USDA Forest Service
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
Project Stories

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Alabama

Program Project Name: National Forests in Alabama- Bridge Replacement & Maintenance

Local Project Name: Bridge Replacement and Maintenance in Calhoun, Cleburne, Clay, Covington,

Region: Southern Region

Forest: NFS In Alabama

Ranger District: Bankhead

Nearby City(ies): Talladega

Congressional District(s): AL01, AL02, AL03, AL04, AL05

County(ies): AL: Calhoun, Cleburne, Covington, Escambia, Macon, Talladega

Modified Date: 7/15/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Bridge Replacement and Maintenance in Alabama

Story posted 4/2/2010)

The transportation system on the National Forests in Alabama includes over 1,200 miles of roads and 360 miles of trails, with bridges making up a major component of the system. Approximately 120 road and trail bridges within the national forests are in various conditions requiring annual monitoring, maintenance, and periodic restoration.

Thanks to the Recovery Act projects, the public will notice improvements as they travel through four national forests in Alabama. Recovery Project funds are creating opportunities to hire people to remove culverts and litter around bridges and replace trail bridges, signs, and markers on the Bankhead, Conecuh, Talladega, and Tuskegee National Forests.

One successful maintenance project was located in the Conecuh National Forest where a contractor turned temporary work into permanent employment. Steve Wainwright, a general contractor with W.D. Wainwright in Prattville, Alabama, converted some of his temporary jobs that were part of the Recovery Act projects.

According to Wainwright, they were awarded a contract to clean litter around culverts and drainages. “The work on the Conecuh National Forest was much needed and a great experience,” said Wainwright. “We enjoyed working with the Forest Service because the staff believes in getting it done the right way. I was so pleased with my employees and the work that I decided to hire them permanently.” The company completed project work on eight bridges and five culvert sites on the Conecuh National Forest.

The National Forests in Alabama received approximately $1.4 million in Recovery Act funding that will involve clean-up and maintenance, culvert replacement, and upgrades to various trail and road bridges. “Recovery jobs are making a difference by creating jobs that are improving public lands,” said Miera C. Nagy, forest supervisor for Alabama’s national

forests. The Capital Improvement and Maintenance projects will eliminate an estimate $816,000 in deferred maintenance.

Program Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and Fuels Management

Local Project Name: Alabama – Longleaf Restoration Initiative

Region: Southern Region

Nearby City(ies): Alabama

Estimated Project Cost: $0.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 13.5

Congressional District(s): FL01, FL02, FL03, FL04, FL05, FL06, FL07, FL08, FL09, FL10, FL11, FL12, FL13, FL14, FL15, FL16, FL17, FL18, FL19, FL20, FL21, FL22, FL23, FL24, FL25, GA01, GA02, GA03, GA04, GA05, GA06, GA07, GA08, GA09, GA10, GA11, GA12, GA13, NC01, NC02, NC03, NC04, NC05, NC06, NC07, NC08, NC09, NC10, NC11, NC12, NC13, SC01, SC02, SC03, SC04, SC05, SC06

County(ies): AL: 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; FL: Brevard, Broward, 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; GA: 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; NC: 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; SC: 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

Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project in Alabama

(Story posted 4/13/2010)

The longleaf pine forests that once covered over 90 million acres in southeastern United States has been reduced by 97 percent to 3.4 million acres – only three percent remains. To address these concerns, representatives from over 20 federal, state, and non-government

organizations came together and helped develop the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine, which was released in March 2009. The plan calls for an unprecedented collaborative effort – on all lands – to increase longleaf pine acreage to 8 million acres and improve 1.5 million acres of existing longleaf over the next 15 years.

One of the first efforts to go from the range-wide plan to implementation was the awarding of $8.975 million in Recovery Act funds for the Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project. The funds were awarded through grants to state forestry agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. The Alabama Forestry Commission received $1.757 million.

AFC has contracted with the Longleaf Alliance to administer the project. Anne Rilling, with the Alliance, was hired to coordinate this effort. Other agencies involved include the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The work is being implemented through multiple private contracts.

As of March 15, 2010, there have been many accomplishments: Longleaf establishment on 230 acres on the Geneva State Forest and 650 acres on the Barbour Wildlife Management Area; 800+ acres of mid-story treatments to improve existing longleaf pine and improve cone collection areas on the Geneva State Forest and Little River State Forest; around 298,000 longleaf pine seedlings were purchased and provided to supplement the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Landowner Incentive Program to establishing longleaf on an estimated 596 acres (80% complete) of private land; and tuition provided for 47 professionals to attend the Longleaf Academy for formal training.

Program Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and Fuels Management

Local Project Name: Florida Longleaf Restoration Initiative

Region: Southern Region

Forest: Test Forest R8

Nearby City(ies): throughout Florida

Estimated Project Cost: $0.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 0.7

Congressional District(s): FL01, FL02, FL03, FL04, FL05, FL06, FL07, FL08, FL09, FL10, FL11, FL12, FL13, FL14, FL15, FL16, FL17, FL18, FL19, FL20, FL21, FL22, FL23, FL24, FL25

County(ies): AL: 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; FL: 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; GA: 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; NC: 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; SC: 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

Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project in Florida

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

The longleaf pine forests that once covered over 90 million acres in southeastern United States has been reduced by 97% to 3.4 million acres – only 3% remains. To address these concerns, representatives from over 20 federal, state, and non-government organizations

came together and helped develop the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine, which was released in March 2009. The plan calls for an unprecedented collaborative effort – on all lands – to increase longleaf pine acreage to 8 million acres and improve 1.5 million acres of existing longleaf over the next 15 years.

One of the first efforts to go from the range-wide plan to implementation was the awarding of $8.975 million in Recovery Act funds for the Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project. The funds were awarded through grants to state forestry agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

As of March 2010, there have been many accomplishments: a total of 200 acres of longleaf establishment has been completed on the Indian Lakes State Forest, while 13 state forests are involved in accomplishing prescribed burning, mid-story/understory treatments, and seed collection; currently, a little over 300 acres of longleaf establishment has been completed on through Florida's longleaf pine private lands incentive program (out of 2,000 acres); at Andrews State Nursery work is underway to increase the longleaf seedling capacity by 2.2 million, while planned to be completed by April 2010; and inventory work for gopher tortoise, Indigo snake, and RCW is continuing on public lands.

Program Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and Fuels Management

Local Project Name: Georgia Longleaf Pine Initiative

Region: Southern Region

Nearby City(ies): Throughout Georgia

Estimated Project Cost: $0.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 7

Congressional District(s): GA01, GA02, GA03, GA04, GA05, GA06, GA07, GA08, GA09, GA10, GA11, GA12, GA13

County(ies): AL: 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; FL: 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; GA: 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; NC: 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; SC: 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

Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project in Georgia

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

The longleaf pine forests that once covered over 90 million acres in southeastern United States has been reduced by 97 percent to 3.4 million acres – only three percent remains. To address these concerns, representatives from over 20 federal, state, and non-government

organizations came together and helped develop the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine, which was released in March 2009. The plan calls for an unprecedented collaborative effort – on all lands – to increase longleaf pine acreage to 8 million acres and improve 1.5 million acres of existing longleaf over the next 15 years.

One of the first efforts to go from the range-wide plan to implementation was the awarding of $8.975 million in Recovery Act funds for the Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project. The funds were awarded through grants to state forestry agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

As of March 2010, there have been many accomplishments: Longleaf establishment is complete on 115 acres on the Paulding Forest; wiregrass planting is complete on the Broxton Rocks Legacy Forest – 36 acres; field fumigated in order to expand longleaf bare root capacity by 2 million seedlings; GFC hired John Lathem to administer the Recovery Act longleaf grant; and the GFC has 4,572 acres of longleaf signed up through Georgia's Private Lands Longleaf Restoration Incentive Payment Program. It is estimated that approximately 750 acres will be planted by the end of March. Most of the work this year will be site preparation with majority of planting to occur during the winter of 2010/11.

Program Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and Fuels Management

Local Project Name: North Carolina Longleaf Pine Restoration

Region: Southern Region

Nearby City(ies): Throughout North Carolina

Estimated Project Cost: $0.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 1.5

Congressional District(s): NC01, NC02, NC03, NC04, NC05, NC06, NC07, NC08, NC09, NC10, NC11, NC12, NC13

County(ies): AL: 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; FL: 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; GA: 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; NC: 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; SC: 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

Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project in North Carolina

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

The longleaf pine forests that once covered over 90 million acres in southeastern United States has been reduced by 97 percent to 3.4 million acres – only three percent remains. To address these concerns, representatives from over 20 federal, state, and non-government

organizations came together and helped develop the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine, which was released in March 2009. The plan calls for an unprecedented collaborative effort – on all lands – to increase longleaf pine acreage to 8 million acres and improve 1.5 million acres of existing longleaf over the next 15 years.

One of the first efforts to go from the range-wide plan to implementation was the awarding of $8.975 million in Recovery Act funds for the Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project. The funds were awarded through grants to state forestry agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

As of March 2010, there have been many accomplishments: establishing 431 acres of longleaf pine and 80 acres of wiregrass on Bladen Lakes State Forest; completing 2,464 acres of prescribed burning; improving 430 acres of longleaf pine through mechanical treatments of mid-story and understory; collecting and processing 4,600 pounds of longleaf seed, 14 pounds of wiregrass, and four pounds of other native understory plant species; and the Division of Forestry hired five temporary forestry technicians at Bladen Lakes to help implement the longleaf restoration program.

Program Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and Fuels Management
Local Project Name: South Caroline Longleaf Restoration
Region: Southern Region
Nearby City(ies): throughout South Carolina
Estimated Project Cost: $0.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 10.7
Congressional District(s): SC01, SC02, SC03, SC04, SC05, SC06

County(ies): AL: 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; FL: 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; GA: 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; NC: 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; SC: 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

Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project in South Carolina

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

The longleaf pine forests that once covered over 90 million acres in southeastern United States has been reduced by 97 percent to 3.4 million acres – only three percent remains. To address these concerns, representatives from over 20 federal, state, and non-government

organizations came together and helped develop the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine, which was released in March 2009. The plan calls for an unprecedented collaborative effort – on all lands – to increase longleaf pine acreage to 8 million acres and improve 1.5 million acres of existing longleaf over the next 15 years.

One of the first efforts to go from the range-wide plan to implementation was the awarding of $8.975 million in Recovery Act funds for the Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project. The funds were awarded through grants to state forestry agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

As of March 2010, there have been many accomplishments: establishment of longleaf pine on 625 acres on state lands; 1,150 acres of mid-story/stand improvement treatments have been completed; approximately 4,000 acres of prescribed burning has been completed; work on private lands has been accomplished (reported through first of March) with the Longleaf Restoration Program (landowner incentive program) – 180 acres of longleaf establishment, 183 acres of prescribed burning, and 103 acres of mid-story treatments ;the capacity to produce containerized longleaf pine has been increased at Taylor State Nursery by 750,000 seedlings through contract construction of new raised tables; a private consulting forester has been contracted to inventory state parks lands for longleaf pine; and the SCFC has sent 45 professionals to the Longleaf Academy in Alabama for formal training.

Program Project Name: Auburn HVAC Repair, Energy Upgrade and LEED-EB Certification

Local Project Name: Auburn HVAC Upgrade and LEED Certification
Region: Southern Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Auburn, AL
Estimated Project Cost: $550,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 12
Congressional District(s): AL03
County(ies): AL: Lee
Modified Date: 7/8/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Provide Work, Contribute to Sustainable Operations

(Story posted 4/16/2010)

In Lee County, Alabama, the Recovery Act helped to boost the economy by providing work for more than a dozen people.

Local contractor Alabama Controls, working through Atlanta-based Willis Mechanical, completed replacement of the Southern Research Station (SRS) laboratory's antiquated and failing heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system. The goal is to make the building the first USDA Forest Service building to complete the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Existing Buildings' (LEED-EB) certification process, as established

by the U.S. Green Building Council.

Previously the SRS had completed 60 percent of the LEED certification process for the 23,340 square foot facility.

The project, completed in July 2009, replaced major components of the 38-year-old system and added new fresh air economizers and a new direct digital control system, allowing an estimated 35 percent energy savings for the G.W. Andrews Forestry Sciences Laboratory.

Lab occupants are already experiencing better comfort in terms of heating and cooling and better air quality.

Research engineers are documenting the LEED-EB process and will publish a guide to help other Forest Service facilities achieve LEED-EB certification.

Creating these job opportunities gives our communities the chance to participate in developing sustainability technologies and to accomplish some of our highest priority stewardship work on public and private lands and facilities.

Program Project Name: Alabama Prescribe Burning & Hazard Fuel Reduction

Local Project Name: AL Prescribed Burning and Hazardous Fuels Reduction

Region: Southern Region

Nearby City(ies): Montgomery, Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile

Estimated Project Cost: $5,000,000.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 5.37

Congressional District(s): AL01, AL02, AL03, AL04, AL05, AL06, AL07

County(ies): AL: 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

Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:

Forest Service Recovery Act Grants Help with Hazardous Fuels Reduction

(Story posted 8/10/2010)

The Alabama Forestry Commission is providing grants to small landowners for hazardous fuels reduction to reduce wildfire risk and promote forest health. The commission is concentrating their grants on rural areas and areas within the wildland urban interface. Landowners who have 250 acres or less may apply for a grant to help with fuel reduction activities on their property, such as prescribed burning; creating fuel breaks and fire lines;

and mulching.

These fuel reduction activities will help landowners treat areas that normally wouldn't be burned. It also gives the Alabama Forestry Commission an opportunity to educate small landowers about the importance of prescribed burning with hopes of them continuing the practice.

Currently the commission has signed up between 50 and 100 landowners to treat approximately 2,100 acres. Many of the grants are coming from landowners with less than 100 acres. The commission hopes to continue the program over the next one or two years. The current grant cycle closes on August 27, 2010.

Program Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and Fuels Management

Local Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative

Region: Southern Region

Nearby City(ies): Atlanta, Columbia, Asheville, Tallahassee, Montgomery

Estimated Project Cost: $0.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 85

Congressional District(s): AL01, AL02, AL03, AL04, AL05, AL06, AL07, FL01, FL02, FL03, FL04, FL05, FL06, FL07, FL08, FL09, FL10, FL11, FL12, FL13, FL14, FL15, FL16, FL17, FL18, FL19, FL20, FL21, FL22, FL23, FL24, FL25, GA01, GA02, GA03, GA04, GA05, GA06, GA07, GA08, GA09, GA10, GA11, GA12, GA13, NC01, NC02, NC03, NC04, NC05, NC06, NC07, NC08, NC09, NC10, NC11, NC12, NC13, SC01, SC02, SC03, SC04, SC05, SC06

County(ies): AL: 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; FL: 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; GA: 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; NC: 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; SC: 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

Modified Date: 8/13/2010

Story:

Longleaf Pine Restoration Funded Through Recovery Act

(Story posted 8/11/2010)

A total of $8.975 million Recovery Act funding, through USDA Forest Service - State & Private Forestry, was awarded through five separate grants to state forestry agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina during the summer of 2009. As of June 30, 2010, approximately 43.6 percent ($3.75 million) of the grant funding has

been reimbursed to the states for work accomplished. The grants have been in effect almost one year.

Based on the original grant program narratives from each state, the estimated total jobs created/saved were projected to be 85 FTEs (does not include estimate from Alabama). Since the initial planned projections, more uniform guidance for calculating jobs (FTEs)is being employed by each state (based on hours worked). As of June 30, 2009, an estimated 85 FTEs have been generated from this program across all five states. It appears the accomplished FTEs will exceed the estimates provided by the states in the original project narratives.

A total 8,397 acres of longleaf establishment has been reported completed by the five states on both private and state lands. This represents around 62 percent completed of the total 13,619 acres planned. The accomplishments signify areas in which all site preparation and tree planting has been completed. Site preparation work is continuing during the summer and fall seasons of 2010 to prepare areas for planting during the winter 2010-11.

A total of 3,630 acres of the planned 7,344 acres for longleaf establishment has been completed on state lands (i.e. state forests, DNR lands). A total of 4,767 acres of the planned 6,275 acres for longleaf establishment has been completed on four private non-industrial land ownerships. The Recovery Act landowner incentives programs for South Carolina, Florida, and Georgia have proven to be very successful in reaching landowners interested in establishing longleaf pine or improving existing longleaf pine.

A total 23,772 acres of existing longleaf pine improvement has been reported completed by the five states on both private and state lands. This represents around 75 percent of the total planned 31,488 acres of longleaf establishment completed. Work activities include native understory plant establishment, prescribed burning, midstory/stand improvement treatments, and nonnative, invasive plant species treatments.

Work accomplishments for existing longleaf improved on state lands has exceeded the planned goals, with 21,538 acres reported accomplished. Work accomplishments on private lands are reported at 2,234 acres.

An overall goal of the grants is for state nurseries in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina to improved facilities in order to increase longleaf seedling production capacity by 7.6 million seedlings. To date, the states have reported increased completed capacity at the nurseries of 6.95 million seedlings. Another goal was to increase longleaf seed collected/processed by 8,350 pounds. The states exceeded this goal by collecting/processing over 11,000 pounds of longleaf seed. To date there has been 1,743 acres of improvements reported in longleaf cone collection areas to improve access for cone collection.

The overall goal of the grants is to increase the number of native understory plants produced at state nurseries by 600,000 plant sets. To date 200,000 plant sets were reported produced. Additional planning and work is underway to improve understory plant seed collection areas

(135 acre goal) and to increase native plant seed collected/processed (1,300 pound goal). Most of the remaining work is scheduled for completion in Florida.

As of June 30, 2010, 125 professionals have been trained at the Longleaf Academies administered by the Longleaf Alliance. The five states are planning 36 training sessions o reach 1,200 private landowners related to restoring and management of longleaf pine. Work is underway to draft a brochure for private landowners that address the economics for managing longleaf pine.

Alaska

Program Project Name: Alaska Weed Management

Local Project Name: Alaska Weed Management

Region: Alaska Region

Nearby City(ies): Aniak, Juneau, Delta, Fairbanks, Homer, Kodiak, Palmer, Talkeetna, Dillingham, Seward, Kenai, Metlakatla, Cordova

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 20

Congressional District(s): AK00

County(ies): AK: Anchorage Borough, Bethel Census Area, Bristol Bay Borough, Dillingham Census Area, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Juneau Borough, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Kodiak Island Borough, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area, Southeast Fairbanks Census Area, Valdez-Cordova Census Area, Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area, Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area

Modified Date: 6/23/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds to Benefit Alaska Weed Management

(Story posted 5/18/2010)

The Alaska Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) will work with the Forest Service to oversee and coordinate invasive plant (IP) programs throughout Alaska via coordinator positions stationed at Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) or at Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs).

A volunteer Alaska Weed Management Advisory Committee (AWMAC) will recommend projects and focal species for each area of the state. IP coordinators will receive training in issues related to invasive plant surveying, control and management, as well as training in public outreach methods. Local CWMAs, SWCDs, and a roving crew of six people will work with the coordinators to conduct invasive plant survey, control, education and outreach projects in their regions.

In addition, AACD will contract the Alaska Natural Heritage Program to conduct the second phase of the Alaska invasiveness ranking project.

Program Project Name: Alaska Public and Administrative Facilities Reconstruction and Maintenance

Local Project Name: Wrangell Floating Camp Repairs

Region: Alaska Region

Forest: Tongass

Ranger District: Wrangell

Nearby City(ies): Wrangell, AK

Estimated Project Cost: $248,228.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 4

Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area
Modified Date: 6/24/2010

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Wrangell Floating Camp Repairs Completed

(Story posted 4/19/2010)

Project description: Replacement of an existing marine float used for the support of a 28 ft. X 26 ft. timber framed structure. Existing float is of wood construction and in a failing condition. Replacement includes construction of a new marine float, relocation of the existing timber framed structure and associated utilities and accessories to the new float, and the demolition and disposal of the existing float.

Project details: A polyethylene float was constructed in the state of Washington and was shipped to Wrangell in three pieces. The contractor bolted the pieces together on the City of Wrangell dock and built a deck structure on the polyethylene float. The deck was built with Alaska yellow cedar purchased from Icy Straits Lumber & Milling in Hoonah, Alaska.

The new float was then lowered into the water and the existing building was transferred from the old float to the new float. This was done with a crane by Stikine Transportation from Wrangell. Stikine Transportation also towed the new float with building to the City of Wrangell harbor where the contractor finished attaching the building to the deck and relocated and/or replaced accessories. Accessories include utility lines, steps, thermal pane windows, hot water heater, marine sanitation device, and skirting.

The project was completed in February 2010. Sage Systems arrived in Wrangell on November 5, 2009 with five employees. The construction crew left in late December and returned in early February to complete the project.

Project benefits: The completed float will house Forest Service administrative personnel at Anan Bay. The Anan Creek Wildlife Observatory is a world-famous bearing viewing site that attracts tourists from around the world and is of great economic importance to the community of Wrangell. The Wrangell floating camp will also be available for use as a remote camp for other Tongass projects during the Anan off season.

The Alaska yellow cedar used for the project was harvested from and processed in Hoonah, Alaska, along with the construction of the float system in Wrangell helped these two economically depressed communities.

The project also provided employment for 4-5 Sage System employees, a firm from Anchorage.

Program Project Name: Tongass Road Repair, Closure, and Fish Stream Improvement in Southeast Alaska

Local Project Name: Tongass Road Reconstruction and Storage: Tonka Surfacing Phase II
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Petersburg
Nearby City(ies): Petersburg, AK
Estimated Project Cost: $353,600.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 10
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area
Modified Date: 7/14/2010

Story:

Tongass Road Reconstruction, Storage Through Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 6/24/2010)

Arterial road FSR 6251, provides the primary access to Tonka Valley located on the Lindenberg Peninsula of Kupreanof Island. This area provides significant access opportunities for recreation and local subsistence users in the community of Petersburg, directly across the Wrangell Narrows.

Originally constructed as a logging road, and not intended for sustained public use, this road was presenting safety issues as it could no longer be maintained with a motor grader. This Recovery Act project was developed to improve public safety, reduce environmental impacts from sedimentation and reduce maintenance costs in the future in an area where use continues to increase.

During the summer of 2009, this project provided 2-10 jobs periodically, depending upon activities underway. During crushing operations, 2 or 3 people would be working. During crush and haul operations up to 10 people would be working, including operators and mechanics as identified in payroll records. These are jobs and incomes the town of Petersburg sorely needed and would not have had without this project.

The prime contractor, S & S General, Sitka, Alaska provided the crushing equipment and associated operators. The subcontractor, Rock & Road Construction, of Petersburg, Alaska provided all hauling equipment, associated operators and project management.

This project provided much needed supply side jobs in the community of Petersburg not only for labor, but fuel and parts supplies, equipment, transport, food and housing to keep this project active.

Feedback from the local native community association, hunters and recreation users about this project has been very positive.

Program Project Name: Alaska Public and Administrative Facilities Reconstruction and Maintenance

Local Project Name: Eight Fathom Cabin Construction
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Hoonah
Nearby City(ies): Hoonah, AK
Estimated Project Cost: $157,830.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 15
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area
Modified Date: 6/24/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Eight Fathom Cabin Construction

(Story posted 4/19/2010)

Eight Fathom cabin was proposed to replace a decommissioned public use cabin in Salt Lake Bay, Port Frederick, Alaska. The SLB cabin was a trespass cabin acquired by the Hoonah Ranger District and was not built to Forest Service standards. The cabin was dilapidated, had poor beach access, and a poor anchorage. A large amount of timber blew down immediately adjacent to the cabin, rendering the site impractical to manage for recreational activities. This was one of (only) two Hoonah Ranger District-administered cabins.

The new cabin was proposed to be relocated to a preferred site at Fathom Bight at the head of Port Frederick. The project was to construct a new Region-10 Forest Service standard design cabin that would comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and serve as a public recreation cabin as well as provide for occasional agency administrative use.

Workers built the cabin at a public location in Hoonah during summer “tourist” season to help promote the following: Icy Straits Lumber & Milling cabin “kit” manufacturing and locally milled wood products; Channel Construction as the main contractor; Tongass Forest wood products; Recovery Act-funded projects; and a new Forest Service cabin to be available on the Hoonah Ranger District.

Program Project Name: Alaska Public and Administrative Facilities Reconstruction and Maintenance

Local Project Name: TNF PSO Facility Repair--Harris Building
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass

Nearby City(ies): Petersburg, Alaska
Estimated Project Cost: $288,236.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 4.6
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area
Modified Date: 6/24/2010

Story:

Tongass National Forest Petersburg Supervisor's Office Facility Repairs Complete --Harris Building

(Story posted 4/19/2010)

The Petersburg Supervisor's Office Facility Repair projects began May 3, 2009, and were complete on August 13, 2009.

The concrete slab in the open bay portion of the Petersburg Supervisors Office building had settled three to four inches, creating an uneven surface and a tripping/stumbling safety hazard for employees moving to and from the open bay from other parts of the office.

Workers lifted the concrete foundation in an environmentally safe manner by injecting structural foam at a controlled rate and sealing all fractured concrete. A specialty foundation subcontractor was located, and the Prime contractor supplied additional labor to help with the operation.

There were two (2) new positions developed for this activity and the epoxy sealer applied after leveling.

Several local residents thought the process was going to be loud and annoying, but after the procedure was completed they praised the crews for accomplishing the slab lift without causing any disturbance in the local area.

Program Project Name: Fairbanks North Star Borough and Yukon-Koyukuk Area Hazardous Fuels Reduction

Local Project Name: Washington Creek, South Fork Chena, and Salcha Fuels Mitigation Projects
Region: Alaska Region
Nearby City(ies): Fairbanks, Alaska
Estimated Project Cost: $1,500,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 41
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Fairbanks North Star Borough, Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area
Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:
Fuels Mitigation Projects Underway in Washington Creek, South Fork Chena, and Salcha

(Story posted 4/21/2010)

For the first quarter of 2010, all the land use agreements were in effect with the State of Alaska, Division of Mining Land and Water, the Department of Fish and Game, and the Fairbanks North Star Borough Land Department. Position creation, approval, and recruitment occurred in the first quarter with interviews beginning April 1 and all positions scheduled to begin May 1, 2010. A total of 41 positions are to be filled. Planning began for hand treatment areas for all three projects with permitting and layout to be completed in the next 30 to 60 days.

The Washington Creek Fuels mitigation project consists of 232 acres to be shear bladed adjacent to multiple subdivisions. The unit boundaries have been mapped and marked with flagging. Timberline Excavation, the contract awardees', was unable to start work due to warm weather. Work will not commence until approximately December 1, 2010. Planning for the hand treatments has begun and will take place in approximately June/July of this year.

The South Fork Chena Fuels Mitigation Project consists of 207 acres adjacent to multiple subdivisions. There are two units; each unit has been mapped and marked with flagging around the perimeter. The shear blading contract was awarded to G-Company and was completed on February 25, 2010. Planning for the hand treatments has begun and will take place in approximately June/July of this year.

The Salcha Fuels Mitigation Project consists of 695 acres adjacent to multiple subdivisions and several high-use public recreation areas. There are eight units; each unit has been mapped and marked with flagging around the perimeter. The shear blading contract was awarded to Timberline Excavation and work began February 15, 2010 and continued through March 30, 2010. Work was suspended by the Forester in charge due to warm weather. Work will commence approximately December 1, 2010. Total acreage sheared and windrowed was estimated at 654, with approximately 40 acres remaining. Planning for the hand treatments has begun and will take place in approximately May/June of this year.

Facilities, support equipment, personal protective equipment, and rental vehicles have been purchased, set-up, and organized and in place for the non-perm crew start date of May 1, 2010.

Program Project Name: Alaska Public and Administrative Facilities Reconstruction and Maintenance

Local Project Name: Cordova Ranger District Siding Replacement
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Chugach
Ranger District: Cordova

Nearby City(ies): Cordova Work Center
Estimated Project Cost: $148,263.35
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 5
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Valdez-Cordova Census Area
Modified Date: 6/16/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Accomplish Long Overdue Cordova Ranger District Siding Replacement

(Story posted 4/29/2010)

This project has been identified as a need for at least ten years. The furious side driving rains present in Cordova has caused some major leaking and rotting on several buildings at the Cordova Work Center.

