

RARE and RARE II

In: The Environmental and Public Participation Era, 1970-1993

As the Wilderness Act of 1964 provided, the draft Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE) report was completed in 1972. This controversial wilderness review process evaluated some 55.9 million acres of land and 1,449 roadless areas for possible inclusion into the National Wilderness Preservation System. The final report was published in 1973, with 274 of the roadless areas (12.3 million acres) selected for possible wilderness designation by Congress. The decision became immediately embroiled in controversy. A lawsuit in California over a roadless area that had not been selected resulted in the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture and the Chief of the Forest Service ordering a new study of all roadless areas, called RARE II, in 1977.

#####