



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

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USDA Secretary Vilsack Announces Economic Recovery Projects for Forest Roads Maintenance and Associated Watershed and Ecosystem Restoration, Including Flathead National Forest

Flathead National Forest Supervisor Cathy Barbouletos announced that several projects on the forest, totaling approximately \$13.3 million, have been funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for road maintenance and associated watershed and ecosystem restoration work on the Flathead National Forest.

Barbouletos' announcement follows that of Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack yesterday that 106 projects, funded at more than \$228 million, are located on Forest Service land in 31 states.

“These road maintenance projects will provide for public health and safety, resource protection, and access to lands in the National Forests,” said Vilsack. “The rehabilitation of roads will improve water quality by reducing sediments in nearby streams and help to restore natural resources and habitat for fish in areas impacted by deterioration and erosion of road surfaces.”

The projects on the Flathead National Forest include road maintenance and reconstruction in Forest Service recreation facilities as well as on roads and bridges that access other recreation sites and provide protection of watershed health and natural resources.

Projects on the Flathead National Forest include:

- ❖ Gravel resurfacing on Eastside and Westside Hungry Horse Reservoir Roads, and Tally Lake Road (Forest Roads #38, #895 and #913), and asphalt replacement on the first 11 miles of the Westside Road,
- ❖ Improvements at Doris Point Boat Launch and Doris Creek Campground located along the Westside of the Hungry Horse Reservoir,
- ❖ Asphalt treatments, including overlay/replacement, and culvert replacement on Griffin Creek Road, Forest Road #538 located on the Tally Lake District west of Kalispell,
- ❖ Safety and informational sign replacements across the forest,
- ❖ Asphalt replacement at Swan Lake Campground and Picnic Area south of Bigfork,
- ❖ Culvert replacements improving fish passage located at various locations across the forest,
- ❖ Gravel resurfacing on the Falls Creek Road, Forest Road #901, on the Swan Lake District
- ❖ Gravel resurfacing and safety turnout improvements on the Jewel Basin Road, Forest Road #5392 on the Swan Lake District
- ❖ Road decommissioning on approximately 50 miles of road identified in prior environmental analysis,
- ❖ Improvements at trailheads across the forest, and
- ❖ Reconstruction of four bridges across the forest.

Barbouletos said, “We are pleased to be able to complete some deferred maintenance and improvements across the forest and facilitate this funding in Flathead County and Northwest Montana.”

The work related to these projects funded by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) will occur over the next two years and will be awarded in accordance with existing federal government acquisition regulations. Anyone seeking information about contracting with the federal government on these and other projects may visit www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead and click on “A Guide to Doing Business with the Forest Service.”

For more information, please contact Denise Germann at 758-5252 or Earl Applekamp at 758-5268.

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