

Appendix O. Assessment of Road Stream Crossings



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

National Forests and
Grasslands in Texas
SO

701 N. First Street
Lufkin, TX 75901
Phone 936-639-8501
TDD# 936-639-8560

File Code:
Route To: 2600

Date: October 29, 2000

Subject: Final Report – Road and Stream Interchange Assessment

To: Ruben Natera and Larry Bonner

This was an interesting project because it changed some of my perspectives about what was going on out on the ground. In the past, we had thought culverts, specifically concrete box culverts, were causing most of our problems with stream-road intersects. However, I found several situations where culverts were working well, but road ditch failures were causing the majority of the problems. Most often it involved a lack of wing ditches, or ditches that were “pulled” directly into creeks, not only eroding stream banks, but jeopardizing culverts, bridges and other investments. The old practice of “pulling ditches” should be reevaluated to see if it really provides any benefit in routine road maintenance. There is rarely a need to break the protective vegetative cover and expose soils to erosion. Pulling ditches increases storm drainage velocities and stress on wing ditches, stream banks and crossing structures.

My other false impression was that Forests with less erosive soils had fewer stream-road problems. I found problems on almost every road and some approached magnitudes that were almost beyond repair. Roads impact resources more than any other projects we do. Some have caused stream downcutting, erosion and soil loss that can never be reversed. Our mission is to fulfill a diversity of uses, with “no net loss” to public resources. We will need to drastically change the way we plan, construct and maintain roads in order to fulfill such a mission. The Engineering shop has increased their awareness and coordinated on aquatic issues, but we have many old problems on the ground and a potential lack of communication with equipment operators and contractors that carry out plans. I was only able to document a small portion of the stream crossing problems and had very minimal coverage of some Forests. However, I hope this report is useful in targeting some of the areas needing improvement and that it stimulates further awareness of the critical need for road and stream management coordination. Some additional case studies and educational materials are included at the back of this package.

Sincerely,

s/ David W. Peterson

DAVE PETERSON
Forest Biologist

(No road stream crossing problems have been identified on the Caddo-LBJ NG.)

Appendix P. Public Involvement - Letter Soliciting Public Comments



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

National Forests and Grasslands
in Texas
Supervisors Office

701 N. First Street
Lufkin, TX 75901
Phone 936-639-8501
TDD# 936-639-8560

File Code: 1950/7710

Date: January 27, 2003

Dear Concerned Citizen:

We are in the process of analyzing the roads serving each of the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas. Our analysis will include state and county roads as well as Forest Service (FS) roads that are suitable for a passenger car and other public vehicles. This analysis will not include those FS roads that are not maintained for passenger car traffic or are closed to public use.

This analysis will help identify concerns about the current condition of the roads and opportunities to improve the roads that can be considered in a future environmental analysis for proposed projects. However, this analysis will not make any management decisions. This analysis will provide information for management decisions to be made in future site-specific analysis for proposed road improvement projects.

Why are we doing this? The Forest Service has adopted a policy to ensure that decisions to construct, reconstruct, or decommission roads will be based on a roads analysis, and we will be preparing a separate roads analysis for each National Forest and Grasslands in Texas unit. Each forest-level Roads Analysis Process (RAP) will identify opportunities for potential management actions that will be considered in future site-specific analyses.

Each forest-level RAP will provide a review of the public roads that are suitable for a passenger car and other public vehicles. Other roads, those roads that are not maintained for passenger car traffic or are closed to public use, will be addressed in each future project-level RAP developed during the site-specific analyses of proposed projects.

A forest-level RAP does not make National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) decisions and is not subject to the administrative appeal process under 36 CFR 215; however, a project-level RAP will be developed during the NEPA analysis for site-specific projects and those decisions will be subject to administrative appeal.

During our preliminary analysis of roads serving the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas, we identified the following issues and concerns to be addressed.

- Does the current road system need improvement to adequately serve rural communities and other users of the National Forests and Grasslands?
- Are there FS roads that serve rural communities and provide residential access that should be transferred to the county?
- Are road improvements needed to reduce any adverse effects of roads on water quality and road culverts on fish passage?
- Are road right-of-ways needed to access national forest lands?

If you have concerns or specific comments about the RAP for any of the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas, please submit them by February 21, 2003 to:

Don Benner
Project Analysis Team
701 North First Street
Lufkin, Texas 75901

Comments received in response to this letter, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for the analysis and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will also be accepted and considered.

Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality; and where a request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within seven days.

Sincerely,

/s/ *Glenn Donnahoe*

GLENN DONNAHOE
Acting Forest Supervisor

Mailing List for Letter Soliciting Public Comments

Abhay Anello	Ft. Worth Audubon Society, Ft. Worth, TX
Alan Allen	Sportsmen Conservationists of Texas, Austin, TX
Allen Page	
Allen Sumner	County Commissioner Precinct #4, Huntington, TX
Ann Richey	Cross Timbers Concerned Citizens, Hico, TX
Assistant Attorney General	Environmental Protection Division, Austin, TX
Ayelet Hines	Sierra Club, Austin TX
B.R. Bryan	San Augustine County Commissioner, Precinct #4, San Augustine, TX
Ben Donegan	
Bennie King	
Bill Cook	
Bill Tetley	Nederland Sierra Club, Nederland, TX
Billy L. Curb	USDA Rural Development, Temple, TX
Billy Ray Duren	County Commissioner Precinct #4, Crockett, TX
Bob Baylis	
Bob Becknell	
Bob Bowman	Deep East TX Development Association, Lufkin TX
Bob Currie	Texas Forestry Association, Kennard, TX
Brad Jones	
Brad Shiver	
Brandt Mannchen	Houston Sierra Club, Houston, TX
Buddy Armstrong	
Burl Hughes	
C.H. Starnes	
Cark Watts	Houston County Forest Landowner Association, Ratcliff, TX
Cary D. Kirby	
Cathy Boydston	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Austin, TX
CEA County Extension Agent	Huntsville, TX
Charles Becker	
Charles Johnson	
Charles Shofner, Jr.	Jasper County Commissioner Precinct #1, Jasper, TX
Cheryl Prewitt	Sam Houston National Forest
Chester R. Julian	
Chip Ernst	Sam Houston National Forest
Chuck and Kendra Daniel	
Chuck Hunt	Big Thicket National Preserve, Beaumont, TX
Clarence Massey	
Clifton Collins	
Dale Smith	
Dave Stockton	
David Harvey	
David Holzmer	Houston Sierra Club
David Oates	Lufkin Farm Bureau
David Vogelsang	
Dawn Carrie	Sam Houston National Forest
Deborah Levoy	