This project consisted of putting siding and gutters on three different buildings at the work center. The garage was sided with vinyl to match other existing buildings. The district warehouse and polebarn were sided with steel. The work was accomplished over a six-week period.

Program Project Name: Alaska Public and Administrative Facilities Reconstruction and Maintenance

Local Project Name: Kenai Lake Work Center Hazmat Storage Building
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Chugach
Ranger District: Seward
Nearby City(ies): Moose Pass, Kenai Lake
Estimated Project Cost: $52,459.06
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 4
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Kenai Peninsula Borough
Modified Date: 6/16/2010

Story:

Kenai Lake Work Center Hazmat Storage Building Work Protects Environment, Improves Safety

(Story posted 4/29/2010)

Recovery Act funds supported installing and furinishing a new 16'X 8' hazardous materials storage building at the Kenai Lake Work Center on the Chugach National Forest.

The new facility is used to store 55-gallon fuel drums. Prior to the construction of this storage unit, drums were stored outside and exposed to the elements. The new structure is self-contained in case of spills. It is on an elevated concrete pad to prevent contamination to the ground. It has its own fire suppression system and and panic door hardware. The weather-proof building is located far enough from other buildings and public spaces to prevent injury. The new ramped entry also provides ease in the movement of the fuel drums in and out of the building.

Program Project Name: Tongass Salmon Enhancement and Restoration: Marx Creek and Harris River

Local Project Name: Marx Creek Watershed Restoration
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Ketchikan/Misty Fiords
Nearby City(ies): Hyder, Alaska
Estimated Project Cost: $750,000.00
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area, Yakutat Borough
Modified Date: 7/13/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Restores Marx Creek Watershed

(Story posted 5/17/2009)

This project will enhance the habitat for Chum and Coho salmon. It consists of replacing 12 fish weirs, wooden cribs and boards, and existing boulder/cobble substrate between several existing weirs. Also, the project will allow for the construction of two new fish weirs, while upgrading the associated trail.

Program Project Name: Tongass Salmon Enhancement and Restoration: Marx Creek and Harris River

Local Project Name: Harris River Watershed Restoration
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Craig
Nearby City(ies): Craig, Alaska
Estimated Project Cost: $870,000.00
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area
Modified Date: 7/13/2010

Story:
Harris River Watershed Restored Through Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 6/24/2009)

Recovery Act funds are helping to restore the Harris River on the Craig Ranger District. Early 1960s logging practices in the Harris River Watershed have had long-lasting detrimental effects on watershed and stream-side conditions, and has impacted productive salmon habitat. A basin-wide restoration approach for the Harris River Watershed was initiated in 2004 and is scheduled to be completed in 2011.

Watershed improvements include 250 acres of young growth riparian forest thinning; six miles of road storage and decommissioning; and fish habitat improvements along 10 small tributary streams.

Restoration work completed in 2009 focused on one-mile of the lower Harris flood plain channel. Crews helped to replicate the natural state of downed trees in eight work areas by constructing log jams using 113 whole trees (root wad attached) and 300 large logs. The downed trees create pools of water for fish habitat.

Harris River restoration to date has cost almost $2 million, about half from grants. Another $700,000 in ARRA stimulus funds will go toward completion of the final phase of main stem restoration work.

Project partners include The Nature Conservancy, Alaska Department of Transportation, Department of Fish and Game, and Department of Natural Resources, and the NOAA Coastal Restoration Program

Program Project Name: Colorado Road and Trail Fish Passage Improvement in Alaska

Local Project Name: Colorado Road project
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Yakutat
Nearby City(ies): Yakutat, Alaska
Estimated Project Cost: $300,000.00
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Yakutat Borough
Modified Date: 6/30/2010

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Allow for Continuing Colorado Road Project Work

(Story posted 6/24/2010)

In Yakutat, Alaska, 90 percent of the town's economy depends upon subsistence (living from the lands and streams), recreational and commercial fisheries. Healthy wetlands, streams, and watersheds are critical in such rural villages.

The Situk River is the economic bedrock for Yakutat. It is one of the most productive anadromous fisheries in Alaska, providing habitat for all species of Pacific salmon, steelhead and coastal cutthroat trout, Dolly Varden, char, eulachon, rainbow trout, sculpin, and three-spine stickleback—species upon which Yakutat depends for subsistence; commercial fishing; and commercial sport guiding.

Historic roads built for oil exploration in the 1960s damaged over 6,000 acres of wetlands and streams in the Situk and Lost River watersheds. The five-mile long Colorado Road eventually became a ditch filled with flowing water wide enough to canoe--water diverted from nearly 50 stream channels in the Situk and Lost River watersheds. The diversion resulted in blocked salmon passage with abandoned plugged culverts.

The Colorado Trail Watershed Restoration project in Yakutat is a multi-year effort project to reconnect 40 salmon streams, re-open more than 25 miles of habitat, and restore 6,000 acres of wetland. The project will also eliminate periodic flooding of the Yakutat Airport by re-creating natural drainage. Work will be done through a combination of contract, cooperative agreement, and Forest Service staff labor in an area with high unemployment. The Yakutat Salmon Board is a project partner, supplying funding and labor. Additional partners include The Nature Conservancy, Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, and the City and Borough of Yakutat.

One of many Forest Service partners for this multi-year project has been SAGA (Alaska Youth Conservation Corps). SAGA crews restored 250 acres of wetland drainage, reconnected five miles of fish-rearing habitat, and constructed ten hand-built “beaver dams” to divert water into 600 feet of original channels. In 2009, SAGA crews restored fish access to an additional 25 miles of upstream habitat and improved riparian function to adjacent wetlands.

In 2010, the Colorado Trail project will be completed using $300,000 in Recovery Act funds.

Program Project Name: Ocean Boulevard Forest Thinning

Local Project Name: Ocean Blvd Wildlife Thinning
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Sitka
Nearby City(ies): Sitka, Alaska
Estimated Project Cost: $677,000.00
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Sitka Borough
Modified Date: 7/14/2010

Story:
Ocean Blvd Wildlife Thinning, Habitat Improvement

(Story posted 5/17/2010)

Recovery Act funds will help improve wildlife habitat by thinning dense young growth forests and removing the thinned bi-product to reduce slash accumulations. This wood bi-product will be made available to local communities for various uses including energy.

Program Project Name: Lake Eva Trail Health & Safety Repair

Local Project Name: Lake Eva Trail project
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Sitka
Nearby City(ies): Sitka, Alaska
Estimated Project Cost: $846,686.00
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Sitka Borough
Modified Date: 7/14/2010

Story:
Lake Eva Trail Supports Scenic Observation And Local Fishing

(Story posted 5/19/2010)

Lake Eva Trail is a high use trail that accesses magnificent wild salmon and brown bear viewing within the Tongass National Forest. This is a high demand trail for outfitter and guides conducting ecotours and for local residents as well. In recent years, there have been multiple injuries, including broken legs and sprained ankles. Trail reconstruction and reduction of deferred maintenance on this heavily used 2.9 mile trail will address these safety issues and provide long-term benefit for local communities. The local community trails coalition, Sitka Trail Works is very supportive of this project.

This trail was originally constructed in the 1950s to provide access for subsistence users who fish primarily for sockeye salmon. Over the years, the area has become increasingly popular for visitors to enjoy the scenery and wildlife. A visitor-use survey identified that 40% of visitors felt crowded while on the trail and noted conflicts between those who use the area for fishing and those who use the area for wildlife viewing.

Currently, 7 outfitter and guide companies have permits to offer visitors opportunities for guided fishing trips and bear viewing. An additional 20 outfitter and guide companies wish to apply for permits; however, these permits cannot be authorized until the reconstruction, which will increase visitor capacity on the trail.

This project will reconstruct 1.25 miles of trail to provide ADA accessibility, improve public safety, prevent soil erosion, and separate conflicting uses. The trail will include 3 viewing platforms that can accommodate groups of up to 15 individuals.

Program Project Name: Tongass Salmon Trail Enhancement Projects

Local Project Name: POW Harris River Trail
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Craig
Nearby City(ies): Craig, Alaska
Estimated Project Cost: $370,000.00
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area
Modified Date: 7/1/2010

Story:

Harris River Trail Reconstruction Contract Awarded

(Story posted 5/17/2010)

A project to reconstruct a trail in the Harris River watershed in southeast Alaska is underway. Burnette Construction earned the $370,000 contract. This trail is among many that provide the only access routes to key subsistence fishing and recreation streams for rural residents and visitors. Subsistence is living from the land and streams. The trail is in poor condition due to deferred maintenance and is hazardous to public safety.

Program Project Name: Tongass Salmon Trail Enhancement Projects

Local Project Name: Marx Creek Titan Trail Bridge Replacement
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Ketchikan/Misty Fiords
Nearby City(ies): Hyder, Alaska
Estimated Project Cost: $240,000.00
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area
Modified Date: 7/1/2010

Story:

Marx Creek Titan Trail Bridge Replacement Underway

(Story posted 6/24/2010)

The $240,000 trail reconstruction project in the Marx Creek watershed awarded to Korpela Construction, Inc. is underway with completion planned by August 2011. Work will involve 4.8 miles from trailhead parking up the Fish Creek drainage to an old mine site and cabin remains located below the Mt. Welker summit. The trailhead is located 6 miles north of Hyder, which is the only community in southern southeast Alaska accessible by road. Titan Trail provides beautiful panoramas of the Fish Creek and Salmon River valley. At the top of the trail is a spectacular view of the surrounding glacial ice fields, and the Hyder Bear Observatory is 1/4 mile south of the trailhead.

Program Project Name: Tongass Salmon Trail Enhancement Projects

Local Project Name: Yakutat Situk (See-tuk) Force Account
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Yakutat
Nearby City(ies): Yakutat
Estimated Project Cost: $132,300.00
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Yakutat Borough
Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:

Yakutat Situk (See-tuk) Trail Improvements Benefit Anglers

(Story posted 5/19/2010 and updated 12/13/2010)

A Recovery Act-funded $200,000 upgrade of 1.5 miles of user-defined trail along the world-famous Situk River at Yakutat was completed in summer 2010. This trail provides the only access route to key subsistence fishing and recreation streams for rural residents and visitors, which is critical for residents in rural villages in Alaska. The trail was in poor condition due to deferred maintenance and hazardous to public safety. Long-term benefits of this project include increased salmon available for subsistence, sport, charter, and commercial fisheries.

The Yakutat Ranger District crew, led by Russel Wicka and Glenn Israelson, completed half a mile (2,640 feet) of trail maintenance along the Situk River. The majority of the trail work was performed from June 7 to July 16, 2010. This non-motorized trail begins at the 9-mile Bridge and extends upstream for half a mile. It was designed for anglers to access popular fishing sites at three locations. This primarily gravel trail averages 18 inches in width and has two log bridges spanning the seasonally wet areas.

Anglers heavily fish the Situk River each year. This user-created trail provides access to the river trail. The trail had incised and degraded the river bank in many areas, causing resource damage through erosion and siltation into the Situk River. The goal of this project was to

provide recreational angler access to key fishing areas while minimizing resource damage.

Program Project Name: Wrangell Boardwalk Trails Deferred Maintenance for Safety and Protection

Local Project Name: KMRD Trail Maintenance (5 trails)
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Ketchikan/Misty Fiords
Nearby City(ies): Ketchikan, Alaska
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Ketchikan Gateway Borough
Modified Date: 7/14/2010

Story:

KMRD Trail Maintenance Provides Local Jobs and Support

(Story posted 5/19/2010)

The work will fix public safety issues that were a result of deferred maintenance. It will include installing new planks, new crushed rock surface, installing new anti-slip tread material on planks and replacing four failing trail bridges. This work will also improve watershed and wetlands. These trail projects will support needed local jobs in high unemployment areas. This work will also support the local recreation guide businesses and the supply and services industries.

Program Project Name: Wrangell Boardwalk Trails Deferred Maintenance for Safety and Protection

Local Project Name: Wrangell Boardwalk (4 trails)
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Wrangell
Nearby City(ies): Wrangell
Estimated Project Cost: $689,000.00
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area
Modified Date: 7/14/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Wrangell Boardwalk, Local Community

(Story posted 6/24/2010)

Wrangell is the portal to the Stikine-LeConte Wilderness and Anan Creek Wildlife Viewing

Observatory. This is an unique bear viewing site with seven heavily used trails that extend over nine miles where visitors can see both black and brown bears in their natural habitat.

The project will fix public safety issues that were a result of deferred maintenance. It will include installing new planks, new crushed rock surface, installing new anti-slip tread material on planks and replacing four failing trail bridges. This project will also improve watershed and wetlands. These trail projects will support needed local jobs in high unemployment areas. This work will also support the local recreation guide businesses and the supply and services industries.

This project is especially critical for the community of Wrangell, which has been depressed economically for over 10 years with a significant population decrease.

Program Project Name: Tongass OHV Bridge Replacement and Trail Maintenance for Visitor Safety and Protection

Local Project Name: Kruzof Trail Reconstruction
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Sitka
Nearby City(ies): Sitka, Alaska
Estimated Project Cost: $442,315.00
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Sitka Borough
Modified Date: 7/14/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Help With Kruzof Trail Reconstruction

(Story posted 5/19/2010)

This project will rehabilitate seven of the 30 miles of trail that provides access to two recreation cabins. It will also improve a 2,000-foot spur trail which accesses a beach that is popular for wildlife viewing.

This 30-mile trail was a former logging road. When logging in the area ceased in the 1970s, the road became popular with mountain bikers and off-highway vehicle (OHV) riders. The road begins in Mud Bay and crosses Kruzof Island to end near two recreation cabins: North Beach and Shelikof. Currently, the trail provides access to only one of the two cabins, both of which are frequently used by locals.
The beach on the other side of the island can only be accessed by a spur trail. Greenling Enterprises runs Alaska ATV Tours, an outfitter company that takes visitors out on OHVs to see brown bears and other wildlife. The company is owned by Ken Rear.

Between local and visitor use, the trail receives over 3,000 service days – far exceeding its original capacity. During the rehabilitation, existing log bridges will be replaced with steel

bridges. The trail will be surfaced with rock to allow for ease of maintenance.

This project is self-sustaining. Stimulus dollars will provide for the initial investment in the rehabilitation, but maintenance for the trail will be funded by the outfitter and guide companies that use the trail.

Program Project Name: Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center and Russian River Angler Trail Accessibility

Local Project Name: Trail of Time
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Juneau
Nearby City(ies): Juneau, Alaska
Estimated Project Cost: $1,667,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 18
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Juneau Borough
Modified Date: 7/19/2010

Story:

Trail of Time, Adjacent Area Trails, and Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center Facilities Improvement Project to Enhance Visitor Experience, Boost Economy

(Story posted 6/25/2010)

This project is located within the msot visited tourist site in Alaska and involves the reconstruction of 1.2 miles of trail and constructino of 0.2 miles of trail to correct safety hazards; minimize resource damage; improve access; and upgrade interpretive information.

The project includes constructing a small parking lot; improving accessibility and building accessible trail; constructing small sections of interpretive trail; adding railings and fixing bridges; restoring the Cobble Shelter; paving about 940 feet of trail; interpretive signs; installation of elevated walkways at the intersection of the Photo Point and the new Nugget Falls trails; and installation of handrail fencing to reduce bear/human encounters.

Construction/reconstruction activities include some removal of rock by blasting or drilling and adding or removing fill. Activities involve the Trail of Time, Powerline, Photo Point and Nugget Falls trails and the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center north of the Juneau, Alaska International Airport.

Andrew Campbell, owner of Admiralty Construction, said his contract means winter work for his company's 14 employees, including himself. The Kodiak Kenai Cable Co., doing the masonry portion of the project, has had four employees on the job throughout their portion of the project. Youth crews from the Southeast Alaska Guidance Association and the Forest Service heritage enterprise team will also work on the effort.

Local companies have benefitted from heavy equipmentrental for many portions of the project.

Program Project Name: Petersburg Mountain Trail Group Maintenance for Safety and Accessibility

Local Project Name: Petersburg Mountain Trail
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Petersburg
Nearby City(ies): Petersburg
Estimated Project Cost: $56,000.00
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area
Modified Date: 7/2/2010

Story:

Petersburg Mountain Trail Rehabilitation Underway

(Story posted 5/19/2010)

The Petersburg Mountain Trail rehabilitation work is underway. The original trail was constructed between 1954 and 1961.

Residents in the southeast Alaska communities of Petersburg, Craig, and Sitka depend upon safe trails and healthy flora and fauna to draw visitor dollars each year. In addition, deteriorating trails harm wetlands and watersheds.

For this project, workers will install new planks and crushed rock surfacing. They will add anti-slip tread material; replace failing trail bridges, and rebuild failed sections of trail. These improvements will allow greater accessibility and safety for the public and will eliminate wetland and watershed impacts. This project will also safeguard recreation guide jobs businesses in communities with high unemployment rates.

This challenging trail leads to spectacular views from Narrows Peak at the summit of Petersburg Mountain and is a very important trail to draw visitors to Petersburg. It is 3.5 miles one way and rated as most difficult.

Trail access begins at the Kupreanof state dock just across the Narrows from Petersburg. The summit of Petersburg Mountain offers spectacular views of Petersburg, the coastal mountains and glaciers, and Wrangell Narrows.

Program Project Name: Tongass Road Reconstruction and Decommissioning

Local Project Name: N. Thorne Road / Staney Reconstruction
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Thorne Bay
Nearby City(ies): Thorne Bay, Alaska
Estimated Project Cost: $909,000.00
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area
Modified Date: 7/23/2010

Story:

N. Thorne Road / Staney Reconstruction Moves Ahead With Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 5/19/2010)

This project is on the Tongass National Forest and covers an area in Southeast Alaska from Prince of Wales Island in the south, to Yakutat in the north. It will provide badly needed jobs in economically depressed areas with high unemployment. Public involvement through Access and Travel Management planning identified important portions of this project.

The roadwork will reconstruct ditches, clean culverts, repair roads, brush roadsides, and resurface roads with crushed rock at various locations on 27 miles of roads. This work includes temporary closure of 2.6 miles of road; removing 1.6 miles of road to restore the land and restore 30 salmon stream crossings.

By improving water quality in major spawning streams, it is hoped that four species of salmon will increase in numbers. This is important for wildlife, subsistence users, commercial fishers, and tourism operators who rely on excellent fishing opportunities to draw visitors. Project benefits also include improved public health and safety, improved watersheds, and right-sized transportation systems that meet resource management and funding.

Program Project Name: Petersburg Mountain Trail Group Maintenance for Safety and Accessibility

Local Project Name: Petersburg Three Lake Anti-slip Tread
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Petersburg
Nearby City(ies): Petersburg, Alaska
Estimated Project Cost: $100,000.00
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area
Modified Date: 7/2/2010

Story:
Petersburg Three Lakes Recreation Area Improvements Underway

(Story posted 6/24/2010)

Southeast Alaska Guidance Association youth crews are working to rehabilitate trails in the Three Lakes Recreation Area near Petersburg, Alaska, which has long been a popular place for folks to get outdoors, whether for hiking and fishing in the milder months or ice skating on the lakes in the winter months.

Residents in the southeast Alaska communities of Petersburg, Craig, and Sitka depend upon safe trails and healthy flora and fauna to draw visitor dollars each year. In addition, deteriorating trails harm wetlands and watersheds.

For this project, workers will install new planks and crushed rock surfacing. They will add anti-slip tread material; replace failing trail bridges, and rebuild failed sections of trail. These improvements will allow greater accessibility and safety for the public and will eliminate wetland and watershed impacts. This project will also safeguard recreation guide jobs businesses in communities with high unemployment rates.

The Forest Service built the first trail in this area in 1938. Beaver, bear, deer, and eagles inhabit the area, and Sandhill Cranes visit often. Wildflowers and berries abound along most of the trail, and all four lakes offer trout fishing.

After the Three Lakes Loop Road was built in the early 1970's, a Youth Conservation Corps crew constructed the three trails from the road to the “Three Lakes” -- Sand, Hill, and Crane Lakes—providing three trailheads to access the main trail. The trail makes a figure-eight with Sand Lake Trailhead to the north, Hill Lake Trailhead in the middle, and Crane Lake Trailhead to the south. Parking space is available at each trailhead. The entire trail is boardwalk and is mostly flat with a few short, steep sections. The trail wanders through muskeg and timber, crosses creeks and drainages, and passes four lakes.

Since that time, Forest Service and Southeast Alaska Guidance Association youth crews added to the trail system, as well as maintained and reconstructed the original trails.

Program Project Name: Tongass Road Reconstruction and Decommissioning

Local Project Name: Yakutat Road Storage and Watershed Restoration
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Yakutat
Nearby City(ies): Yakutat, Alaska

Estimated Project Cost: $90,000.00
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Yakutat Borough
Modified Date: 5/19/2010

Story:
A story has not yet been written for this local project.

Program Project Name: Petersburg Mountain Trail Group Maintenance for Safety and Accessibility

Local Project Name: Beaver Lake Trail and Bridge
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Sitka
Nearby City(ies): Sitka, Alaska
Estimated Project Cost: $548,395.00
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Sitka Borough
Modified Date: 7/2/2010

Story:
Beaver Lake Trail Bridge Work Underway

(Story posted 5/19/2010)

This project to improve public safety and reduce impacts on sensitive muskeg habitat is currently underway and will continue through the summer.

The work involves replacing the 100-foot wooden bridge that crosses Sawmill Creek with a steel girder bridge and rerouting Beaver Lake Trail to reduce the grade and the number of switchbacks. The boardwalk that provides access to the muskeg will also be replaced to improve public safety.

Contractors will install small log bridges in various locations along the trail. Local yellow cedar will be used as “stringers,” which will provide structural support to the bridges.

During reconstruction, the trail will be rerouted and surfaced with gravel to provide safer winter access.

The Beaver Lake Trail will be closed this summer during the construction, but Beaver Lake and the trail that boarders the lake can still be accessed by way of Herring Cove Trail, off of Green Lake Road.

Beaver Lake Trail is a popular local hiking trail. Use can range from 21 people per day on

weekdays to 30 people per day on weekends. Sitka Bike and Hike, a local guide, uses this trail for taking visitors on guided hikes.

Program Project Name: Tongass Road Reconstruction and Decommissioning

Local Project Name: Ocean Blvd Road Reconstruction
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Sitka
Nearby City(ies): Sitka, Alaska
Estimated Project Cost: $120,000.00
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Sitka Borough
Modified Date: 5/19/2010

Story:

A story has not yet been written for this local project.

Program Project Name: Petersburg Mountain Trail Group Maintenance for Safety and Accessibility

Local Project Name: One Duck Trail
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Craig
Nearby City(ies): Craig, Alaska
Estimated Project Cost: $593,000.00
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area
Modified Date: 7/2/2010

Story:

One Duck Trail Reconstruction Underway

(Story posted 5/19/2010)

Work to completely reconstruct the One Duck Trail near Craig, Alaska, with a combination of gravel trail tread, boardwalk, and stairways is underway. The majority of the construction will be gravel tread with switchbacks. The trail is 1.3 miles long and climbs from the road to alpine.

Residents in the southeast Alaska communities of Petersburg, Craig, and Sitka depend upon safe trails and healthy flora and fauna to draw visitor dollars each year. In addition, deteriorating trails harm wetlands and watersheds.

Several very popular trails near these communities have serious public safety issues as the result of deferred maintenance. Public safety in remote locations is critical. An injury in the wilds of Alaska, far from medical help, could have life or death consequences.

Trail improvements will allow greater accessibility and safety for the public and will eliminate wetland and watershed impacts. This project will safeguard recreation guide jobs businesses in communities with high unemployment rates.

Program Project Name: Tongass National Forest-South Tongass Bridge and Culvert Replacement

Local Project Name: Margarite Bay Fish Passage
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Ketchikan/Misty Fiords
Nearby City(ies): Ketchikan, Alaska
Estimated Project Cost: $458,687.00
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area
Modified Date: 12/29/2010

Story:

Fish Passage Project Provides Jobs, Benefits Resources

(Story posted 12/8/2010)

In Alaska, criteria for bridges and culvert stream crossings have changed dramatically in a decade; many old stream crossings do not meet the current standards that allow fish to move up or downstream. These bridges and culverts are also public health and safety risks at stream crossings located on Revillagigedo and Prince of Wales islands.

Some of these structures block salmon and resident fish passage in important streams. This limits survival and reproduction for these species and the wildlife and people who depend upon them for food. This project will reopen high-value salmon habitat and the work will provide much-needed jobs in areas of high unemployment for a full construction season in addition to long-term benefits to subsistence, recreational, and commercial fishing.

The South Tongass Bridge and Culvert Replacement contract to repair the Margarite Bay Fish Passage has been awarded to Ketchikan Ready Mix, a local contractor.

Program Project Name: Tongass National Forest-Bridge Repair/Replacement

Local Project Name: Hoonah Bridge Replacement
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Hoonah

Nearby City(ies): Hoonah, Alaska
Estimated Project Cost: $350,000.00
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area
Modified Date: 5/20/2010

Story:
A story has not yet been written for this local project.

Program Project Name: Tongass National Forest-South Tongass Bridge and Culvert Replacement

Local Project Name: North Thorne Fish Passage
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Thorne Bay
Nearby City(ies): Thorne Bay, Alaska
Estimated Project Cost: $750,000.00
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area
Modified Date: 5/20/2010

Story:
A story has not yet been written for this local project.

Program Project Name: Tongass National Forest-Bridge Repair/Replacement

Local Project Name: Three Lakes Bridge Replacement
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Petersburg
Nearby City(ies): Petersburg, Alaska
Estimated Project Cost: $350,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 7
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area
Modified Date: 7/14/2010

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Forest, Community Safety Through Bridge Replacement

(Story posted 6/24/2010)

To live in a small Southeast Alaska community often means to go without many of life's amenities. To go without safe roads and bridges is a risk residents of these places should not

have to endure. People who live in Hoonah, Petersburg and the nine communities on Prince of Wales Island must travel every day over unsafe bridges with missing guardrails and worn-out surfaces. All of these bridges are on routes that serve as direct links for access needs, making them all but impossible to avoid.

Thanks to funding through the Recovery Act, several bridge repair and replacement projects are under way across the Tongass National Forest. One of them is on one of the most highly traveled roads on the Petersburg Ranger District—the Three Lakes Loop Road.

A portion of Three Lakes Loop Road, near Petersburg, Alaska, is being slowly washed away by frequent rain and downhill drainage patterns on the road. Sediment from the road and rusty culverts is affecting the Class I salmon stream below the road.

The Three Lakes Bridge project, funded through the Recovery Act, includes the placement of a steel bridge on the problem portion of road, preventing washout and making the road safer for motorists. Replacement of the culverts will improve habitat for anadromous fish in the stream.

The contract for the project was awarded to Rock 'N Road, a local company in Petersburg—making the project especially beneficial for the small community. "This project is helping the company survive these terrible times," said Richard Burrell, owner of Rock 'N Road. "We appreciate the work."

Once the bridge and culvert work is complete, the company will also resurface that portion of the road.

Program Project Name: Tongass National Forest - Road Decommissioning

Local Project Name: KMRD Road Storage South
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Ketchikan/Misty Fiords
Nearby City(ies): Ketchikan, Alaska
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area
Modified Date: 5/20/2010

Story:

A story has not yet been written for this local project.

Program Project Name: Tongass National Forest-Bridge Repair/Replacement

Local Project Name: Tongass Bridge Rail and Plank Repair
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass

Nearby City(ies): Ketchikan, Alaska
Estimated Project Cost: $250,000.00
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area
Modified Date: 5/20/2010

Story:
A story has not yet been written for this local project.

Program Project Name: Tongass National Forest - Road Decommissioning

Local Project Name: KMRD Road Storage North
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Ketchikan/Misty Fiords
Nearby City(ies): Ketchikan, Alaska
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area
Modified Date: 5/20/2010

Story:
A story has not yet been written for this local project.

