RAILROAD PROGRAM ANNUAL UPDATE 2023

Dan Sherwood

Railroad Program Manager

2023 MAJOR RAIL EVENTS IN MONTANA

4/2/2023 Paradise Derailment

6/24/2023 Reed Point Derailment

8/18/2023 River Road East Fire

12/31/2023 MRL/BNSF Merger Finalized

PARADISE DERAILMENT 4-2-23

At approximately 9:15 AM MST on April 2, 2023, westbound train, H-LAUPAS1-01 derailed with one hazmat car involved (Liquid Petroleum Gas) no release.

Derailment was track caused. A vertical web defect was found in the track that subsequently broke as H-LAUPAS1-01 traversed it.

REED POINT DERAILMENT 6-24-23

Montana Rail Link reported a derailment with bridge collapse over the Yellowstone River in Reed Point Montana on 24 June 2023 at 6:20 am local time. Eight cars derailed with five cars in the Yellowstone River. Three of the derailed cars released molten sulfur and asphalt into the Yellowstone River. Two cars containing Sodium Hydro-Sulfide derailed just west of the bridge but remained intact.

Derailment is still under active FRA/NTSB investigation with preliminary evidence showing primary cause to be catastrophic failure of the middle bridge abutment.

RIVER ROAD EAST FIRE

On August 18th, 2023, a fire started near Paradise, MT

17,000 acres

15 houses destroyed

U.S District Court lawsuit has been filed alleging fire was started by railroad

BNSF RAILWAY TAKES CONTROL OF MONTANA RAIL LINK

Effective 1/1/2024 Montana Rail Link has become the “MRL Subdivision” of BNSF’s Montana Division.

0 Class II regional railroads in Montana.

Increases BNSF’s footprint by nearly 1,000 track miles.

