

An aerial photograph of a mountain range, likely Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. The mountains are covered in dense green forest, with some rocky peaks visible. The sky is clear and blue.

MT. BAKER-SNOQUALMIE NATIONAL FOREST

Minimum Road Analysis

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Minimum Road System

(2001) (36 CFR 212.5(b))

- Use science based process to identify transportation facilities (Road Analysis)
- Identify minimum road system:
 - Commensurate with Resource Objectives
 - Reflects likely funding
 - Minimizes adverse environmental effects
- Identify roads no longer needed and therefore should be decommissioned

Current Situation

- The forest can no longer afford to properly maintain its road system at current operational levels
- Some road systems may not be aligned with current resource management objectives
- Some roads pose risk to the environment due to outdated design standards
- Climate Change!

Strategy

- Identify the minimum road system (MRS)
- Analyzing road systems
 - Access needs
 - Environmental risks
 - Financial stability
- Identify roads for decommissioning
- RO standard: ML 3-5 = 10% of road system, currently 42% (2008)

Information Used

- **Forest-wide Roads Analysis, 2003**
- **Engineering First-cut, 2006**
- **District Reviews, 2007 – 2008**
- **Materials Pits (Nichols knowledge)**
- **Fire Management Access**

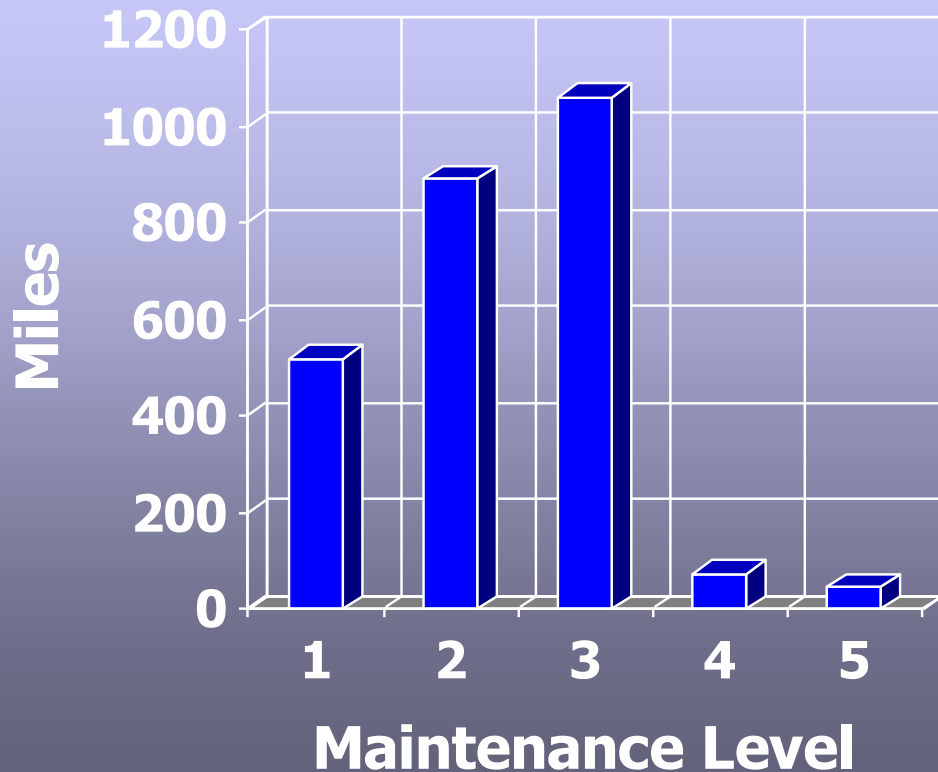
Assumptions

- **INFRA is the authoritative database**
- **The Forest desires to reduce road maintenance costs**
- **General road maintenance is the target**
- **Focused only on the operational maintenance level**
- **Road maintenance costs vary significantly – planning values = \$715/mi & \$1750/mi**

Current Road System

As per INFRA (2008)