Program Project Name: Tongass National Forest-Bridge Repair/Replacement

Local Project Name: Wrangell Bridge Repairs 2009
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Wrangell
Nearby City(ies): Wrangell, Alaska
Estimated Project Cost: $96,300.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 3
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area
Modified Date: 12/29/2010

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Bridge Repairs Protect Travelers, Resources

(Story posted 12/8/2010)

To live in a small southeast Alaska community often means to go without many of life's amenities, but to go without safe bridges is a risk residents of these places should not have to endure. People who live in Wrangell and the other communities on Wrangell Island and Etolin Island were traveling over 14 unsafe bridges located on routes that serve as direct

links for access needs, making them all but impossible to avoid.

Ketchikan Ready Mix, a local contractor, began on-the-ground work on March 2, 2010, to repair 14 bridges: four glued laminated bridges on Wrangell Island and 10 modular bridges on Etolin Island. Work included bridge abutment and stream bank protection; replacement of bridge wearing surface planking; and repairs to bridge decking, curbing, and guardrail. The company completed construction on April 1, 2010. A three-person crew worked for the duration of the project.

Program Project Name: Tongass Road Repair, Closure, and Fish Stream Improvement in Southeast Alaska

Local Project Name: Dry Straits Road Surfacing
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Petersburg
Nearby City(ies): Petersburg, Alaska
Estimated Project Cost: $600,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 15
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area
Modified Date: 7/14/2010

Story:

Dry Straits Road Surfacing Thanks to Recovery Act

(Story posted 6/29/2010)

Dry Straits Road is heavily used, especially by moose hunters who depend on a subsistence lifestyle to put food on their family's tables. The road was in such rough shape, it was only open to high-clearance vehicles. Thanks to funding made available through the Recovery Act, the road has undergone a major resurfacing, and may soon have its rating changed to allow all vehicles.

The resurfacing project included the re-establishment of a roadside ditch and reshaping the road bed with a crown shape, both to facilitate drainage in this region that receives frequent and heavy rains. The project also included replacing culverts and resurfacing the road with crushed rock along a 7-8 mile stretch. Because of the redesign of the road bed, the road will not need any major maintenance again for about 20 years.

According to payrolls turned in by contractors, during the winter of 2010 this project employed 5-15 people on a periodic basis. How many people, depended on the work activity, if just the crusher were running, there might be only be 5 or 6 people employed. If everyone were hauling, as well as crushing, there may be as many as 15 people employed. During the winter, culvert replacement employed 5 or 6 people. These are jobs and incomes the town of Petersburg sorely needed, and would have been out of luck without. Thousands of dollars

were spent on transportation, rent, groceries, fuel and spare parts. There is no denying, this Forest Service stimulus project has had a very positive financial effect on Petersburg.

Program Project Name: Tongass Road Repair, Closure, and Fish Stream Improvement in Southeast Alaska

Local Project Name: False Island Road Storage
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Sitka
Nearby City(ies): Sitka, Alaska
Estimated Project Cost: $450,000.00
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Sitka Borough
Modified Date: 5/20/2010

Story:

A story has not yet been written for this local project.

Program Project Name: Admiralty and Misty Fiords National Monument Trail Health and Safety Improvements

Local Project Name: George Island WWII Canon Trail
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Hoonah
Nearby City(ies): Elfin Cove, Alaska
Estimated Project Cost: $275,000.00
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area
Modified Date: 7/13/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funding Rejuvenates George Island WWII Canon Trail, Local Community

(Story posted 6/24/2009)

A major trail improvement project is under way right now on the Hoonah Ranger District of the Tongass National Forest. The project will reconstruct and realign the gravel-surfaced George Island World War II Cannon Trail to meet trail standards, improving access for most visitors. One portion of the trail will meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

The George Island WWII Cannon Trail leads to the site of the only intact WWII cannon in southeast Alaska. This area has historic significance, scenic vistas, and a safe harbor making it an important draw for both locals and visitors.

The site is visited by an estimated 1,000 visitors annually. Visitors include locals, boat and cruise ship visitors, and outfitter/guide clients. Due to heavy use by small cruise ships, kayakers, and recreational boaters, the surface of this trail has continued to deteriorate in recent years leading to increased erosion and hazardous footing.

The Hoonah Ranger District has worked closely with neighboring communities of Elfin Cove, Pelican, Hoonah, and Gustavus on the proposal to improve the trail. The project has strong support from local communities, industry, and Native Alaskan tribes as both a way to maintain and increase the area's offering of diverse recreation opportunities for locals, businesses, and other visitors, and to help maintain and protect resources in the area.

The project, funded through the Recovery Act, has been designed to address environmental concerns while providing enhanced recreation opportunities and potential economic and tourism benefits. It will contribute to the economic health of the Hoonah area through the employment of a variety of local and regional workers. The construction of this project will involve using contractors and subcontractors of varying specialties – trail construction workers, timber workers for cutting and milling local woods, rock-pit operators for providing aggregate products, etc.

Program Project Name: Admiralty and Misty Fiords National Monument Trail Health and Safety Improvements

Local Project Name: ANM Trails and Shelters
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Admiralty Monument
Nearby City(ies): Angoon
Estimated Project Cost: $635,000.00
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area
Modified Date: 7/14/2010

Story:

Admiralty National Monument And Youth Crews Make The Most Of Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 6/24/2010)

Admiralty National Monument is considered a world-class Wilderness area visitor destination. This project will employ Southeast Alaska Guidance Association youth crews, helping to create and develop job skills associated with construction and maintenance projects. Nearby communities have minimal opportunities for youth employment or job training. Continued maintenance will result in future seasonal job opportunities. Youth crews will replace deteriorated and failed footbridges and resurface trails, eliminating health and safety hazards and improving public access for subsistence and recreation users in these remote areas.

Program Project Name: Admiralty and Misty Fiords National Monument Trail Health and Safety Improvements

Local Project Name: Misty Fiords NM Trail and Bridges
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Ketchikan/Misty Fiords
Nearby City(ies): Ketchikan, Alaska
Estimated Project Cost: $225,000.00
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Ketchikan Gateway Borough
Modified Date: 7/14/2010

Story:

Trail and Bridges Maintained Through Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 6/24/2010)

Recovery Act funding will assist with maintenance and reconstruction activities on three trails including gravel, boardwalk, and stream crossings.

Program Project Name: Alaska Public Visitor Centers Maintenance for Safety and Protection

Local Project Name: Tongass Visitor Centers Repairs AV Hardware Integration
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Juneau
Nearby City(ies): Juneau
Estimated Project Cost: $435,000.00
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Juneau Borough
Modified Date: 7/19/2010

Story:

Tongass Visitor Centers Provides Visitors With Vivid Glacier Viewing Experience

(Story posted 7/1/2010)

Many visitors to the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center have time, physical and monetary limitations restricting them from a close-up glacier experience by hiking to it, or taking a helicopter tour over or to land on it.

For many, viewing the movie that is shown in the visitor center's theater is the best way, to

get a better appreciation for the geology and nature surrounding them in Alaska. But the old audio-video equipment was badly outdated and in dire need of upgrades. It projected low resolution images onto the screen that could hardly compare to the real experience.

Thanks to funding made available through the Recovery Act, the old equipment has been replaced by newly installed, state-of-the-art, high-definition equipment and a wide screen. The new equipment means a more vivid experience for viewers at the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center Theater. A high-definition slideshow and 11 minute movie are shown every 20 minutes throughout the day.

Program Project Name: Western States - Forests Adapting To and Mitigating Climate Change Effects

Local Project Name: Forest Inventory in Urban Areas

Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station

Nearby City(ies): various

Estimated Project Cost: $1,780,000.00

Congressional District(s): AK00, CA01, CA02, CA03, CA04, CA05, CA06, CA07, CA08, CA09, CA10, CA11, CA12, CA13, CA14, CA15, CA16, CA17, CA18, CA19, CA20, CA21, CA22, CA23, CA24, CA25, CA26, CA27, CA28, CA29, CA30, CA31, CA32, CA33, CA34, CA35, CA36, CA37, CA38, CA39, CA40, CA41, CA42, CA43, CA44, CA45, CA46, CA47, CA48, CA49, CA50, CA51, CA52, CA53, HI01, HI02, OR01, OR02, OR03, OR04, OR05, WA01, WA02, WA03, WA04, WA05, WA06, WA07, WA08, WA09

County(ies): AK: Bethel Census Area, Bristol Bay Borough, Denali Borough, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Lake and Peninsula Borough, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Nome Census Area, Northwest Arctic Borough, Southeast Fairbanks Census Area, Valdez-Cordova Census Area, Wade Hampton Census Area, Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area; CA: Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yolo, Yuba; HI: Hawaii, Honolulu, Kalawao, Kauai, Maui; OR: Baker, Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Coos, Crook, Curry, Deschutes, Douglas, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine, Klamath, Lake, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Malheur, Marion, Morrow, Multnomah, Polk, Sherman, Tillamook, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco, Washington, Wheeler, Yamhill; WA: Adams, Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Clallam, Clark, Columbia, Cowlitz, Douglas, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lewis, Lincoln, Mason, Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Spokane, Stevens, Thurston, Wahkiakum, Walla Walla, Whatcom, Whitman, Yakima

Modified Date: 2/15/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Urban Forest Project Spanning Five States

(Story posted 1/14/2011)

This project, led by John Mills of the PNW Research Station's Resource Monitoring and Assessment Program, is using $1,795,000 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

funds to employ field crews to gather data on the condition of forests from approximately 1,000 sites in populated areas in five western states: Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington.

The project uses the scientifically-rigorous protocols of the USDA Forest Service's nationwide Forest Inventory and Analysis Program, and will result in a network of permanently located plots in urbanized areas that can be measured again in the future. The Forest Service is conducting the work in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Forestry, California Polytechnic State University, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Hawaii Urban Forestry Council, and Davey Resource Group.

Having Recovery Act funds become available for this project means that workers have the opportunity to collect systematic data on the abundance, extent, and health of trees and other vegetation in urban areas for the first time. To help urban forests adapt and be resilient to a changing climate, the Forest Service needs to know their current health status.

Urban forests will change as the climate changes, with shifts in species composition, growth rates, mortality, and susceptibility to pests all possible. Having a baseline of urban forest conditions will help local resource managers and planners to understand and articulate the contributions of urban forests to ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, water retention, energy savings, and quality of life for residents. Over the long term, monitoring will help to determine if and how urban forests are adapting to changing conditions, and might shed some light on potential mitigations.

Work on the initial plot installation will continue through 2013, with a large amount of data gathering planned for 2011. As of November 2010, this project had expended about 3 percent of its funds, generating direct employment for approximately 15 people, with significant additional jobs expected as the project ramps up.

Arizona

Program Project Name: APC Pallets, Inc.

Local Project Name: Expansion of Eager, AZ pallet mill
Region: Forest Products Laboratory
Nearby City(ies): Eager, AZ
Estimated Project Cost: $250,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 10
Congressional District(s): AZ04
County(ies): AZ: Apache
Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Expansion Of Eager, AZ Pellet Mill Allows For Increased Capacity

(Story posted 5/24/2010)

The goal of the project for APC and Affiliated Companies (APC) is to establish a scragg mill within a few miles of the Apache Sitgreaves National Forest White Mountain Stewardship Contract. The addition of a dry kiln, Cat loader, crosscut saw, and two semi-tractor trailers will bring APC to full production and increase the amount of material processed from the White Mt. Stewardship Contract.

From November 2009 to January 2010, APC Pallets increased treatment capacity by 25 loads of logs a week, approximately covering 300 acres in a three month time period, from Future Forests LLC, the White Mt Stewardship Contractor. The ultimate use of this material helps decrease the potential for catastrophic fire in this region by reducing ladder fuels.

APC Pallets has increased production by eliminating the purchase of milled lumber 100%. We have expanded our product line to include 1x4, 2x4, 4x4, 4x8, 8x8 inch lumber in random lengths, cut stock, and timber cants as expected. In addition, we have been able to increase the lumber grade of manufactured pallets from grades 2 and 3. With this grant, APC hoped to replace 8 million board feet of lumber purchases that we get from Canada and other suppliers. We hit 1,350,000 board feet in a three month time period. We anticipate hitting our 8 million mark during the full year.

Program Project Name: Dakota Logging, LLC

Local Project Name: Increasing Capacity to Harvest Small Diameter Trees and Woody Biomass on the Prescott National Forest
Region: Forest Products Laboratory
Nearby City(ies): Prescott
Estimated Project Cost: $250,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 5.8
Congressional District(s): AZ04

County(ies): AZ: Maricopa
Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:
New Equipment Allows For The Increased Capacity to Harvest Small Diameter Trees and Woody Biomass On The Prescott National Forest

(Story posted 4/16/2010)

Since receiving the grant we have purchased our equipment and began operations on the Prescott National Forest, harvesting a small diameter of trees and protecting communities from wildfires. The new equipment allowed us to operate more efficiently so that we could treat more acres in less time.

Dakota Logging has been awarded the Quartz timber sale from the Prescott National Forest in the Bradshaw Ranger District. We have completed 50% of the Quartz timber sale in a three month time frame, which is double our production prior to the grant.

Dakota Logging hauled 140 loads (3,500 green tons) to Hot Woods in Camp Verde, AZ and 11 loads (275 green tons) to Bowen Poles located in Phoenix, AZ.

We have increased our staff to 5.8 employees for our operation.

As we finish the acreage on the National Forest, we purchased seed and treated the land to preserve the forest health. The slash volume has been reduced, which will ensure the reduction of air pollution and carbon emissions since there is less material to burn.

Dakota Logging has acquired new projects which will be included in the next quarters report.

Program Project Name: Hoyer Campground Site Improvements

Local Project Name: ARRA Funds Revamp Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests' Popular Summer Retreat
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Apache/Sitgreaves
Nearby City(ies): None Listed
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Apache
Modified Date: 7/23/2010

Story:
Popular Campground Revamped

(Story posted 12/12/2009)

In summer 2009, a popular Arizona campground received a major face-lift thanks to Recovery Act funds.

Nestled among the pines, Rolfe C. Hoyer campground is a favorite spot on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests for visitors to relax and enjoy the beauty and cool climate of Arizona's high country. This past summer, the campground received a major face-lift thanks to $1.23 million of stimulus money provided by this year's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Several local contractors--V-Mountain Construction (Lakeside); Highland Trucking and Excavation (Springerville); and Sug Rogers Construction (Nutrioso)--were hired with the ARRA funds to completely revamp the roads system within the campground. Existing asphalt roads were riddled with cracks and pot-holes, so they were reconfigured for accessibility and replaced with a stabilized gravel surface.

In addition, another local contractor, Conco Concrete Specialists (Show Low), was hired to replace the existing 30-year-old restrooms with new vault models that meet accessibility requirements. Both of these improvements--the gravel roads system and facilities--will help reduce future maintenance costs.

The campground also earned $800,000 in a second round of Recovery Act funding for other much needed improvements, including constructing a new RV dump station; replacing the existing walkways, picnic tables, fire rings, and shower facility with ones that meet accessibility requirements; reconstructing the existing 40-year-old water system that will provide water to the shower facility and potable water outlets; and connecting the wastewater system for the RV dump station and shower facility to the local sanitary district.

In particular, the improvements to the RV dump station and shower facility will benefit many people as these services are available for a fee to all forest visitors and not just those staying in the campground. Work on these improvements is scheduled to begin in spring 2010.

Program Project Name: Hull and Spring Valley Cabin Rental Renovations - Historic North Kaibab Ranger District Cabins

Local Project Name: North Kaibab Begins Historic Cabin Renovations with ARRA Funds
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Kaibab
Ranger District: North Kaibab
Nearby City(ies): Fredonia
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Coconino
Modified Date: 7/27/2010

Story:

District Hires Local Contractor and Purchases Supplies Locally to Renovate Oldest Ranger Station on the Kaibab Plateau

(Story posted 10/10/2009)

Contractors working with the North Kaibab Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest (Fredonia, Arizona) have begun restoration work on the historic Jump Up Cabin, which overlooks Kanab Creek Wilderness on the southwest flank of the Kaibab Plateau.

Built in 1906, the same year Teddy Roosevelt designated the Grand Canyon National Game Preserve, Jump Up Cabin is the oldest existing ranger station on the plateau.

This work is made possible by an allocation from the Recovery Act of 2009 for restoration efforts at Jump Up and on the Dry Park Cabin and structures at Big Springs. Contracts will go to bid later this year for the other two projects.

The restoration largely consists of replacing the old flooring; repairing interior walls; installing a new wood stove; some foundation repair; and exterior staining.

Fredonia resident John Azar is performing the restoration with help from the North Kaibab Ranger District. Materials have been purchased locally from Lumber Plus Home Center & Builders Supply, Heat Wave Fireplaces & Spas of Kanab, and Canyon Country Mill & Resources Inc. of Fredonia.

According to North Kaibab Archeologist Connie Zweifel the cabin was one of a handful of structures across the plateau built for forest rangers, each cabin about a day's horse ride apart. Only two remain today; the other is at Jacob Lake.

"The original building materials came off the Kaibab," Connie said, "with windows and roofing brought in by wagon from the railroad station at Marysville, Utah."

Over the years the cabin has been used often by ranching permittees and more recently as a camping shelter by forest visitors. The cabin sits at the trailhead for Ranger Trail #41 that explores Kanab Creek Wilderness.

Work on Jump Up Cabin is expected to be finished sometime this year. The work at Dry Park and Big Springs will likely begin in the spring.

Program Project Name: Invasive Plant Control

Local Project Name: Invasive Plant Control at Saguaro Lake and the Lower Salt River
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Tonto
Nearby City(ies): None Listed
Estimated Project Cost: $100,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 56
Congressional District(s): AZ05
County(ies): AZ: Maricopa

Modified Date: 6/30/2010

Story:

Youth Work on Invasive Plant Control at Saguaro Lake and the Lower Salt River

(Story posted 5/17/2010)

Fountain grass is an ornamental grass used for xeriscape landscaping in the Phoenix metro area. It is also an extremely invasive exotic weed that aggressively spreads from yards to public lands. Buffelgrass is a related perennial grass, also from South Africa, that has been introduced to the southwestern U.S. and spreads rapidly through desert ecosystems. It grows densely in the southern part of Arizona and is spreading to the Tonto National Forest along roads and highways. Both of these grasses crowd out all other vegetation and create a fire hazard with dead material that builds up year after year. The Sonoran desert is not fire-adapted; vegetation most susceptible to fire damage is cacti, such as the Sonoran desert signature plant, the saguaro.

This Recovery Act project funded young adult crews to manually remove fountain grass and buffelgrass from the shores of Saguaro Lake and the Lower Salt River Recreation Area.

The Tonto National Forest worked with Coconino Rural Environmental Corps (CREC), a program of Coconino County Community Services, through a Participating Agreement. CREC is an AmeriCorps program, based on a Corps model used throughout the United States for more than 70 years. It carries on the proud tradition of the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s.

Young adults ages 18 to 25 were hired to work in eight-person crews to complete the project. They worked in eight-day stints, camping out at an administrative site on the Mesa Ranger District. From October 2009 to March 2010, seven crews worked to physically grub and bag these two perennial grass species. Mesa Ranger District employees picked up the huge stacks of bags each week, delivering them to a certified landfill where the seeds have no chance of germinating and establishing to create more problems.

A total of 118,700 pounds of invasive grasses was removed during the six months of this project. This is an astounding accomplishment; one that will give the noxious weed program on the Lower Salt River Recreation Area a jump start in a control program that will continue for many years. Noxious weed control is not a one-year project, but a long-term multi-year commitment. This infusion of money and labor has allowed the Tonto to get the upper hand with a tough and extensive infestation, an effort that will carry the program forward significantly.

One important facet of the CREC program is education. A succession of different crews was used on this project to increase their exposure to a wide variety of environments and project types. Some of the crews used educational time provided for in the agreement to visit the Phoenix Desert Botanical Garden during one of the best flower seasons Arizona has had for years.

Program Project Name: Rim Country Wildland Urban Interface Hazardous Fuels Treatment

Local Project Name: Rim Community WUI Fuels Treatment
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Tonto
Nearby City(ies): Payson
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Gila
Modified Date: 7/23/2010

Story:

Rim Community Hosts Fuels Treatment Thanks to Recovery Act

(Story posted 5/26/2010)

This wildland fire management project consists of six treatment areas within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) along the Mogollon Rim in Gila County within the ponderosa pine belt. Implementing this hazardous fuels reduction project will reduce the risk of wildfire to 13 communities on the Rim and support the restoration of fire-dependent ecosystems.

These communities have been threatened by several large wildfires over the past 10 years and are very supportive of all efforts to reduce the risk from catastrophic wildfire. This funding is a tremendous economic boost in support of the forest's aggressive hazardous fuel program. In addition to enhancing wildfire protection for Rim communities, monies have been spent in the communities for housing, food and fuel in support of the contract workforce. People who have been interested in employment for these contract awards have been referred to the contractors.

The selection of the Tonto National Forest's Hazardous Fuel Program for Recovery Act funding is one of the initial four Recovery Act projects in the Southwestern Region's 11 national forests in Arizona and New Mexico. This selection is a testament to the organization and aggressive planning among forest wildfire specialists and their leadership. When the call came for Recovery Act project submission, the environmental project pre-work was completed, which made this a highly-competitive project for the award. This project was part of the first 10 percent of Recovery Act-funded projects.

The Hazardous Fuel Reduction project areas include a total of 8,071 acres for treatment.

Program Project Name: Lower Salt Vault Restroom Facility Replacement

Local Project Name: Lower Salt River - Vault Restroom Facility Replacement
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Tonto
Nearby City(ies): Phoenix

Congressional District(s): AZ05
County(ies): AZ: Maricopa
Modified Date: 12/22/2010

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Facility Improvements

(Story posted 6/2/2010 and updated 11/12/2010)

Recovery Act funding allowed for the construction of 12 double vault restrooms at recreation sites along the Lower Salt River on the Tonto National Forest. Contractors also built two shade ramadas at Goldfield. The funding also permitted making all facilities and accessory improvements fully accessible.

The project cost was $800,000. Contracts for the project were 97 percent of the cost while the Forest Service was three percent of the cost for design and contract administration.

The public will benefit from the improved facilites for years to come.

Program Project Name: Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests – National Forest System Roads Surfacing and Drainage

Local Project Name: Aggregate Surfacing, Obliteration, Drainage Repairs and Improvements of National Forest System Roads 405, 688, 275, 26 & 8007
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Apache/Sitgreaves
Nearby City(ies): Springerville, Arizona
Estimated Project Cost: $563,300.00
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Apache
Modified Date: 12/22/2010

Story:
National Forest System Road Work Protects Ecosystem, Supports Traveler Safety

(Story posted 12/10/2010)

Contractors recently improved National Forest System Roads (NFSRs)on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests Alpine and Springerville ranger districts using Recovery Act funds.

NFSR 405 had multiple areas where culverts, ditch lines, and other drainage structures were not functioning properly, increasing the amount of sediment transported to the Heifer branch of the Black River. The lack of surfacing was increasing the amount of sediment transported downstream. Two contractors placed five miles of aggregate surfacing material; installed 21 grade dips; built six low water crossings; and placed five culvert extensions and riprap at

culvert inlets, outlets, and associated ditch lines.

On NFSR 688, a contractor repaired a 0.5 mile section of road prism in the upper reaches of the Molina drainage that flows into the impaired Nutrioso creek and includes critical habitat for the Little Colorado Spinedace. The reconstruction will eliminate the rutting through this wet area. The contractor also obliterated one mile of user created roads to go around this poor spot by restoring it to a natural state and seeding it.

A project on NFSR 275 was the continuation of a Legacy project started in fiscal year 2009. Work consisted of surfacing three miles of roadway with aggregate; constructing grade dips; reconstructing existing grade dips; and placing riprap at culvert inlets and outlets to reduce erosion.

NFSR 26 is adjacent to Beaver Creek and is directly connected to the watershed. Contractors completed aggregate surfacing on 5.75 miles of roadway to stabilize roadway base; replaced two rusted out culverts; extended 12 culverts; and placed riprap at culvert inlets and outlets and ditch lines to reduce erosion concerns.

Users had extended NFSR 8007 across a perennial tributary to the North Fork East Fork Black River (NFEFBR. This project obliterated 0.3 miles of the user-created roadway. Contractors installed water bars to control runoff, prevent erosion, and aid in revegetation and also placed large boulders at the end of the 8007 to prevent users creating another unauthorized route.

Program Project Name: Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests – National Forest System Roads Aggregate Surfacing

Local Project Name: Aggregate Surfacing & Stabilization of National Forest System Roads 249, 249E and 24

Region: Southwest Region

Forest: Apache/Sitgreaves

Nearby City(ies): Springerville, Arizona

Estimated Project Cost: $760,000.00

Congressional District(s): AZ01

County(ies): AZ: Apache

Modified Date: 12/21/2010

Story:

Road System Upgrades Benefit Economy, Improve Visitor Safety

(Story posted 12/10/2010)

National Forest System roads 249, 249E, & 24 are the main transportation system to access the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests Alpine and Springerville ranger district's developed recreation sites and the White Mountain Apache Tribe's Reservation Lake Recreation Area. These roadways connect directly to Arizona's Coronado Trail National Scenic Byway and

Arizona Highway 261.

This project was to reestablish the roadway template, apply aggregate surfacing, and support aggregate stabilization. The project was a continuation of a Legacy project started in fiscal year 2008. Two contractors were hired for aggregate materials, and six contractors were hired for aggregate placement and stabilization. Project benefits include the following:
• Improving public safety by minimizing dust
• Reducing sediment into the headwaters of the San Francisco and Black River drainages from fines in aggregate surfacing
• Eliminating $525,000 in deferred maintenance on 19 miles of roads maintained for passenger vehicles
• Reducing maintenance frequency requirements

Program Project Name: Stop 9 Sabino Canyon Trail Bridge

Local Project Name: Sabino Canyon Shuttle Stop 9
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Coronado
Ranger District: Santa Catalina
Nearby City(ies): Tucson, Arizona
Estimated Project Cost: $120,071.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 1
Congressional District(s): AZ08
County(ies): AZ: Pima
Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:

Coronado National Forest Develops Recreation Facilitates to Enhance Visitor Experience

(Story posted 12/10/2010)

On the Coronado National Forest, the Sabino Canyon area is one of the crown jewels of the Tucson region. It has a very high visitor rate and enhances local recreation and tourism.

A Recovery Act-funded project to provide a safer experience for visitors built a foot-bridge across a debris-filled drainage between the end of the Sabino tram road and Forest trail #23 trailhead at the top of the Sabino Canyon Recreation Area with access to the Pusch Ridge Wilderness. The foot-bridge allows safe and easy access to the wilderness area for hunters, fisherman, birders, hikers, and other outdoor enthusiasts.

Work consisted of the construction of a viewing area and trailhead at the end of Sabino Canyon Road/Shuttle Stop 9. Slabs and walkways are consistent with the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) standards for accessibility. Earthwork and finished grading achieved the desired aesthetic for the site.

Specific work included the following:
• Demolition of existing concrete slabs and curbs
• Removal of approximately 30 linear feet of guardrail and re-installation of guardrail end piece
• Construction of approximately 110 square yards of reinforced exposed aggregate concrete slab and replacement of existing concrete curbing
• Construction of approximately 65 linear feet of seat wall (stone-faced CMU block with concrete footer) and associated features
• Construction of approximately 26 linear feet of viewing rail consisting of 3 CMU piers (stone faced) with 2bar safety railing
• Re-grading and surfacing of approximately 40 linear feet of trail
• Design and installation of Native Species Landscape Planting
• Design and installation of a commercialgrade irrigation system including a 1,000 gallon polyethylene water storage tank and distribution lines
• Supply and installation of 1 trailhead and 1 interpretive sign to complement existing signs in Sabino Canyon

Program Project Name: Florida Station Sewer Replacement

Local Project Name: Florida Station Sewer Replacement
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Coronado
Nearby City(ies): Tucson
Congressional District(s): AZ08
County(ies): AZ: Pima
Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Work to Support Scientists, Students

(Story posted 12/14/2010)

Scientists and students will soon reap the benefits of rehabilitation work at the historic Florida Station (pronounced Flor-EE-da), located in the Santa Rita Mountains south of Tucson and east of Green Valley. Funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, nine jobs were created during construction. The project brought money to the community and is allowing the managing agencies to bring more of the community to the station, as it has increased the site's accessibility and capacity for research and environmental education activities.