Deep East Texas Electric Co-op	
Denise S. Francis	Governor's Office of Budget & Planning, Austin, TX
Dennis Fredirich	West Texas Brittany Club, San Angelo, TX
Dennis Wayne	
Derek Green	PBS&J, Austin, TX
Dewayne Strickland	Honey Grove County Commissioner Precinct #3, Honey Grove, TX
Don Dickerson	
Donna Work	Texas Forest Service, Lufkin, TX
Doug York	
Douglas Dvorman	Louisiana Pacific, Silsbee, TX
Doyle Dickerson	Sabine County Commissioner, Precinct #3, Hemphill, TX
Dr. Diana M. Burton	Texas A&M University
Dr. Ed Hiler	Texas Agriculture Extension Ser., Texas A&M, College Station, TX
Dr. Eugene I. Majerowicz	
Dr. James Bruseth	Texas State Historical Commission, Austin, TX
Dr. Michael Legg	Stephen F. Austin State University
Dr. Montague Whiting	SFASU, College of Forestry
Ed and Faye Dykes	
Ed Baron	Texas Forest Service, College Station, TX
Ed Keely	
Eddie Spurgeon	Texas Arabian Distance Riders, Wortham, TX
Edward C. Fritz	Texas Committee on Natural Resources, Dallas, TX
Elizabeth Palmore	
Ellen Buchanan	Martin Dies Jr. State Park, Jasper, TX
Fayne Warner	Sabine County Commissioner, Precinct #4, Hemphill, TX
Forest Supervisor	National Forests in Mississippi
Forest Supervisor	Caribbean National Forest
Foster Kneeland	
Garvis W. Alexander, Jr.	Alexander Forest Service, Silsbee, TX
Gary A. Burns	Burns Forestry, Crockett, TX
Gary Keife	
Gary Powell	Texas Water Development Board, Austin, TX
George & Geannette Crawford	
George Nickas	Wilderness Watch, Missoula, MT
George Russell	Huntsville Sierra Club
Gina Donovan	Texas Committee on Natural Resources, Lufkin, TX
Glenn Donnahoe	Project Analysis Team Leader, NFGT, Lufkin, TX
Glenn Elms	Sam Houston National Forest
Gordon Steele	DETTA Forestry Committee Chairman, Hemphill, TX
Harold D. Smith	
Harry Thompson	Texas Department of Transportation, Lufkin, TX
Honorable Alan B. Sadler	Montague County Judge, Montague, TX
Honorable Bill Law	San Jacinto County Judge, Coldspring, TX
Honorable Chadwick Smith	Principal Chief, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
Honorable Charles H. Wagamon	Walker County Judge, Huntsville, TX
Honorable Charles W. Stenholm	U.S. Representative
Honorable Craig Estes	Texas State Senator

Honorable Dallas Proctor	Chief, Cherokee United Keetowah Band, Talequah, OK
Honorable Dan Ellis	Texas State Representative
Honorable Dan Underwood	Mayor of New Waverly, Texas
Honorable David Bernsen	Texas State Senator
Honorable David H. Cain	Texas State Senator
Honorable David Sibley	Texas State Senator
Honorable Derrell Hall	Fannin County Judge, Bonham, TX
Honorable Dick Chase	Wise County Judge, Decatur, TX
Honorable Earl J. Barbry, Sr.	Chairman, Tunica-Biloxi Indians of Louisiana
Honorable Floyd Watson	Shelby County Judge, Center, TX
Honorable Gregory E. Pyle	Chief, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Honorable Jack Leath	Sabine County Judge, Hemphill, TX
Honorable James Kittrell	Montague County Judge, Montague, TX
Honorable Jim McReynolds	Texas State Representative, Austin, TX
Honorable Jim Turner	U.S. Representative
Honorable Joe Adams	San Jacinto County Judge, College Station, TX
Honorable Joe Berry	Angelina County Judge, Lufkin, TX
Honorable Joe N. Folk	Jasper County Judge, Jasper, TX
Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchinson	U.S. Senator
Honorable Kevin Batise	Chairman, Ala-Coushatta Tribal HQ, Livingston, TX
Honorable Kevin Brady	U.S. Representative, Washington, DC
Honorable L.B. McDonald	Wise County Judge, Decatur, TX
Honorable LaRue Parker	Chairman, Caddo Tribe, Binger, OK
Honorable Lovelin Poncho	Chairman, Coushatta Tribe, Elton, Louisiana
Honorable Mark Evans	Trinity County Judge, Groveton, TX
Honorable Mark Homer	Texas State Representative
Honorable Max Sandlin	U.S. Representative
Honorable Phil King	Texas State Representative
Honorable R.C. "Chris" Doenhoff	Houston County Judge, Crockett, TX
Honorable Rick Hardcastle	Texas State Representative
Honorable Rick Perry	Governor of Texas
Honorable Robert D. Pierce II	Walker County Judge, Huntsville, TX
Honorable Ron E. Lewis	Texas State Representative
Honorable Ruben Hope	Texas State Representative
Honorable Steve Ogden	Texas State Senator
Honorable Steve Ogden	Texas State Senator
Honorable Sue Kennedy	Nacogdoches County Judge, Nacogdoches, TX
Honorable Thomas Williams	Texas State Representative
Honorable Todd Staples	Texas State Senator
Honorable Truman Dougharty	Newton County Judge, Newton, TX
Honorable Wayne Christian	Texas State Representative
Honorable Wayne Holt	San Augustine County Judge, San Augustine, TX
Honorable William M. Thornberry	U.S. Representative
Hope Organ	
Ike McWhorter	
J. Michael Godin	Texas Coastal Brittany Club, Garland, TX
J.S. Miller	Texas Department of Transportation, Lufkin, TX
James B. Hull	Texas Forest Service, College Station, TX

