

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/8/2017 3:19:34 AM

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Comments: As of late, the west has been plagued by shrinking access to public land. The problem is exacerbated by the growing population of outdoor enthusiasts who will love the land to death if there's not enough to go around.

One only need look at the current wildfires in California to understand the necessity to keep roads to all areas in passable condition: It's only a matter of time until we will have to fight that same battle. Only access can make it possible to win that fight against Mother Nature.

Logging operations are a major necessity in forest health and the land must be cared for to mitigate fires and erosion. There must be adequate vehicle access to allow both preventative and emergency maintenance of healthy forests. We must be very careful in designating large amounts of unreachable wild lands. While serving the romantic idea of pristine wilderness that remains the way it was for centuries, the cold hard fact is that they serve as breeding grounds to nurture problems, including but not limited to, insect infestation and wildfires, on adjacent managed lands.

Access is not the enemy, it is a major tool in forest management as well as responsible recreation.