OVERHEATED WHEEL BEARING

BNSF Silver Bow, MT

September 31st, 2023

DEFECTIVE WHEEL BEARING ADAPTER WEAR PLATE

MRL Missoula, MT

August 28th, 2023

MU CABLE

BNSF Locomotive Mechanical Facility

Great Falls, MT

August 31st, 2023

WHEEL DEFECTS

MRL Helena, MT

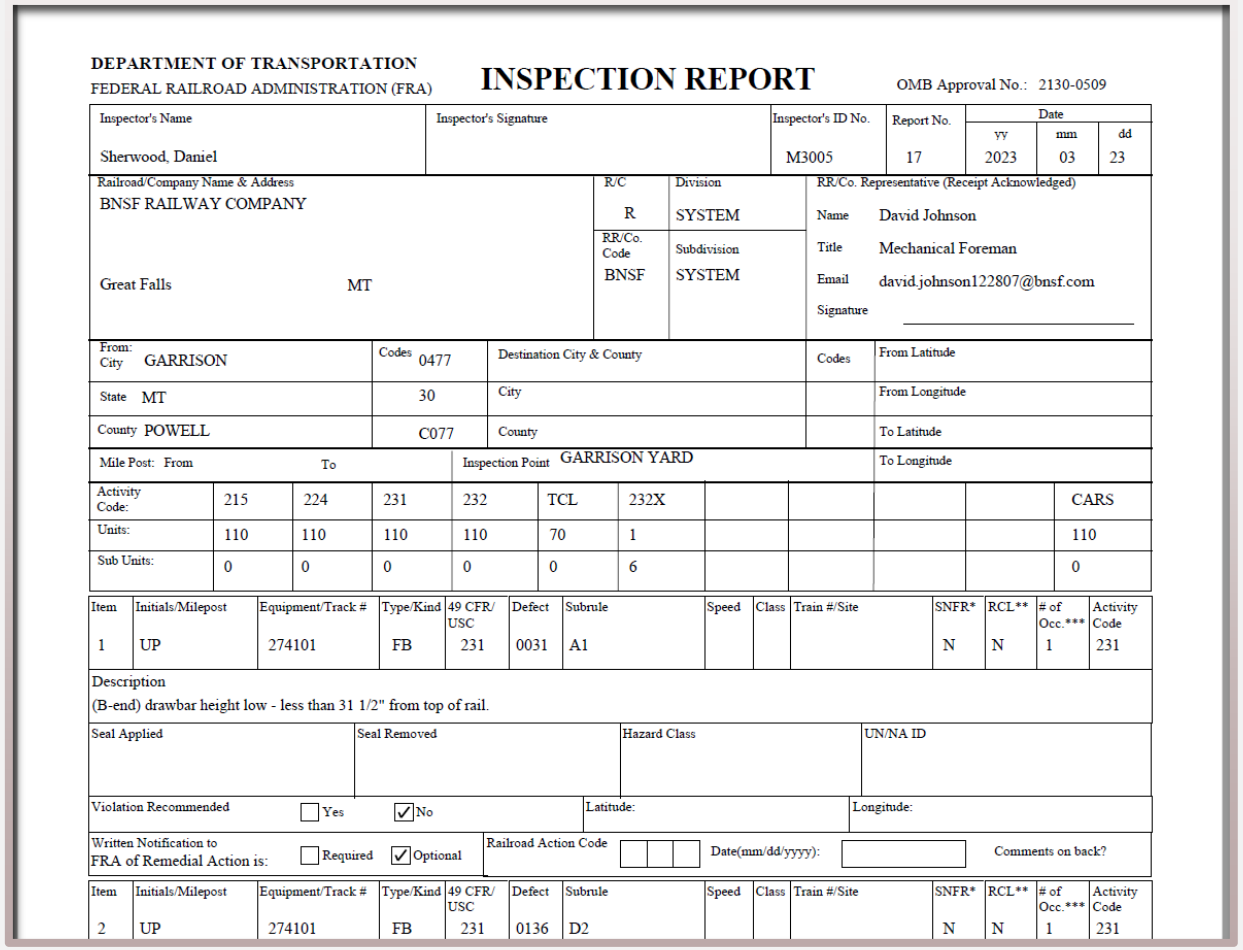
June 7th, 2023

BNSF Whitefish, MT

June 11th, 2023

2023 PROGRAM SUMMARY

- State Inspections: 293
- Joint FRA Inspections: 41
- Defects: 1,827
- Violations: 2



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION (FRA)

INSPECTION REPORT

OMB Approval No.: 2130-0509

Inspector's Name	Inspector's Signature	Inspector's ID No.	Report No.	Date (yy)	(mm)	(dd)
Sherwood, Daniel		M3005	17	2023	03	23

Railroad/Company Name & Address	R/C	Division	RR/Co. Representative (Receipt Acknowledged)
BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY	R	SYSTEM	Name: David Johnson
	RR/Co. Code	Subdivision	Title: Mechanical Foreman
Great Falls MT	BNSF	SYSTEM	Email: david.johnson122807@bnsf.com
			Signature:

From: City	GARRISON	Codes 0477	Destination City & County	Codes	From Latitude
State	MT	30	City		From Longitude
County	POWELL	C077	County		To Latitude
Mile Post: From	To	Inspection Point	GARRISON YARD		To Longitude

Activity Code:	215	224	231	232	TCL	232X					CARS
Units:	110	110	110	110	70	1					110
Sub Units:	0	0	0	0	0	6					0

Item	Initials/Milepost	Equipment/Track #	Type/Kind	49 CFR/ USC	Defect	Subrule	Speed	Class	Train #/Site	SNFR*	RCL**	# of Occ.***	Activity Code
1	UP	274101	FB	231	0031	A1				N	N	1	231

Description
(B-end) drawbar height low - less than 31 1/2" from top of rail.

