

Example Property Access, Roads, and Skid Trails Sections (Resource Category 5)

Property Access Example 1

Resource assessment

Access is down a private asphalt then gravel road about ½ mile long. The road is mostly level but the last 500' climb up at a 13% grade and has areas where surface flow washes off gravel. A new layer of larger gravel needs to be laid and surface flow diverted. There is a 300' private drive with a 50' turnaround installed by the previous owner, which will be maintained as is. No easements or road use permits apply on this property.

There are no skid trails present. A surveyor marked the property corners and several points along each line, which will be turned into an access trail around the property perimeter for maintenance and monitoring.

Management recommendations

Other than developing a perimeter access trail, there are no plans for road or skid trail development on this property. Surface flow will be diverted from the access road by additional rock surfacing added to maintain road integrity and prevent erosion.

Property Access Example 2

Resource assessment

The property is 18.4 acres, located on Smith Hill, east of Ourtown, WA. Smith Road, a paved county-maintained road, has an easement through the north part of the property. Bigtree Lane, a private gravel road shared with other residents, traverses across the southern part of the property. A gravel driveway of 250 yards enters from the southeast corner of the property up to the one-acre residence plot on the top of the ridge of the property. There are deer and elk trails established throughout the forest.

Management recommendations

There is a road maintenance agreement among the property owners with yearly dues to maintain Bigtree Lane and Mountain Vista. Our goal is to develop a quad trail system for easier access to the forest in doing maintenance.

Property Access Example 3

Resource assessment

Our site and six other of the 5-acre lots are accessed from a private gravel road, Happy Tree PL SE. We have a very strong road use and maintenance agreement. The road is currently one year overdue for grading and rocking. Maintenance activities are scheduled for summer 2025. It is also subject to Road Maintenance and Abandonment Planning (RMAP) under Forest Practice Rules and Regulations, which requires the road to meet current FP standards.

Management recommendations

Ground based equipment operations should avoid the rainy season to avoid causing compaction (which can then lead to surface erosion and ponding). Our property can all be operated on from the existing gravel road and yard area. A road maintenance plan and schedule addresses surface drainage. Competing vegetation can be severe so monitor for signs of stress to regeneration trees caused by other vegetation or invasive species.



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