

# NEWS RELEASE

## USDA Forest Service -- Northern Region



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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Missoula, Mont. – The USDA Forest Service has returned a portion of the funds transferred by the Northern Region to national wildfire suppression a year ago, according to Regional Forester Brad Powell.

“The Congress, the Administration, and our headquarters have worked together to return some of the dollars we transferred to suppress last year’s fires,” Powell said. “We are pleased to get these funds back to the field for important restoration and state and private forestry work.”

Nearly \$14 million will go to the Northern Region’s 12 forests and 1 grasslands for important restoration needs, including reforestation, road and trail restoration, invasive plant, and water system projects. Another \$2.3 million will allow field units to fulfill obligations to states and communities through state and private forestry programs. “We’re committed to completing the restoration work we’ve identified across the region,” Powell said. Important reforestation, noxious weed treatment, and watershed restoration projects will now proceed on the Bitterroot, Flathead, Helena, and Lolo national forests, units which will receive a majority of the funding.

Powell allocated funds to field units according to the priority of work and ability to get the job done. He directed field units to start work funded by the \$14 million as soon as possible. Last year, funds were taken from regional state and private forestry (state and community assistance programs), national forest systems (forest and grassland management programs), wildland fire management (fire suppression and prevention programs), and capital improvement and maintenance accounts. They were transferred to wildfire suppression accounts beginning in July to protect people, communities, and resources across the country.

According to Powell, the Forest Service is on track this year to accomplish the planned restoration work. “The needs are long term and continual support will be needed in the future to accomplish the remaining high priority projects,” Powell said.

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Note to editors: Project and funding breakdowns are available from local Forest Service units.