



# *RAILROAD PROGRAM ANNUAL UPDATE 2023*

Dan Sherwood  
Railroad Program Manager





# *2023 MAJOR RAIL EVENTS IN MONTANA*

4/2/2023 Paradise Derailment

6/24/2023 Reed Point Derailment

8/18/2023 River Road East Fire

12/31/2023 MRL/BNSF Merger Finalized







# ***PARADISE DERAILMENT 4-2-23***

At approximately 9:15 AM MST on April 2, 2023, westbound train, H-LAUPAS1-01 derailed with one hazmat car involved (Liquid Petroleum Gas) no release.

Derailed was track caused. A vertical web defect was found in the track that subsequently broke as H-LAUPAS1-01 traversed it.







# ***REED POINT DERAILMENT 6-24-23***

Montana Rail Link reported a derailment with bridge collapse over the Yellowstone River in Reed Point Montana on 24 June 2023 at 6:20 am local time. Eight cars derailed with five cars in the Yellowstone River. Three of the derailed cars released molten sulfur and asphalt into the Yellowstone River. Two cars containing Sodium Hydro-Sulfide derailed just west of the bridge but remained intact.

Derailment is still under active FRA/NTSB investigation with preliminary evidence showing primary cause to be catastrophic failure of the middle bridge abutment.





## ***RIVER ROAD EAST FIRE***

On August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, a fire started near Paradise, MT

17,000 acres

15 houses destroyed

U.S District Court lawsuit has been filed alleging fire was started by railroad







# ***BNSF RAILWAY TAKES CONTROL OF MONTANA RAIL LINK***



Effective 1/1/2024 Montana Rail Link has become the “MRL Subdivision” of BNSF’s Montana Division.

0 Class II regional railroads in Montana.

Increases BNSF’s footprint by nearly 1,000 track miles.



