

A photograph of a dirt road winding through a forest. On the left side of the road, there is a significant landslide of earth and rocks. The road itself is covered in loose gravel and dirt. The forest is dense with tall trees, and the lighting is somewhat dim, suggesting a shaded area.

# Rural Roads of California: Introduction to the Webinars

Richard R. Harris, Ph.D.  
Northern California Society  
of American Foresters

# Rural Roads Defined

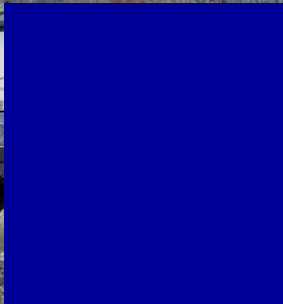
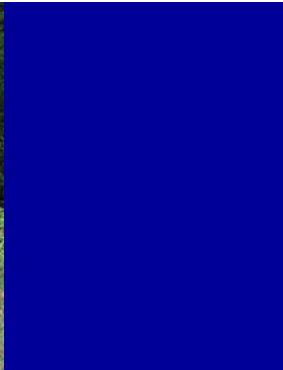
- Roads providing access for multiple uses in non-urban, resource production and wild lands.
- They vary in design standards depending on ownership, use(s), vehicles accommodated and traffic volume.
- The general focus of these webinars is on low traffic volume roads with natural, rock and gravel surfacing.
- There are many thousands of miles of rural road in California.

# Types of Rural Roads

- Permanent, all season use roads e.g., county roads, private roads serving year-round uses.
- Permanent, seasonal use roads e.g., access to recreation sites, logging roads.
- Temporary roads and trails e.g., roads to construction sites, infrequently used logging roads.
- “Legacy” roads e.g., roads associated with historic uses such as railroad grades or wagon trails which may or may not be in use.

# Ownership and Management

- Public roads may be owned and managed by counties, special districts, state and federal parks, national and state forests. They generally serve any and all commercial, residential and recreation uses.
- Private roads may be owned and managed by companies, individuals and families, road and homeowners' associations and some special districts. They are usually accessible only with the permission of the owners.



# Webinar Background and Objectives

- Rural roads are of concern because of their absolute necessity to rural communities, their potential and actual environmental impacts and the sheer quantity of them.
- The webinar series was developed by a collaborative of state and federal agencies, NGOs and the University of California to provide a comprehensive understanding of the issues, design considerations and best management practices associated with rural roads in California.

# Webinar Program

- Three series of webinars will be presented. This is the first, reviewing the environmental effects of rural roads and concluding with case studies illustrating approaches to reducing those effects on existing roads.
- The second and third series will address road design, road assessment, remedial treatments and costs for road upgrading and decommissioning.
- The webinars will be held May 7, 14 and 21; July 2, 9 and 16; and September 10, 17 and 24.

# Today's Presentations

- Hydrologic and Water Quality Impacts of Rural Roads: Drew Coe, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Geologic Constraints on Road Design and Operations: Dr. Michael Wopat, California Geological Survey

# Ground Rules

- Each presentation will be 30-45 minutes long.
- Participants may communicate with presenters and with each other by typing into the chat box.
- During presentations, viewers may submit questions in the Q&A box. These will be saved for response after presentations.
- At the close of each presentation, viewers may also ask questions.
- The session will close when there are no more questions or at 1 p.m. Questions that cannot be addressed within the allotted time will be saved for later response, as appropriate.



Thank You!

Richard R. Harris, Ph.D.  
Northern California SAF  
[rrharris2464@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rrharris2464@sbcglobal.net)