James Bruseth	Texas Historical Commission, Austin, TX
James Hill	County Commissioner Precinct #1, Coldspring, TX
James Hines	
James Kittrell	Montague County Judge
James M. Moore	Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board, Temple, TX
James Reynolds	County Commissioner Precinct #3, Huntsville, TX
James Sandt	
James Scott	Sam Houston National Forest
James T. Davis	Superintendent, Centerville ISD
James Thompson	Steely Lumber Co., Inc., Huntsville, TX
James Woods	
Jane Prentiss	
Jay Garrett	
Jeff Allen	
Jeff Goodson	
Jeff Hardy	
Jeff Hudspeth	
Jeff Sparks	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Tyler, TX
Jeffrey Reid	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Lufkin, TX
Jem Bensman	
Jennifer Barrow	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Decatur, TX
Jerry McCloud	Houston County Commissioner Precinct #1, Crockett, TX
Jerry Watkins	Ft. Worth Brittany Club
Jerry Watkins	Fort Worth Brittany Club, Aledo, TX
Jim Fredricks	Reporter Conroe Courier, Conroe, TX
Jim R. Alexander	Jack Alexander, Ltd., Silsbee, TX
Jim Wise	Groveton ISD, Groveton, TX
Jimmy Craig	San Augustine County Commissioner, Precinct #3, San Augustine, TX
Joe Johnson	County Commissioner Precinct #4, Point Blank, TX
John & Gloria Tveten	Houston Chronical Nature Columnists, Baytown, TX
John Burke	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Nacogdoches, TX
John Burke	
John Metivier	Southeast Texas Off-Road Riders, Bridge City, TX
John Shrivvers	National Wild Turkey Federation, Fort Worth, TX
Joseph A. Pietrocario	
Judy Attaway	
Kathleen Davis	
Keith Baker	Sam Houston National Forest
Keith C. Clark	Sabine County Commissioner, Precinct #1, Hemphill, TX
Keith Sonnier	
Kennum Kellum	Crockett County Commissioner Precinct #4, Crockett, TX
Kevin & Lori Sykes	
Kevin Burns	Decatur County Commissioner Precinct #2, Decatur, TX
Kristen McDonald	Wild & Scenic River Program, Washington, DC
Kyle Stephens	Decatur County Commissioner Precinct #1, Decatur, TX
Larry Bretzlaff	ANCFLA, Zavalla, TX
Larry D. White	Texas A&M University
Larry Shelton	Texas Committee on Natural Resources, Nacogdoches, TX

Leo A. Reitan	
Leon E. Ray	Cal-Tex Lumber Co., Inc., Austin, TX
Leslie Ramirez	
Lindsey Armstrong	
Louie Kee	Southern Cherokee & Associated Bands, New Caney, TX
Loyd Budd	American Brittany Club, Bellevue, TX
Lynn George	County Commissioner Precinct #4, Lufkin, TX
Lynn Smith	Sabine County Commissioner, Precinct #2, Hemphill, TX
M.L. Harris	
Mack Steed	
Mark Belles	SFASU, College of Forestry, Nacogdoches, TX
Mark McClain	
Mary Ann Hodges	
Max Covington	
Mayor William	Mayor of Huntsville, Texas
Melanie Shute	
Meta & Conrad Plevnic	
Mike Buzbee	Gulf Coast Trade Center, New Waverly, TX
Mike Meador	County Commissioner Precinct #1, Willis, TX
Mike Meeker	Fun Country 4-Wheeler, Nederland, TX
Mike Messina	Department of Forest Science, Texas A&M University
Mike Pirtle	Pirtle Farm & Kennel, Alvord, TX
Mike Rogers	
Mike Ross	Ross Lumber Company, Timpson, TX
Mike S. Dunigan	
Nancy Lynch	General Environmental Protection Division, Austin, TX
Nat'l Assoc of RV Parks & Campground Owners	Falls Church, VA
Nikii McDonald	
North Texas Weimaraner Point Dogs	
Pat Hilliard	Bonham County Commissioner Precinct #4, Bonham, TX
Pat Parker	
Patricia Faulkner	Louisiana Natural Heritage Program, Baton Rouge, LA
Paul DuFour	Sam Houston National Forest
Paul Wollitz	
Prentis L. Hopson	Newton County Commissioner, Precinct #3, Burkeville, TX
Randy Prewitt	Sam Houston National Forest
Randy Rice	Cal-Tex Lumber Co., Inc., Nacogdoches, TX
Ray Hooper	Southeast TX Off-Road Riders, Beaumont, TX
Ray Wooley	
Richard Johnson	
Richard M. Donovan	Texas Committee on Natural Resources, Lufkin, TX
Rick Turner	The Nature Conservancy, Nacogdoches, TX
Ricky Maxey	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Nacogdoches, TX
Robert Cast	Historic Officer, Caddo Tribe Chairperson, Binger, OK
Robert Betake or Rita Dodson	Ritzy Arabians, Inc., Alvord, TX
Robert Earl Artery	County Commissioner Precinct #2, Huntsville, TX
Robert M. Plot	
Robert Ferret	

