



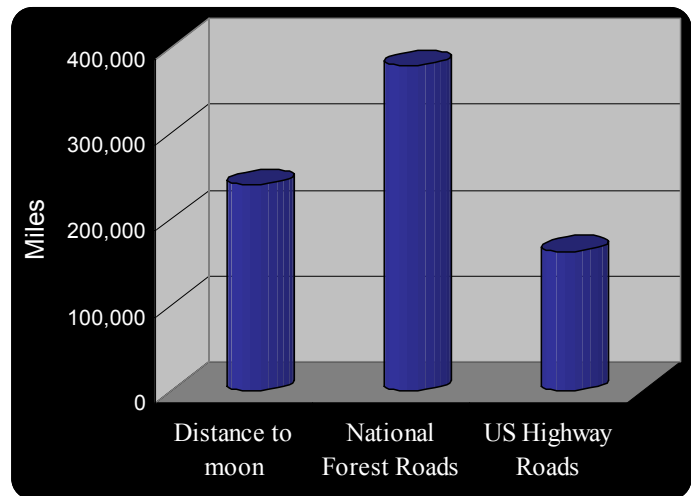
OREGON WILD

Formerly Oregon Natural Resources Council (ONRC)

Roads to Nowhere: Failing Forest Roads Threaten Wildlands

Backcountry roadless areas face increasing threats from corporations and politicians wanting to log, mine, and drill in some of the last remaining unspoiled public lands in America’s national forests. To do so, miles and miles of new roads will need to be built at the expense of US taxpayers. But our national forests are already overrun with nearly 400,000 miles of roads, more than 2 times the number of miles in the entire US Highway System. And the sheer amount of roads and lack of proper funding has led to a staggering \$10 billion backlog on road maintenance.

The US Forest Service, responsible for managing national forests, can’t even take care of the roads they currently have, so why build more and endanger what little wildlands we have left?

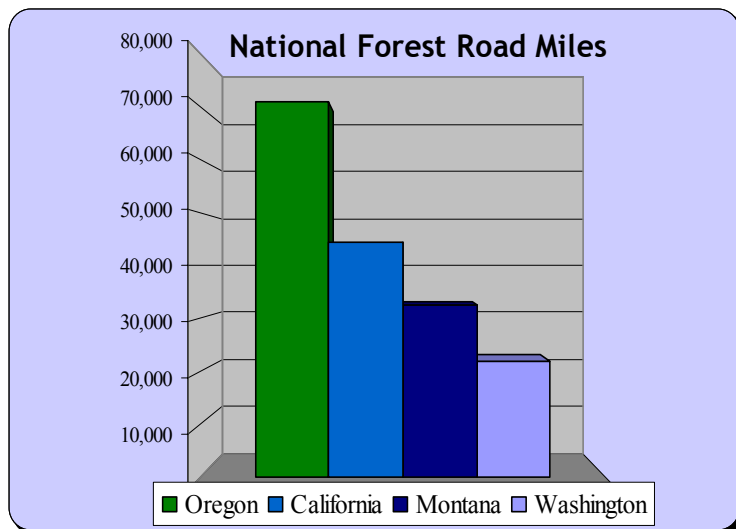


Oregon Leads the Nation

Oregon has more national forest roads than any other state - by far. With 70,952 miles of road, Oregon leads California, the state with the second largest amount of national forest roads, by more than 26,000 miles – a distance larger than the circumference of the Earth.

Oregon’s enormous inventory of national forest roads provides unequalled access to our federal forests, enabling millions every year to utilize these public lands for hunting, fishing, camping, and much more.

But many of those roads aren’t being maintained.



Road Trouble

Oregon’s national forest roads are in serious trouble. Maintenance backlog stands at more than \$664 million. Meanwhile, Roads are crumbling and eroding, limiting access and threatening watersheds. Building more roads would squander resources and funding needed to maintain roads currently in existence – all at the expense of roadless wildlands – areas important to outdoor recreation, wildlife, and providing clean drinking water to Oregon communities.

References

- Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. Fiscal Year 2002 Road Accomplishment Report. 2003
- Bureau of Transportation Statistics. Pocket Guide to Transportation. 2004.
- Taxpayers for Common Sense. Road Wrecked: Why the \$10 Billion Forest Service Road Maintenance Backlog Is Bad for Taxpayers. 2004