MBS Road System



Total Miles: 2596

- **ML 1: 519**

- **ML 2: 891**

- **ML 3: 1060**

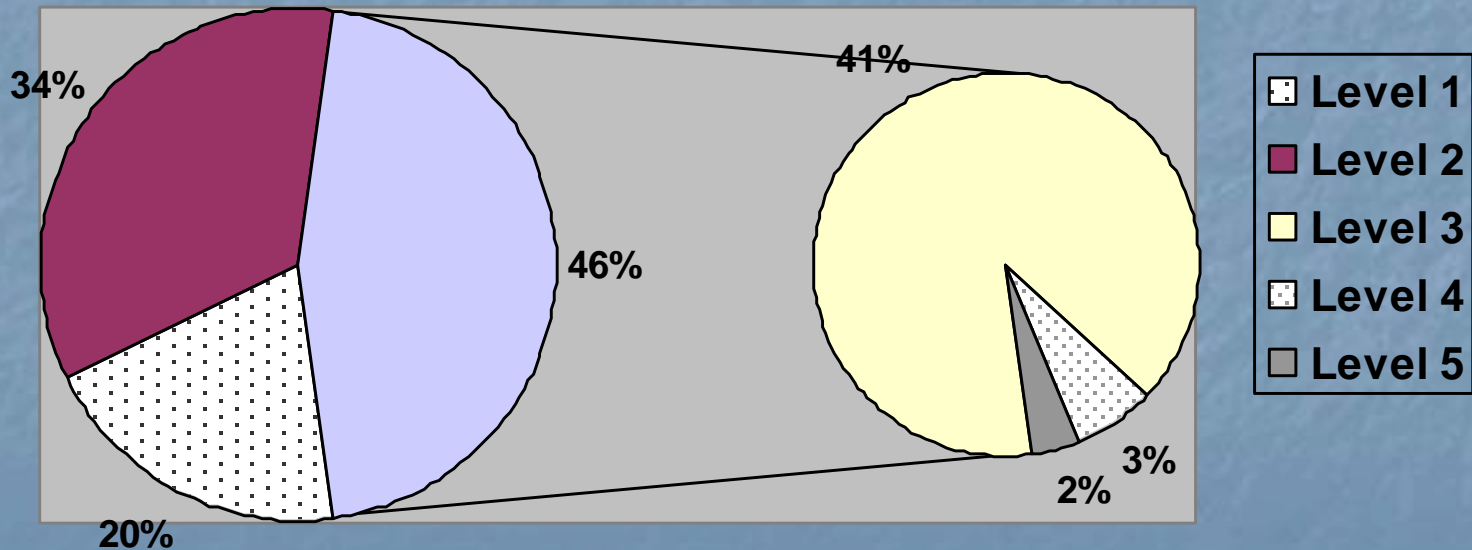
- **ML 4: 80**

- **ML 5: 46**

Decomm.: 313

