



Summary of Road Information for Montana's National Forest System

HJ13 Study – Environmental Quality Council

Introduction

The national forests in Montana expect to maintain an appropriately sized and environmentally sustainable road system that is responsive to ecological, economic, and social concerns, according to Region 1. The national forest road system of the future is expected to continue to provide needed access for recreation and resource management, as well as support watershed restoration and resource protection to sustain healthy ecosystems.

The data in this paper were provided by Region 1 of the Forest Service.

Maintenance Levels and Total Miles

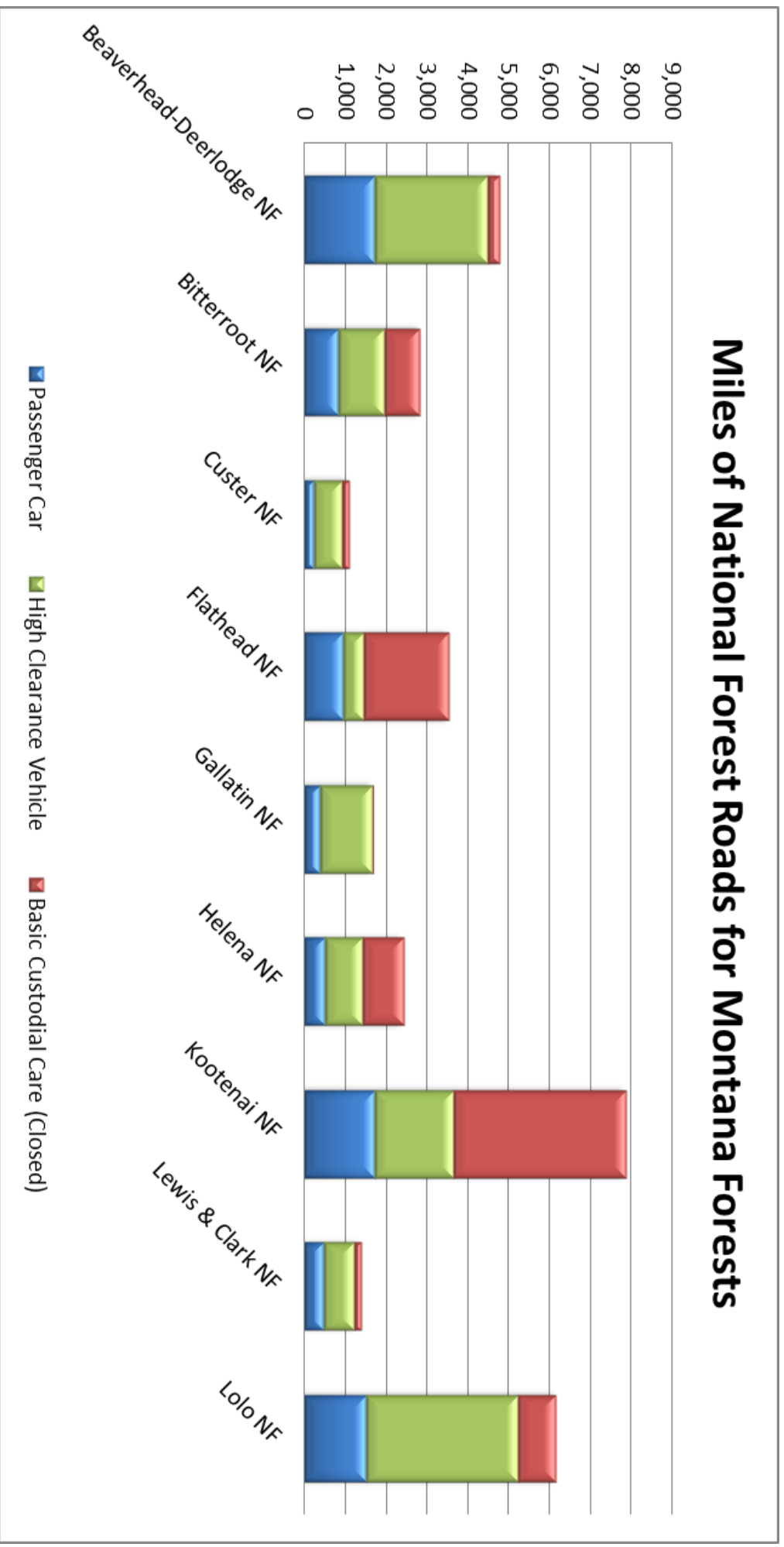
National Forest System Roads (NFSRs) are roads under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service. Roads maintained by other entities, such as counties, may be part of the overall transportation system of a forest, but are not considered forest system roads. It is important to note that roads created by users are not included on a motor vehicle use map are not maintained by the Forest Service and are not assigned a maintenance level.

