

# Preserving Montana's Highways



**Rocky Mountain West Pavement Preservation Partnership**

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# Montana Demographics

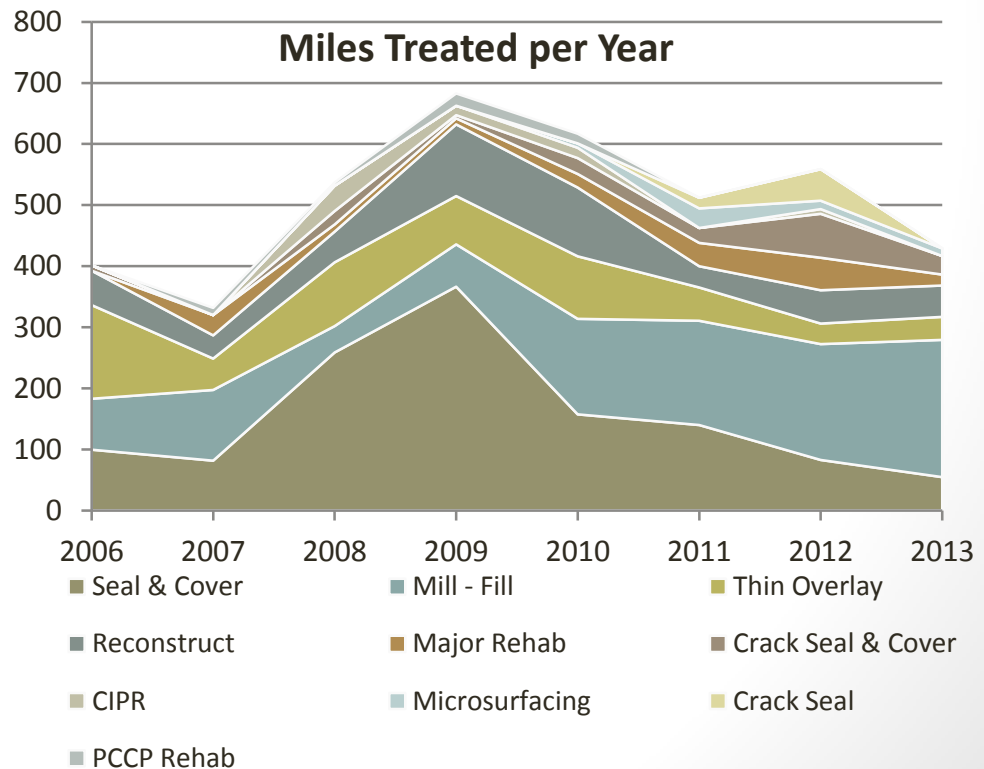
- State Highway System Description
  - 11,004 Total Centerline Miles
  - 10,844 Total Paved Miles (both asphalt and concrete)
- Number of State Highway Employees: 2,000+
- Total State Highway Budget: \$230M
- Total Pavement Preservation Budget: \$48M in 2015
- Major Pavement Preservation Treatments
  - Seal and Cover (Chip Seal)
  - Overlay (varied thickness)
  - Mill – Fills

# Strengths

- Program awareness throughout Department
- Dedicated funding (Construction side)
  - Project selection process
- Active District (and Division) level participation
- Established Pavement Management System
- Pavement Preservation Guidelines
- Good pavement performance
  - Superpave asphalt with polymer modified binders
  - Chip seal majority of projects
  - Ride spec
- Maintenance forces capable of doing chip seals

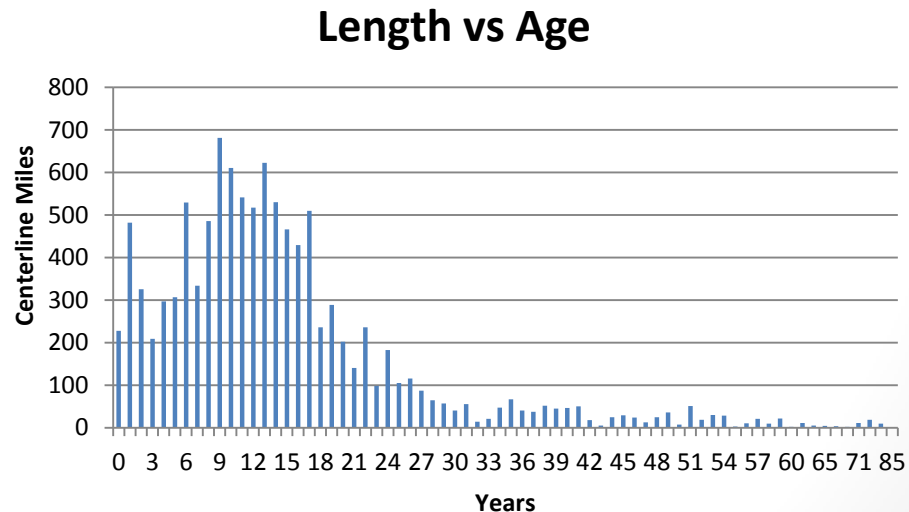
# Weaknesses

- Loss of pavement preservation program's initial champion
- High turnover in decision making positions
- Heavy reliance on Mill – Fills
- SFC budget of \$10M for 10 maintenance divisions
- “Old School” mentality



# Opportunities

- Contract uniformity between Maintenance and Construction
  - Grade 'S' PMS
  - Polymer modified binders
- Expanding the “Tool Box”
  - Microsurfacing
  - Fog Seals
  - In-Place Recycling
- Age of the network



# Threats

- Entrenched in the treatment “Comfort Zone”
- Location and availability of contractors for new treatments
- ADA requirements
- Loss of seniority in Senate (Baucus)
- Tightening budgets and outside influences
- Bakken Oil Field

# Montana Facts

- 46 out of Montana's 56 counties are considered "frontier counties" with an average population of 6 or fewer people per square mile
- In Montana, the elk, deer, and antelope population outnumber the human population