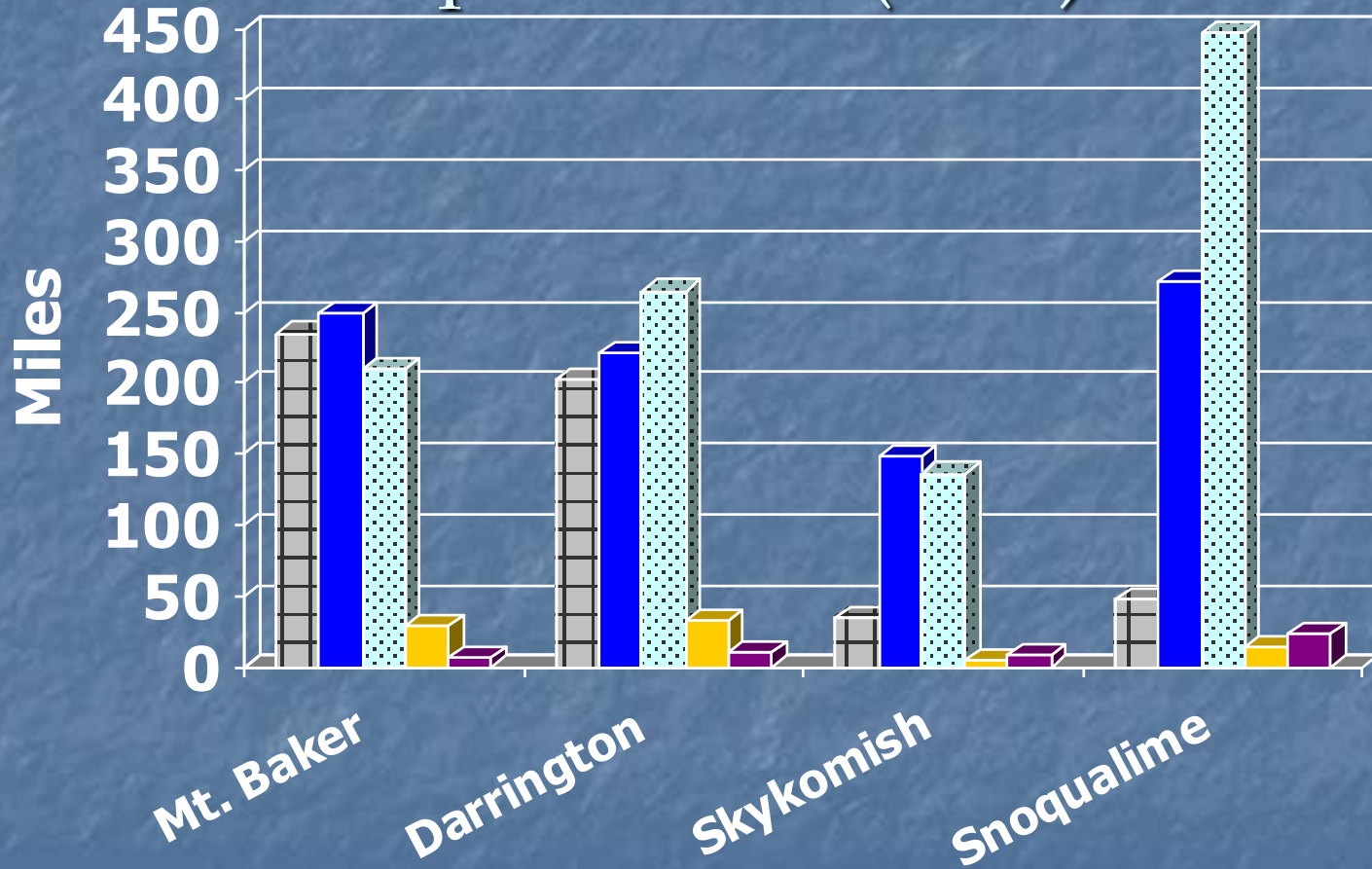
Current Road System As per INFRA (2008)

Existing Forest Maintenance Level Distribution



Current Road System

As per INFRA (2008)