Co-managed by the Coronado National Forest and the University of Arizona (UA), the station serves as headquarters of the Santa Rita Experimental Range, the oldest rangeland research area in the United States. Located on land administered by Coronado National Forest, the station provides laboratory space and accommodations for researchers studying desert grassland ecology on the more-than-50,000-acre experimental range that is managed

by the UA. Recently, the Forest and the UA have begun to explore opportunities to increase Florida Station's educational potential.

The UA has hosted visitors of all ages at the site. However, the 80-year-old buildings are in less than perfect condition. Repairs and restoration are needed, as well as modifications to improve sustainability and accessibility, and provide facilities suited to environmental education.

A contract was awarded to Pima Paving of Tucson, Arizona, to replace the aged sewer system.

Program Project Name: YCC Residential Program

Local Project Name: YCC Residential Program
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Prescott
Nearby City(ies): Prescott
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Yavapai
Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:

Prescott National Forest Recovery Act-funded Partnership with Youth Conservation Corps Benefits Youth, Resources

(Story posted 12/15/2010)

It's hard not to wish for more federal money for the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) after listening to more than a dozen local teens describe how much they have learned after a few weeks in the woods.

"I learned a lot about the forest and different plants," said Maryka McCormick of Surprise, who is staying the summer with her grandfather in Camp Verde.

"I used to throw wrappers out, and now I don't do that," said Allison Mentz of Prescott Valley, who now opts to recycle.

"I have a greater appreciation for the area I'm in," said Sarah Westervelt of Camp Verde.

Even though the kids didn't really enjoy pulling toadflax, they learned this plant that looks like a yellow snapdragon is crowding out native plants all over the forest.

Wyatt Bond of Prescott said his favorite thing about the work is its relevancy to the community.

"We're doing it so other people can enjoy it," he explained.

The work has been a leadership opportunity for Bond, as he is one of the oldest YCC workers at 18. He plans to study political science at Northern Arizona University this fall.

"I've watched these kids change over time," said Nicole Trushell, YCC project director for this forest.

Some even have a new interest in Forest Service careers, she noted.

Erica Irwin of Prescott Valley said the work helped her decide she wants to be a Forest Service wildlife biologist.

A one-time federal stimulus contribution of $175,000 allowed the Prescott National Forest to hire a contractor and eight crew leaders to oversee 40 teens ages 15-18 at paid jobs. About 250 applied for the work. For the past quarter-century, the annual program has been much shorter, with only a handful of kids.

For a month in mid-June to mid-July, the teens are tending to myriad chores throughout the 1.2-million-acre forest. They also are learning why the work is necessary.

The projects run the gamut and include trail bridge repairs, corral and fence removal and construction, wildlife drink tank repairs, pulling non-native weeds, rehabilitating wildfire containment lines, seeding timber sale areas, removing non-native fish, camp site improvements and trail repairs.

"What we tried to do is give them a broad spectrum of projects," said Mike Leonard, acting ranger on the forest's Bradshaw District. "There's not a shortage of things to do."

Crew leader Fred Cone, a former university instructor and Vietnam vet, couldn't praise the kids enough.

"They've done everything we've asked them to and more," Cone said. "You couldn't have a better classroom. They learn to work together."

Many of the teens said their remote "spike camp" experience in Horsethief Basin was the highlight of the job so far.

"You're under the stars, and I haven't done that before," Mentz said. Fellow PV resident Kino Miller said it also was his first time camping, and he was surprised how much he enjoyed it.

One of the more memorable moments came when the teens rescued a female mallard that was caught in fishing line someone carelessly left at Horsethief Basin Lake, Trushell related. They held the duck and kept it hydrated on the long drive down from the southern Bradshaws to a vet, who had to remove the fish hook from the duck's mouth.

The kids got to release the duck back into the wild last week.

When all the YCC work is done this year, Prescott Forest officials plan to add up the total cost and benefits of the YCC teams, Leonard said.

"Of course, some of the benefits are intangible," he noted.

Some of the Youth Conservation Corps workers talked about their favorite part of their jobs so far, their least favorite thing, something they've learned, and how they've changed. Their answers are below.

• Wyatt Bond of Prescott - Favorite thing: The relevancy of the YCC work to the community. Least favorite: At first, trying to get other people motivated. Learned: "This is more fun than bagging groceries." Changed: He feels more mature about doing what's expected of him and feels lucky to get the job over so many applicants.

• Hannah Atkinson of Wilhoit - Favorite: "I really like to be outside instead of being cooped up all day," as she was in a past dishwashing job. Least: no bathrooms. Learned and changed: To be more respectful of others, even spiders that she used to squish in the house.

• Shelby Bracy of Prescott and PV - Favorite: Being outside at spike camp. Least: pulling non-native Dalmatian toadflax weeds because she saw so many of them it seemed hopeless. Learned: More about the outdoors that will help her when her family opens a new outdoor retail store. Changed: She likes people more. "Before, people annoyed me when they didn't know what they were doing, but I learned some people are not as outdoorsy as I am."

• Allison Mentz of PV - Favorite: Spike camp. Least: Some people didn't work hard although they have improved. Learned: To stop littering. Changed: Her attitude about things such as teamwork.

• Tess Brown of Prescott - Favorite: People. Least: People. Learned: "Patience is a trait I don't have," although she hopes to get it before the YCC work is over. Changed: Not sure yet.

• Travis Davis of PV - Favorite: Building water bars on trails because he likes to dig. Least: Pulling weeds because it's tedious. Learned: About non-native weeds and why we need to get rid of them. Changed: He's used to working, now that he's got his first job.

• Erica Irwin of PV - Favorite: Rebuilding the observation deck overlooking the prehistoric Lynx Creek pueblo. Least: Building water bars on trails because it went on for two days. Learned: A lot about plant names. Changed: She now wants to become a Forest Service wildlife biologist instead of a vet.

• Josh Boris of Chino Valley - Favorite: Rebuilding the observation deck overlooking the prehistoric Lynx Creek pueblo, because he enjoys building things. Least: Pulling non-native toadflax weeds because it was so repetitive. Learned: A lot about the environment, forestry,

wildfires, and fences. Changed: Knowledge of the names of plants.

• Sarah Westervelt of Camp Verde - Favorite: Cleaning out the wildlife water tank because it helped the animals and the crew got to play in the mud. Least: Pulling non-native sweet resinbush plants. Learned: A lot about this area and its edible plants. Changed: She now has a greater appreciation for this region, and she sees more local job possibilities.

• Jake Bassett of PV - Favorite: Building trail water bars because he had to think carefully about how to position the rocks to prevent erosion. Least: Pulling weeds. Learned: About Forest Service jobs. Changed: He's a lot more active.

• Maryka McCormick of Surprise and Camp Verde - Favorite: Building stairs at the Lynx Creek pueblo ruin because she learned something she could use in the future. Least: Pulling sweet resinbush weeds. Learned: A lot about the forest and its plants. Changed: "I got a lot less lazy."

• Michael Dodge of Cottonwood - Favorite: Rolling up barbed wire because it helps wildlife and cleans up the forest. Least: Pulling sweet resinbush. Learned: To work as a team and get the job done. Changed: He has more respect for the outdoors.

Program Project Name: Building Demolition Contract

Local Project Name: Building Demolition Contract
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Apache/Sitgreaves
Nearby City(ies): Eager, Pinetop-Lakeside, Show Low, AZ
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Apache, Navajo
Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests Promote Safety through Recovery Act-funded Building Demolition

(Story posted 12/15/2010)

Recovery Act funds supported the demolition of seven buildings on five different administrative sites located across the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. The buildings were no longer in use due to health and safety issues, including extensive mold growth and rodent infestation. Mold causes respiratory problems and skin irritations, and rodent infestations can cause humans to contract hantavirus.

Four of the buildings were traditional stick built structures used for offices, seasonal residential, and storage. Three of the buildings were modular buildings used for housing seasonal workers at remote locations.

The contractor began work on April 20, 2010 at the Strayhorse Work Center. Final work was completed at the Chevelon Work Center on June 8, 2010. The total contract cost was $127,176.20.

Project Benefits follow:

• Eliminated health and safety concerns associated with leaving these buildings in the inventory
• Eliminated the deferred maintenance associated with these buildings
• Helps to justify construction of new space by eliminating unusable building space
• Removed eye-sores from these administrative sites

Program Project Name: Hoyer Campground Reconstruction

Local Project Name: Hoyer Campground Reconstruction
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Apache/Sitgreaves
Ranger District: Springerville
Nearby City(ies): Eager, AZ
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Apache
Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:

Favorite Campground Receives Facelift

(Story posted 12/15/2010)

Nestled among the pines, Rolfe C. Hoyer Campground is a favorite spot on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests (ASNFs) for visitors to relax and enjoy the beauty and cool climate of Arizona's high country. In summer 2009, the campground received a major face-lift thanks to $1.23 million of stimulus money provided by last year's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act).

Several local contractors—-V-Mountain Construction (Lakeside), Highland Trucking and Excavation (Springerville), and Sug Rogers Construction (Nutrioso)—-were hired with Recovery Act funds to completely revamp the roads system within the campground. As the existing asphalt roads were ridden with cracks and pot-holes, these were reconfigured for accessibility, and finally, replaced with a stabilized gravel surface. In addition, another local contractor, Conco Concrete Specialists (Show Low), was hired to replace the existing 30-year old bathrooms for new vault restroom models that meet accessibility requirements. Both of these improvements—-the gravel roads system and vault restrooms—-will help cut down on future maintenance costs.

A second round of Recovery Act funding totaling $800,000 was also awarded to Hoyer Campground for other much needed improvements, including: constructing a new RV dump station; replacing the existing walkways, picnic tables, fire rings, and shower facility with ones that meet accessibility requirements; reconstructing the existing 40-year-old water system that will provide water to the shower facility and potable water outlets; and connecting the wastewater system for the RV dump station and shower facility to the local sanitary district. In particular, the improvements to the RV dump station and shower facility will benefit many people as these services are available for a fee to all forest visitors and not just those staying in the campground. Work on these improvements began in spring 2010.

The timing in receiving the funds couldn't have been more appropriate. In 2008, the campground was on the brink of closing because of problems associated with the outdated wastewater treatment system and the lack of funds to fix it. As a short-term solution, residents of the nearby community of Greer and Recreation Resource Management of America, the concession company who manages the campground, came up with the funds to purchase and maintain portable restrooms. "When it became necessary to close Hoyer due to waste water issues, Greer residents came to the rescue with their time and dollars...it became a true community-wide effort to save our business sector," recalled Greer businessman Roy Laos.

Despite these generous efforts, however, the campground still needed a major overhaul to operate long-term and provide visitors with the facilities they have come to expect. As Laos explained, local involvement was key in making this happen, "Greer residents and business owners, like myself, worked effectively with the Forest Service staff to develop a plan of action and submit a competitive application for more than 2 million dollars of Recovery Act funds to fix Hoyer and quickly put local contractors back to work."

The new and improved facilities at Hoyer Campground are not the only benefits of this project. As the current economic situation has been particularly hard for those in the construction and tourism industries, this project has funded several construction-related jobs, and it has allowed for the continued operation of a campground that provides accommodations to thousands of people who visit the local area each year. Laos added, "Greer's business community survives and is dependent on tourism and visitors who have for decades used Hoyer Campground. An open and improved Hoyer Campground is essential to Greer's business success!"

Program Project Name: Prescott National Forest - Potato Patch Campground Road Repair/Reconstruction

Local Project Name: Potato Patch CG Road Repair
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Prescott
Nearby City(ies): Prescott, Arizona
Estimated Project Cost: $241,419.20
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Yavapai

Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:

Road Repair Project Promotes Safety, Recreational Enjoyment

(Story posted 12/21/2010)

A Recovery Act-funded project on the Prescott National Forest will improve traveler safety and indirectly support the local tourism economy.

This project was located in one of the most economically depressed counties in the state. Potato Patch Campground is located on the summit of Mingus Mountain at 7,000 feet amid ponderosa pines. It is easily accessible off of State highway 89A and is located approximately 60 minutes from Prescott or Camp Verde. Potato Patch recreation facilities provide camping sites for RVs and tents, access for hikers accessing the Woodchute Wilderness. The facility also provides easy access to the historic mining town of Jerome, a popular tourist destination, located eight miles northeast on 89A.

The actual road repair consisted of replacing aging and bad asphalt, drainage improvements, crack sealing, and seal coating the entire asphalt roadway. The damaged asphalt section was milled, laid back down as subgrade, and overlayed with new asphalt. The drainage was repaired by installing a 24” culvert and reconstructing the ditchlines. The remainder of the road was crack sealed, followed by a complete asphalt seal coat.

The completed project will protect the infrastructure investment, extend the pavement life, reduce sedimentation and erosion, and provide safe egress for this popular family camp ground for several years.

Arkansas

Program Project Name: Southern Research Station - Crossett Experimental Forest Laboratory Renovations

Local Project Name: Crossett Lab/Dorm Renovation
Region: Southern Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Crossett, AR
Estimated Project Cost: $264,320.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 9
Congressional District(s): AR04
County(ies): AR: Ashley
Modified Date: 7/13/2010

Story:

Crossett Lab/Dorm Renovation Will Help The Scientist Feel At Home

(Story posted 4/16/2009)

This renovation project will have significant impacts to research in the ecology and management of southern pine-dominated ecosystems. The plan is to renovate the 2,027-square-foot building to provide temporary quarters for visiting scientists conducting long-term research on the Crossett site. Station scientists are located at four different duty stations, three of which require overnight travel to the Crossett Experimental Forest. Upon completion it will allow scientists to make extended stays at the site, which will result in increased complexity, breadth, and depth of research, plus travel savings.

This renovation will also broaden the diversity of research topics in the Station's portfolio of research studies, as well as increase the facility's energy efficiency and will help meet the requirements of Executive Order 13423.

The facility will be fully accessible upon completion of the project and the projected completion date is April 2010

Program Project Name: Koen Experimental Forest Energy and Accessibility Upgrades

Local Project Name: Koen Experimental Forest Improvements
Region: Southern Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Jasper, AR
Estimated Project Cost: $264,554.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 11
Congressional District(s): AR03
County(ies): AR: Newton
Modified Date: 7/13/2010

Story:
Koen Experiments With Forest Improvements

(Story posted 4/16/2009)

In Arkansas, the Recovery Act is providing work for nearly a dozen people through the renovation of the Henry R. Koen Experimental Forest Workshop facility. The project is installing an energy-efficient heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system, providing construction jobs in economically distressed Jasper, as well as producing energy savings and improving heating, cooling, and indoor air quality.

The $300,000 contract will also allow workers to rehabilitate the heavily used interpretive trail around the Koen administrative site.

The improved, handicapped-accessible interpretive trail will provide opportunities for the public to better understand the contributions of the Forest Service's experimental forests and the specific research activities conducted on the Koen Experimental Forest and Ozark-St. Francis National Forest.

With its proximity to the Buffalo National River (National Park Service) at its north edge and the Ozark-St. Francis National Forest to the south, the Koen is ideally situated to receive broad visitation. A recent survey found visitors from around the world use the interpretive trail. Improvements to the trail will allow these visitors to gain a better understanding of Forest Service research that includes studies addressing climate change, landscape ecology, biomass, and species diversity.

Project completion is expected to be May 2010.

Program Project Name: Arkansas Fire & Ice

Local Project Name: Arkansas Fire and Ice
Region: Southern Region
Nearby City(ies): Little Rock, Hot Springs, Fayetteville, Russelville
Estimated Project Cost: $3,600,000.00
Congressional District(s): AR01, AR02, AR03, AR04
County(ies): AR: Baxter, Benton, Boone, Carroll, Clay, Cleburne, Conway, Craighead, Crawford, Cross, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Johnson, Lawrence, Madison, Mississippi, Newton, Poinsett, Pope, Randolph, Searcy, Sharp, Stone, Van Buren, Washington
Modified Date: 8/18/2010

Story:
Arkansas Gets Recovery Act Help to Support Ice Storm Damage Mitigation

(Story posted 8/13/2010)

Background:
The ice storm that struck Arkansas on January 26-27, 2009 severely affected the northern third of the state of approximately 10 millon acres. President Obama declared 30 counties as a federal disaster area. Nearly 5 million forested acres experienced varying degrees of damage. The tremendous amount of broken crowns, branches and uprooted trees creates a significant from wildfires. Funding will be utilized to purchase larger fire suppression equipment; help forest landowners with hazardous fuel reduction through non-matching grants; provide aerial suppression for wildfires; provide fire departments with wildland fire training and equipment; and educate the public on wildland/urban interface fire hazards.

Four hundred ninety seven landowners applied for $8,000,000 to reduce wildfire hazards in their forests. Only $1,300,000 is available. On December 15, 2009, AFC conducted a random drawing of the applications at the Ozark Folk Center in Mountain View to determine ranking for consideration of funding.

AFC employees conducted 100 site visits to determine if the forests met grant eligibility requirements. As of August 2, AFC had mailed notification letters to the first 89 eligible applicants and has set-aside money for forest owners to hire foresters to prepare a Forest Stewardship/Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plans will identify necessary work and will determine the costs. As plans are approved, AFC will set aside funds and authorize the wildfire mitigation work. Then AFC will send notification letters to additional forest owners. Eligible forest owners will be funded in the order in which their applications were drawn.

Program Project Name: Ozark National Forest Ice Storm Repair and Historic Structure Deferred Maintenance

Local Project Name: Koen Building – Interior Work
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Ozark St. Francis
Nearby City(ies): Russellville
Estimated Project Cost: $229,633.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 2
Congressional District(s): AR03
County(ies): AR: Baxter, Franklin, Newton, Pope, Stone, Washington
Modified Date: 8/18/2010

Story:

Henry Koen Federal Building Gets Much-needed Facelift

(Story posted 8/17/2010)

The Henry Koen Federal Building was originally constructed in 1938 and is a Main Street landmark structure in downtown Russellville.

In 2006-07, a two-story addition was constructed on the south side of the building to provide

for a new accessible visitor information area and additional employee office space. The architectural style and exterior materials closely match the original building, and the exterior rock was mined from the same quarry as the original building rock. Many positive comments were received from the local public about maintaining the historic character of the building.

In 2008, a contract was awarded for renovation of the original building. New electrical, geothermal HVAC, and a fire protection system were installed. Asbestos was removed from the old boiler system piping in the attic and basement. New insulation was installed. Window restoration work was completed.

Now Recovery Act funds are allowing for completion of the renovation work, including patching walls and ceilings; stairway restoration; and painting the building's interior and exterior surfaces. A portion of the basement will also be renovated.

The construction contractor, Ross Sparks Builders, has employees on site every day from their Little Rock office and has hired a local subcontractor for the painting work.

Project work is underway and scheduled for completion by December 2010.

Program Project Name: Ozark National Forest Ice Storm Repair and Historic Structure Deferred Maintenance

Local Project Name: Koen Building – Parking Lot/Drainage/Landscaping
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Ozark St. Francis
Nearby City(ies): Russellville
Estimated Project Cost: $256,400.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 1
Congressional District(s): AR03
County(ies): AR: Baxter, Franklin, Newton, Pope, Stone, Washington
Modified Date: 8/18/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Henry Koen Federal Building Rehabilitation

(Story posted 8/17/2010)

Recovery Act work is addressing the highest priority deferred maintenance and repair needs at the Koen Federal Building on the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests while providing local jobs. Built in 1938, the building is a historic structure listed on the National Register and a landmark Main Street structure in downtown Russellville.

This Recovery Act project allows for expansion and improvement of the existing gravel parking lot, which is in poor condition and undersized. Many employees currently have to park across the street at a nearby church parking lot. The project will also eliminate some

site drainage problems with installation of new piping to route stormwater to a nearby State storm drain. New native species landscaping will be planted.

The construction contractor, RMD Holdings LTD, plans to hire local subcontractors for the asphalt and landscaping portions of the contract. The contract pre-work meeting was held on July 29, 2010, and project work is scheduled for September and October 2010.

Program Project Name: Ice Storm-related Work - Wildfire Suppression

Local Project Name: Ice Storm Related Work: Wildfire Suppression
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Ozark St. Francis
Ranger District: Sylamore
Nearby City(ies): Mountain View, Jasper
Estimated Project Cost: $135,000.00
Congressional District(s): AR01, AR02, AR03
County(ies): AR: Baxter, Franklin, Newton, Pope, Searcy, Stone, Washington
Modified Date: 12/29/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Mitigate Ice Storm Damage

(Story posted 9/8/2010 and updated 12/9/2010)

An ice storm in January of 2009 severely affected roughly 142,000 acres across the Ozark National Forest in northern Arkansas. Many of the roads and fire lines across the Sylamore Ranger District and the northern end of the Big Piney Ranger District were covered with fallen trees, limbs, and tops. Many of the roads and lines have been cleared, but the resulting jackpots and heavy fuel and brush make prescribed burning operations more difficult and increase wildfire danger. The fuel reduction contracts were awarded to reduce fuel loading along roads and fire lines; create fuel buffers along private land boundaries; establish permanent fuel breaks; and reduce fuel loading around upcoming prescribed burn areas. Fuel reduction on the Sylamore also includes masticating dead cedar and brush in sensitive glades.

The Forest Service awarded a contract in May 2010, and work should be completed by February 2011.

Program Project Name: Ice Storm Related Work - Reestablishing Permanent Fire Breaks

Local Project Name: Mechanical Fuel Treatment
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Ozark St. Francis
Ranger District: Sylamore
Nearby City(ies): Mountain View, Jasper

Estimated Project Cost: $321,000.00
Congressional District(s): AR01, AR02, AR03
County(ies): AR: Baxter, Franklin, Newton, Searcy, Stone, Washington
Modified Date: 12/29/2010

Story:

Ice Storm Damage Work Provides Needed Employment, Improves Public Safety

(Story posted 9/8/2010 and updated 12/9/2010)

An ice storm in January of 2009 severely affected roughly 142,000 acres across the Ozark National Forest in northern Arkansas. Many of the roads and fire lines across the Sylamore Ranger District and the northern end of the Big Piney Ranger District were covered with fallen trees, limbs, and tops. Many of the roads and lines have been cleared, but the resulting jackpots and heavy fuel and brush make prescribed burning operations more difficult and increase wildfire danger. The fuel reduction contracts were awarded to reduce fuel loading along roads and fire lines, create fuel buffers along private land boundaries, establish permanent fuel breaks, and reduce fuel loading around upcoming prescribed burn areas. Fuel reduction on the Sylamore also includes masticating dead cedar and brush in sensitive glades.

The project was divided into four contracts split over two districts. Interested bidders were asked to provide an hourly rate for machine operation including an operator. A dozer is working on the Big Piney Ranger District to open existing fire lines and roads and create permanent fuel breaks. A skidsteer loader with a masticating head is working on the Sylamore mulching debris in glades and along property boundaries. The other two contracts are working on property boundaries, roads, and fire lines on both Districts and include an excavator with a mulching head and a rubber tired carrier with a mulching head.

The contracts were awarded in May 2010. Work has been completed on all three wildfire suppression contracts as of November 2010.

California

Program Project Name: Region-wide Road Maintenance Projects

Local Project Name: Sierra Roadside Safety Brushing
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Sierra
Ranger District: Bass Lake
Nearby City(ies): Madera/Clovis
Estimated Project Cost: $300,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 15
Congressional District(s): CA19
County(ies): CA: Madera
Modified Date: 7/8/2010

Story:

Roadside Brushing Project Benefits Public Safety

(Story posted 3/24/2010)

The Sierra Roadside Safety Brushing Project on the Sierra National Forest was a 144-mile project to clear various National Forest System roads of excess vegetation for the safety of the public traveling these roads. The work completed was done within the greater Fresno, Madera, and Mariposa counties.

This particular project ws a part of the intitial 10 percent of approved projects to help get America back to work. The $300,000 project was awarded to Sierra Nevada Forestry Services, a minority-owned and operated company based out of Yuba City that specializes in this type of work all throughout the West Coast.

Sierra Nevada Forestry employed between 11 to 25 skilled technicians throughout the entire project. The majority of the skilled crew came from neighboring communities like Mendota, Firebaugh, and Reedley, which have recently shown major increases in unemployment.

As quoted by owner John Acevedo, "Most of the crewmen would not be working right now if it were not for this project." The entire project was completed ahead of schedule and delivered on the promise of putting America Back to Work.

Program Project Name: SDTDC Board Replacement for USFS MIOX Water Treatment Systems

Local Project Name: MIOX Board Replacement
Region: San Dimas Technology Development Center
Forest: Six Rivers
Nearby City(ies): Oregon
Estimated Project Cost: $86,000.00

Congressional District(s): CA26
County(ies): CA: Los Angeles
Modified Date: 12/23/2010

Story:
Recovery Act Funds to Correct Health and Safety Issue

(Story posted 6/4/2010 and updated 12/1/2010))

On the Six Rivers National Forest and other locations, MIOX, Inc. manufactured and installed small water treatment packaged plants (P-3). MIOX no longer supports the P-3 or any of its components, including a circuit board that controls the operation, communication, and data storage for the plant that needs to be replaced periodically.

Recovery Act funding will support a contract to Labman One to design a replacement circuit board and to travel to and install the boards at Forest Service facilities nation-wide by September 30, 2011.

This project corrects a severe nation-wide health and safety issue (supplying safe drinking water at remote locations); reduces backlogged deferred maintenance; and improves efficiency. This project will support drinking water systems in several campgrounds and compounds.

The contractor has received the loaned MIOX P-3 unit.

The new board has been designed and tested on the MIOX P-3 unit loaned to Labman One. The first field replacement is scheduled for December 9, 2010, on the Six Rivers National Forest in northern California. After the water treatment plant operator ensures that the board performs as required, the rest of the boards will be replaced.

Program Project Name: Research on Restoring Critical Habitat for Listed Pacific Salmon

Local Project Name: Research on restoring critical habitat for listed Pacific salmon - project summary
Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Corvallis OR, Seattle WA; Mt. Shasta CA; Wenatchee WA
Estimated Project Cost: $2,259,535.00
Congressional District(s): CA02, OR04, WA04
County(ies): CA: Siskiyou; OR: Benton; WA: Chelan, King
Modified Date: 6/23/2010

Story:
Research Underway on Restoring Critical Habitat for Listed Pacific Salmon

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

Salmon are critical to Pacific Northwest States economically, culturally, and ecologically. Concerns are acute for the future of these highly visible species because several populations of Pacific salmon and trout are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The Pacific Northwest Research Station (PNW) has studied habitat for these fish for four decades and recently initiated work to help land managers, public utility districts, and others at the federal, state, and county levels make decisions on restoring native salmon and trout habitat, and provide clean water that anticipate effects of wildland fire and climate change.

This project will create jobs that support the work of leading scientists and natural resource professionals from the Forest Service and their partners at University of Washington, Oregon State University, Bureau of Land Management, and others.

Successful completion of this work will be based on the scientific expertise and cooperative relationships that are already established among the participating agencies and research institutions. The work is being accomplished via several Joint Venture Agreements between the PNW Station and various research institutions; most of these agreements were finalized at the end of 2009, and as of April 2010 hiring processes are either recently completed or ongoing, so most work is in the early stages.

Project work will bring together interrelated factors that have been identified as strongly affecting the habitat for these threatened fish species. Analyses will be performed on National Forests and the lands surrounding them in WA, OR and CA, at landscape scales to identify and map areas with high potential for restoring fish habitat. This work will examine salmon habitat in high rainfall areas in coastal Alaska and west of the Cascades as well as lands in the Columbia Basin subject to wildland fire and drought typical of the dry interior West.

These analyses will be made available for use by land and fisheries managers for planning and monitoring habitat protection and restoration efforts. To investigate the effectiveness of alternative forest management practices on fish habitat, work in collaboration with BLM will examine effects of variable density thinning experiments on riparian forests. To help states and the forest industry assess effects of forest management on water quality, long-term water quality data collected at Forest Service Experimental Forests will be made available for public use on the Internet.

A collaborative effort with University of Washington will expand upon work to develop decision support models for forest planners to assess potential effects of climate change on fish habitat in the Northwest. This work will bring the results of global climate models down to the scale of river basins help land and fisheries managers better understand what basin and salmon stocks are most at risk from climate change effects over the next several decades.

