



## Randal O'Toole Biography

Randal O'Toole is a senior fellow with the Cato Institute with more than 45 years of experience in land-use and transportation policy. He is the author of six books, including *Romance of the Rails: Why the Passenger Trains We Love Are Not the Transportation We Need* (Cato Institute, 2018).

As a rail fan, O'Toole helped restore the Spokane, Portland & Seattle 700, currently the fourth-largest operating steam locomotives in the world, and once purchased five railroad passenger cars on behalf of the group that restored the locomotive. He has traveled more than 250,000 miles on Amtrak and other intercity passenger trains on four continents including a 27,000-mile trip that lasted 49 days in 1977. More recently, he rode Amtrak trains 11,000 miles in 2017 as part of his research for *Romance of the Rails*.

Before working for the Cato Institute, O'Toole had fellowships at Yale, University of California, Berkeley, and Utah State University where he taught environmental economics. Before that, he spent 20 years working as a consultant to dozens of national, state, and local environmental groups focusing on federal forest management issues. This work led to his first book, *Reforming the Forest Service* (Island Press, 1988), which had a major influence on national forest policy. As one Forest Service official told a reporter in the 1980s, "Randal O'Toole has had more influence on the Forest Service than all of the environmental groups put together."

O'Toole is a native and life-long resident of Oregon.