



An Analysis of Forest Access Roads in Ontario (1996-2008)

The information in the following chart has been adapted from data reported in the respective **MNR Annual Reports on Forest Management**.

	Km of Roads (Primary & Secondary) Constructed per Year	Km of Roads (Primary & Secondary) Decommissionedⁱ per Year	Km of Roads with Access Restrictionsⁱⁱ Established per Year	Annual Net Loss of Roadsⁱⁱⁱ	Total Net Loss of Roads since 1996
1996	1,088	625			0
1997	979	1,992	149	-1,162	-1,162
1998	840	1,592	547	-1,299	-2,461
1999	528	603	146	-221	-2,682
2000	608	296	618	-306	-2,988
2001	617	598	136	-117	-3,105
2002	566	416	-493	643	-2,462
2003	300	479	1,040	-1,219	-3,218
2004	383	69	1,050	-736	-3,954
2005	399	61	2,136	-1,798	-5,752
2006	561	1,017	2,093	-2,549	-8,301
2007	664	597	1,103	-1,036	-9,337
2008	560	717	1,938	-2,095	-11,746
Total since 1996	8,093	9,062	10,463		

The Key Points:

1. Between 1996 and 2008, public access has been lost to 11,746 kilometres of forest access roads due to decommissioning or restrictions. *This is the same distance of road that would be travelled during 6.5 round trips between Toronto and Thunder Bay.*
2. The annual average net loss of forest access roads between 1996 and 2008 is 991 kilometres. *This is greater than the distance between Toronto and Thunder Bay.* Since 2003, the annual average net loss has increased to 1572 kilometres.
3. Since 1997, an annual average of 872 kilometres of forest access roads has been restricted by access controls. Since 2003, the annual average has increased to 1560 kilometres.
4. Since 1997, an annual average of 584 kilometres of forest access roads has been constructed. Since 2003, the annual average has dropped to 478 kilometres.
5. The kilometres of roads constructed in 2008 were almost half of what was constructed in 1996.
6. The distance of forest access roads that had restrictions established in 2008 was more than 13-fold greater than the distance of roads that had restrictions established in 1997.

ⁱ Road decommissioning is accomplished by ditching, culvert or bridge removal, berming and scarification.

ⁱⁱ Road restrictions are accomplished using signs or gates/barriers.

ⁱⁱⁱ Net loss of roads = construction – decommissioning – restrictions