



Office of Federal
Lands Highway

U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration

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Federal Lands Highway provides planning, design, and engineering services to support the highways and bridges that provide access to and within federally owned lands.

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See <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/flh/> for sources

Federal Lands Highway Program (FLHP)

Improving transportation to and within federal and tribal lands



Forest Highways FH

What is the Forest Highway Program? The U.S. Department of Transportation Office of Federal Lands Highway (FLH) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) administer the Forest Highways (FH) Program in partnership, as part of the Federal Lands Highway Program (FLHP). FH is one of the two components of the Public Lands Highway (PLH) program, and receives 66% of authorized PLH funds.

There are approximately 29,200 miles of forest highways, which provide access to and within the National Forest System (NFS).

USFS has jurisdiction over NFS, which includes 155 national forests and 22 National Grasslands in 42 states, Puerto Rico. More than 200 million people visit the NFS every year.

The 2005 Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) authorized \$940 million for FH for FY05-09.



Minnesota Forest Highway 22 through the Chippewa National Forest

Forest Highways (FH) Program

2,000 miles of USFS-administered roads
29,200 miles of state or locally owned public roads
31,200 total miles



Forest Highways Program Highlights

The Beartooth Highway. The Beartooth Highway is a Scenic Byway with the special designation of an All-American Road. The highway winds 69 miles in and out of Wyoming and back into Montana, passing through Custer, Gallatin, and Shoshone National Forests and ending at the northeast entrance to Yellowstone National Park. Heralded as one of the most scenic drives in the United States, the route features breathtaking views of the Absaroka and Beartooth Mountains, and open high alpine plateaus dotted with glacial lakes, forested valleys, waterfalls and wildlife. Federal Lands Highway is reconstructing this scenic byway to a more uniform and safer standard by. The new alignment utilizes context-sensitive principles to harmonize with the constantly changing scenery and terrain. Accidents are expected to decrease significantly from the new, more forgiving width, alignment, and safety features. The Forest Highway Program provided approximately \$26,000,000 in project funding.

Arkansas Forest Highway (FH) 65. FH 65 is located adjacent to bluffs and the Mulberry River in the Ozark National Forest in Arkansas, which is designated a Recreational River in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Due to increased recreational vehicle traffic, the highway no longer met highway safety standards. The gravel road did not have guardrails and could not physically accommodate the increased demand for accessibility to the scenic area. The dust and sediment from the gravel measurably degraded the water quality of the river below. A project by Federal Lands Highway improved the roads and bridges without disturbing the river. The road was widened and paved in order to accommodate two 10-foot-wide paved travel lanes. A free-draining natural rock retaining wall was constructed, using stones quarried just a half-mile from the construction site.

General Hitchcock Highway. Arizona Forest Highway 39, also known as General Hitchcock Highway, consists of 24 miles through the Coronado National Forest. This route traverses the sensitive Sonoran Desert, river banks, and high sub-alpine forest. The highway is traveled by over one million visitors each year, and has been designated a Scenic Byway. In 1988 Federal Lands Highway began working on a series of seven projects along the General Hitchcock Highway in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and Pima County. The final Forest Highway Program funded segment (\$15.0 million) was completed four months ahead of schedule in 2007. The mitigation effort consisted of careful selection of alignment and design alternatives that minimize new visual impacts, special sculpting of new cut-and-fill slopes, intensive landscaping and revegetation of disturbed areas, and special construction requirements to minimize repercussions on threatened species. The roadway won a prestigious 2005 Arizona Engineering Excellence Grand Award for Context Sensitive Design for minimizing damage to existing terrain and pinnacles.



Beartooth Highway



Arkansas Forest Highway 65



General Hitchcock Highway



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