Roads are maintained for their intended use. Many roads were initially built for timber harvesting purposes. In general, the Forest Service describes maintenance levels as follows:

- ML 1. These are roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses. The period of storage must exceed 1 year. Basic custodial maintenance is performed to prevent damage to adjacent resources and to perpetuate the road for future resource management needs. Emphasis is normally given to maintaining drainage facilities and runoff patterns. Planned road deterioration may occur at this level. Roads managed at this maintenance level are described as being in basic custodial care.
- ML 2. These are roads open for use by high clearance vehicles. Passenger car traffic, user comfort, and user convenience are not considerations. Warning signs and traffic control devices are generally not provided. Motorists should have no expectations of being alerted to potential hazards while driving these roads. Traffic is normally minor, usually consisting of one or more of a combination of administrative, permitted, dispersed recreation, or other specialized uses. Roads managed at this ML are designed and/or maintained for high clearance vehicles.
- ML 3. These are roads open and maintained for travel by a prudent driver in a standard passenger car. User comfort and convenience are not considered priorities. Roads in this ML are typically used at low speeds and have single lanes and turnouts.
- ML 4. These are roads that provide a moderate degree of user comfort and convenience at moderate travel speeds. Most roads are double lane and aggregate surfaced. However, some roads may be single lane. Some roads may be paved and/or dust abated.

- ML 5. These are roads that provide a high level of user comfort and convenience. The roads are normally double lane and paved. Some roads may be aggregate surfaced and dust abated.

Miles of National Forest Roads for Montana Forests



Miles of National Forest Roads in Region 1 by Forest	Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF	Bitterroot NF	Custer NF	Flathead NF	Gallatin NF	Helena NF	Kootenai NF	Lewis & Clark NF	Lolo NF	Total Miles
Basic Custodial Care (Closed)	295	863	178	2,089	6	1,018	4,225	178	931	9,784
High Clearance Vehicle	2,758	1,121	709	506	1,289	906	1,944	746	3,709	13,688
Passenger Car	1,728	849	226	962	376	511	1,714	468	1,526	8,360
Total Miles	4,782	2,833	1,113	3,557	1,671	2,435	7,883	1,391	6,167	31,831

Region 1 - Montana Forests – Thru FY 2014

Miles of National Forest Roads in Region 1 by County	Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF	Bitterroot NF	Custer NF	Flathead NF	Gallatin NF	Helena NF	Kootenai NF	Lewis & Clark NF	Lolo NF	Total
MT - BEAVERHEAD	1,754	1								1,756
MT - BIG HORN			2							2
MT - BROADWATER					507					507
MT - CARBON			234							234
MT - CARTER			232							232
MT - CASCADE							163	163		163
MT - CHOUTEAU							6	6		6
MT - DEER LODGE	366									366
MT - FERGUS							75	75		75
MT - FLATHEAD				2,500			242	0	103	2,846
MT - GALLATIN					992					992
MT - GLACIER							8	8		8
MT - GOLDEN VALLEY							14	14		14
MT - GRANITE	807	1							249	1,056
MT - JEFFERSON	618				186					803
MT - JUDITH BASIN							293	293		293
MT - LAKE				509					5	514
MT - LEWIS AND CLARK	0				924			64		988
MT - LINCOLN				45			6,686			6,731
MT - MADISON	607				27			0		633
MT - MEAGHER					39		249	641		929
MT - MINERAL									2,080	2,080
MT - MISSOULA		18		504					1,975	2,496
MT - PARK			4		480					484
MT - PONDERA							12	12		12
MT - POWDER RIVER			325							325
MT - POWELL	200				569				204	972
MT - RAVALLI	17	2,739							6	2,762
MT - ROSEBUD			78							78
MT - SANDERS							878		1,545	2,423
MT - SILVER BOW	413									413
MT - STILLWATER			76		3					79
MT - SWEET GRASS			30		130			5		165
MT - TETON							44	44		44
MT - WHEATLAND							67	67		67

