

About Wildlands CPR

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Early in 1994, a core group of grassroots conservation activists and conservation biologists met to lay the groundwork for protecting and restoring wildland ecosystems by eliminating roads. Out of this meeting a new coalition formed: the Road Removal Implementation Project, ROAD-RIP. In January 1997, ROAD-RIP changed its name to the Wildlands Center for Preventing Roads, Wildlands CPR.

Wildlands CPR is a national network of grassroots groups and individuals working to reverse the severe ecological impacts of wildland roads. We seek to protect native ecosystems and biodiversity by recreating an interconnected network of roadless wildlands. Our focus is specific: Wildlands CPR is working to protect and restore wildland ecosystems by preventing and removing roads and motorized recreation.

Wildlands CPR's visionary strategy integrates conservation biology, activism, and law to:

- Act as a national resource center, providing people with the tools they need to close or prevent environmentally damaging roads and motorized recreation in wildland ecosystems.
- Train activists to prevent, close, and revegetate wildland roads using sound biological and legal information to influence public land management processes.
- Educate the public about the environmental damage caused by roads and motorized recreation and how to become involved in public land management decisions.

Wildlands CPR Resources

As a national clearinghouse, Wildlands CPR produces and maintains a variety of resources that can be used to better understand and challenge unnecessary and ecologically damaging roads and motorized recreation in wildland ecosystems. Though our current resources are listed below, we are continually updating these and developing additional resources:

The Road-Ripper's Handbook

The Road-Ripper's Handbook is the cornerstone of all of our resources. It includes four individual guides to: *National Forests*, *National Parks*, *Bureau of Land Management*, and *Off-Road Vehicles*. A fifth guide, to *Wildland Road Removal*, is currently in the final editing stage and should be available in February 1998. These guides provide individuals with a scientific understanding of the ecological effects of roads, as well as a background in the laws and regulations that govern roads and motorized recreation on public lands. In addition to the guides, the handbook also includes a resource section with additional information on the ecological effects of roads, a "road impact assessment guide," explanations of how to use the Freedom of Information Act, lists of organizations working on road issues and bibliographies with good references for road information.

Road-Ripper's Workshops

Wildlands CPR conducts three distinct styles of workshops, though each has certain similar components. We offer inventory/ground-truthing workshops, restoration workshops, and also road prevention strategy workshops. Our workshops are led by people familiar with road-fighting techniques, using active

hands-on or field-based methods to teach people to prevent, close, or restore wildland roads. We are currently in the process of developing a workshop for fighting motorized recreation on public lands.

Wildlands CPR's road prevention strategy workshops bring together scientists, activists, concerned citizens, lawyers and other interested parties to discuss how to protect wildland or native ecosystems from road incursions and all of the developments that go with them. These workshops focus on brainstorming, coalition building and sharing effective strategies and techniques for challenging new road developments.

Our road inventory workshops are designed to teach people to go out in the field and inventory roads on public lands to determine whether or not the road system is in compliance with the laws regulating that land. This workshop also focuses on monitoring effective and ineffective road closures. *The Road-Ripper's Handbook* is used as part of the curriculum for this workshop. Our motorized recreation workshop will be modeled after this workshop, focusing on inventorying ecological damage from, and illegal use of, motorized vehicles and using this data to improve public land management.

In addition to preventing and inventorying roads, road removal is quickly becoming common on both public and private lands. Our road removal workshops teach people to understand effective and ineffective road removal in different types of ecosystems. Our new *Guide to Wildland Road Removal* will be available in February 1998 and will be used in our road removal workshops. These workshops last 2-5 days, mostly in the field, and are led by experts with years of experience in road removal.

The Road-RIPorter

Our bimonthly newsletter, *The Road-RIPorter*, enables us to disseminate the information we gather as a clearinghouse. *The RIPorter* is designed to act as a tool for people interested in challenging roads and motorized recreation. Each issue includes detailed scientific, legal, and field notes for individuals to use in their road challenges, an essay about roads in wildlands, legislative news, regional reports and alerts.

Roads Bibliography

Under the supervision of conservation biologist Reed Noss, several graduate students prepared a comprehensive bibliography on the ecological effects of roads, completed in May 1995. The database contains 6,000 citations from scientific and technical literature documenting the ecological damage caused by roads.

We maintain the bibliography in a computer database using Pro-Cite software. In response to requests, Wildlands CPR can search it to find citations related to various road impacts including erosion, fragmentation, sedimentation, pollution, edge effects, deforestation, effects on wildlife, aquatic and hydrological effects, roads and endangered species, road mortality, and more. In addition, we offer a single-disk Bibliographic Summary, containing the results of many commonly-requested searches. For individuals with access to Pro-Cite software, we can provide copies of the full bibliography on disk. An update of the database was just completed at the end of 1997.

Wildlands CPR Public Education Materials

Wildlands CPR currently has brochures and bookmarks available to activists to use as public education tools. The

brochure gives a brief and basic outline of the ways roads damage wildlands, explains the need for road obliteration, and gives a few details about Wildlands CPR.

In addition to our brochure and bookmark, we have a slide show that we can present in your community, or that you can purchase or borrow from us to present yourself. The slide show, entitled "Why didn't the toad cross the road?" includes information about the terrestrial and aquatic impacts of roads, as well as the impacts of off-road vehicles and the connection between road construction and human encroachment on native ecosystems. It concludes with a discussion of the solutions to these problems through road removal and restoration. We have developed a script and list of commonly asked questions for people who are interested in presenting the slide show themselves.

For information about how to become involved with Wildlands CPR, to order any of our publications or bibliographic resources, or to receive our newsletter, please contact us at: Wildlands CPR; PO Box 7516; Missoula, MT 59807; 406/543-9331; wildlandscpr@wildrockies.org; www.wildrockies.org/WildCPR.