

Appendix C: Road Maintenance Level (ML) Definitions

Following are road management objectives per road maintenance level

FSH 7709.59 – Road System Operations and Maintenance Handbook

Chapter 60 – Road Maintenance

(http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/fsh/7709.59/7709.59_60.doc)

62.32 - Maintenance Level Descriptions

Maintenance Levels 1 through 5 (operational and objective) are described in the following paragraphs:

Level 1. These are roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses. The period of storage must exceed one 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. Appropriate traffic management strategies are "prohibit" and "eliminate" all traffic. These roads are not shown on motor vehicle use maps.

Roads receiving level 1 maintenance may be of any type, class, or construction standard, and may be managed at any other maintenance level during the time they are open for traffic. However, while being maintained at level 1, they are closed to vehicular traffic but may be available and suitable for non-motorized uses.

Level 2. Assigned to 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 not provided with the exception that some signing, such as W-18-1 "No Traffic Signs," may be posted at intersections. Motorists should have no expectations of being alerted to potential hazards while driving these roads. Traffic is normally minor, usually consisting of one or a combination of administrative, permitted, dispersed recreation, or other specialized uses. Log haul may occur at this level. Appropriate traffic management strategies are either to:

- a. Discourage or prohibit passenger cars, or
- b. Accept or discourage high clearance vehicles.

Level 3. Assigned to roads open and maintained for travel by a prudent driver in a standard passenger car. User comfort and convenience are not considered priorities. *The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCD) is applicable. Warning signs and traffic control devices are provided to alert motorists of situations that may violate expectations.

Roads in this maintenance level are typically low speed with single lanes and turnouts. Appropriate traffic management strategies are either "encourage" or "accept." "Discourage" or "prohibit" strategies may be employed for certain classes of vehicles or users.

Level 4. Assigned to roads that provide a moderate degree of user comfort and convenience at moderate travel speeds. Most roads are double lane and aggregate surfaced. However,

Appendix C: Road Maintenance Level Definitions

some roads may be single lane. Some roads may be paved and/or dust abated. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* is applicable. The most appropriate traffic management strategy is "encourage." However, the "prohibit" strategy may apply to specific classes of vehicles or users at certain times.

Level 5. Assigned to roads that provide a high degree of user comfort and convenience. These roads are normally double lane, paved facilities. Some may be aggregate surfaced and dust abated. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* is applicable. The appropriate traffic management strategy is "encourage."