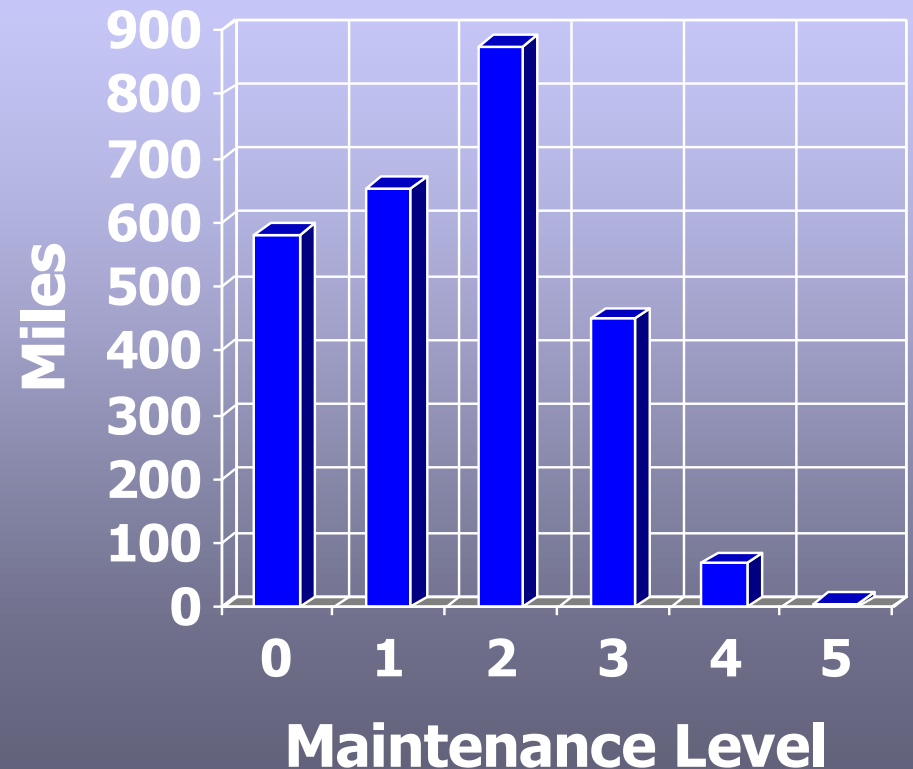
ML 1 ML 2 ML 3 ML 4 ML 5

Proposed Road System

June 2009

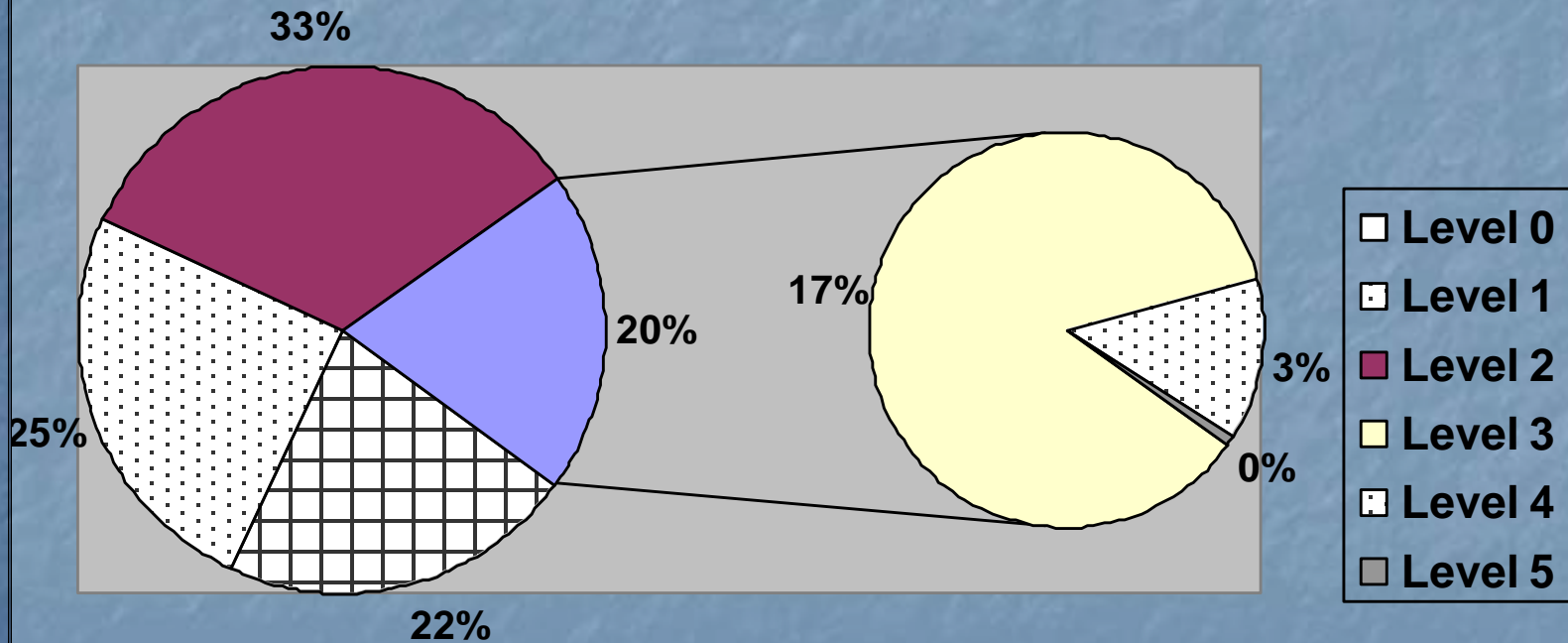
- **Total Miles: 2633**
 - **ML 0: 581**
 - **ML 1: 654**
 - **ML 2: 874**
 - **ML 3: 450**
 - **ML 4: 69**
 - **ML 5: 5**

