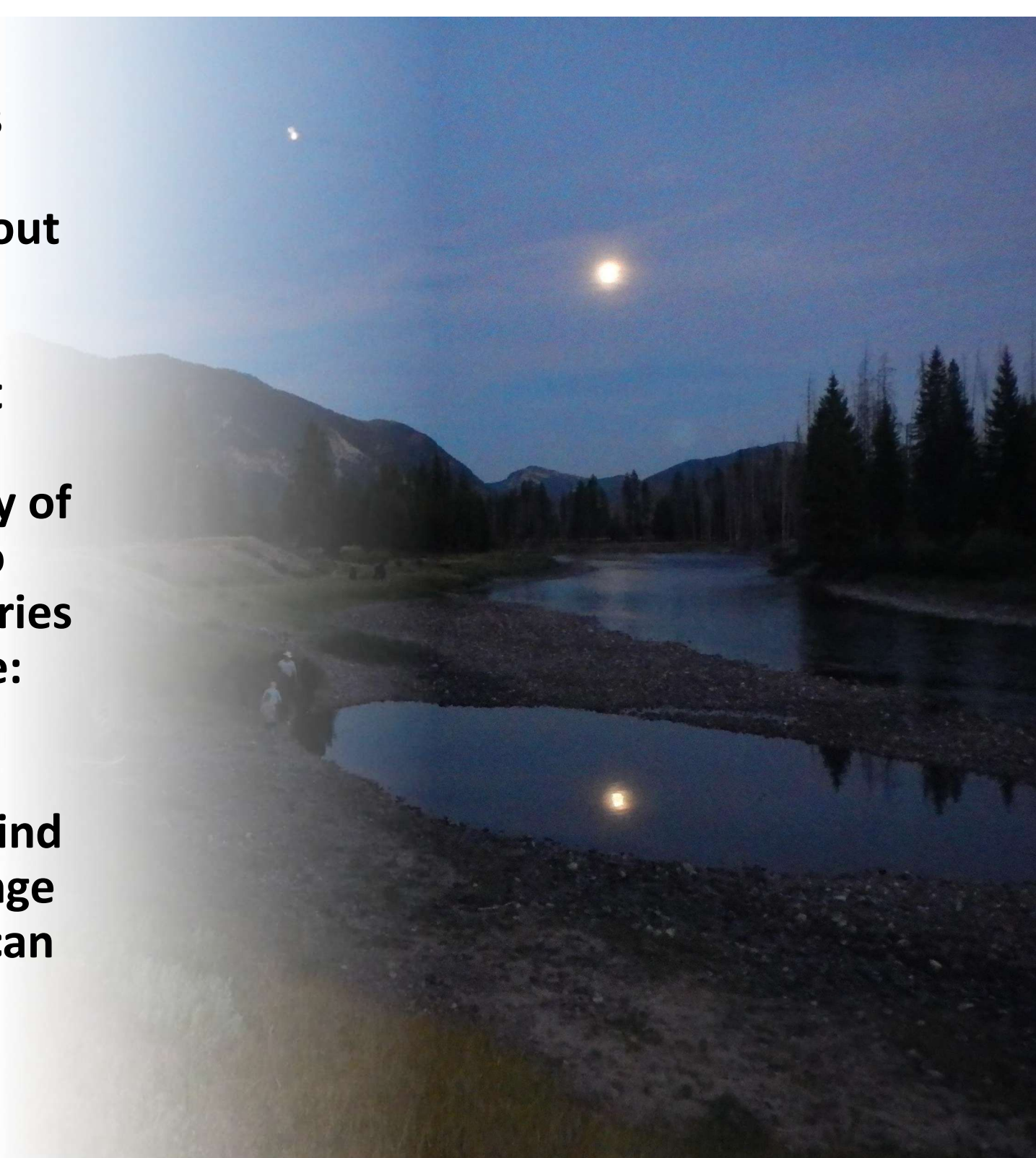
**In that brief span,
we've transformed
vast, wild
landscapes into
farms, cities,
roads, and
industry. What
remains of our
public lands is not
the excess—it's
the remnant.**





