

## Comparison of Annual Vehicle Mileage Traveled In Non-Interstate Oregon Counties

Purpose. Staff for the Road User Fee Task Force researched available data for comparison of annual vehicle miles traveled on Oregon state highways in counties east and west of the Cascades. In an attempt to eliminate distortions, counties with interstate highways running through them were eliminated from this comparison.

Statistical Results. There are nine counties in Oregon that both do not have any interstate highway mileage and are east of the Cascades. There are also nine counties in Oregon that do not have any interstate highway mileage and are west of the Cascades. During 2000, the population of these counties east of the Cascades averaged **6,751 VMT per capita** on ODOT-jurisdiction highways. The corresponding figure for the nine counties west of the Cascades is **6,017 VMT per capita**.

It may be interesting to note that most of the difference can be attributed to one county (Benton, the only county of the 18 with a major college within its boundaries). Without that county, the corresponding figure in the western counties would be **6,586 VMT per capita**.

Conclusion. It may be that folks east of the Cascades drive more in general, it may be that they drive more on ODOT highways (and less on local roads), or it may be that they have a disproportionate amount of long-distance through traffic (e.g., tourists, freight). We can't tell from this data.