MBS Road System

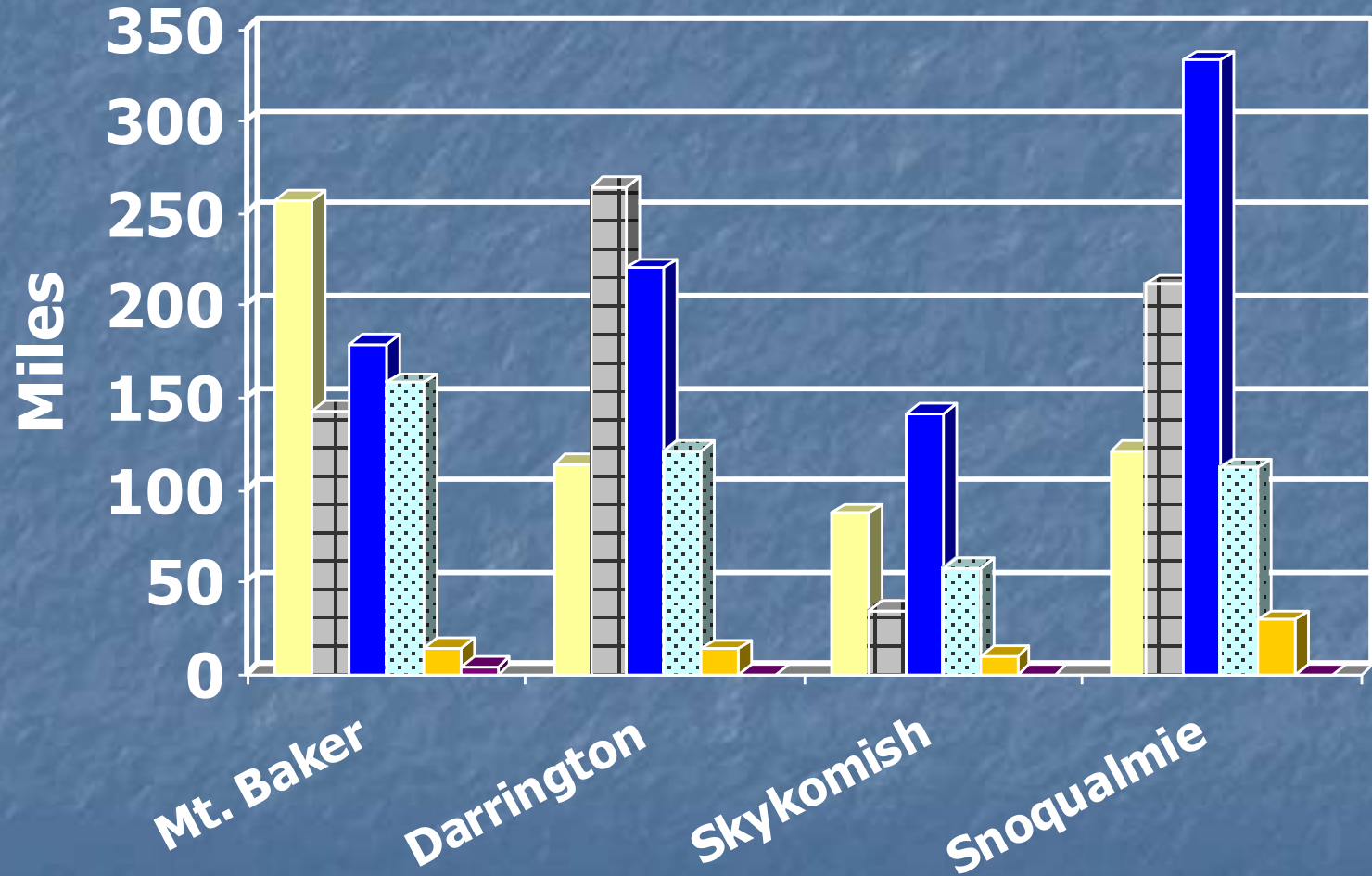


2009 Proposed Road System

Proposed Forest Maintenance Level Distribution



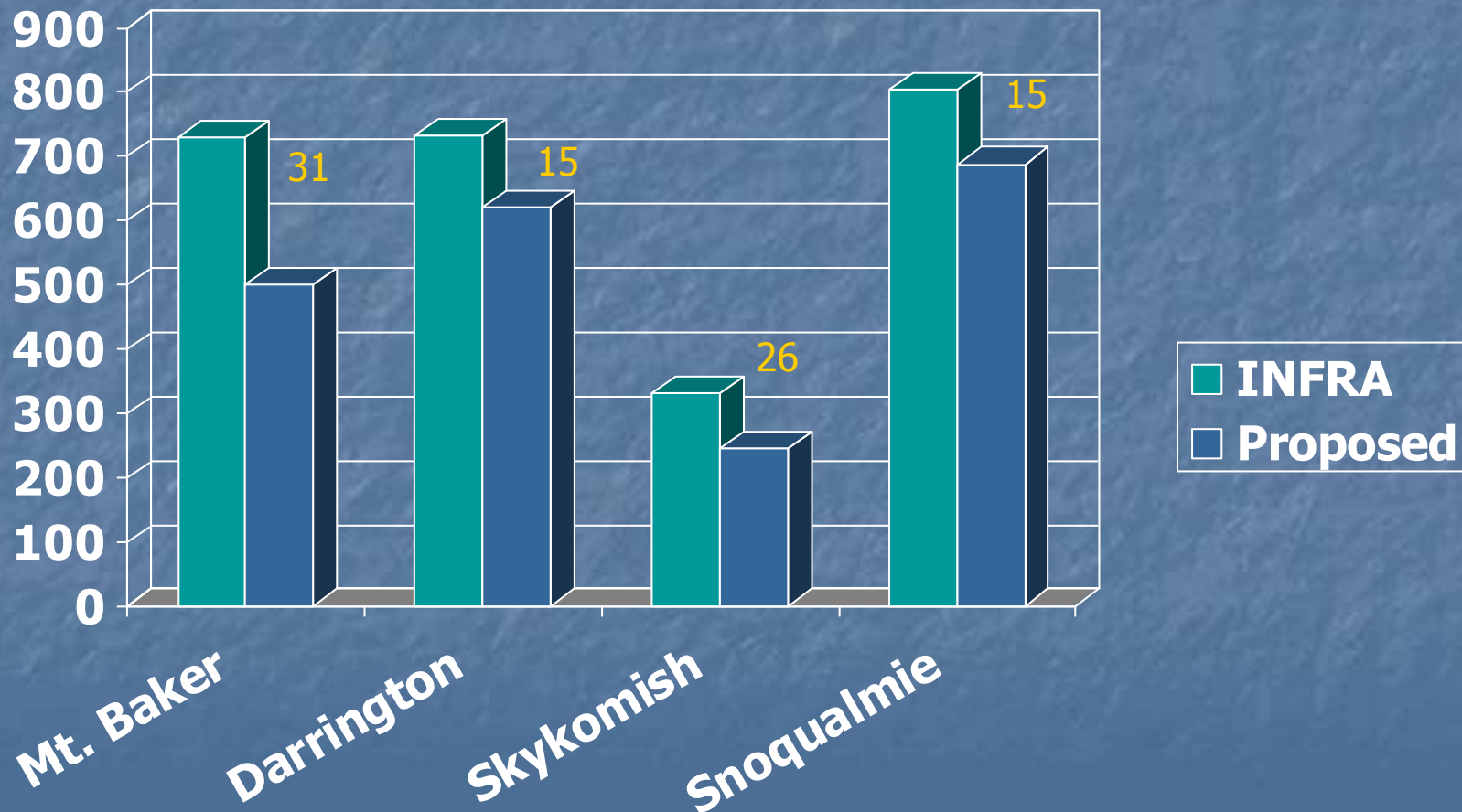
2009 Proposed Road System