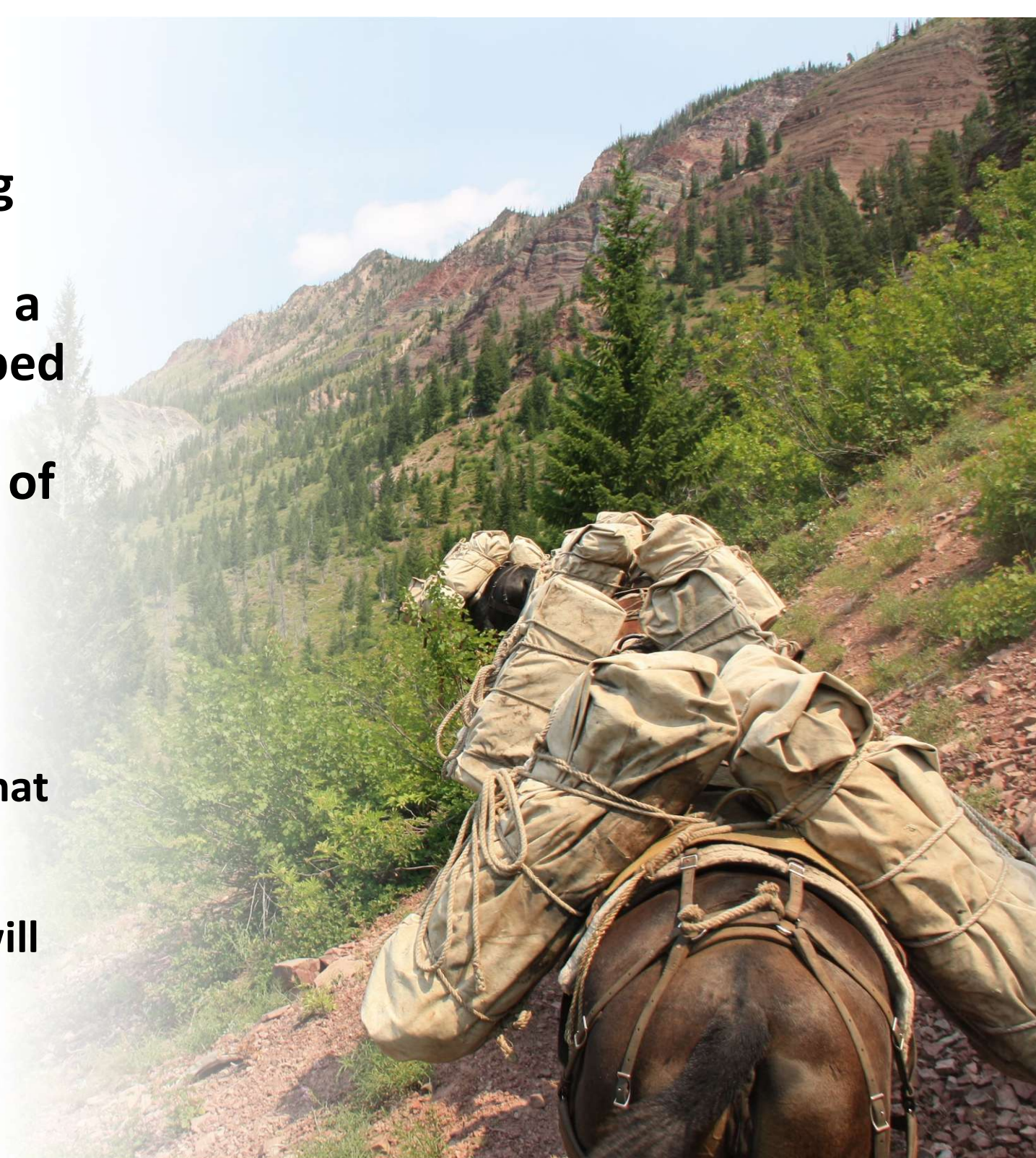
These lands are the last living connection to what the American West once was: unbroken, self-sustaining, and free. Once they're fragmented or lost, they don't come back in any meaningful sense. You can't recreate natural landscapes with policy, and you can't rebuild the deep ecological systems that took thousands of years to form.

Protecting these remaining public lands isn't about locking something up—it's about recognizing that we've already taken almost everything else. In just 174 years, we've consumed the majority of what took millennia to evolve. What's left carries disproportionate value: for wildlife, for clean water, for cultural heritage, and for the kind of solitude and challenge that define the American experience.



If we fail to protect these last places, we're not just losing land—we're closing the final chapter on a landscape that shaped a nation, and we're doing it in the blink of a historical eye.

- **In short:
We are not deciding what to do with abundant land—we are deciding whether the last of it will endure.**





THANK YOU

