

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 5, 2018

U.S. Forest Service
Attn: Interim Chief Vickie Christiansen
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250-1111

Dear Interim Chief Christiansen:

We are writing today to express our continued support for the U.S. Forest Service's Legacy Roads and Trails program, and specifically request that the agency continue tracking and reporting annual accomplishments under the program.

The Legacy Roads and Trails program was created because the general Forest Service road maintenance budget was unable to address the sheer volume of plugged culverts, landslides, and road & trail wash-outs happening throughout our national forests. People were losing access, fish habitat was degrading, and streams were not meeting water quality standards. For ten years, the Legacy Roads and Trails program has played a necessary and complementary role to the Forest Service's general road maintenance program by targeting roads and trails that are contributing to water quality impairment in watersheds with threatened, endangered, and sensitive species or community drinking water sources.

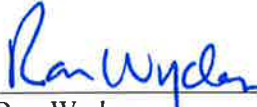
The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Pub. L. 115-141) moved \$40 million from the Legacy Roads and Trails budget line item into the Forest Service's general road maintenance budget, and directed via the joint report that the agency should continue to dedicate \$40 million to legacy roads and trails:

"Legacy Roads and Trails -The Committees recognize the need to remediate legacy roads and trails and direct the Service to address these projects as they rank in priority along with all other infrastructure needs from the appropriations provided for roads and trails through the Capital Improvement and Maintenance account and provide \$40,000,000 within the Roads budget line item."


The Legacy Roads and Trails program works because it is targeted, collaborative, and results oriented - taking aim at larger road projects to improve water quality and fish habitat that are not able to be fixed with general road maintenance dollars and which often require leveraging of non-federal funds by collaborative partners. Every year, the accomplishments from the program have been reported and we expect that to continue.

Thank you for your efforts in continuing to implement the program. We look forward to receiving a response to this letter and receiving an accounting of the programs' annual accomplishments at the end of FY18.

Sincerely,


Ron Wyden
United States Senator


Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator


Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator