



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



Refuge Roads RR

What is the Refuge Roads Program?

The U.S. Department of Transportation Office of Federal Lands Highway (FLH) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) jointly administer the Refuge Roads (RR) Program as part of the Federal Lands Highway Program (FLHP). Refuge roads provide access to and within the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS), which is administered by FWS. There are approximately 4,900 miles of public roads within the NWRS, all but 8% of which are unpaved, in addition to over 265 bridges, 5,153 parking lots, six transit systems, and over 680 miles of foot trails and boardwalks. The NWRS includes

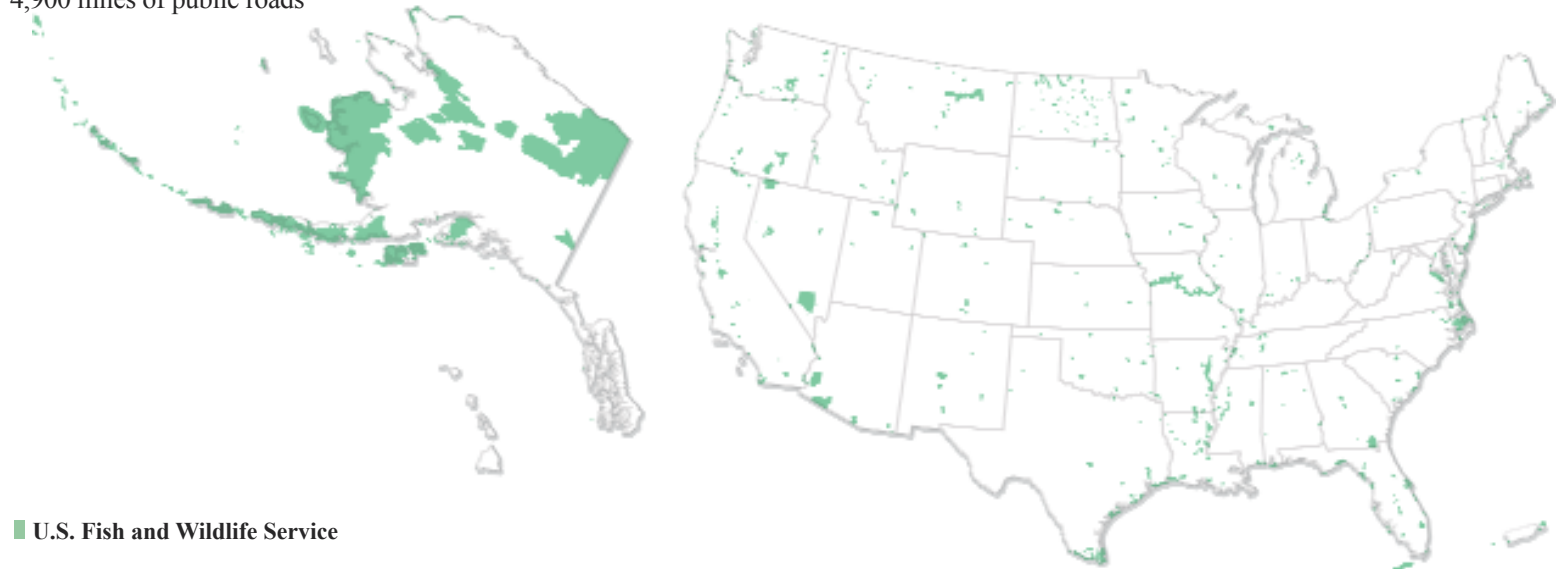
approximately 548 wildlife refuges in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands. The 2005 Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) authorized the RR Program at \$29 million per year through 2009. Funding is provided for the design, reconstruction, maintenance or improvement of Refuge Roads, and SAFETEA-LU expanded the scope of the program to include interpretive signage and trails.



Bain's Gap Road, Mountain Longleaf National Wildlife Refuge, Alabama

Refuge Roads (RR) Program

4,900 miles of public roads



Refuge Roads Projects

Marshlands Roads, Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge, California. The project required the coordination of four agencies—FWS, Central Federal Lands Highway Division, CalTrans, and the East Bay Regional Parks District—and funding from both the Refuge Roads Program and Transportation Enhancements. The end results included a rehabilitated, rerouted, and widened entry road and overflow parking area; a wider and safer parking lot for Refuge staff and visitors; improved access to the Refuge's popular Environmental Education area; a safer, more efficient entrance to the Refuge's maintenance area and volunteer residences; and a class one bike trail connecting the Refuge over a highway toll plaza with Coyote Hills Regional Park. Over four years of hard work culminated in a functional and attractive project that was well received by the staff and Refuge visitors.

Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge, Washington. Western Federal Lands Highway Division and FWS are performing several transportation facility improvements within the Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge. Work is currently in its initial stage, which will culminate in late 2008. Improvements are needed to provide continued safe, convenient access for commercial, recreational, and maintenance traffic using Refuge Roads. The routes have uneven surfaces and are single-lane, containing long stretches with no formal turnouts. Proposed work includes rehabilitating approximately 13 miles of gravel roads, improving and adding turnouts, rehabilitating the River Camp Bridge, upgrading parking areas, repairing culverts, and drainage maintenance.

Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge, South Carolina. The Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge is located in a region of rolling sandy hills and longleaf pine forests. Because of the susceptibility to erosion of the sandy geology of the region, the Refuge has been experiencing maintenance problems on its roadways. Eastern Federal Lands Highways Division (EFLHD) has been working to correct these ongoing problems by rehabilitating several roads in the Refuge. Work has included grading and widening roadway lanes, cutting ditches for better drainage, placing additional aggregate surface material, stabilizing slopes through new and innovative seeding and erosion control methods, installing new pipe culverts, and replacing/extending existing pipe culverts. EFLHD has worked closely with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to apply new erosion control methods which will be used as a demonstration for future projects of this type.



Marshland Road, Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge, California



A new parking area greets visitors at Little Pend Oreille's restored McMEET Trail, Washington



Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge, South Carolina