Robert W. Spain	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Austin, TX
Romaic Brooks	Paola College Library, Carthage, TX
Ronald Basher	
Ronnie Ross	
S.L. Simons, Jr.	
Sam Houston Forest Estates	Huntsville Homeowners Association, Huntsville, TX
Scott D. Smith	
Scott Stallings	
Scott Williams	
Sonny Ellis	
Sonny Thornton	
Southern Forest Experiment Station	
Stacey Haitian	Gulf Coast Limestone, Seabrook, TX
Steven McBride	
Steven Springer	
Susan Cabby-Horton	League of Women Voter of Texas, Belton, TX
Susan Chinked	
Tab Smith	
Ted E. Ryan	Trail Riders of Houston, Friendswood, TX
Terry Austin	Executive Director, Audubon of Texas, Austin, TX
Terry Carter	Alamo Brittany Club, San Antonio, TX
Texas Forestry Association	
Thomas Bonds	County Commissioner Precinct #3, Cleveland, TX
Tim Paulsen	Huntsville Co. Commissioner Precinct #4, Huntsville, TX
Tim Portola	Friends of NE Texas Archaeology, Austin, TX
Tim Ten dell	Temple-Inland, Nacogdoches, TX
Tom Gross	President, Prairie & Timbers Audubon Society, McKinney, TX
Tom Strickland	Nacogdoches County Commissioner Precinct #4, Nacogdoches, TX
Tommy Hunter	San Augustine County Commissioner, Precinct #2, San Augustine, TX
Trail Riders of Houston	
Travis Forest	Apple Springs County Commissioner Precinct #4, Apple Springs, TX
Travis Rogers	Shelby County Commissioner, Precinct #3, Center, TX
Trinity Valley Vila Pointer Dogs	Southlake, TX
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Arlington, TX
Walter Kings borough	Sam Houston National Forest
Wayne Huggins	
Wayne Ramsey	
Weldon K. Gaston	Texas Department of Transportation, Lufkin, TX
Wendell A. With row	Attorney at Law, Carrollton, TX
Wendy J. Ledbetter	The Nature Conservancy, Silsbee, TX
Wendy J. Ledbetter	East Texas Land Steward, Silsbee, TX
Wes Christensen	Koch Industries, OK
Wiley Beal	Texas Forest Watch, Fair Oaks Ranch, TX
Willie Kitchen	Houston Co. Commissioner Precinct #2, Crockett, TX

Public Comments

SIERRA
CLUB



Houston Regional Group
P.O. Box 3021
Houston, Texas 77253-3021
713/895-9309

February 17, 2003

Mr. Don Benner
Project Analysis Team
National Forests and Grasslands in Texas
701 North First Street
Lufkin, Texas 75901

RECEIVED

FEB 20 2003

Dear Mr. Benner,

Enclosed are the comments of the Houston Sierra Club (HSC) regarding the Roads Analysis (RAP) for the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas (NFGT). We request that the HSC receive all notices or other information about the RAP.

The RAP it will cover the developed and higher level roads in the Forest Service (FS) Road System Inventory that are maintained for car travel including federal roads, state roads, county roads, and FS Level 3, 4, and 5 roads that are maintained for public vehicles.

The HSC is concerned that the public has been given too little time to comment on this important issue. The date of the scoping notice is January 27, 2003 and the date comments are due is February 21, 2003. The public has only three weeks to respond to this letter. We request that in the future the FS provide the public with an adequate public notice, review, and comment period of 30-45 days.

The HSC is concerned that the RAP emphasizes a very small subset of issues and concerns. The issues and concerns emphasized in the January 27, 2003 scoping letter include:

- 1) Whether the current road system needs to be improved.
- 2) Whether the current road system adequately serves rural communities.
- 3) Whether the current road system adequately serves other users of the NFGT.
- 4) Whether FS roads that serve rural communities and provide residential access should be transferred to the county.
- 5) Whether road right-of-ways are needed to access the NFGT.

"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe." *John Muir*

Recycled paper

6) Whether there are road improvements that need to be made to reduce adverse effects of roads on water quality.

7) Whether there are improvements needed to reduce adverse effects of road culverts on fish passage.

Except for the last two issues/concerns the focus of the RAP appears to be on improving/increasing road numbers/levels of development rather than protecting forest ecosystems. There are many other issues/concerns that need to be addressed. Some of these include:

1) Are there any federal roads, state roads, county roads, and FS Level 3, 4, and 5 roads in the road system being analyzed in the NFGT that should be closed, decommissioned, or obliterated?

2) What is the current level of road kill for the federal roads, state roads, county roads, and FS Level 3, 4, and 5 roads that are in the road system being analyzed in the NFGT?

3) What species are being killed and what impact is this having on the population and the trend of the population for each of these species for federal roads, state roads county roads, and FS Level 3, 4, and 5 roads that are in the road system being analyzed in the NFGT? How can these impacts be eliminated or minimized?

4) The Southern Research Station has documented that Louisiana Pine Snakes and Canebrake Rattlesnakes are affected by road densities and road kill. Both of these snakes are considered sensitive species in the 1996 NFGT Forest Plan. Are there any federal roads, state roads, county roads, and FS Level 3, 4, and 5 roads in the road system being analyzed in the NFGT that are causing road kill of these species? How can these impacts be eliminated or minimized?

5) Are there any federal roads, state roads, county roads, and FS Level 3, 4, and 5 roads that are in the road system being analyzed in the NFGT that should be closed or whose use should in other ways be altered due to road kill of Louisiana Pine Snakes and Canebrake Rattlesnakes?

6) Are there any federal roads, state roads, county roads, and FS Level 3, 4, and 5 roads that are in the road system being analyzed in the NFGT that are causing fragmentation of plant/animal species habitats?

7) Are there any federal roads, state roads, county roads, and FS Level 3, 4, and 5 roads that are being impacted by urban sprawl? How can these impacts be mitigated?