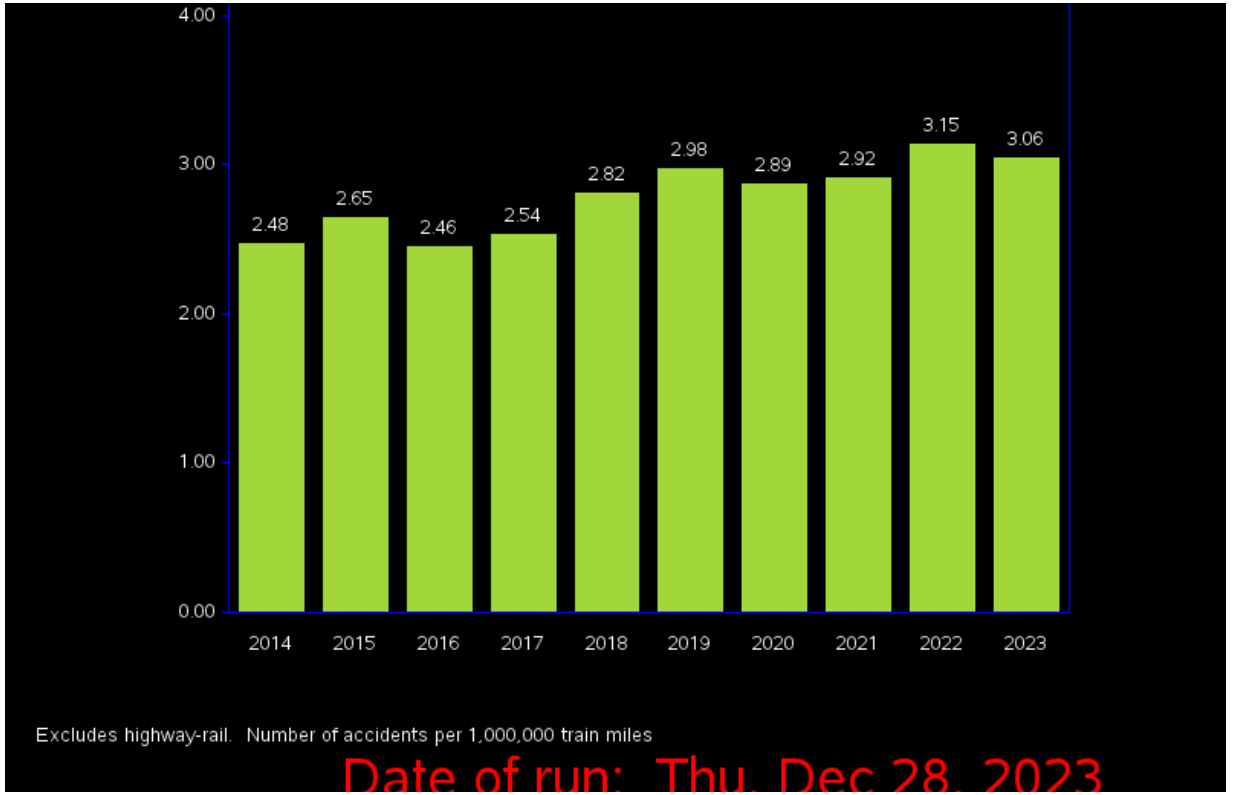
Seal Applied	Seal Removed	Hazard Class	UN/NA ID

Violation Recommended ☐ Yes ☑ No — Latitude: — Longitude:

