



USDA Forest Service Update

August 2011

Subject: Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) and Road-Stream Crossings

Issue: Re-establishing aquatic organism passage is a key component of restoring ecological conditions by connecting fragmented habitats, and is often a first step in restoring watershed condition, which benefits fish and other aquatic and riparian species.

Key Points:

- Regional assessments indicate that over 40,000 road-stream crossings potentially block access and use of upstream habitat. However, impacts of trail-stream crossings have not yet been identified on a broad scale.
- National interest drives partnerships across other Federal, State and local agencies, Tribes and non-profit groups. Partners include FWS, NOAA Fisheries, State Departments of Environmental Quality or Departments of Conservation, State and County Departments of Transportation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and The Nature Conservancy.
- In FY 2010, 240 of the structures were replaced with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding.
- No ARRA funds are available in FY 2011, resulting in a substantial decrease in the FY11 projected accomplishments.

Background:

Road-stream intersections can modify or obstruct the upstream movement of fish and other aquatic and riparian dependent organisms. Efforts over the past 20 years have focused on adult sport fish. Assessments from the past decade confirm the ecological importance of providing passage to all native aquatic and riparian species dependent on passage through road-stream crossings and for all life stages of those species, particularly to provide for robust communities and for resilience to climate change stresses. AOP at road-stream crossings has emerged as one of the USFS’ strongest examples of internal integration and quantifiable on-the-ground restoration.

Funding & Accomplishments

(in thousands \$\$)

SAFETEA-LU funding¹
 Legacy Roads and Trails²
 Number of structures replaced for AOP³
 Miles of aquatic habitat accessed-HTAP
 Miles of aquatic habitat accessed-CMLG
 Miles of aquatic habitat accessed-ARRA
 Total miles of aquatic habitat accessed³

	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2011 Estimate	FY 2012 Pres. Budget
	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000 est.
	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$75,000
	595	250 est.	200 est.
	270	TBD	TBD
	262	TBD	TBD
	243	0	TBD
	3,577	TBD	TBD

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^{1/} Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) with HTAP (Highway Trust Funds for Aquatic Passage) funding

^{2/}In FY 2012, Legacy Roads & Trails is included in IRR. Although proposed funding in FY12 is a decrease from the FY11 estimate, it is a \$24.6M increase from what was proposed in the FY 11 President’s Budget. We have proposed \$50.4M in FY11 & \$75M in FY12.

^{3/} Unified accomplishments that consider all sources of funds. FY 2010 accomplishments are higher as a result of ARRA funding.