8) Are there any federal roads, state roads, county roads, and FS Level 3, 4, and 5 roads that are being impacted by incompatible land uses? How can these impacts be mitigated?

9) Are there any state, county, and FS roads that are causing invasive plant or animal spread? How can these impacts be mitigated?

10) Are there any federal roads, state roads, county roads, and FS Level 3, 4, and 5 roads that are causing environmental impacts that should be mitigated? How can these impacts be mitigated?

11) Are there any federal roads, state roads, county roads, and FS Level 3, 4, and 5 roads whose scenic, aesthetic, and environmental values are threatened by the RAP or other proposed improvements? How can these impacts be mitigated?

12) Mitigation should be required for existing and future roads or road improvements. Mitigation should include culverts or similar devices designed specifically to allow passage of wildlife.

13) What is the road density in the NFGT?

14) What part of the road density is caused by federal roads, state roads, county roads, and FS Level 2, 4, and 5 roads that are in the road system being analyzed in the NFGT.

15) How do present federal roads, state roads, county roads, and FS Level 3, 4, and 5 roads that are in the road system being analyzed in the NFGT affect wildness, wilderness, quiet, natural sounds, and solitude? How can these impacts be mitigated?

16) What are the current economic costs of federal roads, state roads, county roads, and FS Level 3, 4, and 5 roads that are in the road system being analyzed in the NFGT? What is the current backlog of maintenance costs for these roads?

The HSC believes that the NFGT have more than enough roads to support all uses. We do not support turning any FS roads over to the county for maintenance or for any other purpose. We support the FS regaining control over as many of the public's roads and as much of its lands as possible whether these be federal, state, county, or municipal.

The HSC is very concerned about the pressure that these entities are putting on the FS. Examples include Walker County pressuring the FS to allow the clearing of numerous trees from the right-of-way and seeking more right-of-way to allow developers to more easily sell their properties along and near Walker County 2 (Forest Road 215). The Texas Department of Texas (TxDOT) has proposed the widening of FM 1375, one of the most scenic roads in the entire NFGT. There are an increasing number of requests by adjacent property owners to allow access by roads to their lands through Sam Houston National Forest (SHNF). FM 2025, coming out of Cleveland, Texas, has just been improved by widening shoulders.

The HSC wants the FS to examine carefully how roads affect the NFGT how. How can a road system intelligently be engineered to protect important ecosystems and wildlife while allowing compatible uses of the NFGT. How can wildness, wilderness, solitude,

quiet, natural sounds, contemplation, and other disappearing uses be protected, conserved, and preserved without the total mechanization of the NFGT.

There is a real opportunity to change the way the NFGT is managed. But continuing to construct, improve, and increase roads and road density will continue to cost the taxpayers more and more money to maintain the roads and in degraded natural resources.

We appreciate this opportunity to comment. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Brandt Mannchen
Chair, Forestry Subcommittee
Houston Sierra Club
Lone Star Chapter
5431 Carew
Houston, Texas 77096
H713-664-5962, W713-640-4313



U. S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

Eastern Federal Lands
Highway Division

21400 Ridgetop Circle
Sterling, VA 20166-6511

FEB 26 2003

Refer to: HFPP-15

Mr. Fred Salinas
Forest Supervisor
U.S. Forest Service
701 North 1st Street
Lufkin, TX 75901

Dear Mr. Salinas:

In accordance with the request of Mr. George Willard, enclosed are the following:

1. a CD-ROM containing maps and descriptive data on the designated Forest Highways in Texas and
2. a report, "History of Forest Highway Projects in State of Texas," detailing projects funded by the Forest Highway program.

Thank you for your participation in the Forest Highway Program. If you need more information or have a recommendation, please contact Mr. Walter Juraszek, Highway Engineer, at 571-434-1561, or Ms. Peggy DeWeese, Forest Highway and State Programs Manager, at 703-404-6290.

Sincerely yours,

Alan T. Teikari
Planning and Programming Engineer

Enclosures

cc:

Mr. George Willard, National Forests and Grasslands in Texas, Lufkin, TX with copy of enclosures



FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
 EASTERN FEDERAL LANDS HIGHWAY DIVISION
 FOREST HIGHWAY PROGRAM
 HISTORY OF FOREST HIGHWAY PROJECTS
 IN THE STATE OF TEXAS