Unauthorized Roads

There exist in the forest roads that were primarily created by repeated use, but were never built or maintained to a standard. In 2005, the forests were required to designate roads open to motorized use. Some forests have a partial inventory of unauthorized roads, but the actual number is not known.

Forest	Documented Unauthorized Miles
Beaverhead-Deerlodge	2,168
Bitterroot	327
Custer	9
Flathead	12
Gallatin	1
Helena	166
Kootenai	548
Lewis & Clark	36
Lolo	2,924
Total Documented Unauthorized Miles	6,191

Road Decommissioning History By Forest

In general, roads are decommissioned because they are no longer of use or pose an environmental threat. Roads were being decommissioned in the early 1990s and before, but the Forest Service does not have adequate records to document the activity. Decommissioning may range from blocking the entrance, revegetating, or full obliteration by recontouring slopes.¹

Beaverhead Deerlodge²

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Roads Decommissioned (miles)	21.0	14.0	4.6	0	39.0	12.0	29.0	3.0	3.0	10.4
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	3.5	0	2.5	3.0	5.0	216.0	15.1	2.0	2.0	6.0

¹ [National Forest Road System and Use](#), 1998.

² Roads Accomplishment Reports, 1995 to 2013. Performance Accounting System 2014.

Bitterroot

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Roads Decommissioned (miles)	119.1	0	4.5	11.8	23.2	22.0	0.0	0.0	7.3	12.8
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	0.4	3.1	6.0	12.9	5.2	12.0	16.3	19.0	23.0	22.5

Custer

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Roads Decommissioned (miles)	24.8	3.1	0	7.0	24.0	15.6	8.0	8.0	3.0	1.1
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	107.3	0.0	3.0	4.6	4.8	4.0	3.0	68.1	66.2	0

Flathead

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Roads Decommissioned (miles)	45.1	62.8	27.8	19.0	76.2	74.0	1.0	53.0	10.0	50.6
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	16.3	35.0	61.1	66.6	98.8	136.0	27.0	21.3	6.7	30.4

Gallatin

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Roads Decommissioned (miles)	70.4	22.0	12.5	10.2	62.5	32.5	30.0	31.0	4.0	2.7
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	10.8	19.6	27.0	36.0	119.5	185.6	122.5	54.0	57.7	65.1

Helena

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Roads Decommissioned (miles)	8.0	6.0	20.0	20.0	30.1	5.5	4.0	0	2.0	3.0
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	14.3	28.0	26.6	44.5	35.8	40.3	39.0	60.2	61.0	55.0

Kootenai

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Roads Decommissioned (miles)	74.9	20.4	6.9	121.0	35.9	43.0	57.0	18.1	46.8	41.8
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	36.9	23.3	32.2	45.7	17.0	59.9	8.6	67.4	11.0	12.0

Lewis & Clark

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Roads Decommissioned (miles)	0	0	0	0	7.9	0	24.6	0	4.4	3.1
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	0.5	2.4	2.4	22.6	44.2	131.0	79.0	220.7	85.5	95.0

Lolo

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Roads Decommissioned (miles)	62.7	41.6	40.7	58.0	76.5	50.5	39.3	-	8.0	64.8
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	107.3	15.9	36.8	123.1	69.0	17.8	20.6	68.3	77.4	29.6

Road Funding

Funding for forest roads comes from three main sources, including:

- Money appropriated annually for the Construction and Maintenance of Roads. (CMRD);
- Timber and stewardship sales;
- Other funding including Legacy Roads and Trails, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and Rural Area County funds.

