

Klamath National Forest

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USDA Secretary Vilsack Announces Economic Recovery Projects For Forest Facilities And Trails On Klamath National Forest

YREKA, Calif., August 4, 2009 – Patty Grantham, Forest Supervisor for the Klamath National Forest, announced that five local project proposals, totaling 3.6 million dollars, were funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for Forest Facilities and Trails as announced by Secretary Tom Vilsack on July 21, 2009. The five projects are part of 191 projects, funded at more than \$274 million, located throughout the US Forest Service in 32 states.

“The Recovery Act projects we’re announcing today are central to creating jobs and building a better, stronger economy in the future,” said Secretary Vilsack. “These projects exemplify President Obama’s commitment to sustainability, reducing our environmental footprint, and increasing energy efficiency, which will benefit the 178 million people who visit the National Forests each year, while generating additional tourism and stimulating local economies.”

The five funded projects include the following:

Scott Valley Helibase office and two bay garage and storage. This project involves construction of two permanent buildings, utilities, and parking to properly handle helibase operations for the 20 person crew and improve operational efficiency. The facility is located in Siskiyou County at the Scott Valley Airport.

Orr Lake Campground. This project includes construction of three new group camping facilities with drinking water, two floating fishing docks, an information station, hiking trails, and resource protection for the north end of Orr Lake. Also included is construction of an access road to link the north end of the lake with the east side—as well as construction of a new day use area with picnic tables on the east side of the lake. The project will enhance existing recreation facilities and reduce serious soil erosion problems. The project is located in Siskiyou County--6 miles northwest of Tennant, California.

Marble Mountain Wilderness Trail Repair and

Siskiyou and Russian Wilderness Trail Repair. These projects involve repair of 12 miles of trails in the Marble Mountain Wilderness and 26 miles of trails in the Russian Wilderness. Work will focus on repair of erosion problems, correcting drainage, and removing fallen trees. This partnership project provides job training for the California Conservation Corps. Transportation of equipment and supplies will be provided through agreements or by contract packers.

Juanita Lake Trail. This project involves repair and repaving 1.5 miles of an accessible trail around Juanita Lake. This project is located on the Goosenest Ranger District in Siskiyou County.

These five new projects are in addition to approval of five road projects announced earlier. Funding for the road projects totaled 1.6 million dollars.

“The Scott Valley Helibase is a key facility for managing fires in our western forests. This project will be a welcome addition in support of those efforts. Trail improvement will provide greater accessibility to our local Wilderness and lakes for local people and visitors to Siskiyou County,” said Marcia Armstrong, District 5 Supervisor, Siskiyou County. “ These are all good projects.”

“We are happy to see these funds and jobs available for Siskiyou County,” commented Jim Cook, District 1 Supervisor, Siskiyou County.

The Forest Service Trails System provides access to a wide diversity of users including hikers, horseback riders, mountain bikers, cross-country skiers, snowmobilers. In many ways, the benefits of maintaining the trails system are similar to those of roads. Trail maintenance includes protecting soils and reducing erosion, along with clearing vegetation, controlling invasive species, and removing downed trees. Repairs and upgrades to trail head and parking areas will improve access and safety for trail users. All of this is labor-intensive work requiring skilled workers to be hired under ARRA.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act also directs the Forest Service to improve, maintain and renovate public and administrative facilities. As with the roads and trails system, there is currently a large backlog of maintenance needs for public facilities. Maintenance needs were identified through extensive studies of specific public facilities needed to support the primary outdoor activities that are best provided on the National Forests and grasslands. Workers hired under ARRA will maintain facilities so that they contribute to safe, high quality outdoor experiences for citizens. Once work is completed these buildings will be more energy efficient, use less water, have a smaller environmental footprint and save taxpayer money.

Information on other Forest Service ARRA projects and related economic recovery can be found at: http://fs.usda.gov/economic_recovery.

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