

Flood-Damaged Roads May Cost Counties One-Third Of Receipts

By STAN FEDERMAN
Staff Writer, The Oregonian

Recent flood damage to logging access roads in the Mt. Hood National Forest may cost Clackamas and Multnomah Counties more than a third of their 1965 Forest Service receipts.

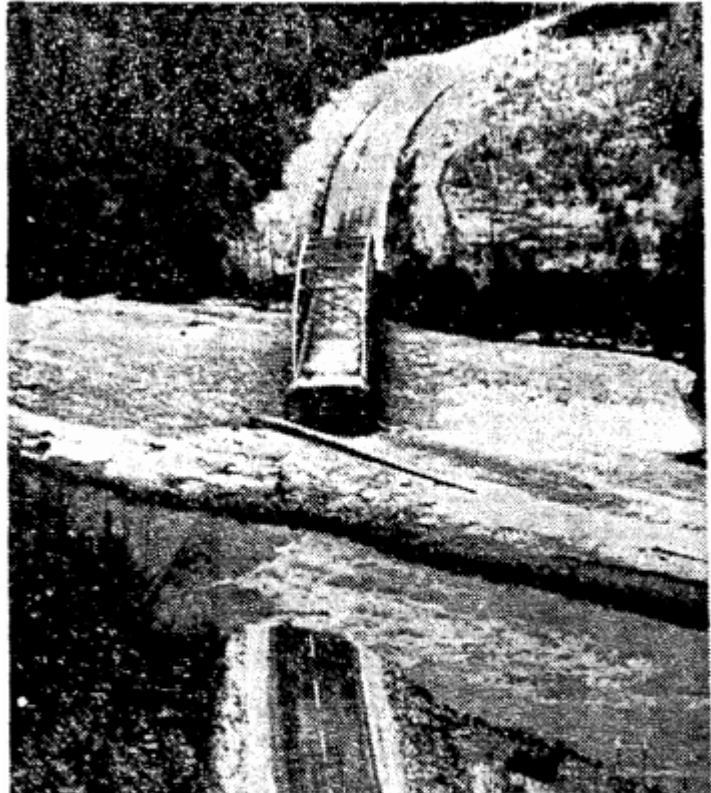
The loss is linked to an expected three or four-month delay in normal spring logging operations along the Upper Clackamas and Collawash Rivers.

Flood damage to access roads in these areas has been "devastating" according to some timber operators.

Contract Awarded

Paul Neff, Mt. Hood Forest supervisor, estimated that the Upper Clackamas road problem is "the worst of any national forest area in Oregon."

"Under normal circumstances, spring logging operations would begin by April 1. Now it looks that the major access roads won't be ready until June 1 and private access road restoration won't be completed until July 1. . .if



DESTRUCTIVE FORCE of recent flood in Upper Clackamas River area is shown at Carter Bridge site where the swift current has caused a complete change in the channel necessitating a king-sized reconstruction job for the Forest Service. The road shown is the Clackamas River Highway which provides one of the main logging access routes in Mt. Hood National Forest.

operators are lucky, that is."

"All in all, it looks like at least a three, and probably a four-month delay, in much of the forest's upper regions."

Neff announced Feb. 23 that a \$646,000 contract had been awarded to Goodfellow Bros., Inc., Wenatchee, Wash., for reconstruction of major access roads along the Upper Clackamas and Collawash Rivers.

The contract calls for the Clackamas section to be completed in 45 days and the Collawash in 90 days. Both sections will be closed to log hauling and public traffic during the construction period.

Heavy Equipment Moving

Neff noted that prompt action by the Bureau of Public Roads and State Highway Department in reconstruction of the flood-battered Lower Clackamas River Highway has resulted in earlier access to the Upper Clackamas than was originally anticipated.

"As a result, the Goodfellow firm is already moving heavy equipment through the Lower Clackamas stretch for a quick start on the many culvert and bridge washouts we face on the Upper Clackamas area," said Neff.

Neff pointed out that counties receive 25 per cent of Forest Service monies received

for timber sales — "and any delay as long as three or four months mean counties will suffer substantial losses of receipts, perhaps as high as one third or more."

This forecast was confirmed by Clackamas and Multnomah officials who said a part of the problem is lack of federal aid for many of the logging access routes built by buyers of government timber.

Several Bills Pushed

The Forest Service does not take ownership of these roads until sales are logged — and many small timber operators simply don't have funds available to reconstruct these roads. Many of the roads are in terrible shape from the floods and would require expensive restoration.

Neff noted there was emergency federal aid for main access roads such as the Upper Clackamas and Collawash — but the private timber roads will have to be reconstructed without such aid, "unless Congress passes legislation to this effect."

"There are several bills being pushed by Oregon legislators now — but so far no action has been taken on them," he said.

Clackamas County Commissioner Darrell Jones said lack of access roads would also result in "substantial" payroll losses in the logging industry — and forecast the spring shutdown of many forest product plants from lack of logs to process.

Real Loss Foreseen

"And our county is bound to take a real loss in Forest Service receipts," he added. "Without roads you can't get logs out . . . and no logs mean no money for anyone — loggers, operators and the counties."

Last year Clackamas County received \$692,000 in Forest Service receipts; Multnomah County got \$81,000.

In an effort to relieve the Mt. Hood situation, Neff said that the Forest Bureau has made an adjustment in its current sales program to permit operators to log in accessible areas not hit by the December and January floods.

"We have 60 million feet of timber advertised for bids that we didn't plan to sell at all," said Neff. "But we want to give work to operators and get some logs out during this emergency year."

Snow Delays Cutting

"However, much of the 60 million feet is in high snow country and won't be available until summer."

Neff stated that of 400 million timber feet now under contract in the Mt. Hood National Forest, 200 million of it is blocked by flood washouts.

"That just gives you an idea of how bad the situation is up there," he added.

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