

# Lassen National Forest Roads Analysis

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### INTRODUCTION

On January 12, 2001, the Forest Service issued the final National Forest System Road Management Rule. This rule revises regulations concerning the management, use, and maintenance of the National Forest Transportation System. The final rule is intended to help ensure that additions to the National Forest System road network are essential for resource management and use; that construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of roads minimize adverse environmental impacts; that unneeded roads are decommissioned, and that restoration of ecological processes is initiated.

This report documents the information and analysis procedure used for the Lassen National Forest roads analysis. This analysis is designed to provide decision-makers with critical information needed to manage a **minimum** road system that is safe and responsive to public needs and desires, is affordable and efficiently managed, has minimal negative ecological effects on the land, and is in balance with available funding for needed management actions.

Roads analysis is a six-step process. The steps are designed to be sequential with an understanding that the process may require feedback and iteration among steps over time as new information becomes available.

1. Setting up the analysis
2. Describing the situation
3. Identification of Concerns
4. Assessing benefits, problems and risks
5. Describing opportunities and setting priorities
6. Reporting (Key Findings)

The amount of time and effort spent on each step differs by project based on specific situations and available information. The process provides a set of possible concerns and analysis questions; the answers can help managers make choices about road system management.

The product of this analysis is a report for decision-makers and the public that documents the information and analyses used to identify existing concerns and opportunities for future national forest road systems. The key products of this roads analysis at the Forest scale includes the following:

- A discussion of the existing situation for each resource area with respect to the transportation system in general.
- A scientific development of guidelines or key indicators with **public feedback** that will be used to evaluate ecological, social and economic conditions at both the forest scale and the watershed scale. These guidelines will enable forest managers to identify concerns, and opportunities to be addressed in project level decisions.
- Display of known social and environmental concerns and opportunities to be addressed later at the project level.
- A map that displays the existing level 3, 4, and 5 road system on the forest, with a spreadsheet that describes how they are intended to be managed.
- Documentation of coordination efforts with other government agencies, tribal governments, and other jurisdictions, and documentation of public involvement.