



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

JUN 7 2010

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Alexander:

This is a follow-up to a letter from Forest Service Chief Thomas Tidwell dated November 24, 2009, and contains additional material required by Title IV of the General Provisions (p. 152) of Conference Report 111-316 for P.L. 111-88, the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Language in the Conference Report directed the Forest Service to provide detailed descriptions for each project funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

We have already provided the narrative descriptions of all of the selected federal projects. This package contains the narrative descriptions of all of the selected projects on state and private lands. This information has recently become available from grant and agreement documents prepared by the states.

A similar letter is being sent to Senator Dianne Feinstein, Congressmen James P. Moran and Michael K. Simpson.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Vilsack", written over the printed name of the Secretary.

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure



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Washington, D.C. 20250

JUN 7 2010

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Madam Chairman:

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The Honorable James P. Moran
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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JUN 7 2010

The Honorable Michael K. Simpson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Simpson:

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USDA Forest Service



**American Recovery and
Reinvestment Act**

State and Private Forestry Projects

Report as of Friday, January 22, 2010

Alabama

Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and Fuels Management

Date of Announcement: May 5, 2009

Estimated Funding: \$8,975,000 for Hazardous Fuels/Ecosystem Restoration - S&PF Lands

State(s): Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina

County(ies): Alabama: Autauga, Baldwin, Barbour, Bibb, Blount, Bullock, Butler, Calhoun, Chambers, Cherokee, Chilton, Choctaw, Clarke, Clay, Cleburne, Coffee, Colbert, Conecuh, Coosa, Covington, Crenshaw, Cullman, Dale, Dallas, DeKalb, Elmore, Escambia, Etowah, Fayette, Franklin, Geneva, Greene, Hale, Henry, Houston, Jackson, Jefferson, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Lee, Limestone, Lowndes, Macon, Madison, Marengo, Marion, Marshall, Mobile, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Perry, Pickens, Pike, Randolph, Russell, Saint Clair, Shelby, Sumter, Talladega, Tallapoosa, Tuscaloosa, Walker, Washington, Wilcox, Winston
Florida: Alachua, Baker, Bay, Bradford, Brevard, Broward, Calhoun, Charlotte, Citrus, Clay, Collier, Columbia, DeSoto, Dixie, Duval, Escambia, Flagler, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Glades, Gulf, Hamilton, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Holmes, Indian River, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lake, Lee, Leon, Levy, Liberty, Madison, Manatee, Marion, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Nassau, Okaloosa, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Saint Johns, Saint Lucie, Santa Rosa, Sarasota, Seminole, Sumter, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, Volusia, Wakulla, Walton, Washington
Georgia: Appling, Atkinson, Bacon, Baker, Baldwin, Banks, Barrow, Bartow, Ben Hill, Berrien, Bibb, Bleckley, Brantley, Brooks, Bryan, Bulloch, Burke, Butts, Calhoun, Camden, Candler, Carroll, Catoosa, Charlton, Chatham, Chattahoochee, Chattooga, Cherokee, Clarke, Clay, Clayton, Clinch, Cobb, Coffee, Colquitt, Columbia, Cook, Coweta, Crawford, Crisp, Dade, Dawson, Decatur, DeKalb, Dodge, Dooly, Dougherty, Douglas, Early, Echols, Effingham, Elbert, Emanuel, Evans, Fannin, Fayette, Floyd, Forsyth, Franklin, Fulton, Gilmer, Glascock, Glynn, Gordon, Grady, Greene, Gwinnett, Habersham, Hall, Hancock, Haralson, Harris, Hart, Heard, Henry, Houston, Irwin, Jackson, Jasper, Jeff Davis, Jefferson, Jenkins, Johnson, Jones, Lamar, Lanier, Laurens, Lee, Liberty, Lincoln, Long, Lowndes, Lumpkin, McDuffie, McIntosh, Macon, Madison, Marion, Meriwether, Miller, Mitchell, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Murray, Muscogee, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Paulding, Peach, Pickens, Pierce, Pike, Polk, Pulaski, Putnam, Quitman, Rabun, Randolph, Richmond, Rockdale, Schley, Screven, Seminole, Spalding, Stephens, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Taliaferro, Tattnall, Taylor, Telfair, Terrell, Thomas, Tift, Toombs, Towns, Treutlen, Troup, Turner, Twiggs, Union, Upson, Walker, Walton, Ware, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Webster, Wheeler, White, Whitfield, Wilcox, Wilkes, Wilkinson, Worth
North Carolina: Alamance, Alexander, Alleghany, Anson, Ashe, Avery, Beaufort, Bertie, Bladen, Brunswick, Buncombe, Burke, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Camden, Carteret, Caswell, Catawba, Chatham, Cherokee, Chowan, Clay, Cleveland, Columbus, Craven, Cumberland, Currituck, Dare, Davidson, Davie, Duplin, Durham, Edgecombe, Forsyth, Franklin, Gaston, Gates, Graham, Granville, Greene, Guilford, Halifax, Harnett, Haywood, Henderson, Hertford, Hoke, Hyde, Iredell, Jackson, Johnston, Jones, Lee, Lenoir, Lincoln, McDowell, Macon, Madison, Martin, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Montgomery, Moore, Nash, New Hanover, Northampton, Onslow, Orange, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Person, Pitt, Polk, Randolph, Richmond, Robeson, Rockingham, Rowan, Rutherford, Sampson, Scotland, Stanly, Stokes, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Tyrrell, Union, Vance, Wake, Warren, Washington,

