

Sachet (Mt. Hood):

This is a people's forest. And we're finding that, more and more, people want to be involved in the management of their forest.

Barton (Mt Baker-Snoqualmie, WA):

There's a need for people to experience the forest in order to learn from it. There's a huge amount that people can learn just by being in the presence of these trees and this wildlife.

Olson (Shasta-Trinity, CA):

The Forest Service maintains a vast road system. And it's a real challenge under the best of conditions to keep the road system good for health and safety.

Hamilton (Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie, WA):

One of the biggest challenges we have is how to maintain the roads that we have so that we can get the public up to the forest that they want to visit.

Pilles (Coconino, AZ):

The routes that people are traveling today are travels through time, because those same locations have been the travel ways for people going all the way back into the pre-historic period.

Burden (FHWA):

The working relationship between the Forest Service and the Federal Highway Administration goes way back to 1905 and the construction of forest roads and forest highways.

Carole McDonald (Mt. Baker, WA)

The highway is what we call our main street. It is the main connector between all the communities out here. And it's the main artery that brings tourists out.

Bedor (White Mountain, NH):

It is absolutely vital that we have the interstate system to get people very close to us and then the secondary roads with the scenic byways through here, so that they can have easy access to see what is glorious.

Baichtel (Tongass, AK):

The roads are what people move product and goods to and from and not only recreate, but rely on for going to the doctor visits and dentists and everything. So, without the roads that we now have connecting those communities, they would still be isolated

Smith (Coconino):

There's a lot of recreation that happens off this road, so it is a vital artery here to the ski area and we need to make sure that we maintain it and we keep it open for everybody to utilize.

Dauer (White Mountain, NH):

The whole idea is to try to create a seamless transportation network that the traveling public doesn't realize they're going from a state road to a forest road to a town road and back to a forest road. And it makes it quite unique.

Pilles (Coconino):

We're caught in the dilemma of providing access to areas through roads, yet, at the same time, removing roads to return the areas back to a more forested, quiet kind of environment. So, that will be the management decisions to make in the future, is what to leave and what to take out of service.

VanDerHeyden (Mt. Baker):

Roads change things, but in a lot of respects they're also an embodiment of how humans have used this landscape, so they are going to be the connection between the land and people in the future and I think people aren't going to care about their forest if they can't have access to it.

Narrator:

These roads are lifelines - because of how crucial they are to connecting our own lives to these treasured forest ecosystems.