The results of this effort will be reported in peer-reviewed journal articles and in decision support models that make the outcomes more accessible for use by land and fisheries

managers and policy makers. The information yielded by this project opens the door to future jobs related to fish habitat and riparian restoration, forest and fisheries management, forest fuel reduction and recreation in the affected counties.

Program Project Name: Research on Restoring Critical Habitat for Listed Pacific Salmon

Local Project Name: Creating Watershed Data Bases for Fish Habitat Quality and Abundance #1
Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Shasta, CA
Estimated Project Cost: $550,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 4
Congressional District(s): CA02
County(ies): CA: Siskiyou
Modified Date: 6/23/2010

Story:

Creating Watershed Databases for Fish Habitat Quality and Abundance Research Project Underway

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

Federal land managers are increasingly required to address regulatory requirements and considerations for all fish species before, during, and following any management action, including restoration activities, forestry, and wildfire planning. This has often proven difficult because of a lack of consistent, uniform environmental databases and readily available analysis tools that describe all relevant watershed attributes and predict effects of various land uses on fish habitat quality and abundance.

However, there is sufficient understanding about land use effects on hydro-geomorphic and fish habitat-forming processes that can be used to provide land managers with decision support tools to make on-the-ground, site-specific recommendations for land management activities.

Dr. Gordon Reeves of the USFS Pacific Northwest Station's (PNW) Land and Watershed Management Program is leading this project that is being carried out under a Joint Venture Agreement with Earth Systems Institute (ESI) of Shasta (Siskiyou County), CA.

As of April 2010, ESI is using the Economic Recovery funds to hire three analytical modelers and one GIS technician to bring together interrelated factors that have been identified as strongly affecting the habitat for threatened fish species. Landscape-scale analyses will be performed on National Forests and the lands surrounding them in Washington, Oregon, and California to identify and map areas with high potential for restoring fish habitat. Other partners on this work are Regions 5 and 6 of the US Forest Service's National Forest

System.

Program Project Name: Water/Wastewater System Health and Safety

Local Project Name: Waste Water Improvements/Water Well Improvements/Water Reservoir Cleaning/Water System Improvements

Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Forest: Cleveland

Nearby City(ies): San Diego, Corona, Irvine, Temecula, Orange county

Estimated Project Cost: $535,000.00

Congressional District(s): CA02, CA04, CA17, CA19, CA21, CA22, CA24, CA25, CA26, CA27, CA41, CA44, CA45, CA49, CA52

County(ies): CA: Butte, El Dorado, Fresno, Lassen, Los Angeles, Monterey, Nevada, Orange, Plumas, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Sierra, Ventura, Yuba

Modified Date: 7/8/2010

Story:

Cleveland National Forest Undergoes Work to Improve Wastewater Systems

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

Providing safe drinking water and protecting public health and the environment through the proper treatment of wastewater is an increasingly important issue, particularly in California, where water shortages are a growing problem.

This project repairs or replaces select water and wastewater systems that serve heavily used recreation areas and offices on national forests throughout California.

Most of the water and wastewater systems that will be repaired or replaced through this project were constructed between the 1930s and 1960s, but continue to be used beyond their original design life. Maintenance costs of these systems are high and the backlog of maintenance needs is longstanding.

This project will repair or replace water and sanitation infrastructure such as wells, tanks, septic, and filtration systems that do not meet current health and safety standards. The public will benefit from improvements in water quality, a reduction in water consumption, increase in water conservation, and a reduction in future maintenance costs at the Forest Service sites where these investments are made.

Projects are being conducted across all Districts on the Cleveland National Forest.

Program Project Name: Faciliites Decommissioning/Maintenance

Local Project Name: Challenge Work Center

Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Forest: Plumas
Ranger District: Feather River
Nearby City(ies): Challenge, California
Congressional District(s): CA01, CA02, CA04, CA17, CA19, CA21, CA24, CA25, CA26, CA41, CA45, CA52
County(ies): CA: Butte, Del Norte, Fresno, Glenn, Los Angeles, Mariposa, Monterey, Plumas, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yuba
Modified Date: 7/16/2010

Story:

Challenge Work Center Receives Make-over With Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 4/29/2010)

As an investment in the future and a project funded under the Recovery Act, the USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region partnered with four Forest Service Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers (JCCCC) and one contract Job Corps to do an extreme makeover of the Challenge Work Center on the Plumas National Forest.

Project planning began long before the students arrived; center staff conducted site visits and met with forest staff at the work site. After the team developed a deployment plan and handled logistics (meals, housing, transportation, etc.), the project began.

On September 13th, carpentry, electrical, and cement mason crews from Angell, Timber Lake, and Wolf Creek JCCCs in Oregon traveled to northern California to begin the work. The students and instructors stayed on the project for ten consecutive days, replacing old shingle roofs with new metal style and up-grading windows to new energy-efficient types; installing sidewalks, ramps, stairs and parking areas; building a deck; replacing electrical panels and weather heads; and upgrading wiring on several work center buildings.

On September 28th, floor covering crews from Collbran JCCCC (Grand Junction, Colorado) and San Diego Job Corps joined plumbing, carpentry, and painting crews from Angell and Wolf Creek JCCCCs for another ten days of retrofitting the site. They pressure-washed structure exteriors and painted inside and out. The plumbers and carpenters remodeled kitchens and bathrooms while the floor covering crew leveled floors and installed carpet and linoleum in the Forest Service housing units and visitor center.
This project was a culmination of efforts by instructors and field coordinators from the Carpenters, Painters, Cement Masons and Floor Covering unions who provide professional instruction to JCCCC students, along with the electrician trade field coordinator from Home Builders Institute, another national training contractor for the Job Corps programs.

70 students and 22 Job Corps and Forest Service staff were involved in the project. The work quality and volume as well as operational efficiency the students and staff demonstrated was beyond the scope of the original plan, according to Herman Wendell, Plumas National Forest project manager. Wendell played an integral role as the overall site manager and construction superintendent.

Program Project Name: Regionwide Trail Maintenance Project

Local Project Name: Angeles National Forest Trail Maintenance
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Angeles
Nearby City(ies): Sunland, Burbank, Arcadia--Calif.
Estimated Project Cost: $0.00
Congressional District(s): CA25, CA26
County(ies): CA: Los Angeles
Modified Date: 6/24/2010

Story:

Young People Fix Forest Trails using Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 4/20/1010)

About 300 young people have maintained or repaired more than 100 miles of trail used for hiking, horseback riding or biking in Angeles National Forest, thanks to Recovery Act funding.

The U.S. Forest Service expedited this project that involved inner-city youth from Los Angeles Conservation Corps, Outward Bound Los Angeles, and San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps.

The project cost $1.5 million and work began in March 2009. Completion is expected in May 2010, according to Howard Okamoto, recreation officer who headed the project.

The young people worked on brushing and maintaining the trail service in many areas. They set up erosion control barriers—made of rocks, dirt, or wood beams at Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, Oak Spring Canyon, Los Pinetos trails, and other areas to divert water from the trails. Furthermore, they cut back eight to 10 feet of brush blocking trail areas and installed retaining walls where necessary.

They trained as both crew supervisors and workers.

Program Project Name: Region-wide Fuels Reduction and Urban Tree Planting Projects

Local Project Name: California ReLeaf
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Nearby City(ies): multiple
Estimated Project Cost: $0.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 146
Congressional District(s): CA10, CA20, CA25, CA26, CA41, CA42, CA44, CA45, CA49, CA52

County(ies): CA: Alameda, Fresno, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Tulare, Yolo
Modified Date: 7/13/2010

Story:
California Releaf Projects Looks Improve Urban Areas Through Greening

(Story posted 4/21/2010)

Urban greening projects help to improve the health and quality of life in densely developed areas by providing more natural areas, parks, gardens, shaded trails, and urban forests. Additionally, it helps to increase the use of alternative modes of transportation by greening and shading bicycle and pedestrian facilities and transit stations, and helps to reduce the urban heat island effect. The grant will provide much-needed healthy trees through job creation of organizations like the L.A. Conservation Corps.

Program Project Name: Region-wide Facility Improvement Projects
Local Project Name: Historic Building Renovation
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Angeles
Nearby City(ies): Glendora, Calif.
Estimated Project Cost: $175,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 27
Congressional District(s): CA04, CA26, CA41
County(ies): CA: El Dorado, Los Angeles, San Bernardino
Modified Date: 7/15/2010

Story:
Young Workers Renovate Buildings Through Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 4/23/2010)

Funding from the Recovery Act stimulus program paid for renovation of an historical Forest Service building in California, creating valuable job training for local young people who did the work.

Angeles National Forest engineers contracted with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps to repaint the headquarters of the San Gabriel River Ranger District Office and two parking buildings. The district office, in Glendora, is a pre-World War II historical structure. Paint on all three buildings was faded, cracking and chipped.

The Los Angeles Conservation Corps provide inner-city young people, who were taught basic skills from craftsmen on the scene. The workers scraped off and “prepped” the walls, window frames and gutters. They then hand-painted all three buildings a shiny tan color with

green and white trim. The job took from May to October and about 27 youngsters took part, according to Alex Lopez, senior for the corps. The work allowed the young people to become adept at their newly acquired skills.

The Recovery Act funds also the corps to hire contractors to replace a 6,300-square-foot shake roof on the district building, which was leaking during the rainy season.

Program Project Name: Blue Ledge Copper Mine Toxic Waste Clean-up

Local Project Name: Forest Service Seeks Comments on ARRA-Funded Blue Ledge Copper Mine Toxic Clean-up
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Rogue River-Siskiyou
Ranger District: Siskiyou Mountains
Nearby City(ies): Jacksonville, OR
Congressional District(s): CA02
County(ies): CA: Siskiyou
Modified Date: 7/15/2010

Story:

Forest Service Seeks Comments on Recovery Act Funded Blue Ledge Copper Mine Toxic Clean-up

(Story posted 8/8/2009)

Blue Ledge Copper Mine is a toxic clean-up project funded by the Recovery Act (ARRA). The project, near the OR/CA border, is expected to be complete in late 2011.

The Forest Service is seeking public comments in the next 30 days on the proposed clean-up activity at the Blue Ledge Copper Mine, a toxic clean-up project that was funded by the Recovery Act. Comments received will be reviewed by the Forest Service and considered during the final decision process.

The Blue Ledge Copper Mine site is located on private land over which the Environmental Protection Agency has jurisdiction. While the site is on private land, in this case the Forest Service is the lead agency for site clean-up operations because of the identified impact to the natural resources on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

The Blue Ledge Copper Mine Toxic Clean-up was funded by the Recovery Act announced by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack on June 23, 2009 to address safety hazards and environmental damage caused by abandoned mines. These projects, funded at $19.88 million, are located on National Forests in Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Michigan, and Montana.

"These projects will provide for public health and safety as we mitigate the many hazards associated with abandoned mines," said Vilsack. "The cleanup of the mines, located in

watershed areas, also will improve water quality and help to restore natural resources in areas devastated by mining activities done prior to today's strict regulations."

The Blue Ledge Mine site is an inactive copper mine site located on privately-owned land surrounded by the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest on the Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District in Siskiyou County, California, approximately three miles south of the Oregon-California border, approximately thirty-three miles southwest of Jacksonville, Oregon.

The clean-up will remove and contain the toxic waste dumps, and prevent further release of hazardous materials to the environment. Construction workers, scientists, engineers, biologists, and safety specialists will work together to clean the site. Hazardous waste will be removed and placed in a specially prepared repository, then covered with an impermeable soil cap and vegetation. The mine site will be reclaimed with imported topsoil, erosion control structures will be installed, and all disturbed sites would be vegetated. Effectiveness monitoring will be implemented.

Benefits include protecting the environment and providing improved water for local residents. Once completed this project will provide a significant reduction of toxic waste material and provide for a cleaner environment by removing hazardous materials. It will improve the water quality to Joe Creek and restore aquatic life and fisheries that have been destroyed by the mine discharge over the last century. The project benefits human health by significantly lowering the threats to human health in the area. It will halt the sulfuric acid and toxic metal discharges directly into the Upper Applegate River drainage -- a tributary to the world-famous Rogue River.

The Blue Ledge Copper Mine Project will provide an array of construction and heavy equipment related job opportunities for the private sector.

The Forest Service plans to contract most of the work out through federal government contracts with the private sector. Under the language of the Recovery Act, the Forest Service is creating as many jobs as possible to get money flowing through local communities hard hit by unemployment. The work is expected to be completed by the end of the 2011 field season.

Partners in this project include ASARCO LLC (Trust), the Forest Service, and Environmental Protection Agency. The thirty day comment opportunity is being held to allow the public to focus on recommended removal actions and allow citizens to address their options. The proposed alternative recommends constructing less than one mile of roads on private land to access the waste rock piles that are associated with the release of toxic materials. This material would be removed and placed on private land at a stable repository and covered with impermeable materials to prevent further release of toxic materials. The toxic materials include sulfuric acid, arsenic, lead, cadmium, copper and zinc.

See administrative documents for the project at www.fs.fed.us/r6/rogue-siskiyou/projects/mines/.

Program Project Name: SDTDC Lead-Based Paint Abatement

Local Project Name: Lead-based Paint Abatement and Stabilization
Region: San Dimas Technology Development Center
Nearby City(ies): San Dimas, CA
Congressional District(s): CA26
County(ies): CA: Los Angeles
Modified Date: 12/20/2010

Story:

Lead-based Paint Abatement and Stabilization Accomplished with Recovery Act Fund Support

(Story posted 6/4/2009 and updated 10/5/2010)

Lead-based paint was originally applied in the 1965 construction of San Dimas Technology and Development Center (SDTDC). Paint has been tested to contain unhealthful levels of lead, and paint is peeling and separating from all interior surfaces of the Development Building, which contains the Engine 24 station, laboratories, and storage.

Additionally, ten motorized roll-up doors installed in the 1965 construction are painted with lead-based paint and are mechanically failing and “red-tagged” as unsafe to operate and negatively affect productivity, use of the space, and emergency exits. SDTDC proposes to prepare, abate, and dispose 30,000 gallons of interior lead-based paint and repaint with low VOC paint and replace ten motorized roll-up doors covered in lead-based paint with energy-efficient doors.

The project corrects a severe occupant health and safety issue, reduces a deferred maintenance backlog, and improves energy efficiency.

The task order for this project was awarded in June, and the contract was completed September 17, 2010.

Program Project Name: San Dimas Technology and Development Center Zero Net Energy Photovoltaics and Energy Conservation Retrofits

Local Project Name: Spark Arrestor Motor Replacement
Region: San Dimas Technology Development Center
Nearby City(ies): San Dimas, CA
Congressional District(s): CA26
County(ies): CA: Los Angeles
Modified Date: 12/22/2010

Story:
Spark Arrestor Motor Replacement to Save Energy

(Story posted 6/4/2010 and updated 11/29/2010)

The USDA Forest Service San Dimas Technology and Development (SDTDC) Program administers the Spark Arrester Program. The program qualifies spark arresters used on public land to reduce fire starts from exhaust systems on locomotives, off-highway vehicles, chainsaws, etc.

SDTDC has a unique spark arrester testing facility, powered by a 1952 General Electric 150hp marine motor.

SDTDC utilized Recovery Act funding to contract with Diamond Bar Electric to replace the 1952 General Electric motor with an energy efficient 110 hp motor with a variable frequency drive.

The installation was a training opportunity for a new Forest Service mechanical engineer working on his doctorate.

SDTDC expects to conserve energy with a more efficient motor, thus reducing SDTDC's peak electrical demand.

Program Project Name: San Dimas Technology and Development Center Zero Net Energy Photovoltaics and Energy Conservation Retrofits

Local Project Name: Zero Net Energy Photovoltaic System
Region: San Dimas Technology Development Center
Nearby City(ies): San Dimas, CA
Congressional District(s): CA26
County(ies): CA: Los Angeles
Modified Date: 12/22/2010

Story:
Zero-Net-Energy Photovoltaic System Contract Planned

(Story posted 5/20/2010 and updated 11/29/2010))

This project will install a photovoltaic system (which converts sunlight into electricity) at the San Dimas Technology and Development Center (SDTDC). The system will produce enough electricity annually to meet the center's need, thus making the center a zero-net-energy facility.

The southern California climate provides an optimal setting to maximize the benefits of a photovoltaic system. Built in 1965, SDTDC is located in eastern Los Angeles County. An energy audit has been completed for the center and a preliminary design of the photovoltaic

system has been completed.

Technology transfer is a major part of the SDTDC mission. This project will be used to provide information to other units about the operation and maintenance of photovoltaic systems.

The contract was awarded in August to RECSolar, and construction started in October 2010; completion is planned in December 2010.

* Zero-Net Energy Building - a building that is designed, constructed, and operated to require a greatly reduced quantity of energy to operate, meet the balance of energy needs from sources of energy that do not produce greenhouse gases, and therefore result in no net emissions of greenhouse gases and be economically viable (EO 13514, Section 19(o)).

Program Project Name: San Dimas Technology and Development Center Zero Net Energy Photovoltaics and Energy Conservation Retrofits

Local Project Name: California Conservation Corps-Inland Empire Service District Energy Conservation Retrofits

Region: San Dimas Technology Development Center

Nearby City(ies): San Dimas, CA

Congressional District(s): CA26

County(ies): CA: Los Angeles

Modified Date: 12/22/2010

Story:

California Conservation Corps-Inland Empire Service District Energy Conservation Retrofit Work Planned

(Story posted 6/4/2010 and updated 11/29/2010)

This project will install a photovoltaic system (which converts sunlight into electricity) at the San Dimas Technology and Development Center (SDTDC). The system will produce enough electricity annually to meet the center's need, thus making the center a zero-net-energy facility.

The southern California climate provides an optimal setting to maximize the benefits of a photovoltaic system. Built in 1965, SDTDC is located in eastern Los Angeles County. An energy audit has been completed for the center and a preliminary design of the photovoltaic system has been completed. To assure energy efficiency, this project will also include replacing all the original windows at the center.

Technology transfer is a major part of the SDTDC mission. This project will be used to provide information to other units about the operation and maintenance of photovoltaic systems.

A Participating Agreement was executed on June 2, 2010 between SDTDC and the California Conservation Corps (CCC). SDTDC purchased 936 energy efficient fluorescent lamps, 85 occupancy sensors, and 44 plug load strips. The CCCs received training and installed this energy conservation equipment at SDTDC after SDTDC's 1965 HVAC replacement construction was completed in September 2010.

Program Project Name: Hazardous Fuels Mitigation

Local Project Name: Camino Cielo Defensible Fuel Profile Zone (DFPZ)
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Los Padres
Nearby City(ies): Santa Ynez
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 12
Congressional District(s): CA04, CA17, CA19, CA21, CA22, CA24
County(ies): CA: Fresno, Kern, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Sierra, Ventura
Modified Date: 7/13/2010

Story:

Reducing Fire Hazards While Creating Jobs With Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 5/20/2010)

Using Recovery Act funding, the Los Padres National Forest contracted with the Chumash Tribe's fire department to implement a critical hazardous fuels reduction project along the Camino Cielo at Santa Ynez peak.

The ten-week project involved a 12-member crew, and was completed at the end of February 2010. Under a Master Participating Agreement signed in 2009, the Chumash fire crew provides valuable assistance to Los Padres firefighters on local incidents. During the off-season, the tribal fire crew is upgrading their fire training resumes, maintaining and repairing equipment, and undergoing physical fitness training. Some members of the crew would not be working were it not for the Recovery Act-funded hazardous fuels project.

"Our crew spent eight to ten hours a day working on the fuel breaks on Camino Cielo," said J.P. Zavalla, the battalion chief for the Chumash Fire Department. "The Santa Ynez peak is a sacred site for the Chumash and being able to work on the fuel breaks is a special honor for us."

Defensible fuel profile zones, or DFPZs, are areas roughly 100-300 feet wide where standing brush has been removed to create a low-fuel break. They are designed to so that brush is almost completely removed in the center of the DFPZ, with progressively more standing brush toward the outer boundaries. This helps the DFPZ blend in with the surrounding landscapes and creates a naturally appearance. DFPZs are most effective along ridgelines and roads to maximize their effectiveness during fire suppression.

Once the brush has been cut, it will be crushed using a bulldozer and left to dry. After moisture levels fall, brush pile burning will be conducted to complete the treatment project.

“This is a great example of how Recovery Act funds are meeting multiple objectives,” according to Los Padres Forest Supervisor Peggy Hernandez. “It has enabled us to accomplish important project work related to hazardous fuels by contracting with the tribe and using employees who might otherwise not be working.”

Portions of the Camino Cielo fuelbreak have been in existence since the 1950s, and have proved valuable during recent fire suppression efforts. The fuelbreak is designed to maintain a diversity of vegetation age, size, and density with mosaic patters of unburned islands within the permimeter. Over time, the treatments will blend in to resemble a natural appearance.

As a result of this Recovery Act funded project, 12 firefighters from the Chumash Fire Department were employed over the course of the project, creating jobs and injecting vital capital into the local economy.

Program Project Name: Non-Motor/Non-Wilderness Trails

Local Project Name: Stanislaus National Forest: Calaveras District: San Domingo Trail’s construction project is financed by ARRA funds.
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Stanislaus
Ranger District: Calaveras
Nearby City(ies): Calaveras, Hathaway Pines,
Congressional District(s): CA03, CA19, NV02
County(ies): CA: Calaveras, Tuolumne; NV: Douglas
Modified Date: 7/2/2010

Story:

San Domingo Trail Construction Project Underway

(Story posted 6/16/2010)

On the Stanislaus National Forest, a Recovery Act-funded project to construct 8.1 miles of trails and rehabilitate 1.2 miles of existing trails on the Calaveras Ranger District in San Domingo Canyon is underway. The project will add three more miles to the Arnold Rim Trail, connecting Hathaway Pines to White Pines Lake.

These trails will be non-motorized multiple use trails for walkers, hikers, bicyclists, and horseback riders. A 14-member California Conservation Corps (CCC) crew is building stream crossings, drainage structures, and other trail stabilizing features to protect trail tread. The project also corrects existing and potential resource damage from erosion and sedimentation on existing trails.

Javonnta (Tank) Murphy cuts trees and brush while Troy Dorgeloh clears debris along with

the rest of the 14-member crew. This is not an alternative for criminal punishment. The CCC organization provides an opportunity for young people in tough situations to break free and gain significant workplace skills, making them better able to compete in today's job market.

The crewmembers, including two women, were hired with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act project funds and live in camp for eight days on and six days off. They sleep in tents and use a trailer facility for shower and restrooms. They prepare food from their chuck wagon in an outdoor kitchen and eat around the campfire. They share chores in organized rotation, giving them all a chance to cook, clean, and perform tool maintenance. While being interviewed, the crew speaks highly of the food, each other and the work they are doing.

The CCC crew is mostly inner city young people, with hard living and disadvantaged background stories that contrast with their current work circumstances. Troy, a previous resident of San Luis Obispo, said, "I was unemployed and had moved back in with my mom. I wanted to try something different. This is my second summer working for CCC."

Javonnta, a previous Los Angeles resident said, "I was into a lot of things I shouldn't have been. I'm lovin' the work here; it's awesome. I came from a bad city to awesomeness. I'm gaining. I've gotten a Chainsaw Certificate, First Aid training and plan to study and become a seasonal wild-land firefighter or work for the Forest Service."

This is a reoccurring theme as the rest of the crew speak of, and exhibit, upbeat ambitions to become foresters, rangers and fire fighters. More than trails are being built.

Program Project Name: Recreation Site Reconstruction

Local Project Name: Stanislaus National Forests Sweetwater Campground receiving rehabilitation from local workers paid for by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) Funds.

Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Forest: Stanislaus

Ranger District: Groveland

Nearby City(ies): Groveland

Congressional District(s): CA03

County(ies): CA: Merced, Tuolumne

Modified Date: 7/15/2010

Story:

Sweetwater Campground Receiving Rehabilitation With Recovery Act Funds.

(Story posted 6/14/2010)

Defining boundaries to help control vehicle traffic is an important aspect to a well developed campground. Local workers in and around Tuolumne County, California were hired to help

retire a backlog of maintenance at the Sweetwater Campground in the Groveland Ranger District of the Stanislaus National Forest. Work crews are laying out and setting up new campsites at Sweetwater and several other sites throughout the Forest. People were put to work and maintenance materials were bought through local business to supply projects on the 899,000 acre National Forest thanks to the Recovery Act.

Ronda Hollandsworth is not afraid of hard work and is grateful for the opportunity to work with the Forest Service this year. “It’s tough work, we start working in the sun in the morning and move to shady areas in the afternoon to avoid overheating. I enjoy working in the outdoors and appreciate the opportunity to work in these beautiful surrounding,” Hollandsworth said.

Hollandsworth and workmate Mike Mount follow behind post hole diggers, muscle heavy timber bollards into the ground, align them and pound dirt around them. Each bollard must be level, square and the same height with each other.

The projects were planned and led by the Forest Service. The Recreational Deferred Maintenance Project is the umbrella for at least 18 locations where project work will be carried out. Many of the projects include Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades to trails and restroom facilities such as wider doors, flatter and wider trails, ramps instead of stairs, etc…

This project includes repair and improvement of developed recreation sites within Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties on the Stanislaus National Forest. Recreation sites include: Hull Creek Campground (CG), North Fork Day Use Area (DUA), Sand Bar Flat CG, and Riverside DUA on the MiWok Ranger District; Bloomfield CG, Hermit Valley CG, Highland Lakes CG, Mosquito Lakes CG, Pacific Valley CG, Stanislaus River CG on the Calaveras Ranger District; Fence Creek CG, Niagara Creek CG, Mill Creek CG, Cascade Creek CG, Cottonwood DUA, Douglas Flat DUA, Sonora Pass Trailhead/DUA, Donnell Vista DUA, Column of the Giants National Recreation Trail, Clark Fork CG on the Summit Ranger District; Rainbow Pool DUA, Sweetwater and The Pines campgrounds on the Groveland Ranger District. Improvements include replacing picnic tables, fire rings, information boards, and site markers; road improvements, and installing vehicle barriers, ADA upgrades, recycling containers and animal resistant garbage collection containers.

The project is consistent with the forest's Recreation Facility Analysis. At the time that the RFA was completed in Dec 2007, there was little or no funding for site improvements; consequently the only option for sites like Cottonwood DUA was decommissioning. Cottonwood is a valued site. With this funding we are able to provide improved service at this location. For other locations, Forest visitors are expected to benefit by improving campsite conditions, safety and disabled access. Additionally, we will be purchasing a substantial amount of materials, which will benefit local and distant business and we will provide jobs to the local economy by hiring temporary employees to install campsite fire rings, tables, and other components.

Economic Recovery Project Details:
Stanislaus National Forest total: $5.1 million

Recreation Sites Construction: $895,923
Recreation Sites Year to Date (End of May): $91,458.
Project Reference #: CIM-05-07F, CRFR0710
Project Jobs created: 11 full time Summer jobs for crew and 8 Forest Service personnel performing planning, ordering and managing in addition to their regular job tasks also an undetermined number of contractor crew will be required for paving and rocking jobs for roads and restroom construction jobs.

The Recovery Act created a total of 176 temporary forest jobs have been created: 12 Timber Contractor personnel; 14 Timber Truckers; 82 Trail Workers; 49 Paving, Rocking, Bridge & Roofs; nine Baker Station (Heritage); nine Campgrounds; one Admin.