*** Data exists, but is not currently available.

Beaverhead Deerlodge

Fund Type	Year				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
CMRD Roads Appropriation (\$)	1,788,000	876,500	957,500	1,082,400	885,800
Timber/Stewardship Sales Total (\$)	***	***	***	***	***
Other Roads Funding Total (\$)	1,895,000	167,000	9,000	0	0
Total Road-Related Funding (\$)	***	***	***	***	***

Bitterroot

Fund Type	Year				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
CMRD Roads Appropriation (\$)	871,000	452,000	413,500	440,800	648,300
Timber/Stewardship Sales Total (\$)	***	***	***	***	***
Other Roads Funding Total (\$)	566,000	283,000	3,000	0	0
Total Road-Related Funding (\$)	***	***	***	***	***

Custer

Fund Type	Year				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
CMRD Roads Appropriation (\$)	933,000	359,500	340,500	355,800	N/A
Timber/Stewardship Sales Total (\$)	***	***	***	***	N/A
Other Roads Funding Total (\$)	1,602,000	314,000	14,400	0	N/A
Total Road-Related Funding (\$)	***	***	***	***	N/A

Flathead

Fund Type	Year				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
CMRD Roads Appropriation (\$)	1,900,000	1,540,000	1,357,000	1,489,000	859,000
Timber/Stewardship Sales Total (\$)	1,104,000	387,000	484,000	323,000	402,000
Other Roads Funding Total (\$)	2,718,000	12,301,000	1,383,000	889,000	902,000
Total Road-Related Funding (\$)	5,722,000	14,228,000	3,224,000	2,701,000	2,163,000

Gallatin

Fund Type	Year				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
CMRD Roads Appropriation (\$)	906,000	1,056,500	693,500	766,800	932,300
Timber/Stewardship Sales Total (\$)	***	***	***	***	***
Other Roads Funding Total (\$)	1,748,000	516,000	847,000	140,000	0
Total Road-Related Funding (\$)	***	***	***	***	***

Helena

Fund Type	Year				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
CMRD Roads Appropriation (\$)	1,196,000	658,500	566,500	557,600	454,800
Timber/Stewardship Sales Total (\$)	***	***	***	***	***
Other Roads Funding Total (\$)	1,126,000	185,000	9,700	0	0
Total Road-Related Funding (\$)	***	***	***	***	***

Kootenai

Fund Type	Year				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
CMRD Roads Appropriation (\$)	2,071,000	1,420,000	1,385,000	1,339,000	1,166,000
Timber/Stewardship Sales Total (\$)	995,000	527,000	823,000	384,000	601,000
Other Roads Funding Total (\$)	5,528,000	202,000	422,000	418,000	561,000
Total Road-Related Funding (\$)	8,594,000	2,149,000	2,630,000	2,141,000	2,328,000

Lewis & Clark

Fund Type	Year				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
CMRD Roads Appropriation (\$)	1,359,000	755,500	447,700	375,400	483,600
Timber/Stewardship Sales Total (\$)	***	***	***	***	***
Other Roads Funding Total (\$)	877,000	352,000	19,600	0	0
Total Road-Related Funding (\$)	***	***	***	***	***

Lolo

Fund Type	Year				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
CMRD Roads Appropriation (\$)	\$1,393,000	\$1,092,000	\$998,000	\$1,090,400	\$742,900
Timber/Stewardship Sales Total (\$)	\$39,000	\$55,600	\$46,900	\$306,300	\$106,500
Other Roads Funding Total (\$)	\$6,401,000	\$2,165,800	\$954,400	\$1,208,200	\$1,853,800
Total Road-Related Funding (\$)	\$7,833,300	\$3,313,400	\$1,999,300	\$2,604,900	\$2,703,200

Road Maintenance**Beaverhead Deerlodge**

Year	NFSR Receiving Maintenance (miles)	Passenger Car System Receiving Maintenance (%)	Non-Passenger Car System Receiving Maintenance (%)
2014	995	50% - 863 mi	2% - 132 mi
2013	1218	59% - 1018 mi	3% - 200 mi
2012	1231	62% - 1069 mi	3% - 162 mi
2011	1336	57% - 986 mi	6% - 349 mi
2010	2026	95% - 1649 mi	6% - 377 mi

Bitterroot

Year	NFSR Receiving Maintenance (miles)	Passenger Car System Receiving Maintenance (%)	Non-Passenger Car System Receiving Maintenance (%)
2014	258	22% - 189 mi	6% - 70 mi
2013	449	43% - 369 mi	7% - 80 mi
2012	527	49% - 418 mi	10% - 109 mi
2011	538	45% - 386 mi	14% - 152 mi
2010	936	85% - 731 mi	18% - 205 mi

Custer NF for the last 5 years. (Combined with Gallatin NF in 2014.)

