

National Forest
Watershed Restoration Funding
Legacy Roads and Trails Remediation Initiative

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**Watershed
Restoration
Initiative for
Washington
State
National
Forests**



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<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0710023.pdf>

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Be it resolved that we support the restoration of Washington's national forest watersheds by increasing funding for the Legacy Roads and Trails Remediation program and other federal, state, tribal and private programs to:

- Decommission high-risk, unstable, and unneeded roads
- Repair stream-crossing structures to assist fish passage and protect access
- Renovate road drainage features to protect roads from failure
- Repair damaged roads needed for resource management

FY08 Interior Appropriations for Forest Service's Capital Improvement and Maintenance Account

“Provided, That \$40,000,000 shall be designated for urgently needed road decommissioning, road and trail repair and maintenance and associated activities, and removal of fish passage barriers, especially in areas where Forest Service roads may be contributing to water quality problems in streams and water bodies which support threatened, endangered or sensitive species or community water sources and for urgently needed road repairs required due to recent storm events: Provided further, That up to \$40,000,000 of the funds provided herein for road maintenance shall be available for the decommissioning of roads, including unauthorized roads not part of the transportation system, which are no longer needed: Provided further, That no funds shall be expended to decommission any system road until notice and an opportunity for public comment has been provided on each decommissioning project:”

Distribution of Funds to FS Regions

Legacy Roads/Trails National Allocation			
Region	M\$	%	
1	4,756	12.0%	
2	3,397	8.5%	
3	3,076	7.7%	
4	3,880	9.8%	
5	6,719	16.9%	
6	8,372	21.1%	
8	4,833	12.2%	
9	4,065	10.2%	
10	668	1.7%	
	39,766		

<http://www.wildlandscpr.org/our-news/legacy-roads-and-trails-funding-data-released>

Fiscal Year 2009 Interior Bill

- ❖ House Interior subcommittee marked up Legacy Roads at \$70 Million
- ❖ Bill stalled due to concerns about a vote on offshore drilling





Fire Budget Consumed Legacy Roads \$

- 8/4/8 memo ordered \$ Millions to be transferred to cover fire costs. Specifics of the directive:
 - Defer award of any non-emergency contracts for any purpose other than those contracts that are required for critical on-going business.
 - Defer any procurement of non-critical projects and acquisitions.
 - Do not issue any grants or agreements that will result in obligation of FY 2008 or prior year funds.

The Highway Bill – An Opportunity

WRRRI recommended a new program to address FS road problems at \$200 Million annually.

In the FY 2009 Federal Lands Highway Program funds were provided for:

- National Park Service - \$240 Million
- Indian Reservation Roads - \$450 Million
- FWS Refuge Roads - \$29 Million
- Forest Highways - \$200 Million (2% to USFS)
- Public Lands Highway Discretionary - \$102 Million
- **Forest Service Roads - \$0**

Transportation Committee Members

Senate: Transportation
and Infrastructure

- Baucus, chair – MT
- Carper – DE
- Clinton – NY
- Cardin – MD
- Sanders – NH



House: Highways and
Transit

DeFazio, chair – OR

Rahall * Nadler * Tauscher Holden
* Capuano * Bishop Michaud *
Higgins * Napolitano Hirono *
Altmire * Walz * Shuler Arcuri
* Carney * McNerney, Filner *
Cummings * Baird
Lipinski * Cohen * Space,
Braley * Mitchell * Richardson
Sires * Edwards * Oberstar

The Development of a Restoration Economy

- End of an economic era based on resource exploitation.
- Transition to viable restoration economy based on reversing deterioration and improving quality and function of systems.
- Sustainable funding for watershed restoration creates jobs at both the federal and private levels.
- Restoration of both the built and natural infrastructure of our nation.

Thank You



www.wildlands.cpr