■ ML 0 ■ ML 1 ■ ML 2 ■ ML 3 ■ ML 4 ■ ML 5

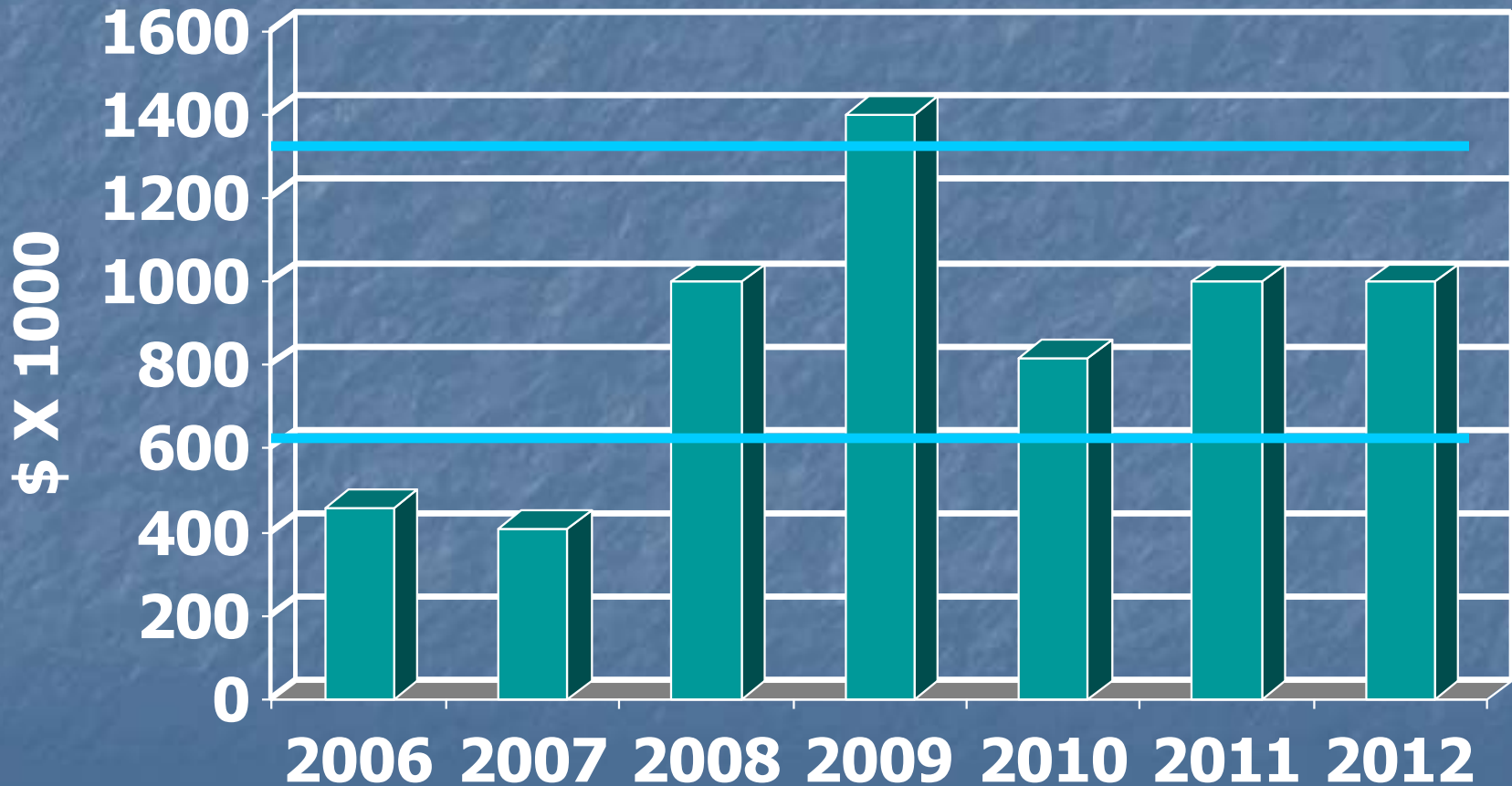
2008 INFRA vs 2009 Proposed

Miles of ML 1-5



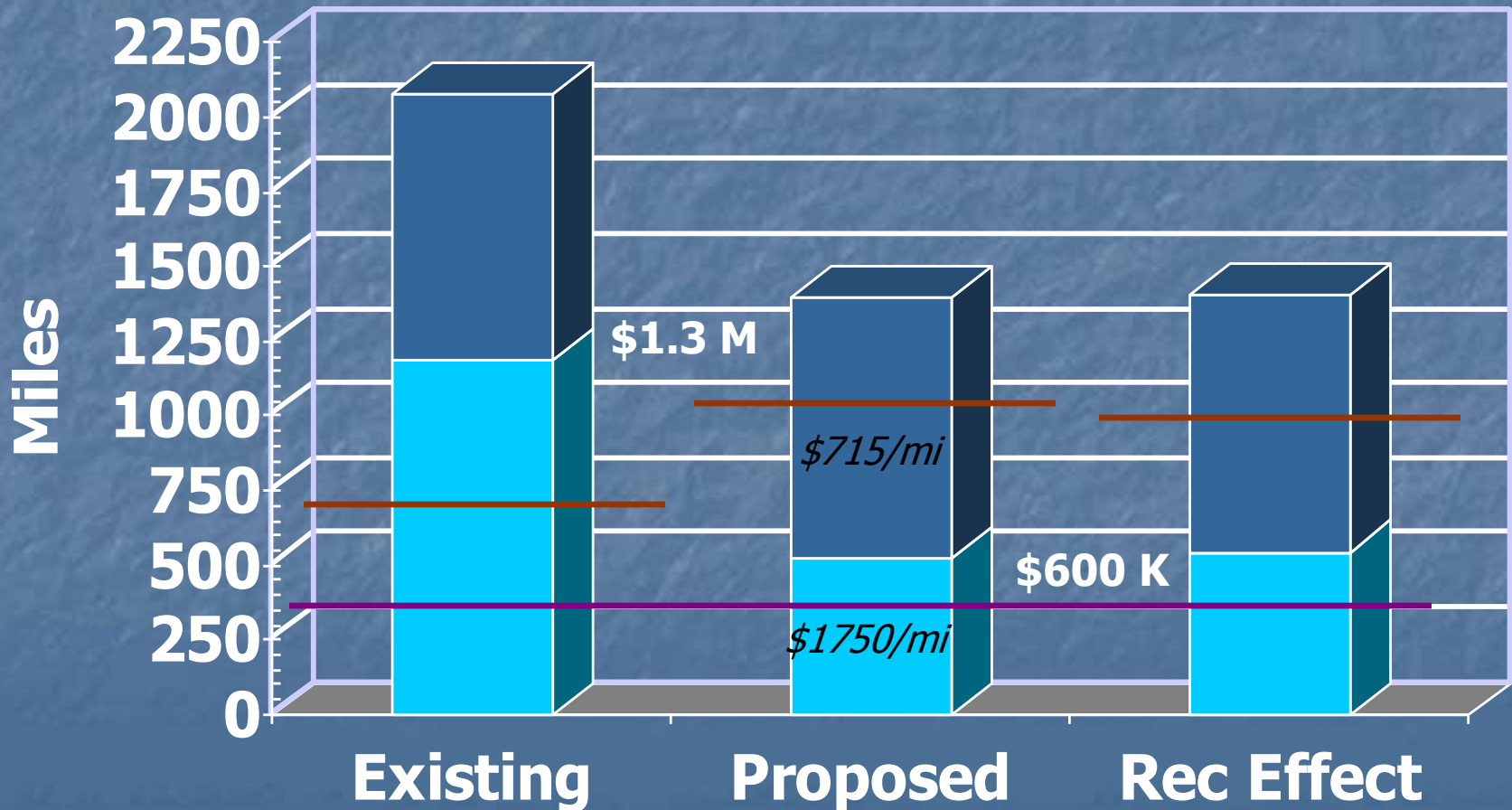
Costs and Budget

Road Maintenance Budget



Annual Maintenance Costs

Level 2-5 Road Maintenance



Benefits of Moving Progressing Toward Minimum Road System

- Being Well Positioned to Apply for Funds:
 - Road Improvement
 - Decommissioning
 - New funding sources (Presidential Initiatives)
- Provide Framework to set annual maintenance priorities
- Meet Agreement Terms w/ Regulatory Agencies (CWA)
- **Financial sustainability and flexibility**

Discussion

Credits:
Gary Ketcheson
Peter Wagner
Joe Moran