# ***OVERHEATED WHEEL BEARING***

BNSF Silver Bow, MT

September 31st, 2023





# ***DEFECTIVE WHEEL BEARING ADAPTER WEAR PLATE***

MRL Missoula, MT

August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023



# ***MU CABLE***

BNSF Locomotive Mechanical Facility

Great Falls, MT

August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023





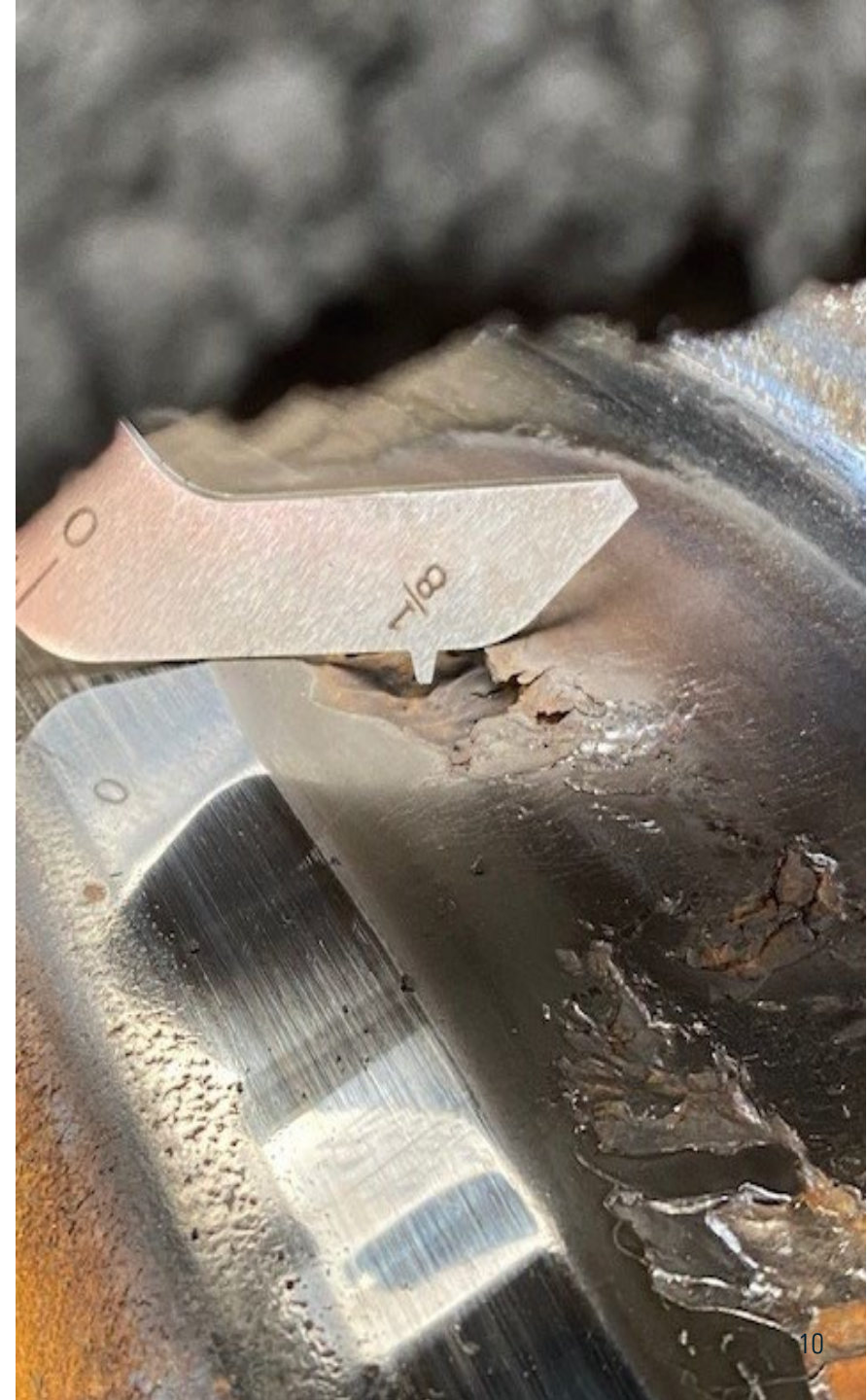
# ***WHEEL DEFECTS***

MRL Helena, MT

June 7th, 2023

BNSF Whitefish, MT

June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023





# 2023 PROGRAM SUMMARY

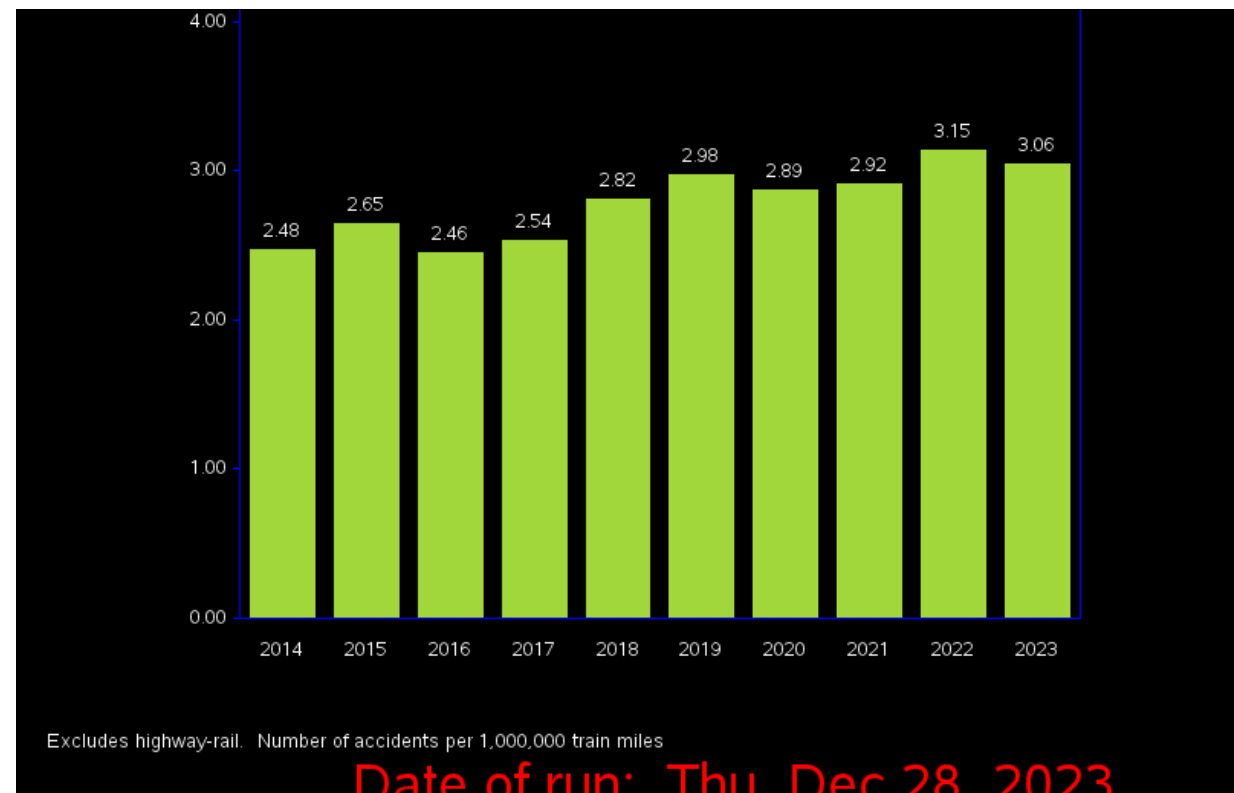
- State Inspections: 293
- Joint FRA Inspections: 41
- Defects: 1,827
- Violations: 2

