



United States  
Department  
of Agriculture



Malheur  
National  
Forest



# Recovery Roundup

Malheur National Forest

Eastern Oregon

September 16, 2010  
Vol. 5



Goshawk survey- setting trail cam in hopes of capturing image

## Malheur National Forest Economic Recovery Funding Breakdown

- Facilities Accessibility Improvements- \$ 4. 5 million
- Deferred Road Maintenance - \$ 5 million
- Collaborative Restoration Forest Health Support Contracts - \$ 3. 6 million
- Blue Mountains Fuels and Timber Stewardship - \$ 7. 5 million
- Biomass Plant (Malheur Lumber) - \$ 5 million grant

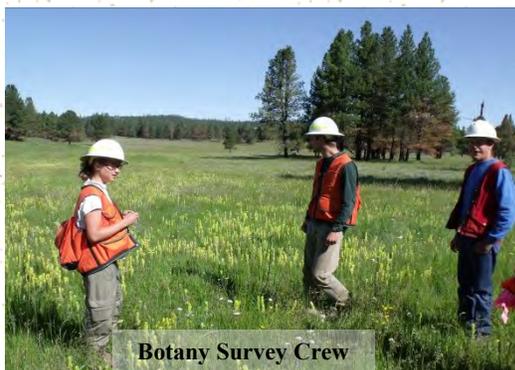
## Large Landscape Projects Aided By Recovery Act Funded Crews

Beginning in February, 2010, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was just a term and acronym, and most people had no idea of how it might potentially affect them. The Malheur National Forest hosted job fairs to inform folks of ARRA projects that would generate jobs such as surveys, monitoring and other field tasks.

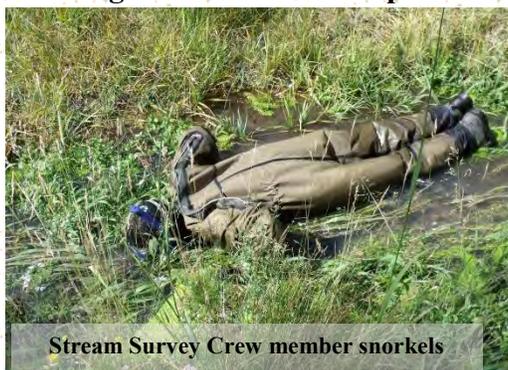
Most of the people attending the job fairs were likely just looking for a job and did not really care how it was funded or what it entailed. They just wanted to work. These folks live in Grant and Harney Counties, which have some of highest unemployment rates in the state of Oregon, and have also been affected by a decline in the timber industry in recent years.

The Forest hired 52 extra seasonal workers, 44 from Grant and Harney Counties, orientated them on what the Recovery Act was, trained them, provided vehicles for them and sent them out into every part of the Forest. As these crews started to conduct surveys of all kinds including hydro, heritage, botany, stream, soil, wildlife and stand exams, they began to realize that they were part of a special thing and what they were doing was a lot more than just getting a paycheck. They were understanding what the Recovery Act was providing for them, the Forest and the economy.

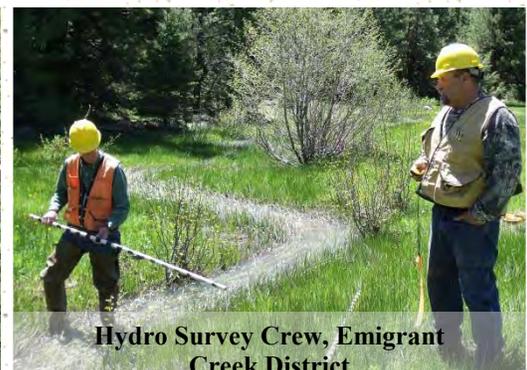
The Recovery Act funding is providing jobs for people, enabling the Forest to complete much needed projects, and giving all involved a great sense of accomplishment.



Botany Survey Crew

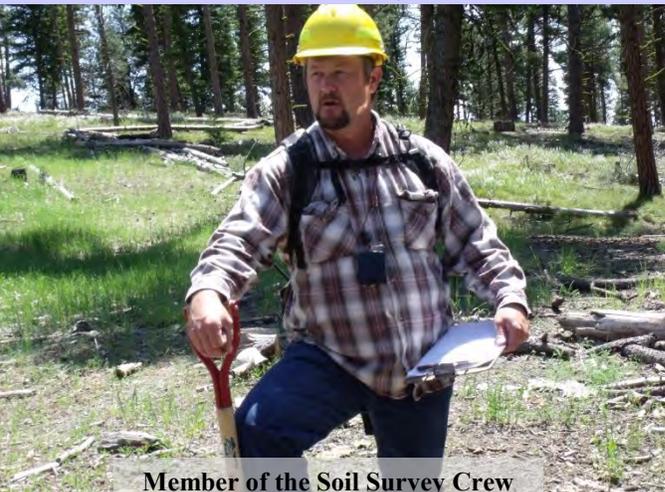


Stream Survey Crew member snorkels

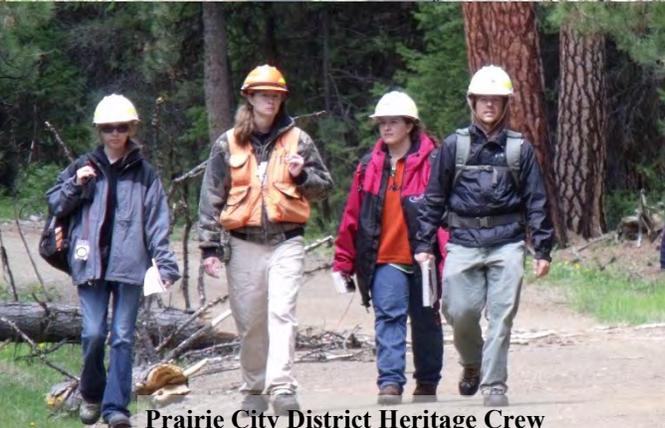


Hydro Survey Crew, Emigrant Creek District

# Survey Crews Cover Thousands of Acres and Miles of Streams On the Malheur NF



Member of the Soil Survey Crew



Prairie City District Heritage Crew



Vegetation/Fuels Crew discussing safety with Malheur safety officer



Emigrant District Wildlife Crew member executes Goshawk calls

Malheur National Forest field crews have played a large part in helping the forest complete its goals for the season as well as collect enough data to help move several large landscape projects forward.

With the addition of the Recovery funded employees, some crews were able to collect two to three years worth of data in one field season. This data will be used in various forms to help in such projects as fire recovery, rehabilitation of riparian areas, fish passage culvert improvements, evaluation of plantation and seed orchard maintenance. Data will also be used to support future vegetation treatment projects and stand treatments to reduce fire risk and improve overall general forest health.

Supervisors are very pleased with the amount and quality of work, crews were able to accomplish this season, including Supervisory Wildlife Biologist, June Galloway. "With the addition of the monitoring crew hired with Recovery dollars, we are able to do two years worth of monitoring in one field season," she stated. "I am grateful the Recovery Act gave us a chance to hire these folks and give them the opportunity to work, they are a great crew and I appreciate their enthusiasm and knowledge."

This has been quite the Recovery Summer and continues to be a win-win situation for the Forest and the local communities.

## *Out and About*

The Malheur had crew members everywhere, including the booth at the Grant County Fair (Right). He was such a dedicated employee, he never went home, took a break, or sat down the entire four days. But then again, all Malheur NF employees are dedicated and hard working.

