

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DNRC/FOREST SERVICE ACCESS EXCHANGE PROGRAM
PREPARED FOR ELG COMMITTEE BY DNRC
MAY 2, 2016

In 2003, the State Board of Land Commissioners, through the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), and the United States Forest Service, Region 1 (Forest Service) entered into a Master Cost Share Agreement. The foundation of the Agreement is to exchange access to each party's respective intermingled ownership within a specific road system area for the purpose of providing permanent rights for natural resource management. The Agreement does not provide access to private land inholdings, including industrial entities such as Weyerheuser, that are located within either the Forest Service ownership or State Trust land ownership.

Since the agreement's inception, DNRC has cooperatively initiated and completed 44 reciprocal access packages, primarily with the Kootenai, Flathead, and Lolo National Forests. This program has provided, to date, access to approximately 104,000 acres of Montana State Trust lands.

Roads under federal jurisdiction, including some roads over which the federal government holds an easement across State Trust lands, may be transferred to local or state governments in certain circumstances. In that event, rights for the public to access not only state and federal owned lands but also private inholdings is secured.

None of the roads identified in DNRC's estimated county road reports for Gallatin, Missoula and Flathead Counties have been previously authorized through an easement approved by the State Board of Land Commissioners. When compiling the road reports, available records reviewed by DNRC included searching for existing easements held by either the County or the Forest Service upon each road segment. Any such segment identified as having an authorized user was excluded from DNRC's reports.

DNRC – USFS RECIPROCAL ACCESS DATA (2003-2015)

FOREST	COUNTY	MILES ON STATE	MILES ON USFS	LAND VALUE – STATE	LAND VALUE - USFS	NOTES
<i>Bitterroot</i>	Ravalli	1	1.77	\$ 7,280	\$ 10,260	Inc. Replacement Easements
<i>Flathead</i>	Flathead	6.66	35.07	\$ 71,667	\$ 649,086	Inc. Replacement Easements
	Lake	9.31	9.85	\$127,304	\$ 104,817	Inc. Replacement Easements
<i>Kootenai</i>	Flathead	1.12	3.68	\$ 2,700	\$ 0	Inc. Replacement Easements
	Lincoln	20.37	77.9	\$132,919	\$ 431,612	Inc. Replacement Easements
	Sanders	1.15	2.33	\$ 7,000	\$ 3,963	
<i>Kootenai/Lolo</i>	Flathead	0	12.33	\$ 0	\$ 47,724	
	Sanders	2.76	0.27	\$ 30,135	\$ 4,373	
<i>Lolo</i>	Mineral	2.89	3.2	\$ 1,536	\$ 10,060	Inc. Replacement Easements
	Missoula	4.96	20.44	\$ 69,697	\$ 65,936	Inc. Replacement Easements
	Powell	2.14	4.42	\$ 38,925	\$ 52,192	
	Sanders	7.3	46.76	\$ 15,202	\$ 240,875	Inc. Replacement Easements
TOTALS		59.66	218.02	\$ 504,365	\$ 1,620,898	

NOTE: Notations of “Replacement Easements” indicate that the State and USFS had previously granted one another easements on roads within a road system area, however rights to each party were either not clearly defined or road systems had slightly changed. In these cases a supplement to the agreement was written to bring the prior rights under the master agreement. The miles of road granted under the new supplement are accounted for, however the land value was considered paid through the prior transaction with some adjustment if additional acreage was encumbered.