Watauga, Wayne, Wilkes, Wilson, Yadkin, Yancey

South Carolina: Abbeville, Aiken, Allendale, Anderson, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Cherokee, Chester, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Florence, Georgetown, Greenville, Greenwood, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Kershaw, Lancaster, Laurens, Lee, Lexington, McCormick, Marion, Marlboro, Newberry, Oconee, Orangeburg, Pickens, Richland, Saluda, Spartanburg, Sumter, Union, Williamsburg, York

Longleaf pine forests once covered a vast range from Texas to Virginia. Since that time, this longleaf forest has been reduced to three percent of historical acreage due to conversion to other land uses and forest types. Longleaf pine forests are highly valued for their resistance to damage by insects, diseases, wildfire, and storms, and for their yield of high quality wood products, biological diversity, and beauty. Under this program, state forestry agencies in Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, and North Carolina are putting Americans to work restoring these valuable forests. Activities include restoring longleaf pine seed, seedlings, and native understory plants; coordinating efforts across broad partnerships; and providing educational materials and training to the public and staff. This work is helping to restore a threatened ecosystem while creating jobs for contractors and laborers involved in tree planting and forest improvement work, nursery workers, conservation planners and coordinators, media specialists, and educators.

Alabama State Cogongrass Task Forces' War on Cogongrass

Date of Announcement: May 14, 2009

Estimated Funding: \$6,281,000 for Forest Health - Cooperative State(s): Alabama

County(ies): Autauga, Baldwin, Barbour, Bibb, Blount, Bullock, Butler, Calhoun, Chambers, Cherokee, Chilton, Choctaw, Clarke, Clay, Cleburne, Coffee, Colbert, Conecuh, Coosa, Covington, Crenshaw, Cullman, Dale, Dallas, DeKalb, Elmore, Escambia, Etowah, Fayette, Franklin, Geneva, Greene, Hale, Henry, Houston, Jackson, Jefferson, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Lee, Limestone, Lowndes, Macon, Madison, Marengo, Marion, Marshall, Mobile, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Perry, Pickens, Pike, Randolph, Russell, Saint Clair, Shelby, Sumter, Talladega, Tallapoosa, Tuscaloosa, Walker, Washington, Wilcox, Winston

Alabama faces a crisis as it continues to lose the battle against the devastating onslaught of cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrical* (L.) Beauv. (Incl. *I. brasiliensis*), a federally listed invasive weed and considered one of the top ten most invasive weeds in the world. Since its introduction in southwest Alabama in 1912, cogongrass has become epidemic in parts of Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida. The potential for the continued spread across the lower United States is problematic unless a sustained campaign to halt its advancement is made. Unchecked, cogongrass will dominate the southern landscape turning a dynamic and diverse ecosystem into a monoculture unsuitable and unproductive and multiple use objectives such as recreation, wildfire habitat, hay and sod production, timber management and biodiversity conservation. Further, cogongrass poses a real and present danger in the form of a highly flammable fuel promoting severe wildfire that threatens homes, structures and habitats. This project will treat cogongrass utilizing a variety of invasive vegetation species treatment methods such as mechanical, prescribed burning, and herbicide application where appropriate.