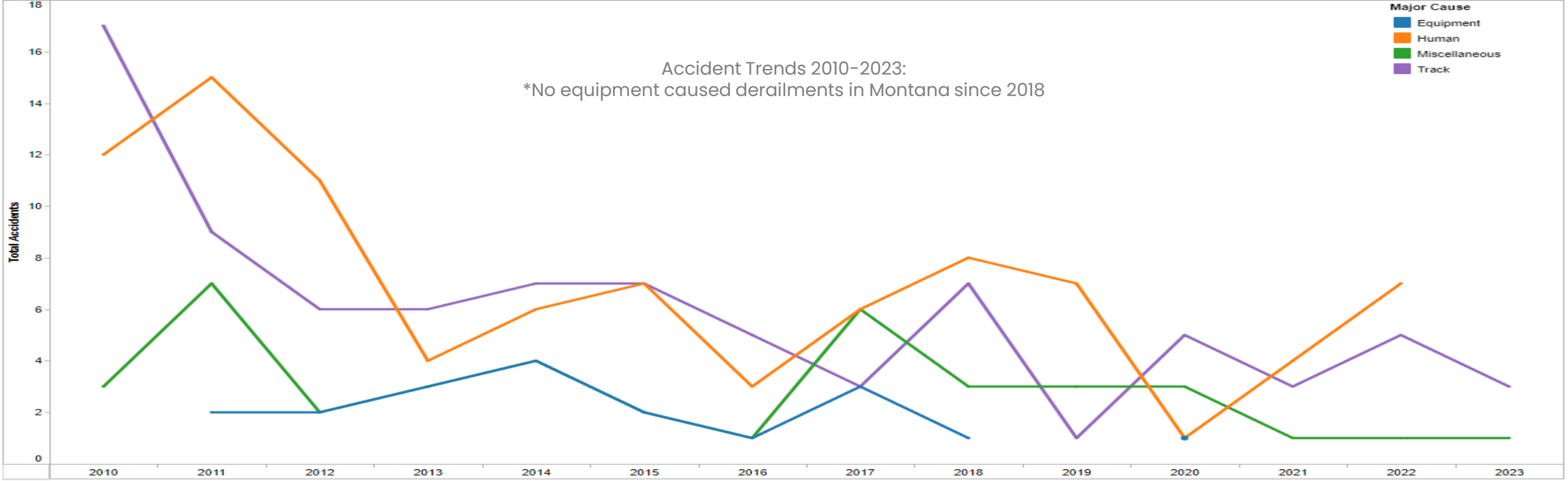
Written Notification to FRA of Remedial Action is: ☐ Required ☑ Optional — Railroad Action Code — Date(mm/dd/yyyy): — Comments on back?

Item	Initials/Milepost	Equipment/Track #	Type/Kind	49 CFR/ USC	Defect	Subrule	Speed	Class	Train #/Site	SNFR*	RCL**	# of Occ.***	Activity Code
2	UP	274101	FB	231	0136	D2				N	N	1	231

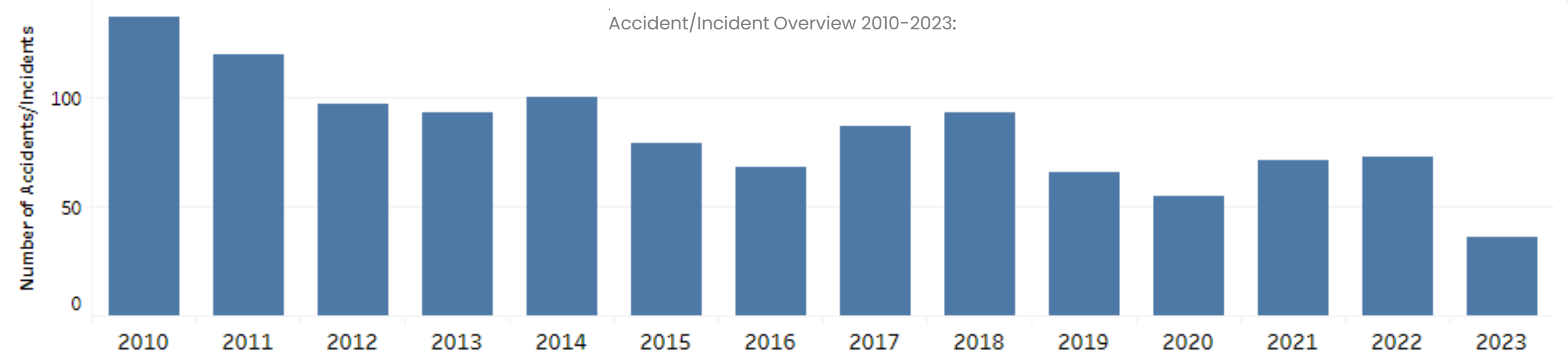
NATIONAL TRAIN ACCIDENT RATE 2014-2023



Accident Trends 2010-2023:
*No equipment caused derailments in Montana since 2018