Program Project Name: Recreation Site Reconstruction

Local Project Name: Stanislaus National Forests Summit Ranger District is host to Table Assembly as part of ARRA's Recreational Deferred Maintenance Project
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Stanislaus
Ranger District: Summit
Nearby City(ies): Sonora, Pinecrest
Congressional District(s): CA03
County(ies): CA: Calaveras, Stanislaus, Tuolumne
Modified Date: 7/16/2010

Story:

Stanislaus National Forests Summit Ranger District To Host Table Assembly As Part Of Recovery Act's Recreational Deferred Maintenance Project

(Story posted 6/16/2010)

Recovery Act funding went to hire a workforce to build wood picnic tables and retire a backlog of maintenance projects in all four of the Stanislaus National Forest Ranger Districts. Recovery Act funds were also used to purchase materials from local business. The tables will be distributed to 18 different campgrounds (CG) and day use areas (DUA) throughout the 899,000 acre National Forest for use this summer. The Projects were planned and led by the Forest Service. The Recreational Deferred Maintenance Project is the umbrella for at least 18 locations where project work will be carried out. Many of the improvements include Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades to trails and restroom facilities such as wider doors, flatter and wider trails, ramps instead of stairs, etc…

This project includes repair and improvement of developed recreation sites within Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties on the Stanislaus National Forest. Recreation sites include: Hull Creek Campground (CG), North Fork Day Use Area (DUA), Sand Bar Flat CG, and Riverside DUA on the MiWok Ranger District; Bloomfield CG, Hermit Valley CG, Highland Lakes CG, Mosquito Lakes CG, Pacific Valley CG, Stanislaus River CG on the Calaveras Ranger District; Fence Creek CG, Niagara Creek CG, Mill Creek CG, Cascade Creek CG,

Cottonwood DUA, Douglas Flat DUA, Sonora Pass Trailhead/DUA, Donnell Vista DUA, Column of the Giants National Recreation Trail, Clark Fork CG on the Summit Ranger District; Rainbow Pool DUA, Sweetwater and The Pines campgrounds on the Groveland Ranger District. Improvements include replacing picnic tables, fire rings, information boards, and site markers; road improvements, and installing vehicle barriers, ADA upgrades, recycling containers and animal resistant garbage collection containers. The project is consistent with the Forest's Recreation Facility Analysis (RFA). At the time that the RFA was completed in December 2007, there was little or no funding for site improvements; consequently the only option for sites like Cottonwood DUA was decommissioning. Cottonwood is a valued site. With this funding we are able to provide improved service at this location. For other locations, Forest visitors are expected to benefit by improving campsite conditions, safety and disabled access. Additionally, we will be purchasing a substantial amount of materials, which will benefit local and distant business and we will provide jobs to the local economy by hiring temporary employees to install campsite fire rings, tables, and other components.

Economic Recovery Project Details:
Stanislaus National Forest total: $5.1 million
Recreation Sites Construction: $895,923
Recreation Sites Year to Date (End of May): $91,458.
Project Reference #: CIM-05-07F, CRFR0710
Project Jobs created: 11 full time Summer jobs for crew and eight Forest Service personnel performing planning, ordering and managing in addition to their regular job tasks also an undetermined number of contractor crew will be required for paving and rocking jobs for roads and restroom construction jobs.

The Recovery Act created a total of 176 temporary forest jobs have been created: 12 Timber Contractor personnel; 14 Timber Truckers; 82 Trail Workers; 49 Paving, Rocking, Bridge & Roofs; nine Baker Station (Heritage); nine Campgrounds; one Admin.

Program Project Name: Facility Maintenance/Renovation

Local Project Name: Almanor Trail
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Lassen
Ranger District: Almanor
Nearby City(ies): Chester
Congressional District(s): CA04
County(ies): CA: Plumas
Modified Date: 7/16/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funding Improves Almanor Trail

(Story posted 6/22/2010)

The Lassen National Forest, Almanor Ranger District, is implementing work on the Lake Almanor Recreation Trail (LART), paving the section of trail through Rocky Point Group Camp. With the completion of this section of trail, hikers will have approximately 11 miles of paved non-motorized trail to enjoy this summer. In addition to this new connection, crews began work during the week of June 7th on repairing portions of the trail that have been damaged by root heave and animal holes. Once these areas are "patched," the older section of the trail (approximately 9.5 miles) will be chip sealed and the newer section (from Rocky Point to Canyon Dam) will be fog sealed. All of this work is expected to be completed well before the Fourth of July weekend.

This work is being completed with Recovery Act funding. If you would like more information please contact Almanor District Resource Officer Jane Goodwin, at 530-258-2141.

Program Project Name: Non-Motor/Non-Wilderness Trails

Local Project Name: Stanislaus National Forest: Calaveras Ranger District: ARRA funds temporary jobs to create ADA trails.
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Stanislaus
Ranger District: Calaveras
Nearby City(ies): Arnold, Murphys
Congressional District(s): CA03
County(ies): CA: Calaveras, Tuolumne
Modified Date: 7/2/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Temporary Jobs to Create Accessible Trail

(Story posted June 30,1010)

On the Stanislaus National Forest Calaveras Ranger District, Don McHargue and his four-member Forest Service trail crew follow the flags around the San Domingo Creek Canyon's crest on a clear 103 degree day in June. They had left the flags earlier in the year as they initially toured the route following the topographically mapped plan.

Intermittently, a team of California Conservation Corps (CCC) members followed the flags, cutting trees and shrubs in the initial steps of trail building. The Forest Service crew then came back with a trail dozer and trail tools to grade, excavate, and smooth the trail to Americans with Disability Act (ADA) standards. The work will connect the Arnold Rim Trail with White Pines Lake.

The crew--Owen Ridings, Zach Lichty, Jen Miller, and Mike Ice--use wildland fire tools such as saws, a McCleod (rake/hoe combination), a Pulaski (axe/mattock combination) and a Pickaxe (axe/pick combination) to cut, dig, rake, and smooth the trail ahead and behind the 10,000 pound, 57-horsepower Sutter Trail Dozer driven by McHargue. McHargue says they

advance about one third mile a day.

The crewmembers are temporary Forest Service employees from Michigan, Maine, and Sacramento. The Forest Service crew members were hired with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) project funds.

The Forest Service work crew alternates work schedules with the CCC crew so that one crew or the other is always on. In the mornings, they hike in to the remote work sites carrying any water, food or equipment that they cannot load onto the All Terrain Vehicle (ATV).

Spirits are high as the crew works to unite the trails into one.

Program Project Name: Thinning and Biomass Phase 2

Local Project Name: Sonny Meadow/Chowchilla Thinning
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Sierra
Nearby City(ies): Oakhurst, CA
Congressional District(s): CA04, CA19
County(ies): CA: Mariposa, Placer, Sierra
Modified Date: 7/13/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Sonny Meadow/Chowchilla Thinning

(Story posted 7/7/2010)

This contract will thin and remove excess trees including limbs from a pine plantation and 70 year old pine stand within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Defense Zone.

Program Project Name: Hazardous Fuels Mitigation

Local Project Name: Fuelbreak Maintenance-Bass Lake Ranger District
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Sierra
Ranger District: Bass Lake
Nearby City(ies): Oakhurst, CA
Congressional District(s): CA17, CA19, CA21, CA22
County(ies): CA: Fresno, Kern, Sierra
Modified Date: 11/10/2010

Story:

Bass Lake Ranger District Improves Health and Fire Risk Through Maintenance

(Story posted 7/7/2010)

On the Sierra National Forest Bass Lake Ranger District, contractors are working to reduce hazardous fuels and the ensuing wildland fire risk. The total contract is for 112 total acres.

The contractor started work on the first section (Redwood Creek) on March 29, 2010. The contractor finished this area on April 18, 2010. The unit passed inspection and mapped at 35 acres. Cutting operations stopped due to weather conditions and will start up again in late July. Nineteen out of the 77 days have been used for this contract. The project is targeted to improve forest health and reduce wildfire risk in fuelbreaks/defensible fuel profile zones.

Program Project Name: Blue Ledge Copper Mine Toxic Waste Clean-up

Local Project Name: Blue Ledge Copper Mine Toxic Waste Clean-up
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Rogue River-Siskiyou
Ranger District: Siskiyou Mountains
Nearby City(ies): Medford, OR ~ 40 miles
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 30
Congressional District(s): CA02
County(ies): CA: Siskiyou
Modified Date: 8/13/2010

Story:

Blue Ledge Copper Mine Toxic Waste Clean-Up Thanks To Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 7/30/2010)

Nearly $9.8 million Recovery Act funds have been awarded to Engineering/Remediation Resources Group, Inc. of Martinez, CA to restore the Blue Ledge Mine site within the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest's Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District. An additional $1.3 million is being provided to the project by the American Smelting and Refining Company Trust. The abandoned copper mine site located in Siskiyou County, California has been leaching toxic material into surface waters for over 100 years, impacting water quality in Joe Creek and the lower Elliott Creek watershed.

"We're excited this project was selected to receive Recovery dollars," said Siskiyou Mountains District Ranger Donna Mickley. "We expect to see numerous jobs created over the next two years as the bulk of the project is implemented, while also seeing the removal of a legacy pollution source here in the watershed."

ERRG project manager Brian Wetzsteon indicated the company will be hiring over 20 local workers and an assortment of heavy equipment over the course of the project. The company has extensive experience with mine remediation projects, including the Recovery Act funded Iron Mountain Mine restoration project near Redding, CA, and U.S. Forest Service hazmat contracts in Washington, Oregon, and California.

Work on the project began the first week of July. The project will entail removal of the toxic waste material on the site over the course of this year, with reclamation of the site through erosion control measures, topsoil replacement, and restoring native vegetation taking place during the 2011 field season. Maintenance of the erosion control structures and effectiveness monitoring of the benefits of the project on the aquatic environment will continue for an additional three years. Forest Road 1060 is temporarily closed to provide safety for the public and workers at the site along this narrow, steep road.

For local new coverage of the Blue Ledge Mine restoration project go to:
http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100725/NEWS/7250325
http://kdrv.com/news/local/182686

Program Project Name: National Forests in California Storm Proofing / Reconstruction Roads

Local Project Name: Transportation System - noxious weed removal - Spanish Broom
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: San Bernardino
Nearby City(ies): San Bernardino
Congressional District(s): CA02, CA03, CA04, CA19, CA21, CA25, CA26, CA41, CA45
County(ies): CA: El Dorado, Los Angeles, Madera, Modoc, Plumas, San Bernardino, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne
Modified Date: 8/13/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Noxious Weed Removal To Increase Safety, Environmental Quality

(Story posted 8/9/2010)

The contractor will cut and remove Spanish Broom and apply by hand the “Aquamaster” herbicide to prevent re-growth. All state and federal regulations will be followed to protect workers, the public, water quality and the environment. Low growing native vegetation will also be re-established in priority locations. Treatments will continue annually on National Forest lands until broom plants are controlled within the road prism. Long-term monitoring and management of treated areas will be necessary to prevent re-establishment due to seed in soil, long life of seed and its dispersal capabilities.

Spanish Broom is a hardy invasive shrub, which can grow up to 15 feet tall. This plant re-sprouts after cutting and burning and re-establishes quickly after disturbances such as road maintenance and wildfires. It is rated and managed by the California Department of Food and Agriculture as a noxious weed.

Safety along the mountain highway evacuation route is compromised because Spanish broom plants encroach into the roadway and reduce road width, block the line of sight reducing visibility and obscure signing. It also grows within cracks in the asphalt and

destabilizes guardrails. The protection of evacuation routes is important to public and emergency personnel safety in the event of wildfire or other emergencies and is one of the three priorities of the Mountain Area Safety Taskforce (MAST).

Program Project Name: Faciliites Decommissioning/Maintenance

Local Project Name: Stanislaus National Forest and ARRA Renovate Historic Facility and Benefits Educational Programs.
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Stanislaus
Ranger District: Summit
Nearby City(ies): Pinecrest, Sonora
Congressional District(s): CA19
County(ies): CA: Tuolumne
Modified Date: 9/16/2010

Story:

Forest Uses Recovery Act Funds to Rehabilitate Baker Station

(Story posted 8/24/2010)

In 2009 the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) allocated funds to the Stanislaus National Forest. In 2010, the Forest began a maintenance project on its Baker Station facility. The project in Tuolumne County, California, involves a historic highway maintenance station listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

On August 19 the Forest and its partner, Yosemite Community College District (YCCD), held an event to review the renovations in progress. The YCCD uses the site to house its High Sierra Institute program.

Among the speakers were Pacific Southwest Region Deputy Regional Forester Gilbert Zepeta, Student Conservation Association Regional Director Jay Watson, Stanislaus National Forest Supervisor Susan Skalski, Columbia College Vice-President Dennis Gervin, and others. Also attending the event were actors portraying authors Mark Twain and Bret Harte presenting an entertaining history of the area.

The Baker Station renovation project is helping to answer the desperate need of unemployed construction workers with four full-time summer jobs and four Student Conservation Association (SCA) jobs. In addition, an undetermined number of contractors will be required for rocking a parking lot. Forest-wide 23 projects are employing about 190 people through this recovery summer.

The eight buildings at Baker Station facility, originally built in 1930s for the California Department of Transportation (CAL TRANS) are now part of National Forest inventory and are being renovated this summer.

Situated at 6,200 feet in elevation in the Sierra Nevada, the site offers a rare opportunity for forester and student housing and training and internships involving the practical application of forestry and resource management skills while being engaged in wilderness surroundings. The rugged furnishings and functions will keep residents and users safe and warm while affording interaction with a natural forest environment. A bunk house sleeps 17, and there is a full-service cook house. The supervisor's cabin houses instructors, and there is a social hall where meetings and classes are held. There are also separate buildings for a men's shower, women's shower, a caretaker's cabin, and a worker's cabin.

Project Description:
Built in the 1930s, the weathered 80-year-old buildings are being repainted inside and out. Two building's foundations are being raised and leveled. The aged decks are being rebuilt and stained. The kitchen floor will be replaced. There will be repairs to the social hall chimney, electrical and communications upgrades, and an upgrade to a bathroom to make it compliant with American Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. This adaptive re-use of historic buildings provides students with classrooms and cooking/sleeping/bathroom facilities.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California-Bridge Maintenance/Deficient Bridges

Local Project Name: Bryant/Fir Bridge
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Eldorado
Ranger District: Placerville
Nearby City(ies): Placerville
Estimated Project Cost: $393,834.00
Congressional District(s): CA04
County(ies): CA: El Dorado
Modified Date: 9/28/2010

Story:

Bridge Replacments Provide Jobs, Enhance Safety

(Story posted 9/14/2010)

On 12 National Forests throughout California, workers will replace deficient road bridges with new bridges and repair bridges with long standing maintenance needs. The work will include the replacement or repair of structurally unsound bridge decks and railings and painting of steel structures and approach repairs. These replacement and rehabilitations will improve public safety and public land access while protecting the natural environment that surrounds the bridges. This work will also protect public investments by extending the life of existing bridges and reducing future maintenance costs.

On the Eldorado National Forest, workers are replacing the bridge on 11N10 Road at the Bryant-Fir Recreation Residence Tract over the South Fork of the American River. The bridge will replace the existing double-barrel culvert, which is to be removed, with concrete

headwalls. The project is currently underway and should be completed by mid-October 2010.

Program Project Name: Clean-up and Installation of Barriers at Abandoned Mines

Local Project Name: INF - Black Eagle Mine
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Inyo
Ranger District: Mt. Whitney
Nearby City(ies): Independence, CA
Estimated Project Cost: $5,432.00
Congressional District(s): CA25
County(ies): CA: Inyo
Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:

Abandoned Mine Safety Hazard Mitigation Protects Public, Wildlife

(Story posted 9/9/2010)

Background:
The Black Eagle Mine is a historic gold-silver mine located four air miles east of Independence, California in the Inyo Mountains in Inyo County. This mine has winter hibernation and summer roost habitat for the Townsend big ear bat. The only identified winter hibernation site in the Inyo Mountains for the Townsend big ear bat, this site is accessible almost year-round and is a popular destination for OHV users.

The purpose of this project is to reduce the safety hazards at this site while protecting the habitat for the Townsend big ear bats by installing bat-friendly culvert gates.

Status:
The contract for the fabrication and installation of two bat culvert gates was awarded to Mark A. Temple Construction, Inc. out of Palm Springs, California for the amount of $5,432. Work began on July 30 and was completed the same day.

Program Project Name: Clean-up and Installation of Barriers at Abandoned Mines

Local Project Name: INF - Rex Montis Mine Cleanup
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Inyo
Ranger District: Mt. Whitney
Nearby City(ies): Independence
Estimated Project Cost: $23,336.00
Congressional District(s): CA19, CA22, CA25, CA49
County(ies): CA: Butte, Inyo, Kern, Mariposa, Plumas, Riverside, Sierra, Tuolumne
Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:
Wilderness Abandoned Mine Clean-Up Underway

(Story posted 9/9/2010 and updated 12/9/2010)

Solid waste is a public health and safety hazard at the Rex Montis Mine, a gold-silver mine located eight air miles west of Independence, California in the John Muir Wilderness in Inyo County on the Inyo National Forest.

The purpose of this project is to remove 10,000 pounds of solid waste from the site. Pack stock will be used, and they will travel on an existing trail. A minimum tool analysis has been completed, and the proposed project meets wilderness management guidelines.

A service contract for the removal of solid waste from the site was awarded to a local area pack stock outfitter. Pine Creek Pack Station of Bishop, California,will begin work on September 15, 2010.

A service contract for the removal of solid waste from the site was awarded to a local area pack stock outfitter. Pine Creek Pack Station of Bishop, California was awarded the contract for the amount of $23,336 and began work on this cleanup project in September 2010. The contractor was able to remove over three tons of debris from the site before snow storms made the site inaccessible.

Cleanup work will resume in early summer 2011 when the snow melts and the trail is safe for pack stock to travel on.

Program Project Name: Clean-up and Installation of Barriers at Abandoned Mines
Local Project Name: INF - Mazourka Canyon Abandon Mine Fencing
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Inyo
Ranger District: Mt. Whitney
Nearby City(ies): Independence
Estimated Project Cost: $14,000.00
Congressional District(s): CA19, CA22, CA25, CA49
County(ies): CA: Butte, Inyo, Kern, Mariposa, Plumas, Riverside, Sierra, Tuolumne
Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:
Recovery Act Fencing Project Contributes to Safety

(Story posted 9/9/2010 and updated 12/9/2010)

Background:

The Mazourka Canyon area on the Inyo National Forest is a popular area for OHV users, hikers, and campers, and many of the abandoned mine sites are adjacent to roads and trails, making them easily accessible. Because these open mines shafts are so close to roads and trails, they are considered public safety hazards.

The Mazourka Canyon Fencing Project consists of the placement of hazard warning signs and fencing around abandoned mine shafts, adits, and other hidden hazards. The proposed project will protect public health and safety by significantly decreasing the chance that OHV users, hikers, and campers might accidentally enter an open shaft or adit and risk injury.

The project will be implemented through a challenge-cost share agreement with Friends of the Inyo, a California non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the exploration, preservation, and stewardship of the public lands of the Eastern Sierra. The project began in the early summer of 2010 with plans to fence approximately 20 sites in the Mazourka Canyon area.

Status:
Friends of the Inyo (FOI) completed fencing 20 abandoned mine site in June 2010. FOI completed the fencing of these 20 sites with a fraction of the available funding. The Forest Service and FOI agreed that additional abandoned mine sites in Mazourka Canyon would be added to this agreement. FOI was able to fence an additional six sites in November 2010.

Program Project Name: Recreation Site Reconstruction

Local Project Name: INF - Mono Basin SAVC Heavy Maintenance
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Inyo
Ranger District: Mono Lake
Nearby City(ies): Lee Vining
Estimated Project Cost: $644,986.00
Congressional District(s): CA01, CA02, CA03, CA04, CA19, CA22, CA24, CA25, CA26, CA27, CA41, CA45, CA49
County(ies): CA: Mono
Modified Date: 12/9/2010

Story:

Visitor Center Upgrades to Benefit Public

(Story posted 9/9/2010)

The Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center (SAVC) is located in Mono County, California, near the town of LeeVining. The SAVC serves as the interpretive center for the Mono Basin Scenic Area and its focal point Mono Lake and the nearby volcanic area. It also serves as the initial contact point for visitors to the Eastern Sierra traveling south on U.S. Highway 395 and those visiting Yosemite National Park from the east side of the Sierras. Over 110,000 people visit the SAVC annually during the center's eight-month operating season from April

through November.

The purpose of this project is to complete major repairs and upgrades to the SAVC, including window replacements, concrete sealing and replacement; and security alarm system repair. Upgrades to the building include the adding a photovoltaic system as well as a bird deterrent system to prevent further decay of structural elements that are rotting due to bird nests.

All work will be accomplished through contracts, and five separate contracts have been awarded to complete the work.

Four of the five contracts were slated to begin on August 16, 2010 and should be completed within approximately two months. The start work date for the solar system is set for September 13, 2010.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California – Paving / Chipseal / Aggregate Surfacing

Local Project Name: INF - Interagency Visitor Center Parking Lot Paving

Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Forest: Inyo

Ranger District: Mt. Whitney

Nearby City(ies): Lone Pine, CA

Estimated Project Cost: $471,280.00

Congressional District(s): CA01, CA02, CA03, CA04, CA17, CA19, CA21, CA22, CA24, CA25, CA26, CA41, CA45

County(ies): CA: Alpine, El Dorado, Fresno, Humboldt, Inyo, Kern, Lassen, Madera, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Placer, Plumas, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity

Modified Date: 12/28/2010

Story:

Parking Lot Paving Enhances Visitor Safety

(Story posted 9/9/2010 and updated 12/9/2010)

In early September, a California contractor began paving the Eastern Sierra Interagency Visitor Center (IAVC). Located outside of Lone Pine, California, on the Inyo National Forest, over 225,000 people visit the center annually. The IAVC serves as the initial contact point for visitors to the Eastern Sierra region, where tourism and outdoor recreation is the major industry.

Improvements to the parking lot will enhance visitor experiences through increased accessibility for the disabled and greater comfort and safety. This project will pave, stripe, and sign approximately 60,100 square feet of entryway, parking area, and service road.

This contract was awarded to William Kanayan Construction out of Rimforest, California, for

the amount of $471,280. The contractor completed the paving in October 2010.

Program Project Name: Wilderness Trail Projects

Local Project Name: High Schools Students Spend Summer Building Trails in the Wilderness
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Tahoe
Ranger District: Truckee
Nearby City(ies): Truckee
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 7
Congressional District(s): CA01, CA02, CA04, CA17, CA19, CA22, CA23, CA24, CA25, CA44, CA45, CA49, CA51, CA52
County(ies): CA: Alpine, Colusa, Glenn, Kern, Lake, Mendocino, Monterey, Orange, Placer, Riverside, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity, Ventura
Modified Date: 9/24/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Help Local Youth Develop Natural Resource Skills

(Story posted 9/16/2010)

This summer, the Student Conservation Association, in partnership with the Forest Service, hired local high school students to repair trails in Granite Chief Wilderness on the Tahoe National Forest.

The five-person crew (and 2 leaders) spent two months pulling crosscut saws, brushing, building trail structures, cleaning drainages, hardening stream crossings, and replacing signs--all the while living in the Wilderness. Alpine Meadows Stables re-supplied the crew with fresh food, and the students made sandwiches from bread baked daily in a backcountry oven.

Program Project Name: Installing Barriers at Abandoned Mine Sites

Local Project Name: Jimmy Jean-- Ecological Restoration
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Sierra
Ranger District: High Sierra
Nearby City(ies): Fresno
Estimated Project Cost: $25,000.00
Congressional District(s): CA21, CA22
County(ies): CA: Fresno
Modified Date: 9/28/2010

Story:

Recovery Act to Fund Abandoned Mine Artifact Removal to Restore Environment

(Story posted 9/27/2010)

California has over 47,000 abandoned mines that pose public safety and environmental hazards. At the Jimmie Jean mine, an abandoned tungsten mine on the Sierra National Forest in Fresno County, workers will restore the character and productive forest capability of the area by removing the cabin and outbuildings and trash.

Program Project Name: Water/Wastewater System Health and Safety

Local Project Name: Installation of Flow Meters & Chlorinators

Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Forest: Sierra

Ranger District: Bass Lake

Nearby City(ies): Fresno

Estimated Project Cost: $315,500.00

Congressional District(s): CA02, CA04, CA17, CA19, CA21, CA22, CA24, CA25, CA26, CA27, CA41, CA44, CA45, CA49, CA52

County(ies): CA: Butte, El Dorado, Fresno, Lassen, Los Angeles, Monterey, Nevada, Orange, Plumas, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Sierra, Ventura, Yuba

Modified Date: 9/28/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds to Improve Water Systems in Tri-County Area

(Story posted 9/27/2010)

Providing safe drinking water and protecting public health and the environment through the proper treatment of wastewater is an increasingly important issue, particularly in California, where water shortages are a growing problem. This project repairs or replaces select water and wastewater systems that serve heavily used recreation areas and offices on national forests throughout California. Most of the water and wastewater systems that will be repaired or replaced through this project were constructed between the 1930s and 1960s, but continue to be used beyond their original design life. Maintenance costs of these systems are high and the backlog of maintenance needs is longstanding. This project will repair or replace water and sanitation infrastructure such as wells, tanks, septic, and filtration systems that do not meet current health and safety standards. The public will benefit from improvements in water quality, a reduction in water consumption, increase in water conservation, and a reduction in future maintenance costs at the Forest Service sites where these investments are made.

In Mariposa, Madera, and Fresno counties, workers will install flow meters and chlorinators necessary to maintain the domestic water system according to State Health and Safety Standards.

Program Project Name: Clean-up and Installation of Barriers at Abandoned Mines

Local Project Name: Sweetwater Mine
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Sierra
Ranger District: Bass Lake
Nearby City(ies): Mariposa
Congressional District(s): CA19, CA22, CA25, CA49
County(ies): CA: Butte, Inyo, Kern, Mariposa, Plumas, Riverside, Sierra, Tuolumne
Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Mine Site Historic Preservation

(Story posted 9/27/2010)

In Mariposa County, workers will use recovery act funds to address historic needs at the Sweetwater Mine, an abandoned mine site on the Sierra National Forest.

This project involves contracting with a professional historic specialist firm to complete a report and companion documentation under the HABS (Historic American Buildings Survey), the Federal Government's oldest preservation program, and companion program HAER (Historic American Engineering Record).

The work will preserve information about the buildings and features at the historic Sweetwater Mine before it is lost through natural deterioration and vandalism. It will also serve as mitigation for any physical demolition of structures that may pose a hazard to public safety.

Program Project Name: Water/Wastewater System Health and Safety

Local Project Name: Sierra Water Tank
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Sierra
Ranger District: Bass Lake
Nearby City(ies): Fresno, Madera, Mariposa
Estimated Project Cost: $100,000.00
Congressional District(s): CA02, CA04, CA17, CA19, CA21, CA22, CA24, CA25, CA26, CA27, CA41, CA44, CA45, CA49, CA52
County(ies): CA: Butte, El Dorado, Fresno, Lassen, Los Angeles, Monterey, Nevada, Orange, Plumas, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Sierra, Ventura, Yuba
Modified Date: 12/29/2010

Story:
Sierra National Forest Uses Recovery Act Funds to Improve Water Systems

(Story posted 9/27/2010)

Providing safe drinking water and protecting public health and the environment through the proper treatment of wastewater is an increasingly important issue, particularly in California, where water shortages are a growing problem. This Recovery Act project repairs or replaces select water and wastewater systems that serve heavily used recreation areas and offices on national forests throughout California. Most of the water and wastewater systems that will be repaired or replaced through this project were constructed between the 1930s and 1960s, but continue to be used beyond their original design life. Maintenance costs of these systems are high and the backlog of maintenance needs is longstanding. This project will repair or replace water and sanitation infrastructure such as wells, tanks, septic, and filtration systems that do not meet current health and safety standards. The public will benefit from improvements in water quality, a reduction in water consumption, increase in water conservation, and a reduction in future maintenance costs at the Forest Service sites where these investments are made.

On the Sierra National Forest, workers will repair and replace water storage tanks. These tanks have defects such as cracks and liner failures that threaten either health and safety or the actual ability to maintain the storage of Forest's water supply.

Program Project Name: Faciliites Decommissioning/Maintenance

Local Project Name: Forest Wide Paint Crews --- Central California Consortium
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Sierra
Ranger District: Bass Lake
Nearby City(ies): Fresno, Madera, Mariposa
Estimated Project Cost: $200,000.00
Congressional District(s): CA19, CA21, CA41
County(ies): CA: Fresno, Madera, Mariposa
Modified Date: 9/28/2010

Story:
Sierra National Forest Provides Job Opportunities through Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 9/27/2010)

Across California Forest Service facilities are in various states of disrepair. This project includes a variety of repairs such as re-roofing, painting, removal of hazardous materials, addressing structural deficiencies, and energy efficient upgrades.

