The USDA Forest Service manages over 193 million acres of national forests and grasslands across 44 states and territories. These public lands amount to approximately 30 percent of all federally owned lands and comprise approximately 8 percent of the land area in the United States.

Forest Service infrastructure consists of a variety of diverse assets that include over 370,000 miles of roads, 13,400 road and trail bridges, 159,000 miles of trails, 1,700 dams and reservoirs, 1,500 communication sites, 40,000 facilities and 27,000 recreation sites.

More than $5.2 billion in infrastructure repairs and maintenance have been postponed year-over-year due to budget constraints, this is known as “deferred maintenance.”

This backlog impacts every aspect of the Forest Service mission, including wildfire fighting, active management of our nation’s forests, and access for the millions of Americans who depend on these forests for their livelihoods and recreation.

This infrastructure annually supports over 300 million travelers across Forest Service roads, 149 million recreation visitors, and 50 million hikers; with recreation related activity alone yearly contributing approximately $10.3 billion to the U.S. economy.

As of September 30, 2018, deferred maintenance for all infrastructure totaled $5.2 billion, which can be broken down into the following broad categories:

- Transportation Infrastructure: **$3.7 billion** (includes all roads, trails, bridges, and tunnels)
- All other facilities: **$1.5 billion** (Includes buildings, housing, campgrounds, dams, waste water systems, water systems, utility systems, parking areas, marinas, aviation hangars, airfield pavements, towers, interpretive sites)

Addressing this deferred maintenance is a critical issue affecting the Agency’s ability to achieve its mission to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

With adequate funding and a long-term comprehensive capital improvement plan, deferred maintenance can be reduced to a manageable level.