

Summary of Road System Maintenance Funding
Gifford Pinchot National Forest – March 18, 2014

The GP NF road system has 4,100 miles of roads and 115 road bridges. The Forest accomplishes road system maintenance through a combination of contracts and a small road maintenance crew. Over the last six years our annual road maintenance budget has ranged from \$632,000 to \$1,245,000.

Annual road & bridge maintenance needs:	\$5,159,468
Actual road & bridge maintenance funding (FY 2013):	\$ 950,646
Shortfall each year to effectively maintain the system:	\$4,208,822

Forest Service roads are categorized by Maintenance Levels (ML) 1 through 5. Maintenance standards for ML 3, 4, & 5 roads are governed by the Highway Safety Act and are maintained for passenger car use. Comfort and convenience are a low priority for ML 3 roads; this increases for ML 4, and is highest on ML 5 roads (typically double lane asphalt). ML 2 roads are maintained for high clearance vehicles, and resource protection is the priority for maintenance. ML 1 roads are closed to the public; this includes administrative closures for resource protection as well as roads in storage.

The primary emphasis for the road maintenance program is public health and safety, so the majority of road maintenance funds are invested in ML 3, 4, & 5 roads. Resource protection and maintaining our investment in the roads are also key goals.

Maintenance Level (ML)	Miles per ML	Maintenance Cost/mile	Total Cost per ML
5	16	\$12,761	\$ 204,176
4	72	\$ 7,452	\$ 536,544
3	305	\$ 2,601	\$ 793,305
2	2,932	\$ 1,149	\$3,368,868
1	775	\$ 73	\$ 56,575
	Total 4,100 miles		\$4,959,468

Table 1 – Total miles of Roads on GPNF and Associated Maintenance Costs

Bridge maintenance needs for our 115 road bridges adds an additional \$200,000 per year. Half of these bridges will have exceeded their design life in 10 years.

The amount needed to maintain our road system (roads & bridges) each year is approximately \$5,159,468.

Road Maintenance Funds Available

The Forest annual road budget covers operations, bridge inspections, condition inventory, pavement maintenance, sign maintenance, and support to other programs such as timber sales (see Table 2):

Fiscal Year (FY)	Road System Maintenance Funding
2007	\$632,000
2008	\$1,245,000
2009	\$908,000
2010	\$862,000
2011	\$980,000
2012	\$813,000
2013	\$950,646

Table 2 – Road System Maintenance Funding by Fiscal Year