

Gifford Pinchot National Forest Roads Analysis

What are we talking about?

- The Forest is in the process of conducting a roads analysis to identify a sustainable road system for safe and efficient travel, and for protection, management and public use of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest within known funding constraints.

Why are we having public meetings?

- In order to produce a comprehensive roads analysis and move towards a more durable and sustainable road network, it is very important to hear from you about road use, access needs, and road-related resource concerns.

Why are we conducting a Roads Analysis?

- Most of our vast road network was built between the 1950s and 1990s to primarily support timber management. Since that time, needs for and uses of the road system have shifted dramatically as timber harvest on national forests in the Region has declined considerably and other uses, such as recreation, have grown.
- The Economy....Road maintenance budgets are declining while forest road systems remain extensive. We must find ways to provide for resource protection, economic opportunities, and recreational use while spending less on operations, maintenance, and repairs.
- Unmaintained or under-maintained roads are more difficult to travel on and can become public safety hazards.
- Failing road infrastructure due to reduced maintenance schedules, age, outdated design, and changing local weather patterns can lead to degradation of fish and wildlife habitat. Much of our road infrastructure has reached the end of its' structural life.

What will the Roads Analysis look like?

- We have national direction under the travel management rule to identify a sustainable road system and the requirements for conducting the analysis by 2015. Refer to the flowchart on reverse side.
- The Roads Analysis will:
 - Display access ratings, environmental risks and maintenance costs in terms of High, Medium, or Low for every road on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.
 - Provide an Integrated analysis of access needs, environmental risks and expected budgets.
 - A map and list of opportunities and priorities for changes to the road system.
 - Produce a Roads Analysis Report with recommended sustainable road system and annual costs.

How can you help?

- Information you provide will be utilized in the analysis to help determine individual road access ratings.

Information on Gifford Pinchot National Forest Roads Analysis can be found at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/giffordpinchot/landmanagement?cid=stelprdb5388890>