02/24/2003
 PAGE 1

FH 87			
PROJECT NO. TX FH 2001(591)	PROJECT FUNDING	FEDERAL FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS
ADMIN BY: STATE; STATE PROJ NO: 0064-15-002	FOREST HIGHWAY	\$3,675,174.00	\$3,675,174.00
PROJECT STATUS / ? PERCENT COMPLETE 09/10/1901 PER PR-2 DTD 07/03/1901	SURFACE TRANSP.	\$0.00	\$0.00
PROJECT SCOPE RECONSTRUCT ROADWAY, INCLUDING 0 BRIDGE(S), ON 6.437 KM OF FDR 117 (FH 87) 3.52 MILES EAST OF US ROUTE TO 7.52 MILES EAST, SABINE NATIONAL FOREST, SABINE COUNTY, TEXAS	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00
	PUBLIC LANDS DISC.	\$0.00	\$0.00
	OTHER TITLE 23 PROG	\$0.00	\$0.00
	PROGRAM:		
	OTHER STATE FUNDS	\$0.00	\$0.00
	OTHER LOCAL FUNDS	\$0.00	\$0.00
	NON-TITLE 23 FEDERAL	\$0.00	\$0.00
	TOTALS	\$3,675,174.00	\$3,675,174.00
FOREST HIGHWAY 101			
PROJECT NO. TX PFH 101(1)	PROJECT FUNDING	FEDERAL FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS
ADMIN BY: STATE; STATE PROJ NO: 0911-39-010	FOREST HIGHWAY	\$289,129.09	\$289,129.09
PROJECT STATUS CLOSED / 100 PERCENT COMPLETE 08/01/1996 PER DAFIS REPORT DTD 07/16/1997	SURFACE TRANSP.	\$0.00	\$0.00
PROJECT SCOPE REPLACE BRIDGE AND APPROACH WORK, INCLUDING 1 BRIDGE(S), ON 0.000 KM OF FORMER FDR 126 (FOREST HIGHWAY 101) BRIDGE OVER BRITAIN CREEK, SABINE NATIONAL FOREST, SHELBY COUNTY, TEXAS	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00
	PUBLIC LANDS DISC.	\$0.00	\$0.00
	OTHER TITLE 23 PROG	\$0.00	\$0.00
	PROGRAM:		
	OTHER STATE FUNDS	\$0.00	\$0.00
	OTHER LOCAL FUNDS	\$0.00	\$0.00
	NON-TITLE 23 FEDERAL	\$0.00	\$0.00
	TOTALS	\$289,129.09	\$289,129.09
FOREST HIGHWAY 15			
PROJECT NO. TX FH 15-1(1)	PROJECT FUNDING	FEDERAL FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS
ADMIN BY: STATE; STATE PROJ NO: N/A	FOREST HIGHWAY	\$863,406.50	\$863,406.50
PROJECT STATUS CLOSED / 100 PERCENT COMPLETE 03/01/1986 PER FMIS DTD 09/30/1995	SURFACE TRANSP.	\$0.00	\$0.00
PROJECT SCOPE GRADING, BASE & SURFACING, INCLUDING 0 BRIDGE(S), ON 7.360 KM OF FM 2029 (FOREST HIGHWAY 15) 1.5 MI EAST OF TELEPHONE EAST 4.6 MI, CADDO NATIONAL GRASSLANDS, FANNIN COUNTY, TEXAS	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00
	PUBLIC LANDS DISC.	\$0.00	\$0.00
	OTHER TITLE 23 PROG	\$0.00	\$0.00
	PROGRAM:		
	OTHER STATE FUNDS	\$0.00	\$0.00
	OTHER LOCAL FUNDS	\$0.00	\$0.00
	NON-TITLE 23 FEDERAL	\$0.00	\$0.00
	TOTALS	\$863,406.50	\$863,406.50
FOREST HIGHWAY 15			
PROJECT NO. TX FHL 15-1(2)	PROJECT FUNDING	FEDERAL FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS
ADMIN BY: STATE; STATE PROJ NO: 2945-01-004	FOREST HIGHWAY	\$1,105,088.60	\$1,105,090.00
PROJECT STATUS CLOSED / 100 PERCENT COMPLETE 07/01/1990 PER FMIS DTD 09/30/1995	SURFACE TRANSP.	\$0.00	\$0.00
PROJECT SCOPE GRADING, BASE & SURFACING, INCLUDING 1 BRIDGE(S), ON 5.620 KM OF FM 409 (FOREST HIGHWAY 15) FR EAST END OF BOIS D'ARC SPRING BRIDGE TO FM 100, CADDO NATIONAL GRASSLANDS, FANNIN COUNTY, TEXAS	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00
	PUBLIC LANDS DISC.	\$0.00	\$0.00
	OTHER TITLE 23 PROG	\$0.00	\$0.00
	PROGRAM:		
	OTHER STATE FUNDS	\$0.00	\$0.00
	OTHER LOCAL FUNDS	\$0.00	\$0.00
	NON-TITLE 23 FEDERAL	\$0.00	\$0.00
	TOTALS	\$1,105,088.60	\$1,105,090.00
FOREST HIGHWAY 16			