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION (FRA)										INSPECTION REPORT				OMB Approval No.: 2130-0509			
Inspector's Name Sherwood, Daniel					Inspector's Signature					Inspector's ID No. M3005		Report No. 17		Date yy mm dd 2023 03 23			
Railroad/Company Name & Address BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY  Great Falls MT					R/C R	Division SYSTEM		RR/Co. Representative (Receipt Acknowledged)									
					RR/Co. Code BNSF	Subdivision SYSTEM		Name David Johnson		Title Mechanical Foreman		Email david.johnson122807@bnsf.com			Signature		
From: City GARRISON			Codes 0477		Destination City & County				Codes		From Latitude						
State MT			30		City						From Longitude						
County POWELL			C077		County						To Latitude						
Mile Post: From			To		Inspection Point GARRISON YARD						To Longitude						
Activity Code:		215	224	231	232	TCL	232X							CARS			
Units:		110	110	110	110	70	1							110			
Sub Units:		0	0	0	0	0	6							0			
Item	Initials/Milepost	Equipment/Track #	Type/Kind	49 CFR/USC	Defect	Subrule	Speed	Class	Train #/Site	SNFR*	RCL**	# of Occ.***	Activity Code				
1	UP	274101	FB	231	0031	A1				N	N	1	231				
Description (B-end) drawbar height low - less than 31 1/2" from top of rail.																	
Seal Applied			Seal Removed			Hazard Class			UN/NA ID								
Violation Recommended					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		Latitude:			Longitude:							
Written Notification to FRA of Remedial Action is:					<input type="checkbox"/> Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Optional		Railroad Action Code		Date(mm/dd/yyyy):		Comments on back?						
Item	Initials/Milepost	Equipment/Track #	Type/Kind	49 CFR/USC	Defect	Subrule	Speed	Class	Train #/Site	SNFR*	RCL**	# of Occ.***	Activity Code				
2	UP	274101	FB	231	0136	D2				N	N	1	231				

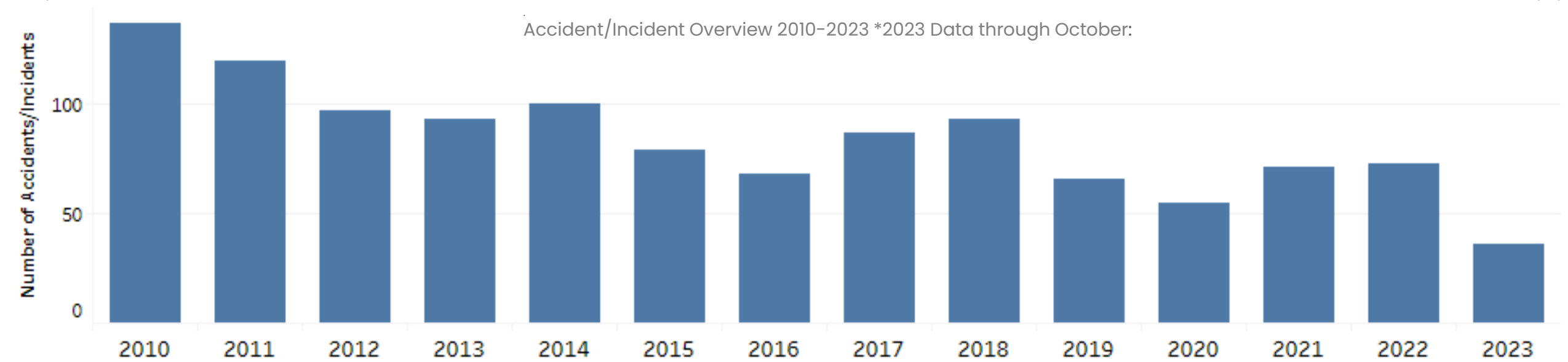
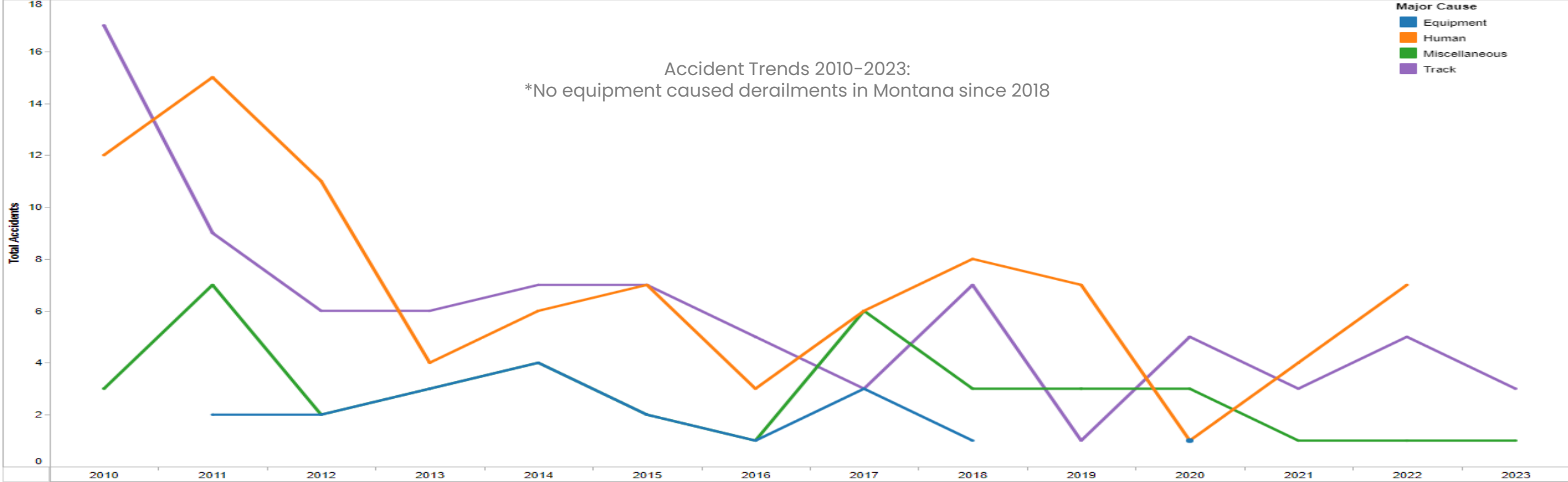




