

CITY OF OJAI

RESOLUTION NO. 25-34

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF OJAI, CALIFORNIA
IN SUPPORT OF THE ROADLESS AREA
CONSERVATION RULE, H.R. 3930, AND S. 2042 AND IN
OPPOSITION TO THE USDA'S 2025 RESCISSION OF THE
ROADLESS RULE**

WHEREAS, the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) protected approximately 58.5 million acres of undeveloped national forest lands from road construction and logging, preserving critical ecosystems, clean water sources, carbon sinks, and recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, on June 23, 2025, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Rollins rescinded the Roadless Rule, citing forest management flexibility, thereby removing longstanding protections from these lands; and

WHEREAS, the USDA has opened a public comment period on this rescission, which ends September 19, 2025, providing an opportunity for local governments and residents to express their views on the future of public lands; and

WHEREAS, Representative Salud Carbajal has reintroduced H.R. 3930, the Roadless Area Conservation Act of 2023, which would codify the Roadless Rule into federal law and permanently protect roadless areas, including those in the Los Padres and Carrizo Plain wilderness areas near our community; and

WHEREAS, Senator Maria Cantwell introduced companion bill S. 2042, the Roadless Area Conservation Act of 2025, provide lasting legal protection for inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System by codifying the Roadless Rule into law; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ojai recognizes the environmental, recreational, and economic value of nearby roadless areas and supports legislative efforts to ensure their long-term protection; and

WHEREAS, the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) and the protection of Roadless areas of the Los Padres Forest promotes the health safety welfare and quality of life of City of Ojai residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ojai is located in a high fire risk zone, and the elimination of the Roadless Rule increases the risk of a human caused wildfire igniting in the National Forest and thereafter being driven by wind into the City of Ojai. The existing Roadless Rule already allows for fire management projects, including fuel reduction, when they are consistent with restoring natural conditions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ojai is dependent upon Lake Casitas and the Ojai Groundwater Basin as the nearly exclusive source of drinking water for the City of Ojai and elimination of the Roadless Rule increases the risk of contamination of the watershed and water supply; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ojai is subject to periodic flooding and drought, and elimination of the Roadless Rule reduces the stability of intact ecosystems, the stability of waterflow throughout the year, increases turbidity during floods and reduces reliability of water availability during dry periods; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ojai benefits economically from tourism and tourists are attracted to Ojai in part due to activities including but not limited to biking, hunting, fishing, hiking, and backpacking in the Los Padres National Forest. Restricting development in the National Forest protects the wild character that attracts visitors to the City of Ojai and supports both tourism and local jobs in the recreation industry; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ojai is surrounded by wildlife that is a benefit to the community and its economy. The Roadless Rule protects wildlife corridors. By keeping large tracts of land unfragmented, the Roadless Rule protects habitat for threatened and endangered species. This supports biodiversity and helps maintain intact ecosystems, which benefits the residents of the City of Ojai; and

WHEREAS, the Ojai Valley is experiencing a gradual increase in temperatures and a gradual decrease in rainfall to an extent greater than the rest of the continental United States. The changes in the climate are a threat to the health, safety, and well-being of Ojai residents. The Los Padres National Forest is host to mature and old-growth ecosystems which include mixed conifer forests, oak woodlands, and pinyon-juniper woodlands, with large conifer stands found at higher elevations such as Pine Mountain and the Ventana Wilderness. These mature ecosystems are carbon sinks which help to mitigate climate change.

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OJAI, CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AND ORDER, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council **opposes** the USDA's 2025 rescission of the Roadless Rule and urges the Administration to reinstate protections for roadless areas.

Section 2. The City Council **supports** H.R. 3930 and S. 2042 and commends Representative Salud Carbajal and Senator Maria Cantwell for their leadership in advancing permanent protections for America's remaining wild forest lands.

Section 3. The City Council encourages residents and stakeholders to participate in the USDA's public comment period to oppose the 2001 Roadless Rule Recission at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov), Docket ID FS-2025-0001 by the September 19, 2025 deadline.

Section 4. The City Clerk is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to the offices of Representative Salud Carbajal, Senators Cantwell and Gallego, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 16th day of September 2025, by the following vote:

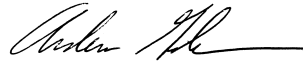
AYES: Gilman, Lang, Whitman, Mang

NOES:

ABSENT: Rule

ABSTAIN:

CITY OF OJAI, CALIFORNIA



Andy Gilman, Mayor

09-16-2025


Date

ATTEST:



Weston Montgomery, Chief Deputy City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Matthew Summers, City Attorney

I, Weston Montgomery, Chief Deputy City Clerk of the City of Ojai, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, City of Ojai Resolution No. 25-34, was passed and adopted by the Ojai City Council at its regular meeting on September 16, 2025.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of Ojai on September 16, 2025.



Weston Montgomery, Chief Deputy City Clerk

