



Reporting Our Progress in Caring for the Land and Serving People



Treatment of Compacted Road Prisms with Subsoiling Grapple Rake Soils Program FY2012 Accomplishments Bitterroot National Forest, Northern Region

State: Montana

Congressional District: At-Large

Accomplishments:

- 10 miles of road treatments by decompacting compacted road prism with subsoiling implement on excavator;
- 40 acres of S&W-RSRC-IMP accomplished;
- Hydrologic features restored in approximately 25 drainages including 5 perennial streams.

Forest Service Contribution: \$48,000

Partner Contribution: \$12,000

Project Costs: \$60,000

External Partners:

Trout Unlimited.

Internal Partners:

Watershed, Engineering, Grants & Agreements.

Forest system roads that are closed to motorized travel and are not scheduled for immediate administrative use are often placed into "storage" for future use. Rehabilitation treatments are completed to alleviate compaction in road prisms. Compaction limits water infiltration which can lead to erosion of the road surface and potential sedimentation of streams. Decompaction treatments allow water to infiltrate to minimize erosion while maintaining the overall road prism for future use.

Trout Unlimited provided funding as well as on the ground support including local volunteer seeding and planting days. The decompaction also breaks up root restricting layers and allows surrounding vegetation to populate these road prisms and recover them much faster than would naturally occur - further minimizing potential erosion.



Example of road prism after decompaction with excavator & subsoiling grapple rack.



Sharpshooter shovel easily penetrated the previously compacted road bed after subsoiling was completed.