Year	NFSR Receiving Maintenance (miles)	Passenger Car System Receiving Maintenance (%)	Non-Passenger Car System Receiving Maintenance (%)
2014	n/a	n/a	n/a
2013	226.1	64% - 145 mi	9% - 81 mi
2012	245.0	62% - 140 mi	12% - 104 mi
2011	207.9	64% - 145 mi	7% - 63 mi
2010	316.4	100% - 257 mi	7% - 59 mi

Flathead NF

Year	NFSR Receiving Maintenance (miles)	Passenger Car System Receiving Maintenance (%)	Non-Passenger Car System Receiving Maintenance (%)
2014	642	50% - 481.4 mi	6% - 160.7 mi
2013	1560	100% - 1373.1 mi	7% - 186.5 mi
2012	1311	100% - 1098.2 mi	8% - 212.7 mi
2011	2652	100% - 1676.6 mi	38% - 975.7 mi
2010	2754	100% - 1858.0 mi	34% - 895.5 mi

Gallatin

Year	NFSR Receiving Maintenance (miles)	Passenger Car System Receiving Maintenance (%)	Non-Passenger Car System Receiving Maintenance (%)
2014	1023	100% - 866.9 mi	12% - 156.1 mi
2013	305	75% - 281.0 mi	2% - 23.9 mi
2012	383	89% - 333.9 mi	4% - 49.0 mi
2011	466	95% - 357.0 mi	8% - 109.3 mi
2010	825	100% - 646.4 mi	14% - 178.3 mi

Helena

Year	NFSR Receiving Maintenance (miles)	Passenger Car System Receiving Maintenance (%)	Non-Passenger Car System Receiving Maintenance (%)
2014	161	27% - 139.0 mi	1% - 22.0 mi
2013	232	44% - 223.0 mi	0.5% - 9.0 mi
2012	311	50% - 258.2 mi	3% - 53.1 mi
2011	407	51% - 262.4 mi	8% - 144.3 mi
2010	536	74% - 378.0 mi	8% - 158.0 mi

Kootenai

Year	NFSR Receiving Maintenance (miles)	Passenger Car System Receiving Maintenance (%)	Non-Passenger Car System Receiving Maintenance (%)
2014	400	16% - 268.0 mi	2% - 132.0 mi
2013	451	23% - 387.0 mi	1% - 64.0 mi
2012	419	18% - 302.5 mi	2% - 116.8 mi
2011	880	27% - 467.0 mi	7% - 413.0 mi
2010	2668	86% - 1479.0 mi	19% - 1188.8 mi

Lewis & Clark

Year	NFSR Receiving Maintenance (miles)	Passenger Car System Receiving Maintenance (%)	Non-Passenger Car System Receiving Maintenance (%)
2014	153	26% - 120.5 mi	3% - 32.2 mi
2013	203	36% - 169.0 mi	4% - 34.0 mi
2012	272	36% - 168.1 mi	11% - 104.1 mi
2011	763	74% - 348.4 mi	45% - 414.3 mi
2010	1295	100% - 671.7 mi	67% - 623.1 mi

Lolo NF

Year	NFSR Receiving Maintenance (miles)	Passenger Car System Receiving Maintenance (%)	Non-Passenger Car System Receiving Maintenance (%)
2014	558	29% - 436.7 mi	3% - 121.5 mi
2013	712	46% - 698.8 mi	0.3% - 12.7 mi
2012	1633	59% - 897.4 mi	4% - 170.9 mi
2011	693	35% - 538.4 mi	3% - 154.7 mi
2010	1709	81% - 1241 mi	10% - 467.5 mi