The Sierra National Forest Central California Consortium (CCC) has coordinated with the

local Economic Opportunities Commission (EOC) in Fresno to gather a workforce to paint various buildings throughout the Forest using Recovery Act funds.

Both the public and employees will benefit from improved, healthier, and safer environments where investments from this project are made.

Program Project Name: Faciliites Decommissioning/Maintenance

Local Project Name: Demolition - Batterson Paint Shed, Clearwater Gas Shed, Mariposa Shed, Trimmer Ranger Station
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Sierra
Ranger District: Bass Lake
Nearby City(ies): Fresno, Madera, Mariposa
Estimated Project Cost: $187,000.00
Congressional District(s): CA19, CA21
County(ies): CA: Fresno, Madera, Mariposa
Modified Date: 12/29/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Help Remove Unsafe Structures

(Story posted 9/27/2010)

Across California, Forest Service facilities are in various states of disrepair. This project includes a variety of repairs such as re-roofing, painting, removal of hazardous materials, addressing structural deficiencies, and energy efficient upgrades as well as demolition of unsafe structures or those whose practical use no longer exists.

On the Sierra National Forest, workers will remove four structures that are no longer usable and not cost-effective to maintain: the Batterson paint shed, Clearwater gas shed, Mariposa shed, and Trimmer Ranger Station.

Program Project Name: Faciliites Decommissioning/Maintenance

Local Project Name: Roof Replacements -- (20 Buildings through out the Forest)
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Sierra
Ranger District: Bass Lake
Nearby City(ies): Fresno, Madera, Mariposa
Estimated Project Cost: $319,000.00
Congressional District(s): CA19, CA21
County(ies): CA: Fresno, Madera, Mariposa
Modified Date: 9/28/2010

Story:
Sierra National Forest to Repair Roofs using Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 9/27/2010)

Across California, Forest Service facilities are in various states of disrepair. This project includes a variety of repairs such as re-roofing, painting, removal of hazardous materials, addressing structural deficiencies, and energy efficient upgrades.

On the Sierra National Forest, workers will replace several roofs well beyond their economic life term. The roofs are leaking and damaging current building structures. Both the public and employees will benefit from improved, healthier, and safer environments at the sites where investments from this project are made.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California Storm Proofing / Reconstruction Roads

Local Project Name: Roadside Brushing
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Sierra
Ranger District: High Sierra
Nearby City(ies): Fresno, Madera
Estimated Project Cost: $300,000.00
Congressional District(s): CA19, CA21
County(ies): CA: Fresno, Madera
Modified Date: 9/28/2010

Story:
Roadside Brushing to Improve Public Safety

(Story posted 9/27/2010)

This project involves maintenance and reconstruction of Forest Service roads throughout California, providing important access to public lands and the recreational opportunities they provide. Many of these roads are unpaved, and storm events can cause erosion or even road failure. This project includes improving water drainage on the road surface, removing brush out of ditches and replacing undersized road culverts. Small culverts under the roads will be replaced with larger, appropriately sized culverts so storm drainage can safely pass from one side to the other without damaging the road or the surrounding environment. Larger culverts also help fish and aquatic wildlife such as toads and frogs pass through the culvert, re-establishing habitat connections for these fish and animals. This project will improve downstream water quality through reduction of erosion and sedimentation, thus protecting threatened, endangered, and sensitive species habitat. This work will also improve public safety by making critical road repairs that are needed now and reducing the risk of catastrophic road failure during future storm events.

On this project, workers will use Recovery Act funds to conduct roadside safety brushing along approximately 200 miles of National Forest Service System roads on the Sierra National Forest.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California-Bridge Maintenance/Deficient Bridges

Local Project Name: Bailey Bridge Decking
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Sierra
Ranger District: Bass Lake
Nearby City(ies): Fresno
Estimated Project Cost: $200,000.00
Congressional District(s): CA19, CA21
County(ies): CA: Fresno
Modified Date: 9/28/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Bridge Rehabilitation

(Story posted 9/27/2010)

Road bridges provide critical connections between people and their public lands. On the Sierra National Forest in California, workers will use Recovery Act funds to repair one of only a few Bailey bridges in service in California. The Bailey bridge is a portable pre-fabricated truss bridge, designed for use by military engineering units.

The Bailey bridge crossing the Kings River on the Sierra National Forest is below standard, including the woodpaneling decking with steel plank runners across the bridge. This project will refurbish the entire decking system across the bridge with steel grate panels and replace and refurbish any loose or missing bolts and pins.

In addition to addressing public safety issues, this work will also protect public investments by extending the life of the existing bridge and reducing future maintenance costs.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California – Paving / Chipseal / Aggregate Surfacing

Local Project Name: Hey Joe Roads
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Eldorado
Ranger District: Georgetown
Nearby City(ies): Pollock Pines
Estimated Project Cost: $465,549.00

Congressional District(s): CA04
County(ies): CA: El Dorado
Modified Date: 12/28/2010

Story:
Eldorado National Forest Uses Recovery Act Funds to Restore Roads

(Story posted 9/28/2010)

This project involves repairs to heavily used, deteriorated roads on National Forest System lands across California. This project includes asphalt repair and placement on roads and parking lots accessing visitor centers, popular recreation facilities, and a snowmobile park. Some work will be accomplished in partnership with the National Park Service and local county governments. Erosion and sedimentation into streams and rivers adjacent to the project sites will be reduced as a result of these road surface repairs. Other project benefits include improving public safety, enhancing water quality, protecting threatened, endangered and sensitive species habitat adjacent to the project sites, enhancing emergency vehicle access and eliminating a large backlog of much needed road maintenance.

On the Eldorado National Forest, workers are grading and shaping an existing 6.72 miles of native surface roads with an optional 3.63 miles of native surface road. Work also includes the placement of 5,760 tons of ¾" road base with an optional 250 tons of AC patching on an existing chip seal surface and bridge rail replacement on two bridges.

Program Project Name: National Forests throughout California - Decommissioning Roads (Reducing Deferred Maintenance, Increasing Water Quality)

Local Project Name: 8N20 Sugarpine Decommissioning
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Eldorado
Ranger District: Amador
Nearby City(ies): Jackson
Estimated Project Cost: $53,974.00
Congressional District(s): CA03
County(ies): CA: Amador
Modified Date: 9/29/2010

Story:
Eldorado National Forest Uses Recovery Act Funds for Road Work

(Story posted 9/28/2010)

On the Eldorado National Forest in California, contractors are grading and shaping existing 0.38 miles of native surface roads; removing and disposing of or replacing existing culverts;

installing waterbars, dips, and rock barricades; and decommissioning 0.69 miles of existing native surface roads. Work also optionally includes grading and shaping of 0.93 miles of road and installing culverts. The work will improve traveler safety on these National Forest System roads.

Program Project Name: Faciliites Decommissioning/Maintenance

Local Project Name: Decommission of Recreation Facilities
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Sierra
Ranger District: High Sierra
Nearby City(ies): Fresno, Madera
Estimated Project Cost: $100,000.00
Congressional District(s): CA19, CA21
County(ies): CA: Fresno, Madera
Modified Date: 11/5/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds To Reduce Deferred Maintenance

(Story posted 10/1/2010)

In Fresno and Madera counties on the Sierra National Forest, Recovery Act funds will support an environmental assessment followed by decommissioning of six developed recreation facilites as outlined in the Sierra National Forest Recreation Facility Analysis.

In Fresno County, Blue Canyon Visa Point, Kirch Flat Picnic Area, Creek Group Campground, and Summit Campground will be decommissioned. Madera County sites slated for decommissioning are Placer and Summit Camp campgrounds.

The work will be accomplished in cooperation with the California Conservation Corps.

Program Project Name: Hazardous Fuels Mitigation

Local Project Name: Fuelbreak Maintenance - Jose 1 Fuel Reduction Maintenance
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Nearby City(ies): Fresno
Estimated Project Cost: $204,000.00
Congressional District(s): CA19, CA21
County(ies): CA: Fresno
Modified Date: 11/10/2010

Story:

Sierra National Forest Recovery Act-funded Hazardous Fuels Reduction Work Underway

(Story posted 10/1/2010)

The current drought in California coupled with vast landscapes of trees killed by insects, and thousands of acres of old decadent chaparral brush has created hazardous fuels buildup throughout the State. This Recovery Act project was designed to reduce forest fuel and enhance forest health by controlling stand densities and treating other forest fuels.

On the Sierra National Forest, the commercial logging portion of the project has been completed. The remaining work includes treatment of forest fuels by hand cutting and hand piling on the steeper slopes and hand cutting and tractor piling on the machine workable slopes, which a combination of contract and forest service crews will complete.

The district saw crew consisting of five summer employees supervised by a term employee will accomplish some of the hand cutting. The district silviculturist will approve the work.

Contractors will complete the rest of the work. A contractor will also complete the tractor piling.

Program Project Name: Hazardous Fuels Mitigation

Local Project Name: High Sierra Hand Thinning2- Dawn 800
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Sierra
Ranger District: High Sierra
Nearby City(ies): Fresno
Estimated Project Cost: $300,000.00
Congressional District(s): CA19, CA21
County(ies): CA: Fresno
Modified Date: 11/10/2010

Story:

Forest Health Benefits from Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 10/1/2010)

The current drought in California coupled with vast landscapes of trees killed by insects and thousands of acres of old decadent chaparral brush has created hazardous fuels buildup throughout the State.

On the Sierra National Forest, the Dawn 800 project is designed to improve stand health and reduce forest fuels to improve tree growth, increase stand resistance to insect attack, and reduce the threat of stand-replacing fires.

Contractors will thin the stand and treat the brush with a mastication machine. Larger diameter biomass will be removed from the forest, and slash will be treated on site. A

stewardship contract will be created to complete this work.

Program Project Name: Hazardous Fuels Mitigation

Local Project Name: Son of South of Shaver
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Sierra
Ranger District: High Sierra
Nearby City(ies): Fresno
Estimated Project Cost: $95,000.00
Congressional District(s): CA19, CA21
County(ies): CA: Fresno
Modified Date: 12/29/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Thinning Project Supports Wildfire Protection

(Story posted 10/1/2010)

The current drought in California coupled with vast landscapes of insect-killed trees and thousands of acres of old decadent chaparral brush has created hazardous fuels buildup throughout the State. Contiguous buildup of dead and dying vegetation can lead to large, dangerous and expensive wildfires that can be harmful to Forest watersheds and threaten surrounding communities.

On the Sierra National Forest, this project is designed to improve stand health and reduce forest fuels to improve tree growth, increase resistance to insect attack, and reduce the threat of a stand replacing fire. Workers will thin the trees, and larger diameter material will be removed from the forest.

Program Project Name: Thinning and Biomass Phase 2

Local Project Name: Backbone Mastication
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Sierra
Ranger District: High Sierra
Nearby City(ies): Fresno
Estimated Project Cost: $210,000.00
Congressional District(s): CA19, CA21
County(ies): CA: Fresno
Modified Date: 11/10/2010

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Work to Improve Forest Health

(Story posted 10/1/2010)

Thinning over-crowded stands of trees will make important strides towards improving forest health in California. The overcrowding, along with the current drought, makes trees weak and vulnerable to disease and insect attacks, resulting in tree mortality. This project focuses on thinning in areas of high susceptibility to mortality in the Sierra Nevada region in California.

In the Back Bone region of the Sierra National Forest High Sierra Ranger District, contractors will thin and brush plantations using mechanical equipment. The contractor may take the slash as biomass or use a mastication machine to reduce ladder fuel buildup on the forest floor.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California-Bridge Maintenance/Deficient Bridges

Local Project Name: Kaiser Roadside Guardrails Replacement
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Sierra
Ranger District: High Sierra
Nearby City(ies): Fresno
Estimated Project Cost: $137,000.00
Congressional District(s): CA19, CA21
County(ies): CA: Fresno
Modified Date: 12/29/2010

Story:

Guardrail Replacement on the Sierra National Forest Planned Thanks to Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 10/1/2010 and updated 10/13/2010)

On the Sierra National Forest, snowplowing activities have destroyed guardrails critical to public safety, and approximately 1,500 feet of W-beam guardrail and posts must be replaced. The work will restore safe operation of a double-lane paved arterial to the remote Kaiser Basin for very popular backcountry and wilderness recreation opportunities.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California – Paving / Chipseal / Aggregate Surfacing

Local Project Name: Build 3 Helipads-Dinkey Mill, Blue Canyon
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Sierra
Ranger District: High Sierra
Nearby City(ies): Fresno
Estimated Project Cost: $255,000.00
Congressional District(s): CA19, CA21, CA41

County(ies): CA: Fresno
Modified Date: 11/10/2010

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Enhance Safety

(Story posted 10/1/2010)

A project to improve surfaces on National Forest System lands across California will help improve fire, law enforcement, and search and rescue response times while improving safety for responders.

On the Sierra National Forest, workers will use Recovery Act funds to build three concrete helipads at existing helipad sites. Two are at the New Dinkey Mill Work Center location and one is near the Blue Canyon Fire Station. Law enforcement, fire, and search and rescue use these sites frequently. The concrete pads will provide a hard surface for the heaviest helicopter and stop the dust from creating a hazardous landing zone.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California – Paving / Chipseal / Aggregate Surfacing

Local Project Name: Eastwood Paving
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Sierra
Ranger District: High Sierra
Nearby City(ies): Fresno
Estimated Project Cost: $70,000.00
Congressional District(s): CA19
County(ies): CA: Fresno
Modified Date: 11/10/2010

Story:
Recreationists to Benefit from Recovery Act Work

A Recovery Act-funded project to repair heavily used, deteriorated surfaces on National Forest System lands across California includes popular recreation facilities and a snowmobile park.

On the Sierra National Forest High Sierra Ranger District, workers will overlay approximately 450 feet of the Kaiser Pass Road that has been damaged by snow plowing and overlay the adjacent Eastwood Visitor Information Station parking area, which people use during the winter as a plowed SnoPark area. The Eastwood SnoPark area is the last place on the SR 168 to unload snowmobiles, begin cross county ski trails, and generally enjoy a dependable snow play area.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California – Paving / Chipseal / Aggregate Surfacing

Local Project Name: Kaiser Bridge Paving
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Sierra
Ranger District: High Sierra
Nearby City(ies): Fresno
Estimated Project Cost: $77,755.00
Congressional District(s): CA19, CA21
County(ies): CA: Fresno
Modified Date: 11/10/2010

Story:

Sierra National Forest Uses Recovery Act Funds to Reduce Continuous Maintenance Needs

(Story posted 10/1/2010)

A Recovery Act project involving repairs to heavily used, deteriorated roads on National Forest System lands across California is making a difference on the Sierra National Forest High Sierra Ranger District.

Workers are paving the approaches to the West Kaiser Creek Bridge. Currently, sand washes onto the bridge, adversely affecting the decking and the load-bearing surfaces while restricting the load transfer of the ends of the deck. The paving work will greatly reduce the continuous maintenance needs of this bridge.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California – Paving / Chipseal / Aggregate Surfacing

Local Project Name: North Fork Paving - Ranger Station
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Sierra
Ranger District: Bass Lake
Nearby City(ies): Madera
Estimated Project Cost: $97,354.00
Congressional District(s): CA19, CA21
County(ies): CA: Madera
Modified Date: 11/10/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Help Pave Ranger Station Compound

(Story posted 10/1/2010)

This project involves repairs to heavily used, deteriorated surfaces on National Forest System lands across California. On the Sierra National Forest, workers will overlay and/or seal and stripe the Bass Lake Ranger Station compound in North Fork.

The station compound currently has many surface drainage problems, subgrade failures and alligator cracking throughout the parking area, which is typical of deferred maintenance work for pavement. The rehabilitated surface will provide longer life and stop water from causing subsurface distress.

Program Project Name: Non-Motor/Non-Wilderness Trails

Local Project Name: Tehipite Fire Trail Rehab/Restore
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Sierra
Ranger District: High Sierra
Nearby City(ies): Fresno
Estimated Project Cost: $75,000.00
Congressional District(s): CA21
County(ies): CA: Fresno
Modified Date: 11/5/2010

Story:

Trail Rehabilitation Work Underway

(Story posted 10/1/2010)

In 2008 the Tehipite Fire burned from Kings Canyon National Park in to the John Muir Wilderness area managed by the Sierra National Forest, damaging trails in the process.

Work to refurbish the trails in the Tehipite burn area using Recovery Act funds is underway. In 2009, 200 trees were cut out of the three trails. Now that the downed trees have been removed, Forest Service temporary employees expect to rebuild waterbars and other drainage features to bring trails up to standard.

Though the project is in the wilderness, workers will preserve wilderness character by removing obstacles that hikers and pack stock may go around, and the drainage features will prevent erosion from affecting the surrounding terrain.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California Storm Proofing / Reconstruction Roads

Local Project Name: 9N10 Sherman Canyon Road Repairs
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Eldorado

Ranger District: Placerville
Nearby City(ies): Placerville
Estimated Project Cost: $324,054.00
Congressional District(s): CA04
County(ies): CA: El Dorado
Modified Date: 11/10/2010

Story:
Eldorado National Forest Plans Recovery Act Road Work

(Story posted 10/5/2010)

On the Eldorado National Forest, Recovery Act-funded road work is underway. Forest Service roads provide important access to public lands and the recreational opportunities they provide. The work includes grading and shaping existing native surface road, hauling and placing 2,500 cubic yards of borrow, installing reinforced concrete box culvert and corrugated metal pipes, and placing aggregate base.

This work will improve public safety by making critical road repairs that are needed now and reducing the risk of catastrophic road failure during future storm events.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California Storm Proofing / Reconstruction Roads

Local Project Name: Eldorado Roadside Brushing
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Eldorado
Nearby City(ies): Placerville
Estimated Project Cost: $495,546.00
Congressional District(s): CA04
County(ies): CA: El Dorado
Modified Date: 11/5/2010

Story:
Eldorado National Forest Conducts Roadside Brushing

(Story posted 10/5/2010)

On the Eldorado National Forest, workers are using Recovery Act funds to conduct roadside brushing activities on 285 miles of double lane and native surfaced roads.

Forest Service roads provide important access to public lands and the recreational opportunities they provide. The brush removal is contributing to public safety while providing meaningful employment.

Program Project Name: Facility Maintenance/Renovation

Local Project Name: District Office-Monterey and Mt. Pinos Ranger Districts
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Los Padres
Ranger District: Monterey
Nearby City(ies): King City, Frasier Park
Congressional District(s): CA02, CA04, CA17, CA24, CA26
County(ies): CA: Los Angeles, Monterey, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, Ventura
Modified Date: 11/5/2010

Story:

Los Padres National Forest to Build New Administrative Offices

(Story posted 10/22/2010)

Recovery Act-funded construction on new administrative offices on the Los Padres National Forest's Monterey and Mt. Pinos ranger districts will begin next spring under a design/build contract.

The single contract--which includes both new district offices--was awarded to a local company that will subcontract much of the work with small construction businesses in the area. These 8,000 square-foot Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED_ Gold-rated energy efficient buildings will replace the existing wood frame district offices that were originally built 40 to 60 years ago.

"When completed, these new administrative offices will enable the Monterey and Mt. Pinos ranger districts to better seve the public and provide our employees with a first-class work environment," said Los Padres Forest Supervisor Peggy Hernandez. "These projects will also meet the intent of the Recovery Act by creating jobs in local communities affected by the downturn in the economy."

Program Project Name: Water/Wastewater System Health and Safety

Local Project Name: ENF Wells & Waterlines
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Eldorado
Ranger District: Amador
Nearby City(ies): Jackson
Estimated Project Cost: $239,847.00
Congressional District(s): CA03, CA04
County(ies): CA: Amador, El Dorado
Modified Date: 12/29/2010

Story:
Eldorado National Forest to Repair Wells Using Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 11/15/2010)

Providing safe drinking water and protecting public health and the environment through the proper treatment of wastewater is an increasingly important issue, particularly in California, where water shortages are a growing problem. This Recovery Act project repairs or replaces select water and wastewater systems that serve heavily used recreation areas and offices on national forests throughout California. Most of the water and wastewater systems that will be repaired or replaced through this project were constructed between the 1930s and 1960s, but continue to be used beyond their original design life. Maintenance costs of these systems are high and the backlog of maintenance needs is longstanding. The public will benefit from improvements in water quality, a reduction in water consumption, increase in water conservation, and a reduction in future maintenance costs at the Forest Service sites where these investments are made.

Project work on the Eldorado National Forest consists of drilling, casing, grouting, developing, testing, and disinfecting four water wells and decommissioning two existing wells. The contractor will be required to follow all State and local laws and obtain required permits. The contractor will also install water storage tanks, wells pumps, electrical controls, pump houses, waterlines and appurtenances.

Program Project Name: Recreation Site Reconstruction

Local Project Name: Eldorado Recreation Sites Reconstruction
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Eldorado
Ranger District: Pacific
Nearby City(ies): Placerville
Estimated Project Cost: $318,836.00
Congressional District(s): CA04
County(ies): CA: El Dorado
Modified Date: 1/6/2011

Story:
Eldorado National Forest Upgrading Recreation Sites using Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 11/15/2010)

On the Eldorado National Forest, projects to improve recreation sites are underway. Well-maintained recreation facilities, including accessible picnic areas, sanitary restrooms, and clean drinking water enhance visitor enjoyment.

This project consists of rehabilitation/reconstruction at five recreation sites within the Eldorado National Forest. Sites include the Stumpy Meadows Campground, Ponderosa Cove Group Campground, China Flat Campground, Bridal Veil Picnic Area, and Silver Creek Campground.

Work consists of clearing and grubbing; grading of roads, trails, spurs and campsites; selective removal and salvage of existing improvements; placing aggregate base; paving; installing campsite and picnic area furnishings; installing a water line and water faucet units; extension of a concrete block wall; removal of an existing water tank; and installation of new water tank.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California – Paving / Chipseal / Aggregate Surfacing

Local Project Name: 10 Road

Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Forest: Modoc

Ranger District: Doublehead

Nearby City(ies): Tulelake CA

Congressional District(s): CA01, CA02, CA03, CA04, CA17, CA19, CA21, CA22, CA24, CA25, CA26, CA41, CA45

County(ies): CA: Alpine, El Dorado, Fresno, Humboldt, Inyo, Kern, Lassen, Madera, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Placer, Plumas, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity

Modified Date: 12/27/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Help Travelers

(Story posted 11/16/2010)

On the Modoc National Forest, Recovery Act funds supported road repairs to one of two main access points across U.S. Forest service land to Lava Beds National Park. The repairs allowed continued access to a local business, RV park, as well as allowing motorcycles and small vehicles to access the park.

Project benefits include improving public safety, enhancing water quality, protecting threatened, endangered and sensitive species habitat, enhancing emergency vehicle access, and eliminating a large backlog of much-needed road maintenance.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California Storm Proofing / Reconstruction Roads

Local Project Name: 12N70 Rock Creek Road Repairs

Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Forest: Eldorado
Ranger District: Georgetown
Nearby City(ies): Georgetown
Estimated Project Cost: $201,408.00
Congressional District(s): CA04
County(ies): CA: El Dorado
Modified Date: 12/22/2010

Story:
Eldorado National Forest Uses Recovery Act Funds for Road Repairs

(Story posted 11/19/2010)

On Eldorado National Forest roads, contractors are upgrading two existing culverts; clearing, grading, and shaping; building reinforced concrete footings and headwalls; supplying and installing structural metal arch pipe and riprap; importing borrow; and placing road base.

This project will improve downstream water quality through reduction of erosion and sedimentation, thus protecting threatened, endangered, and sensitive species habitat. This work will also improve public safety by making critical road repairs that are needed now and reducing the risk of catastrophic road failure during future storm events.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California Storm Proofing / Reconstruction Roads

Local Project Name: Eldorado Culvert Replacements
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Eldorado
Ranger District: Placerville
Nearby City(ies): Placerville
Estimated Project Cost: $55,166.00
Congressional District(s): CA04
County(ies): CA: El Dorado
Modified Date: 12/22/2010

Story:
Eldorado National Forest Uses Recovery Act Funds for Culvert Replacements

(Story posted 11/19/2010)

Contractors are removing and replacing existing culverts; cleaning existing culverts; grading and shaping existing native surface roads; and placing aggregate base on Eldorado National Forest roads.

This project will improve downstream water quality through reduction of erosion and

sedimentation, thus protecting threatened, endangered, and sensitive species habitat. This work will also improve public safety by making critical road repairs that are needed now and reducing the risk of catastrophic road failure during future storm events.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California Storm Proofing / Reconstruction Roads

Local Project Name: Kirkwood Lake Campground Rehabilitation
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Eldorado
Ranger District: Amador
Nearby City(ies): Pioneer
Estimated Project Cost: $140,167.00
Congressional District(s): CA03
County(ies): CA: Amador
Modified Date: 12/22/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Campground Rehabilitation

(Story posted 11/19/2010)

This project at the Kirkway Lake Campground on the Eldorado National Forest consists of rehabilitation/reconstruction at a developed campground and its associated access road.

Work consists of clearing and grubbing; grading roads, spurs, and campsites; constructing parking areas; developing borrow material; placing aggregate base; asphalt paving parking areas; double chip sealing the entrance road; reconstructing/constructing drainage features; placing riprap and barrier rocks; selectively removing and salvaging existing campsite facilities; installing/reinstalling campsite furnishings; and installing water faucet units and refuse bin pads.

Program Project Name: Carson Iceberg/Hoover Wilderness Trails Maintenance & Stewardship

Local Project Name: Carson Iceberg/Hoover Wilderness Trails Maintenance and Stewardship Project
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Humboldt & Toiy
Ranger District: Bridgeport
Nearby City(ies): Bridgeport, CA
Estimated Project Cost: $167,502.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 17
Congressional District(s): CA03, CA25

County(ies): CA: Alpine, Mono
Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Uses Recovery Act Funds for Wilderness Trail Work

(Story posted 12/7/2010)

The Hoover Wilderness Area located in the eastern Sierra Mountains on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest has had trail maintenance work done thanks to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The project employed local youth from Mono County to do the work. Crew members benefited from the employment, job skills, and the environmental education gained from the job experience. Providing employment opportunities in Mono County is valuable as it was hard hit by the economic downturn.

“I’ve learned a lot of things working; I’ve learned about revegetation, stopping erosion on trails, widening trails. It’s really interesting,” said Cavanagh Gohlich, Bridgeport Youth Conservation (YCC) crew member.

Danny Elsey of the Bridgeport YCC said, “I love the job; it’s really cool. And I’ve also been saving up for things I’ve been needing like a bike to get to work. Because I have to ride about 1.5 miles to get to work every day, and it gets me active. The money is a good purpose, but I also like the job experience. This is my first actual job. And being with the Forest Service helps me to lose weight, be more fit, and be more physically active. It makes me want to be outside more.”

Thomas Huggans of the Bridgeport YCC said, “It’s helped me become more of a team player. Sometimes, I have a hard time working in groups. If I need help, I’ll ask for help. It’s a team job and it has helped me out with that.”

Program Project Name: Region-wide Facility Improvement Projects

Local Project Name: ENF Roof Repair & Replacement
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Eldorado
Ranger District: Placerville
Nearby City(ies): South Lake Tahoe
Estimated Project Cost: $399,997.00
Congressional District(s): CA04
County(ies): CA: El Dorado
Modified Date: 1/6/2011

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Echo Summit Roofing Project

(Story posted 11/22/2010)

On the Eldorado National Forest, the popular Echo Summit Ski Lodge will have its leaking roofs replaced using Recovery Act funds. The lodge is near South Lake Tahoe, and its repair will support the local tourism economy while providing needed construction jobs.

Program Project Name: Recreation Site Reconstruction

Local Project Name: Gerle Campground Rehabilitation
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Eldorado
Ranger District: Pacific
Nearby City(ies): Placerville
Estimated Project Cost: $1,070,500.00
Congressional District(s): CA04
County(ies): CA: El Dorado
Modified Date: 1/6/2011

Story:
Eldorado National Forest Upgrading Campground using Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 11/22/2010)

On the Eldorado National Forest, projects to improve recreation sites are underway. Well-maintained recreation facilities, including accessible picnic areas, sanitary restrooms, and clean drinking water enhance visitor enjoyment.

