The Francis Marion National Forest has awarded two three-year contracts to address road repairs and maintenance throughout the district’s road system. Recent weather events, such as the severe storms and flooding in the fall of 2015 and Hurricane Matthew in 2016, produced historic rainfall which led to widespread erosion and damage affecting 157 National Forest System roads.

Work has already begun on the initial year’s task order with completion expected by September 2018. Repairs to the Forest Service road system outlined in the initial task order will prioritize highly-utilized arterial roads, roads within established school bus routes, roads leading to private residences and roads identified as emergency evacuation routes. In total, repairs and maintenance will effect 63 Forest Service roads, including 201 miles of grading, 65 miles of heavy brushing and the distribution of 6,000 tons of rock. Additionally, upon completion, 10 Forest Service Roads that are currently closed to public use will be re-opened. Over the next three years, the district is planning to submit additional contracts to target specific roads projects.