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## **DETERIORATING NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ROADS WOULD GET BOOST UNDER SENATE BILL**

Thousands of miles of crumbling roadways in the National Wildlife Refuge System would receive a boost under a transportation bill passed today by the U.S. Senate. The new funding would help remedy the \$158 million road maintenance backlog faced by world's largest network of lands dedicated to wildlife.

Under the Federal Land Highways Program of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), the reauthorization bill, S. 1173, provides for \$20 million in new funding for wildlife refuge roads each year for the next 5 years.

"The Senate's action recognizes the important role the National Wildlife Refuge System plays in safeguarding America's magnificent wildlife resources," said Jamie Rappaport Clark, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the agency responsible for managing the 92-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System.

"I applaud the Senate's efforts to address the maintenance needs of the National Wildlife Refuge System," said Director Clark. "I also want to recognize the tremendous leadership of Senators John Chafee and Max Baucus in making sure the legislation addressed these needs. Receiving this funding under the Federal Lands Highways Program would help us ensure safe and accessible roads for the 30 million Americans who visit national wildlife refuges each year. It would also allow the Fish and Wildlife Service to target limited resources toward vital wildlife conservation programs on refuges."

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**AMERICA'S NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES...**  
*where wildlife comes naturally!*

More than 4,200 miles of public roads and 424 bridges are contained in the 514 wildlife refuges and 38 wetland management districts making up the National Wildlife Refuge System. Based on Federal Highway Administration inventory and analysis, 70 percent of refuge roads are in poor condition, 25 percent are considered to be in fair condition, and only 5 percent considered in good condition. In addition, the analysis concluded 90 percent of refuge bridges need safety and maintenance repairs. According to other Federal Highway Administration studies, refuge roads are used more intensively by the public than all national forest roads and Department of Defense roads combined.

Begun in 1903 by President Theodore Roosevelt, the National Wildlife Refuge System grew from a tiny pelican rookery in Florida to a vast network of strategically located habitats throughout the United States and U.S. territories. Some of the most rare and spectacular wildlife spectacles occur on national wildlife refuges, which host millions of migrating birds; big game like caribou, buffalo, and elk; and hundreds of the nation's most critically endangered species.

The 30 million people who visit national wildlife refuges each year come for activities like birdwatching and other wildlife observation, hiking, fishing, nature photography, hunting, and environmental education. At least one national wildlife refuge is located within an hour's drive of every major city in the United States.

For more information on the National Wildlife Refuge System, call 1-800-344-WILD, visit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's homepage at [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov) and click on "National Wildlife Refuge System, or better yet, visit a national wildlife refuge.

# FACTS *from the National Wildlife Refuge System*



## NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ROAD MAINTENANCE BACKLOG BY STATE

<u>State</u>	<u>Backlog amount</u>
Alabama	\$ 591,000
Alaska	\$ 1,785,850
Arizona	\$ 1,807,000
Arkansas	\$ 3,425,000
California	\$ 1,370,800
Colorado	\$ 1,871,500
Connecticut	\$ 20,000
Delaware	\$ 960,000
Florida	\$ 1,038,000
Georgia	\$ 598,000
Hawaii	\$ 354,800
Idaho	\$ 1,491,000
Illinois	\$12,038,242
Indiana	\$ 1,541,300
Iowa	\$ 3,220,001
Kansas	\$ 827,400
Kentucky	\$ 0
Louisiana	\$ 3,157,000
Maine	\$13,906,953
Maryland	\$ 7,660,995
Massachusetts	\$ 674,000
Michigan	\$ 1,464,030
Minnesota	\$ 9,332,480
Mississippi	\$ 4,566,000
Missouri	\$ 2,635,299
Montana	\$ 2,948,611
Nebraska	\$ 117,150
Nevada	\$24,391,246
New Hampshire	\$ 894,000

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New Jersey	\$ 382,750
New Mexico	\$ 674,500
New York	\$ 652,000
North Carolina	\$ 5,206,000
North Dakota	\$ 3,135,100
Ohio	\$ 88,500
Oklahoma	\$ 3,147,500
Oregon	\$ 3,605,272
Pennsylvania	\$ 482,406
Rhode Island	\$ 210,000
South Carolina	\$ 920,000
South Dakota	\$ 1,251,200
Tennessee	\$ 2,247,500
Texas	\$ 3,523,775
Utah	\$19,316,550
Vermont	\$ 65,000
Virginia	\$ 2,188,500
Washington	\$ 1,513,350
West Virginia	\$ 96,000
Wisconsin	\$ 2,911,478
Wyoming	\$ 2,113,500
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Total	\$157,814,202