# *NATIONAL TRAIN ACCIDENT RATE 2014-2023*





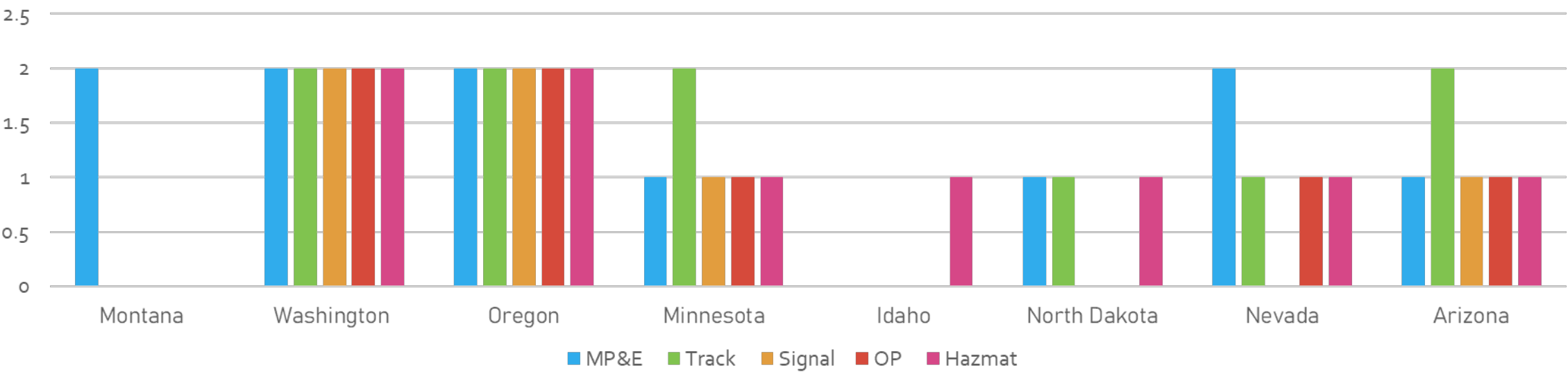




# Railroad Track Miles Per State

Montana 3,680  
Washington – 2,876  
Oregon – 2,369  
Idaho – 1,654  
North Dakota – 3,223  
Nevada – 1,193  
Arizona – 1,724

State Railroad Inspectors Per State





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Questions?







*THANK YOU*

Dan Sherwood

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[psc.mt.gov](http://psc.mt.gov)