



Vegetation Not Considered for Noise Mitigation

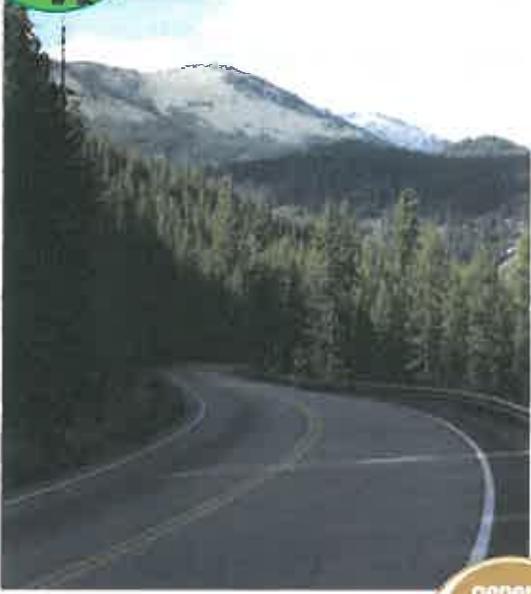


Photo Source: U.S. Forest Service



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If it is high enough, wide enough, dense enough and opaque, vegetation may reduce highway traffic noise. For example, a 200-foot width of dense vegetation can reduce noise by about 10 decibels. However, it is usually impossible to plant enough vegetation along a road to achieve such reductions. Additionally, a substantial noise reduction does not occur until vegetation matures. Therefore, the Federal Highway Administration does not consider the planting of vegetation to be a highway traffic noise abatement measure.

According to FHWA guidance, the planting of trees and shrubs may be beneficial by providing visual screening, privacy, or aesthetic value, but not traffic noise abatement.

Guidance: FHWA Noise Analysis and Abatement Guidelines, 2010



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