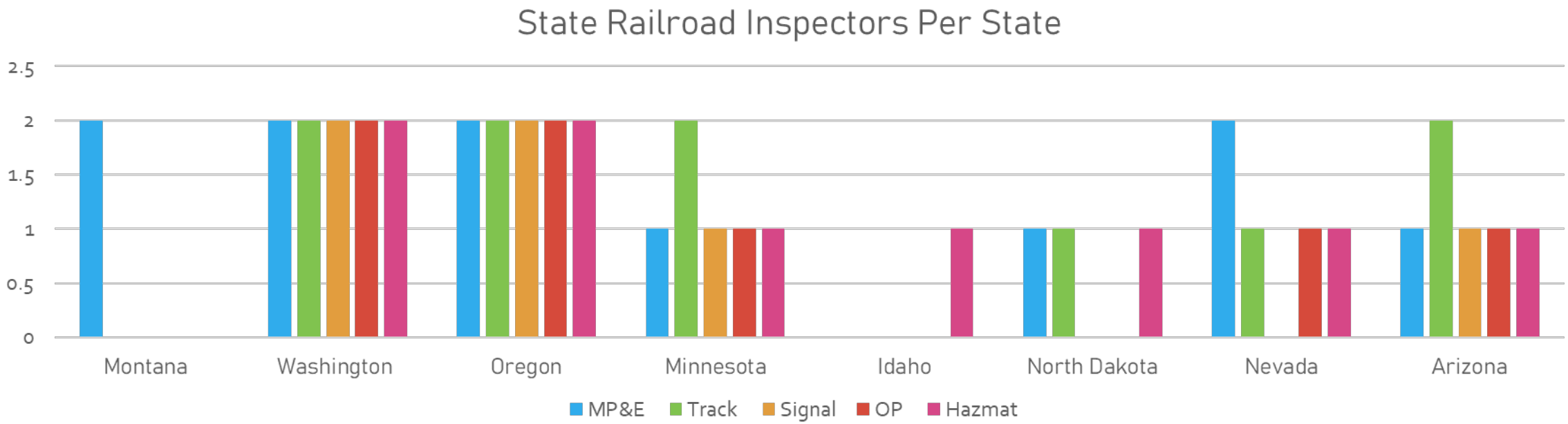


Accident/Incident Overview 2010-2023:



Railroad Track Miles Per State

Montana 3,680
Washington – 2,876
Oregon – 2,369
Idaho – 1,654
North Dakota – 3,223
Nevada – 1,193
Arizona – 1,724



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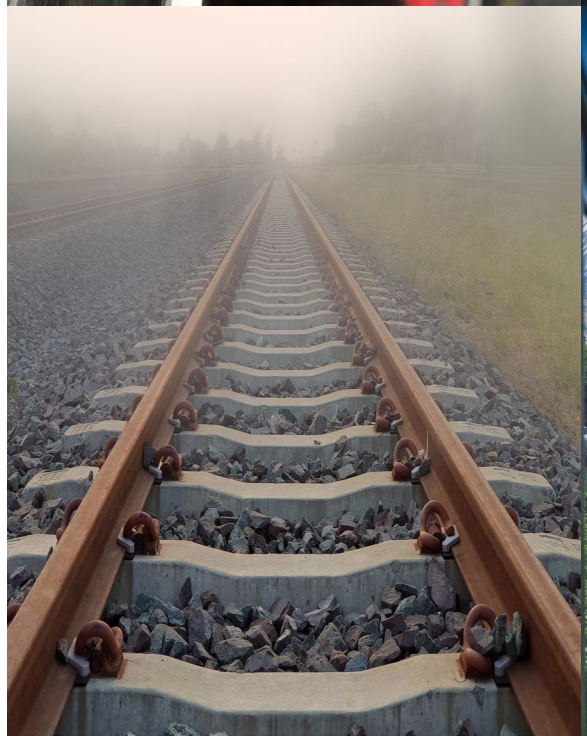
Questions?



THANK YOU

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psc.mt.gov