



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

October 2, 2009

Contact: Denise Germann
(406) 758-5252
(406) 249-1714 cell

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Projects on Flathead National Forest Being Implemented

The Flathead National Forest recently awarded several contracts and work is underway on forest projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Over \$1 million has been awarded to date. An additional \$7 million is anticipated to be awarded this winter and all ARRA funds to be awarded by the end of next summer.

The forest received \$13.3 million for capital improvements and maintenance work on roads, bridges and recreation facilities. Projects include replacing bridges and culverts, decommissioning roads, resurfacing roads, treating noxious weeds along travel ways, improving stream crossings for increased fish passage, and refurbishing recreation sites for public enjoyment.

An additional \$1.6 million was received for trail maintenance and reconstruction, deferred maintenance on historic cabins and lookouts utilized for public rental, and improving and installing bear-resistant food storage facilities and garbage dumpsters for public use at approximately 135 camping sites.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) projects awarded to date include:

- Improvements at the Doris Creek Campground and Boat Launch, located three miles south of the Hungry Horse Dam on the west side of

Hungry Horse Reservoir on the Hungry Horse Ranger District.

Funding for the project includes approximately \$290,000 of ARRA funding and approximately \$320,000 of appropriated Forest Service dollars. Reconstruction and improvements at Doris Creek will include a triple-lane concrete boat ramp, a 70-space parking area, a host site and new toilets. Ten new camping sites will be constructed at the existing Doris Boat site. Ureco, Inc., a construction firm located in Columbia Falls, was awarded the contract. Work is anticipated to be completed by late next summer.

- Asphalt resurfacing at the Swan Lake Picnic Area and Campground, located north of the community of Swan Lake. AGC, Incorporated of Kalispell was awarded the work for approximately \$350,000. Work will begin Monday, October 5, with a closure of the entire site. Work is anticipated to be completed by next summer. The boat launch and ramp will be available after construction activities close due to weather conditions and will remain available until work resumes in the spring.
- Reconstruction of the Chipmunk Trailhead located on the Spotted Bear Ranger District and Antley Trailhead on the Glacier View Ranger District. Woodring Brothers of Kalispell will complete the reconstruction for both trailheads for approximately \$26,000.
- Replacement of culverts on Condon Creek and Smith Creek located on the Swan Lake Ranger District. The culverts will be replaced to improve protection of water resources, specifically to remove barriers and allow for fish passage. Independence Construction, Inc. of Eureka was awarded the contract for approximately \$195,000.

- Replacement of the Hand Creek Bridge on the Tally Lake Ranger District. Independence Construction, Inc. of Eureka will complete the work for approximately \$115,000.
- Reconstruction of the Ousel Peak Trailhead on the Hungry Horse Ranger District that accesses the Great Bear Wilderness. Schlegel and Sons Contractors Inc. of Kalispell were awarded the project for approximately \$12,000.
- Survey and design assistance for roads, bridges and culverts. Approximately \$109,000 has been awarded to DJ &A, an engineering firm from Missoula and approximately \$3,000 to Morrison & Maierle Engineering in Missoula.

The forest has numerous other American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) projects to solicit for, award and implement.

With winter conditions approaching, the forest has upcoming project information available so potential bidders may access the sites prior to snowfall for familiarization with the sites and to be better prepared once the formal solicitations are announced. This pre-bid information, a narrative and maps of the projects, is available on the Flathead National Forest website at www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead or by contacting a local office of the Flathead National Forest.

When finalized, the formal project solicitations will be posted at the Federal Business Opportunities website, www.fbo.gov.

For additional information contact Earl Applekamp with the Flathead National Forest at 758-5268.

--END--