

# Colorado

## Federal Lands Access Program

### Legislation:

Prior to Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (MAP-21), the new transportation authorization, the state of Colorado received Forest Highway Program dollars that were used to improve roads that provided access to or through Forest Service lands.

With the passage of MAP-21, the Forest Highway Program was phased out; however, the Federal Lands Access Program (Access Program) has been created with new funding eligibilities and opportunities for Colorado. This program was created for routes that improve access to Federal lands on infrastructure owned or maintained by State DOTs, counties, or local governments. The Access Program, while seeing a \$50 million increase in overall funding from the Forest Highway Program, also has an adjusted funding formula distribution. The new formula allocates 80% of the funds to states with at least 1.5% of the total Federal land. Colorado is one of these 12 states, which has resulted in an increase of approximately \$7.1 million per year to the state.

**Table 1 - Forest Highway Funding Compared to Access Program**

Transportation Bill	Program Name	Federal Funds	Non-Federal Match Required
SAFETEA-LU	Forest Highway	\$11.6 million/year	0%
MAP-21	Federal Lands Access	\$18.2-19.2 million/year	17.21%

The other significant changes Congress made include:

- Require a non-federal match for the funds, in Colorado this will be 17.21%.
- Expand eligibility to all public roads that access, are adjacent to, or are within Federal lands, with emphasis placed on those that access high use recreation sites and are economic generators.
- Create the Program Decision Committee (PDC), which will consist of FHWA, the State DOT and a “representative of any appropriate political subdivision of the state”.

### Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA) Engagement:

While the PDC will program and deliver the projects in Colorado, the FLMAs will be engaged throughout the process.

### Past Projects Completed by Central Federal Lands Highway Division (1999 – 2012):

The Forest Highway Program also used a tri-party arrangement to establish a program of projects. While FHWA delivered the following projects, the following is a tribute to the great collaboration and success of that tri-agency:

Project Name	Construction Amount
CO PFH 80 Guanella Pass Road	\$53,028,972
CO PFH 1 Dolores-Rico	\$11,443,471
CO PFH 59 Taylor River Road	\$10,801,360
CO PFH 16 Phippsburg-Marvine-Yampa	\$5,906,795
CO PFH 81 Tarryall Creek Road	\$9,357,718
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$90,538,316</b>