Alabama Prescribe Burning & Hazard Fuel Reduction

Date of Announcement: August 18, 2009

Estimated Funding: \$5,000,000 for Hazardous Fuels/Ecosystem Restoration - S&PF Lands

State(s): Alabama

County(ies): Autauga, Baldwin, Barbour, Bibb, Blount, Bullock, Butler, Calhoun, Chambers, Cherokee, Chilton, Choctaw, Clarke, Clay, Cleburne, Coffee, Colbert, Conecuh, Coosa, Covington, Crenshaw, Cullman, Dale, Dallas, DeKalb, Elmore, Escambia, Etowah, Fayette, Franklin, Geneva, Greene, Hale, Henry, Houston, Jackson, Jefferson, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Lee, Limestone, Lowndes, Macon, Madison, Marengo, Marion, Marshall, Mobile, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Perry, Pickens, Pike, Randolph, Russell, Saint Clair, Shelby, Sumter, Talladega, Tallapoosa, Tuscaloosa, Walker, Washington, Wilcox, Winston

Alabama is blessed with an abundance of natural resources, including 22.7 million acres of timberland. This timberland asset is the foundation for a thriving ecosystem, diverse wildlife and fisheries populations, a multitude of recreational opportunities, and has been the essential basis for a robust forest products industry. Historically, fire has been a vital component in many of the ecosystems represented across Alabama and has proven a useful management tool employed by forest managers in maintaining the health and integrity of these forests. Unfortunately, fire and prescribed burning in particular have been maligned resulting in significant reduction of utilization to the point of virtually total exclusion from implementation as a management component. Consequently, the threat to forest resources and risk to timber and real property from severe wildfire have risen proportionately. This project will treat hazardous fuels through various management techniques including prescribed fire.

Alaska

Fairbanks North Star Borough and Yukon-Koyukuk Area Hazardous Fuels Reduction

Date of Announcement: March 9, 2009

Estimated Funding: \$1,500,000 for Hazardous Fuels/Ecosystem Restoration - S&PF Lands

State(s): Alaska

County(ies): Fairbanks North Star Borough, Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area

This project will repair and reconstruct roads to comply with the Alaska Forest Practices Act for water quality and operability by installing culverts, ditching, resurfacing, and clearing access to the forest for future harvest of biofuels. Improved access will facilitate sustainable forest products industry jobs in the area. In addition, this project will create new temporary jobs to treat 55 acres of hazardous fuels in six villages by thinning black spruce and mixed hardwoods 200 feet around homes and infrastructure facilities, as identified in Community Wildfire Protection Plans to provide defensible space. Following treatment, the acres will be scraped up to 25 feet wide with a dozer to initiate conversion to natural hardwoods and provide a defensible fuel break around the villages. In the Fairbanks North Star Borough, new temporary jobs will be created to remove hazardous fuels in the following areas: Old Murphy Dome Road, Washington Creek, Chatanika River, Salcha, and South Fork Chena River. Additional temporary jobs will be created to precommercial thin 125 acres of densely overstocked lands and perform 10 miles of road maintenance.

Daves Creek Watershed Restoration

Date of Announcement: September 9, 2009

Estimated Funding: \$200,000 for Forest Health - Cooperative State(s): Alaska

County(ies): Kenai Peninsula Borough

The first half mile of Daves Creek on the Alaska's Kenai Peninsula has been damaged by highway construction projects over the past 60 years, restricting the passage of fish up Daves Creek into Tern Lake. This project will replace a culvert with a bridge, fully restoring fish passage into Tern Lake. It will reconstruct the stream channel and floodplains to their natural condition and improve fish habitat conditions. The project has widespread support and endorsement from organizations and agencies that include: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Cooper Landing Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Alaska Citizens for the Chugach, Coastal America, and the Kenai Peninsula Borough. This project will result in improved water quality and a fully functional stream channel with abundant spawning and rearing habitat. Restoration will ultimately boost salmon populations in this important spawning area.