STATUS.FRX; DO FH_STTWD.PRG TO PROCESS

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FOREST HIGHWAY 16			
PROJECT NO. TX FH 92(3)	PROJECT FUNDING	FEDERAL FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS
ADMIN BY: STATE; STATE PROJ NO: 0911-40-008	FOREST HIGHWAY	\$155,156.33	\$155,156.33
PROJECT STATUS CLOSED / 100 PERCENT COMPLETE 09/25/1997 PER DAFIS REPORT DTD 09/25/1997	SURFACE TRANSP.	\$0.00	\$0.00
	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00
	PUBLIC LANDS DISC.	\$0.00	\$0.00
	OTHER TITLE 23 PROG	\$0.00	\$0.00
	PROGRAM:		
PROJECT SCOPE REPL 2 BRIDGES W/PIPE CULVERTS; REPLACE 1 CULVERT, INCLUDING 0 BRIDGE(S), ON 0.000 KM OF COUNTY ROAD 145 (FOREST HIGHWAY 16) THREE LOCATIONS BTWN FM 358 TO HOUSTON COUNTY LINE, DAVY CROCKETT NATIONAL FOREST, TRINITY COUNTY, TEXAS	OTHER STATE FUNDS		\$0.00
	OTHER LOCAL FUNDS		\$0.00
	NON-TITLE 23 FEDERAL		\$0.00
	TOTALS	\$155,156.33	\$155,156.33
FOREST HIGHWAY 17			
PROJECT NO. TX FH 92(1)	PROJECT FUNDING	FEDERAL FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS
ADMIN BY: STATE; STATE PROJ NO: 0911-29-004	FOREST HIGHWAY	\$228,994.71	\$228,994.71
PROJECT STATUS CLOSED / 100 PERCENT COMPLETE 09/25/1997 PER DAFIS REPORT DTD 09/25/1997	SURFACE TRANSP.	\$0.00	\$0.00
	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00
	PUBLIC LANDS DISC.	\$0.00	\$0.00
	OTHER TITLE 23 PROG	\$0.00	\$0.00
	PROGRAM:		
PROJECT SCOPE ROAD WORK AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AT BRIDGE, INCLUDING 1 BRIDGE(S), ON 0.603 KM OF COUNTY ROAD 369 (FOREST HIGHWAY 17) FH 17 OVER BRUSHY CREEK, SABINE NATIONAL FOREST, SABINE COUNTY, TEXAS	OTHER STATE FUNDS		\$0.00
	OTHER LOCAL FUNDS		\$0.00
	NON-TITLE 23 FEDERAL		\$0.00
	TOTALS	\$228,994.71	\$228,994.71
FOREST HIGHWAY 87			
PROJECT NO. TX FH 92(4)	PROJECT FUNDING	FEDERAL FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS
ADMIN BY: STATE; STATE PROJ NO: 0911-29-006	FOREST HIGHWAY	\$1,309,479.46	\$1,732,901.46
PROJECT STATUS FINAL VOUCHER PAID / 100 PERCENT COMPLETE 01/04/1998 PER FINAL VOUCHER DTD 01/04/1998	SURFACE TRANSP.	\$0.00	\$0.00
	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00
	PUBLIC LANDS DISC.	\$0.00	\$0.00
	OTHER TITLE 23 PROG	\$0.00	\$0.00
	PROGRAM:		
PROJECT SCOPE RECON GRAVEL ROAD, INCLUDING 0 BRIDGE(S), ON 5.890 KM OF COUNTY ROAD 2343 (FOREST HIGHWAY 17) FROM END OF FM 2343, SOUTH TO FH 87, SABINE NATIONAL FOREST, SABINE COUNTY, TEXAS	OTHER STATE FUNDS		\$0.00
	OTHER LOCAL FUNDS		\$0.00
	NON-TITLE 23 FEDERAL		\$0.00
	TOTALS	\$1,309,479.46	\$1,732,901.46
FOREST HIGHWAY 87			
PROJECT NO. TX FH 92(2)	PROJECT FUNDING	FEDERAL FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS
ADMIN BY: STATE; STATE PROJ NO: 0911-29-005	FOREST HIGHWAY	\$1,809,497.60	\$1,809,497.60
PROJECT STATUS CLOSED / 100 PERCENT COMPLETE 01/02/1998 PER DAFIS REPORT DTD 01/20/1998	SURFACE TRANSP.	\$0.00	\$0.00
	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00
	PUBLIC LANDS DISC.	\$0.00	\$0.00
	OTHER TITLE 23 PROG	\$0.00	\$0.00
	PROGRAM:		
PROJECT SCOPE ROAD RECON INCL GRADE, DRAIN, BASE, SURF, RR XING, INCLUDING 0 BRIDGE(S), ON 5.538 KM OF FORMER FDR 117 (FOREST HIGHWAY 87) FH 87 FROM US RTE 96 EASTWARD, SABINE NATIONAL FOREST, SHELBY COUNTY, TEXAS	OTHER STATE FUNDS		\$0.00
	OTHER LOCAL FUNDS		\$0.00
	NON-TITLE 23 FEDERAL		\$0.00
	TOTALS	\$1,809,497.60	\$1,809,497.60

STATUS.FRX; DO FH_STTWD.PRG TO PROCESS

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FOREST HIGHWAY 87			
PROJECT NO. TX PFH 87(3)	PROJECT FUNDING	FEDERAL FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS
ADMIN BY: STATE; STATE PROJ NO: 0911-29-007	FOREST HIGHWAY	\$896,559.71	\$896,559.71
PROJECT STATUS	SURFACE TRANSP.	\$0.00	\$0.00
UNDER DESIGN / 0 PERCENT COMPLETE	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00
04/23/1901 PER PR-2A DTD 04/09/1901 MODIFIED TO AUTHORIZE R/W	PUBLIC LANDS DISC.	\$0.00	\$0.00
PURCHASES	OTHER TITLE 23 PROG	\$0.00	\$0.00
PROJECT SCOPE	PROGRAM:		
ROAD RECON INCL GRADE, DRAIN, BASE, SURF, RR XING, INCLUDING 0	OTHER STATE FUNDS		\$0.00
BRIDGE(S), ON 6.115 KM OF FORMER FDR 117 (FOREST HIGHWAY 87)	OTHER LOCAL FUNDS		\$0.00
FH 87 FROM 3.44 MI E US 96 TO SH 87, SABINE NATIONAL FOREST, SABINE	NON-TITLE 23 FEDERAL		\$0.00
COUNTY, TEXAS	TOTALS	\$896,559.71	\$896,559.71

	FEDERAL FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS
TOTALS FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS	FOREST HIGHWAY \$10,332,486.00	\$10,755,909.40
	SURFACE TRANSP. \$0.00	\$0.00
NUMBER OF MILES 23.33	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT \$0.00	\$0.00
NUMBER OF KILOMETERS 37.56	PUBLIC LANDS DISC. \$0.00	\$0.00
NUMBER OF BRIDGES 3	OTHER TITLE 23 PROG \$0.00	\$0.00
	OTHER STATE FUNDS	\$0.00
	OTHER LOCAL FUNDS	\$0.00
	NON-TITLE 23 FEDERAL	\$0.00
	TOTALS	\$10,332,486.00 \$10,755,909.40

Appendix Q. Glossary

Arterial Road: Primary travel route that provide service to a large land area, usually connecting with public highways or other Forest Service arterial roads.

Collector Road: Road that serves small land areas and usually connects with Forest Service arterials or public highways. They collect traffic from local roads and terminal facilities.

Deferred Maintenance: Work that can be deferred without loss of road serviceability until such time as the work can be economically or efficiently performed.

Forest Roads*: As defined in Title 23, Section 101 of the United States Code (23 U.S.C. 101), any road wholly or partially within, or adjacent to, and serving National Forest System lands and which is necessary for the protection, administration, and utilization of National Forest System lands and the use and development of its resources.

Forest Service Road: A classified forest road under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service. The term "Forest Service Road" is synonymous with the term "National Forest System Road".

