

FACT SHEET

LASSEN NATIONAL FOREST Roads Analysis Process (RAP)

- The National Forest System Road Management Rule (Road Policy) was published in the Federal Register on January 12, 2001. This Rule revises the management, use and maintenance of the National Forest Transportation System. It was developed in response to public demand, the need to better manage funds available for road construction, reconstruction, maintenance and decommissioning.
- The Rule requires each National Forest to conduct science-based Roads Analysis Process (RAP) at appropriate scales as needed to support road management decisions. It specifically requires that forest-scale analysis be completed by January 12, 2003.
- RAP involves (1) describing the existing situation, (2) identifying significant concerns, (3) assessment of benefits, problems and risks, (4) describing opportunities and setting priorities, (5) reporting findings.
- The Lassen National Forest is beginning its forest-scale roads analysis. The purpose of the forest-scale RAP is to provide the context for road management within the overall resource management framework. It deals in general terms with the significant issues related to management of the overall Forest road system. It deals in specific terms only with the key routes (routes of major importance for accessing NFS lands). No specific project decisions will be made during this RAP process.
- The Forest welcomes involvement in the RAP from interested members of the public, other government entities, and tribal governments. Briefing papers will be provided to interested individuals and groups.
- The forest-scale RAP will be documented in a report that includes: (1) locations and management objectives of all classified roads, (2) identification of key routes for accessing NFS lands, (3) guidelines for addressing road management issues and priorities, (4) identification of the significant environmental and social issues to be addressed in project level decisions, (5) documentation of coordination with other government agencies and jurisdictions.

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- The following is the approximate transportation system described in miles of roadway that currently exist on the Forest:

Maintenance Level	Description	Miles
1	Service roads, usually closed all year	279
2	For high clearance vehicles	2,674
3	Dirt or paved surface; for standard passenger car	706
4	Provide higher degree of user comfort and maintenance	.1
5	Normally double-lane and paved	24
Total		3,683.1

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Attachment 5: Sample Glossary Definition of Road Terms

Glossary of Roads Analysis Process Terms

Arterial Roads- Primary travel routes that provide service to a large land area. They usually connect with public highways, or other Forest Service arterial roads.

Classified Road- 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.

Closed Travel way (Road)- A road on which all vehicle traffic has been excluded by natural blockage, barricade, regulation, or by obscuring the entrance. A closed travel way is still an inventoried facility which traffic has been removed (year-long or seasonal) and remains on the Forest Development transportation system. Closed travel ways have two general categories: *Regulated* use and *Restricted* use:

Regulated Use (Gated Roads), "Seasonally Open": These roads are closed part of the year to the public with a gate, sign or other device for purposes of wildlife management, recreation use or other resource management reasons. While some may be maintained for passenger cars, most of these roads are maintained for high-clearance vehicle use. In those cases where resource management or access and travel plans have identified an administrative need, such as user conflicts, safety hazards, fire control or special use access, the road will still be maintained, but closed with a gate or other removable device. Prohibited use signs may be posted on these devices.

Restricted Use, "Closing Naturally": These roads serve no current access need, and are not causing resource damage. Therefore, they do not require closure with some sort of device. Closure may occur gradually. The road will first be stabilized; however, brush will not be cut, slumps and slides will not be repaired, and rock will not be removed unless resource damage is occurring. The lack of maintenance will eventually result in the road becoming impassable to motor vehicles.

"Closed With A Device": These roads are closed to all designated traffic year-round, but will remain on the road system for potential use in the future. Access is controlled by permanent devices or a natural barricade. Prohibited and allowed uses are signed. These roads will also be stabilized.

Collector Roads- Roads that serve small land areas and usually connect with National Forest arterial roads or public highways. They collect traffic from local roads and terminal facilities.

Decommissioned Road- The road is stabilized to reduce the potential for storm damage and the need for future maintenance. The road's travel way is no longer intended for travel. Some low risk culverts and cross drains may remain. Decommissioning may include putting a road in storage for later use, or in some cases the road may be obliterated.

Forest Transportation Atlas- An inventory, description, display, and other associated information for those roads, trails, and airfields that are important to the management and use of the National Forest System lands or to the development and use of resources upon which communities within or adjacent to the National forests depend.

Forest Transportation Facility- A classified road, designated trail, or 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.

Maintenance Levels- Defines the level of service and degrees of maintenance consistent with road management objectives:

Maintenance Level 1- Assigned to intermittent service roads during the time they are closed to vehicular traffic. The closure period is one year or longer. Basic custodial maintenance is performed.

Maintenance Level 2- Assigned to roads open for use by high clearance vehicles. Passenger car traffic is not a consideration.

Maintenance Level 3- Assigned to roads opened and maintained for travel by a prudent driver in a standard passenger car. User comfort and convenience are not considered priorities.

Maintenance Level 4- Assigned to roads that provide a moderate degree of user comfort and convenience at moderate travel speeds.

Maintenance Level 5- Assigned to roads that provide a high degree of user comfort and convenience. Normally, roads are double-lane and paved, or aggregate surfaced with dust abatement

Obliteration - Restoring the hydrologic function of the ground by decompacting the road surface, removing fills and culverts, re-vegetation, or other actions with the intent that the road will not be used again.

New Road Construction- Activity that results in the addition of forest classified or temporary road miles.

Off Highway Vehicle (OHV)- Any motorized track or wheeled vehicle designed for cross country travel over natural terrain.

Public Road- Any road or street under the jurisdiction of and maintained by a public authority and open to public travel.

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.

Road- A general term denoting a facility for purposes of travel by vehicles greater than 50 inches in width. Includes only the area occupied by the road surface and cut and fill slopes. *Types of roads include:*

Forest Road- A road wholly or partly within, or adjacent to, and serving the national forest system and which is necessary to protect, administer, and use the national forest system and its resources

Forest Development Road- A forest road under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service. Also referred to as National Forest System Road.

Forest Highway- A forest road that is open to public travel, and which is under the jurisdiction of and maintained by a public road authority. The Forest Service is not a public road authority.

Temporary Road- Roads associated with such uses as timber sale contracts, land and minerals needs or special use permits. These roads are not intended to be a part of the forest development transportation system and not necessary for future resource management.

Non-System Travel way- A road within the National Forest System, these roads may have recreational or historical value. The NEPA process must be followed if a non-system road is to be closed or converted to another use. This can also include trails.

Unclassified Road- 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.

Roadless Area- Area identified during the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation process (RARE II) which have no roads and are at least 5,000 acres in size.

Road Management Objective (RMO)- Defines purpose, use, operational and maintenance level of road based on resource management and access and travel management objectives.

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

Road Improvement- Activity that results in an increase of an existing road's traffic service level, expansion of its capacity, or a change in its original design function.

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.

Road Upgrading- Includes erosion controls, road surface treatment to prevent dust and erosion, installing larger culverts and stabilizing fill slopes.

Travelway- A way for passage of vehicles, conveyances, persons, or domestic livestock developed by construction or use.

Transportation System- Roads, trails, waterways, and airways used to access the forest.