Forest Transportation Facility*: A classified road, designated trail, designated airfield, including bridges, culverts, parking lots, log transfer facilities, safety devices, and other transportation network appurtenances, under Forest Service jurisdiction that is wholly or partially within or adjacent to National Forest System lands.

Local Road: Single purpose road, connecting terminal facilities to collectors or arterials.

Maintenance Levels: The level of service provided by a specific road and the maintenance required for that road, consistent with road management objectives and maintenance criteria.

- a) **Maintenance Level 5:** Roads that provide a high degree of user comfort and convenience. Normally are double lane, paved facilities, or aggregate surface with dust abatement. This is the highest standard of maintenance.
- b) **Maintenance Level 4:** Roads that provide a moderate degree of user comfort and convenience at moderate speeds. Most are double lane, and aggregate surfaced. Some may be single lane. Some may be dust abated.
- c) **Maintenance Level 3:** Roads open and maintained for travel by a prudent driver in a standard passenger car. User comfort and convenience are not considered priorities. Typically low speed, single lane with turnouts and native or aggregate surfacing.
- d) **Maintenance Level 2:** Roads open for use by high-clearance vehicles. Passenger car traffic is discouraged. Traffic is minor administrative, permitted, or dispersed recreation. Non-traffic generated maintenance is minimal.
- e) **Maintenance Level 1:** These roads are closed. Some intermittent use may be authorized. When closed, they must be physically closed with barricades, berms, gates, or other closure devices. Closures must exceed one year. When open, it may be maintained at any other level. When closed to vehicular traffic, they may be suitable and used for nonmotorized uses, with custodial maintenance.

Minimum Forest Road System: The existing State, County, and ML-1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 Forest Service roads which serve National Forest lands and are necessary for the protection, administration, and utilization of National Forest lands and resources.

NFGT: National Forests and Grasslands in Texas.

NFSR: National Forest System Road.

National Forest System Road*: A classified forest road under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service. The term “National Forest System Roads” is synonymous with the term “forest development roads” as used in 23 U.S.C. 205.

New Road Construction*: Activity that results in the addition of forest classified or temporary road miles (36 CFR 212.1).

Objective Maintenance Level: The maintenance level to be assigned at a future date considering future road management objectives, traffic needs, budget constraints, and environmental concerns. The objective maintenance level may be the same as, or higher or lower than, the operational maintenance level.

Operational Maintenance Level: The maintenance level currently assigned to a road considering today’s needs, road condition, budget constraints, and environmental concerns. It defines the level to which the road is currently being maintained.

Passive Use Value: This term includes the following two categories:

- **Existence Values:** Things people appreciate without actually using them or even intending to use them.
- **Bequest Values:** Things people want to remain available for others, such as their descendents, to use and appreciate.

Primary Forest Road System: The existing State, County, and ML-3, 4, and 5 Forest Service roads open to public use which serve National Forest lands and are necessary for the protection, administration, and utilization of National Forest lands and resources.

Public Roads*: Any road or street open to public travel under the jurisdiction of and maintained by a public authority such as states, counties, and local communities (23 USC 101(a)).

Private Road: A road under private ownership authorized by an easement to a private party, or a road that provides access pursuant to a reserved or private right

Public Lands Highways, Forest Highways A coordinated Federal Lands Highway Program includes Forest Highways, Public Lands Highways, Park Roads, Parkways, and Indian Reservation Roads. These are roads under the jurisdiction of and maintained by a public road authority or the Forest Service and open to public travel (23 USC 101).

Road*: A motor vehicle travelway over 50 inches wide, unless classified and managed as a trail. A road may be classified, unclassified, or temporary (36 CFR 212.1).

- a) **Classified Roads*:** Roads wholly or partially within, or adjacent to, National Forest System lands that are determined to be needed for long-term motor vehicle access, including State roads, county roads, privately owned roads, National Forest System roads, and other roads authorized by the Forest Service (36 CFR 212.1).
- b) **Temporary Roads*:** Roads authorized by contract, permit, lease, other written authorization, or emergency operation, not intended to be a part of the forest transportation system and not necessary for long-term resource management (36 CFR 212.1).

- c) **Unclassified Roads***: Roads on National Forest System lands that are not managed as part of the forest transportation system, such as unplanned roads, abandoned travelways, and off-road vehicle tracks that have not been designated and managed as a trail; and those roads that were once under permit or other authorization and were not decommissioned upon the termination of the authorization (36 CFR 212.1). The regulations at 36 CFR 223.37 require revegetation within 10 years.

Road Decommissioning*: Activities that result in the stabilization and restoration of unneeded roads to a more natural state (35 CFR212.1)(FSM 7703).

Road Maintenance*: The ongoing upkeep of a road necessary to retain or restore the road to the approved road management objective.

Road Management Objective (RMO): Describes the purpose of a road, provides design criteria, and establishes operation and maintenance standards based on resource management direction and access and travel management objectives.

Road Reconstruction*: Activity that results in improvement or realignment of an existing classified road as defined below:

- a) **Road Improvement***: Activity that results in an increase of an existing road's traffic service level, expansion of capacity, or a change in its original design function.
- b) **Road Realignment***: Activity that results in a new location of an existing road or portions of an existing road and treatment of the old roadway (36 CFR 212.1).

Roads Subject to the Highway Safety Act*: National Forest System roads that are open to use by the public for standard passenger cars. This includes roads with access restricted on a seasonal basis and roads closed during extreme weather conditions or for emergencies, but which are otherwise open for general public use.

Scale: The level at which an analysis is to be conducted. Analysis scales for roads analyses are generally forest (National Forest), and project.

Traffic service level: Describes the significant characteristics and operating conditions of a road (FSH 7709.56, ch.4).

Unroaded Areas: Areas that do not contain classified roads.

* Indicates definition is from FSM 7705 (1/12/01).



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