The Gerle Campground project includes demolition and upgrade of an existing campground. The contractor will demolish existing camp units, the waterline, and restrooms, including lead and asbestos testing and removal. Workers will install new restroom facilities; a water system, including piping, shut off valves, and faucets; and connection to an existing well and storage tank. They will also build camp units and install new and existing furnishings. The campground surfaces will also be rehabilitated, including the road, spurs, and pathways.

Program Project Name: Non-Motor/Non-Wilderness Trails

Local Project Name: Pony Express/Caples Bridge & Trail Project
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Eldorado
Ranger District: Pacific

Nearby City(ies): Placerville
Estimated Project Cost: $105,000.00
Congressional District(s): CA04
County(ies): CA: El Dorado
Modified Date: 12/27/2010

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Improve Two Eldorado National Forest Trails

(Story posted 11/22/2010)

On the Eldorado National Forest Recovery Act funds supported replacement of two timber trail bridges along the Pony Express and Caples trails utilizing volunteer labor. The effort included minor trail rehabilitation work. Local businesses benefited from the purchase of supplies and materials and equipment rental.

Trails provide a gateway for people to experience the outdoors and connect with nature through their National Forests. Trails in poor condition can erode to the point of being impassible, causing sedimentation in nearby streams and preventing access to public lands.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California-Bridge Maintenance/Deficient Bridges

Local Project Name: South Fork Silver/Lyons Creek Bridge Replacements
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Eldorado
Ranger District: Pacific
Nearby City(ies): Pollock Pines
Estimated Project Cost: $874,839.00
Congressional District(s): CA04
County(ies): CA: El Dorado
Modified Date: 12/29/2010

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Help Repair Deficient Road Bridges

(Story posted 11/22/2010)

On the Eldorado National Forest, Recovery Act funds have helped replace deficient road bridges with new bridges and repair bridges with long standing maintenance needs. These replacements and rehabilitations are improving public safety and public land access while protecting the natural environment that surrounds the bridges. In addition, the work is also protecting public investments by extending the life of existing bridges and reducing future maintenance costs.

Contractors will construct two road bridges on Wrights Lake Road (11N26) at Lyons Creek and South Fork Silver Creek. Each of the bridges will replace existing concrete vented fords, which are to be removed.

Program Project Name: Thinning and Woody Biomass Phase 1

Local Project Name: Pinecrest Interior Forest Health Stewardship
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Stanislaus
Ranger District: Summit
Nearby City(ies): Pinecrest
Congressional District(s): CA19
County(ies): CA: Tuolumne
Modified Date: 12/23/2010

Story:

Stanislaus National Forest Begins Pinecrest Interior Forest Health Stewardship Project

(Story posted 11/23/2010)

Thinning over-crowded stands of trees will make important strides towards improving forest health in California.

On the Stanislaus National Forest, Recovery Act-funded thinning work is underway.

Contract activities include felling and bucking designated sawtimber; stump treatments; erosion control; road maintenance; traffic control; slash treatment resources protection; improvements protection; and Himalayan blackberry removal, which is a non-native invasive plant.

Program Project Name: Thinning and Woody Biomass Phase 1

Local Project Name: China Flat Plantation Thin
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Stanislaus
Nearby City(ies): Groveland
Congressional District(s): CA19
County(ies): CA: Tuolumne
Modified Date: 12/23/2010

Story:

Stanislaus National Forest Begins China Flat Plantation Thin Project

(Story posted 11/23/2010)

Thinning over-crowded stands of trees will make important strides towards improving forest health in California.

On the Stanislaus National Forest, Recovery Act-funded thinning work is underway.

Contract activities include felling and bucking designated sawtimber; stump treatments; erosion control; road maintenance; traffic control; slash treatment resources protection; improvements protection; and Himalayan blackberry removal, which is a non-native invasive plant.

Program Project Name: Thinning and Woody Biomass Phase 1

Local Project Name: Big Creek Plantation Thin
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Stanislaus
Nearby City(ies): Sonora
Congressional District(s): CA19
County(ies): CA: Tuolumne
Modified Date: 12/23/2010

Story:

Stanislaus National Forest Begins Big Creek Plantation Thin Project

(Story posted 11/23/2010)

Thinning over-crowded stands of trees will make important strides towards improving forest health in California.

On the Stanislaus National Forest, Recovery Act-funded thinning work is underway.

Contract activities include felling and bucking designated sawtimber; stump treatments; erosion control; road maintenance; traffic control; slash treatment resources protection; improvements protection; and Himalayan blackberry removal, which is a non-native invasive plant.

Program Project Name: Thinning and Woody Biomass Phase 1

Local Project Name: Long Shanahan Thinning
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Stanislaus
Nearby City(ies): Sonora
Congressional District(s): CA19, CA26
County(ies): CA: Tuolumne
Modified Date: 12/23/2010

Story:
Stanislaus National Forest Begins Long Shanahan Thinning Project

(Story posted 11/23/2010)

Thinning over-crowded stands of trees will make important strides towards improving forest health in California.

On the Stanislaus National Forest, Recovery Act-funded thinning work is underway.

Contract activities include felling and bucking designated sawtimber; stump treatments; erosion control; road maintenance; traffic control; slash treatment resources protection; improvements protection; and Himalayan blackberry removal, which is a non-native invasive plant.

Program Project Name: Thinning and Woody Biomass Phase 1
Local Project Name: East West Arnold Fuelbreak Maintenance
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Stanislaus
Nearby City(ies): Sonora
Congressional District(s): CA19
County(ies): CA: Tuolumne
Modified Date: 12/23/2010

Story:
Stanislaus National Forest Begins East West Arnold Fuelbreak Maintenenace Project

(Story posted 11/23/2010)

Thinning over-crowded stands of trees will make important strides towards improving forest health in California.

On the Stanislaus National Forest, Recovery Act-funded thinning work is underway.

Contract activities include felling and bucking designated sawtimber; stump treatments; erosion control; road maintenance; traffic control; slash treatment resources protection; improvements protection; and Himalayan blackberry removal, which is a non-native invasive plant.

Program Project Name: Faciliites Decommissioning/Maintenance
Local Project Name: Crystal Lake Restoration
Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Forest: Angeles
Nearby City(ies): Glendora, Calif.
Estimated Project Cost: $350,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 16
Congressional District(s): CA26
County(ies): CA: Los Angeles
Modified Date: 12/29/2010

Story:
Forest Service Builds New Restrooms with Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 12/10/2010)

The Crystal Lake campground on the Angeles National Forest has two new restrooms, offering quality facilities for local visitors and built through Recovery Act funds.

Each is about 600 square feet and replaces lavatories that were decades old, damaged by storms, and worn out, according to Ricardo Lopez, civil engineer who helped coordinate the project.

The restrooms cost about $350,000, and the construction took about three weeks to complete. About 10 contract workers were hired to construct the buildings.

The projects first involved installing a septic tank into the ground, and then placing a “pre-fab” building and roof on top of the tank. The end result for each was an attractive dark-red building with rock-veneer columns in front.

Program Project Name: Facility Maintenance/Renovation
Local Project Name: Rincon Fire Station
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Angeles
Nearby City(ies): Glendora, Calif.
Estimated Project Cost: $0.00
Congressional District(s): CA26
County(ies): CA: Los Angeles
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:
Forest Service Contracts for Construction of New Fire Station

(Story posted 1/14/2011)

Angeles National Forest officials have contracted with a local Los Angeles firm to build a new three-engine fire station at Rincon Station in San Gabriel Canyon.

The project will consolidate the locations of three fire stations into one location, greatly reducing operational costs and the stations' environmental footprint. The project will provide modern fire facilities, replacing a 1969 vintage warehouse that is currently used as the fire station facility.

The new complex will increase the station capacity from one engine to three. The project for the Rincon Fire Station will include a 4,700-square-foot building with two tandem garage bays, offices, and a meeting room to support up to 21 people.

Also planned are a nine-person barracks and a replacement warehouse for the recreation staff. The work will include upgrades to existing water, septic, electrical, and communication systems.

The contract is with Swinerton Builders out of Los Angeles. Construction was scheduled to begin in December 2010, and completion is expected in summer 2011.

Program Project Name: Facility Maintenance/Renovation

Local Project Name: Beckwourth Nervino Fire Station
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Plumas
Ranger District: Beckwourth
Nearby City(ies): Beckwourth, California
Congressional District(s): CA02, CA04, CA17, CA24, CA26
County(ies): CA: Los Angeles, Monterey, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, Ventura
Modified Date: 12/22/2010

Story:

New Fire Station to Promote Wildfire Protection

(Story posted 12/6/2010)

In September, the Forest Service awarded a $2.4 million contract to Kamada, LLC to reconstruct a fire center at the Nervino Airport on the Plumas National Forest. The contractor is an 8a Small Business out of Marysville, California. Green building measures will be incorporated in the repairs and will include water and energy systems to reduce the center's carbon footprint. All work will be completed by June 2012 while allowing for seasonal road closures to the site.

The design-build project consisting of site preparation, utility installation, (including new well,

pressurized effluent line, power, etc.) and construction of a 4,400-square-foot fire engine garage/office building is underway. Survey and design work will occur during the winter of 2010-2011. Construction will begin in spring 2011.

Program Project Name: Faciliites Decommissioning/Maintenance

Local Project Name: Crocker Historic Guard Station Preservation

Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Forest: Plumas

Ranger District: Beckwourth

Nearby City(ies): Portola, California

Congressional District(s): CA01, CA02, CA04, CA17, CA19, CA21, CA24, CA25, CA26, CA41, CA45, CA52

County(ies): CA: Butte, Del Norte, Fresno, Glenn, Los Angeles, Mariposa, Monterey, Plumas, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yuba

Modified Date: 12/22/2010

Story:

Historic Guard Station Preservation Underway

(Story posted 12/3/2010)

On the Plumas National Forest, a design-build project is underway to restore the historic Crocker Guard Station. The work consists of structural reinforcement, roof replacement, and various minor repairs in order to preserve the almost century-old structure.

All improvements were proposed by a licensed architectural historian and approved by the State Historic Preservation Office. While the majority of the work was completed before November 2010, the project is currently in winter shut-down.

Program Project Name: Water/Wastewater System Health and Safety

Local Project Name: Brush Creek Water System Replacement

Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Forest: Plumas

Ranger District: Feather River

Nearby City(ies): Berry Creek, California

Congressional District(s): CA02, CA04, CA17, CA19, CA21, CA22, CA24, CA25, CA26, CA27, CA41, CA44, CA45, CA49, CA52

County(ies): CA: Butte, El Dorado, Fresno, Lassen, Los Angeles, Monterey, Nevada, Orange, Plumas, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Sierra, Ventura, Yuba

Modified Date: 12/29/2010

Story:

Aging water System Replaced Using Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 12/3/2010)

Providing safe drinking water and protecting public health and the environment through the proper treatment of wastewater is an increasingly important issue, particularly in California, where water shortages are a growing problem. This Recovery Act project repairs or replaces select water and wastewater systems that serve heavily used recreation areas and offices on national forests throughout California. Most of the water and wastewater systems that will be repaired or replaced through this project were constructed between the 1930s and 1960s, but continue to be used beyond their original design life. Maintenance costs of these systems are high and the backlog of maintenance needs is longstanding. The public will benefit from improvements in water quality, a reduction in water consumption, increase in water conservation, and a reduction in future maintenance costs at the Forest Service sites where these investments are made.

In the Brush Creek area on the Plumas National Forest, contractors replaced an existing aging water system, including replacement of water distribution lines and development of the existing well. Workers completed the project in September 2010.

Program Project Name: Recreation Site Reconstruction

Local Project Name: Frenchman Lake Water Systems Replacement and Restroom Remodels
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Plumas
Ranger District: Beckwourth
Nearby City(ies): Chilcoot, Ca
Congressional District(s): CA01, CA02, CA03, CA04, CA19, CA22, CA24, CA25, CA26, CA27, CA41, CA45, CA49
County(ies): CA: Butte, El Dorado, Kern, Lake, Los Angeles, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Plumas, Riverside, San Bernardino, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yuba
Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:

Plumas National Forest Upgrading Water Distribution Systems, Facilities Thanks to Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 12/3/2010)

On the Plumas National Forest, projects to improve recreation sites are underway. Well-maintained recreation facilities, including accessible picnic areas, sanitary restrooms, and clean drinking water enhance visitor enjoyment.

In the Cottonwood Springs Campground, a design-build contract to replace the water distribution system and demolish three restroom facilities and build two restrooms and one shower/restroom facility began this apast field season. Construction is almost complete and will be finished following construction shut-down during the 2010-2011 winter season.

In the Big Cove Campground, workers will demolish three restroom facilities and build two restrooms and one shower/restroom facility. Work in Big Cove Campground will begin in spring 2011 following completion of work at Cottonwood Springs Campground. Improvements to both campgrounds were awarded under a single contract.

Program Project Name: Water/Wastewater System Health and Safety

Local Project Name: Lake Davis Water System Replacement

Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Forest: Plumas

Ranger District: Beckwourth

Nearby City(ies): Portola, California

Congressional District(s): CA02, CA04, CA17, CA19, CA21, CA22, CA24, CA25, CA26, CA27, CA41, CA44, CA45, CA49, CA52

County(ies): CA: Butte, El Dorado, Fresno, Lassen, Los Angeles, Monterey, Nevada, Orange, Plumas, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Sierra, Ventura, Yuba

Modified Date: 12/29/2010

Story:

Recreation Sites to Get Water System Upgrades

(Story posted 12/3/2010)

Providing safe drinking water and protecting public health and the environment through the proper treatment of wastewater is an increasingly important issue, particularly in California, where water shortages are a growing problem. This Recovery Act project repairs or replaces select water and wastewater systems that serve heavily used recreation areas and offices on national forests throughout California. Most of the water and wastewater systems that will be repaired or replaced through this project were constructed between the 1930s and 1960s, but continue to be used beyond their original design life. Maintenance costs of these systems are high and the backlog of maintenance needs is longstanding. The public will benefit from improvements in water quality, a reduction in water consumption, increase in water conservation, and a reduction in future maintenance costs at the Forest Service sites where these investments are made.

On the Plumas National Forest, contractors will reconstruct existing water distribution lines following survey and design work. A single system serves Grasshopper Flats Campground, Grizzly Campground, the Honker Cove Boat Launch, and the Lake Davis RV Dump Station. The survey and design will occur during winter 2010 to 2011, and construction will begin in spring 2011.

Program Project Name: Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest - California

Local Project Name: Dog Valley Mastication

Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Humboldt & Toiy
Ranger District: Carson
Nearby City(ies): Verdi
Estimated Project Cost: $168,438.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 12
Congressional District(s): CA03, CA04, CA25
County(ies): CA: Alpine
Modified Date: 1/12/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Help Create Fuel Breaks

(Story posted 12/6/2010)

The Dog Valley Mastication Project is located on the Carson Ranger District, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in Sierra County, California just west of Reno, Nevada. The project area encompasses approximately 402 acres of a shrub/conifer mix. The project area has an overstory of mixed conifer mostly dominated by Jeffrey pine with patches of antelope bitterbrush, Mountain Mahogany, and green leaf Manzanita. Other understory species in the project area include some sagebrush, grasses and forbs.

This phase of the project created fuel breaks on approximately 402 acres that has been completed. Work started in October of 2010 and was completed by November 19, 2010. A contract crew (West Forest, Inc.) funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act used five masticators working 16 hours a day 7 days a week to masticate brush and trees up to 14 inches in diameter. This project helped to reduce the hazardous fuels in the area, improving general forest health, and will also result in improved wildlife habitat.

Accomplishment of this phase of the project adds to past treatments and future treatments in the area. When completed the projects will help modify potential fire behavior, enhance fire suppression capabilities in the wildland urban interface, and reduce the chance of a catastrophic fire. Thinning and other fuel reduction activities help maintain healthy ecosystems and can reduce the likelihood of future large, more damaging fires.

Program Project Name: Trail Bridges

Local Project Name: Cascade Trail Bridges
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Plumas
Ranger District: Mt. Hough
Nearby City(ies): Quincy, Ca
Congressional District(s): CA04
County(ies): CA: El Dorado, Plumas, Sierra
Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:
Trail Rehabilitation Benefits Visitors

(Story posted 12/6/2010)

This project involves reconstruction of trail bridges on National Forests throughout California, including bridges along the popular Pacific Crest Trail and the heavily used Quincy community trail system.

One portion of the project includes replacing non-standard, user-constructed bridges on the Spanish Creek/Cascade Trail, a moderately utilized, multi-user trail close to Quincy.

Trail bridges provide critical connections between people and their public lands. They provide access over otherwise impassable streams and drainages and help protect sensitive ecological areas. This project will increase opportunities for Americans to utilize trails, recognize the health benefits provided by hiking, and connect with the outdoors through their National Forests.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California-Bridge Maintenance/Deficient Bridges

Local Project Name: South Fork Feather River Truss Bridge, Repair, and Painting
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Plumas
Ranger District: Feather River
Nearby City(ies): Forbestown, Ca
Congressional District(s): CA02, CA04, CA19, CA21, CA26
County(ies): CA: Butte, El Dorado, Fresno, Los Angeles, Plumas, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yuba
Modified Date: 12/29/2010

Story:
Historic Bridge Replacement Benefits OHV Routes

(Story posted 12/6/2010)

On the Plumas National Forest, Recovery Act funds have helped replace deficient road bridges with new bridges and repair bridges with long standing maintenance needs. These replacements and rehabilitations are improving public safety and public land access while protecting the natural environment that surrounds the bridges. In addition, the work is also protecting public investments by extending the life of existing bridges and reducing future maintenance costs.

Contractors repaired, re-decked, and painted the historic South Feather Truss Bridge, also

known as the Old Golden Trout Crossing. This bridge serves major off-highway vehicle routes in the area around the Golden Trout Campground.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California – Paving / Chipseal / Aggregate Surfacing

Local Project Name: Clover Valley Road paving-26N70

Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Forest: Plumas

Ranger District: Beckwourth

Nearby City(ies): Beckwourth,California

Congressional District(s): CA01, CA02, CA03, CA04, CA17, CA19, CA21, CA22, CA24, CA25, CA26, CA41, CA45

County(ies): CA: Alpine, El Dorado, Fresno, Humboldt, Inyo, Kern, Lassen, Madera, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Placer, Plumas, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity

Modified Date: 12/27/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Improve Traveler Safety

(Story posted 12/6/2010)

On the Plumas National Forest, workers replaced the surface and repaired 4.5 miles of Forest Road 26N70, a heavily utilized forest access route and a "commuter" route between SR 70 and Janesville/Susanville. The recovery Act-funded prject replaced damaged AC pavement and sealed the surface.

Benefits include improving public safety, enhancing water quality, protecting threatened, endangered, and sensitive species habitat, enhancing emergency vehicle access, and eliminating a large backlog of much-needed road maintenance.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California-Bridge Maintenance/Deficient Bridges

Local Project Name: East Side Bridge Repair

Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Forest: Plumas

Ranger District: Beckwourth

Nearby City(ies): Portola, California

Congressional District(s): CA02, CA04, CA19, CA21, CA26

County(ies): CA: Butte, El Dorado, Fresno, Los Angeles, Plumas, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yuba

Modified Date: 12/29/2010

Story:

Six Forest Road Bridges Repaired

(Story posted 12/6/2010)

On the Plumas National Forest, Recovery Act funds have helped replace deficient road bridges with new bridges and repair bridges with long standing maintenance needs. These replacements and rehabilitations are improving public safety and public land access while protecting the natural environment that surrounds the bridges. In addition, the work is also protecting public investments by extending the life of existing bridges and reducing future maintenance costs.

Repairs to six forest road bridges in eastern Plumas County consisted of restoring decks, approaches, railings, and foundations. Additionally, several bridges received safety upgrades.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California-Bridge Maintenance/Deficient Bridges

Local Project Name: Eureka Bridge Repair and Painting
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Plumas
Ranger District: Beckwourth
Nearby City(ies): Blairsden, Ca
Congressional District(s): CA02, CA04, CA19, CA21, CA26
County(ies): CA: Butte, El Dorado, Fresno, Los Angeles, Plumas, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yuba
Modified Date: 12/29/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Help Repair Deficient Road Bridges

(Story posted 12/6/2010)

On the Plumas National Forest, Recovery Act funds have helped replace deficient road bridges with new bridges and repair bridges with long standing maintenance needs. These replacements and rehabilitations are improving public safety and public land access while protecting the natural environment that surrounds the bridges. In addition, the work is also protecting public investments by extending the life of existing bridges and reducing future maintenance costs.

Work on the Eureka Creek bridge included painting and re-decking and safety upgrades to the approaches, including railings and markers. Contractors also replaced the bridge curb and safety railing.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California – Paving / Chipseal / Aggregate Surfacing

Local Project Name: LTBMU - Maintain Forest Road 73 Near Tahoe City, CA (North Shore, Lake Tahoe)
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Lake Tahoe Basin
Ranger District: LTBMU/Tahoe
Nearby City(ies): Tahoe City, CA
Estimated Project Cost: $218,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 15
Congressional District(s): CA04
County(ies): CA: Placer
Modified Date: 1/4/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Forest Road Improvements

(Story posted 12/8/2010)

On the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, contractor Sierra Nevada Construction completed 10.7 miles of chipseal work to maintain Forest Road 73 on the North Shore near Tahoe City to keep it usable for both visitors and Forest Service administrative needs. The $218,000 Recovery Act-funded project employed 15 workers.

Program Project Name: Non-Motor/Non-Wilderness Trails

Local Project Name: LTBMU - Daggett Summit Trail, Kingsbury Grade near Stateline, NV (East Shore, Lake Tahoe)
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Lake Tahoe Basin
Ranger District: LTBMU/Tahoe
Nearby City(ies): Stateline, NV
Estimated Project Cost: $330,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 8
Congressional District(s): CA04, NV02
County(ies): CA: El Dorado; NV: Douglas
Modified Date: 1/4/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Tahoe Rim Trail Project Complete

(Story posted 12/8/2010)

A $330,000 project to improve the safety, continuity, and visitor experience for the Daggett Summit portion of the Tahoe Rim Trail on the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit near Stateline, Nevada, is now complete.

Richard May Construction built all of the most difficult sections of the 13-mile project under a

Recovery Act-funded contract. This project employed six to eight workers, in addition to the contractor, starting in early June. All eight segments have been completed.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California – Paving / Chipseal / Aggregate Surfacing

Local Project Name: Morgan Summit Snowmobile Park Chipseal
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Lassen
Ranger District: Almanor
Nearby City(ies): Chester
Congressional District(s): CA02
County(ies): CA: Tehama
Modified Date: 12/27/2010

Story:

Snow Play Area Facility Improvement Benefits Visitors

(Story posted 12/8/2010)

On the Lassen National Forest at the Morgan Summit Snowmobile Park, Hat Creek Construction Company repaired cracks, potholes, and resurfaced and striped the parking lot at the trailhead to enhance the recreation experience.

The Recovery Act-funded project was completed in July 2010.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California – Paving / Chipseal / Aggregate Surfacing

Local Project Name: Swain Mt Trailhead Chipseal
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Lassen
Ranger District: Almanor
Nearby City(ies): Westwood
Congressional District(s): CA04
County(ies): CA: Plumas
Modified Date: 12/22/2010

Story:

Lassen National Forest Snowmobile Trailhead Area Gets Surface Upgrades

(Story posted 12/8/2010)

On the Lassen National Forest at the Swain Mountain Snowmobile Trailhead, Hat Creek Construction Company repaired cracks, potholes, and resurfaced and striped at the trailhead to enhance the recreation experience.

The Recovery Act-funded project was completed in July 2010.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California – Paving / Chipseal / Aggregate Surfacing

Local Project Name: Eskimo Hill Parking Lot Chipseal
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Lassen
Ranger District: Hat Creek
Nearby City(ies): Shingletown
Congressional District(s): CA02
County(ies): CA: Shasta
Modified Date: 12/22/2010

Story:

Lassen National Forest Recreation Area Gets Surface Upgrades

(Story posted 12/8/2010)

On the Lassen National Forest, Hat Creek Construction Company restored the Eskimo Hill Snow Play Area parking lot by repairing cracks, potholes, and resurfacing and striping near the trailhead to enhance the recreation experience.

The Recovery Act-funded project was completed in August 2010.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California – Paving / Chipseal / Aggregate Surfacing

Local Project Name: Eagle Lake Recreation Facilities Chipseal
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Lassen
Ranger District: Eagle Lake
Nearby City(ies): Susanville
Congressional District(s): CA04
County(ies): CA: Lassen, Trinity
Modified Date: 12/22/2010

Story:

Lassen National Forest Recreation Area Gets Surface Upgrades

(Story posted 12/8/2010)

On the Lassen National Forest, Hat Creek Construction Company restored the Eagle Lake recreation facility surfaces, which included applying chipseal to the marina parking lot, bike trailhead parking, and other free use areas.

Workers also repaired cracks and potholes and striped the parking lot to enhance the recreation experience.

The Recovery Act-funded project was completed in September 2010.

Program Project Name: Non-Motor/Non-Wilderness Trails

Local Project Name: Eagle Lake Trail Chipseal
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Lassen
Ranger District: Eagle Lake
Nearby City(ies): Susanville
Congressional District(s): CA04
County(ies): CA: Lassen
Modified Date: 12/27/2010

Story:

South Eagle Lake Bike/Hiking Trail Restoration Complete

(Story posted 12/8/2010)

A Recovery Act-funded project to repair cracks, potholes, and resurface the South Eagle Lake Trail for approximately five miles to enhance visitors' recreation experience is now finished.

Hat Creek Construction Company finished the work on the Lassen National Forest in August 2010.

This action has a companion project that completed forest thinning restoration that opened up the trail, increasing the wonderful views of the natural Eagle Lake. The thinning was funded by grant money from the State and Private Forestry Program.

This project was featured in the Lassen County Times on Tuesday November 9, 2010.

Program Project Name: Non-Motor/Non-Wilderness Trails

Local Project Name: Lake Almanor Trail Rip Rap
Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Forest: Lassen
Ranger District: Almanor
Nearby City(ies): Chester
Congressional District(s): CA04
County(ies): CA: Plumas
Modified Date: 12/23/2010

Story:
Lake Almanor Trail Stabilization Benefits Visitors, Water Quality

(Story posted 12/8/2010)

This project involves trail repair and reconstruction of heavily used, non-motorized trails on National Forests throughout California. In November 2010, Big J Construction installed riprap to stabilize the Lassen National Forest Lake Almanor Trail to keep it from eroding into the lake shore to enhance the recreation experience and protect water quality.

The public will benefit from improved trail access and the health benefits associated with hiking and connecting to the outdoors.

Program Project Name: Non-Motor/Non-Wilderness Trails

Local Project Name: Lake Almanor Bike Trail Chipseal
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Lassen
Ranger District: Almanor
Nearby City(ies): Chester
Congressional District(s): CA04
County(ies): CA: Plumas
Modified Date: 12/23/2010

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Bike Trail Restoration

(Story posted 12/8/2010)

On the Lassen National Forest, the Recovery Act-funded Lake Almanor Bike Trail Chipseal Project repaired cracks, potholes, and resurfaced 11 miles trail to enhance the recreation experience.

Big J Construction Company also completed new construction on 500 feet to connect two segments of existing trail, finishing the project in December 2010.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California – Paving / Chipseal / Aggregate Surfacing

Local Project Name: INF - Mono Basin SAVC Parking

Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Forest: Inyo

Ranger District: Mono Lake

Nearby City(ies): LeeVining, CA

Estimated Project Cost: $187,844.00

Congressional District(s): CA01, CA02, CA03, CA04, CA17, CA19, CA21, CA22, CA24, CA25, CA26, CA41, CA45

County(ies): CA: Alpine, El Dorado, Fresno, Humboldt, Inyo, Kern, Lassen, Madera, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Placer, Plumas, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity

Modified Date: 12/22/2010

Story:

Popular Visitor Center Parking Area Restored

(Story posted 12/9/2010)

The Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center (SAVC) is located in Mono County, California, near the town of LeeVining. The SAVC serves as the interpretive center for the Mono Basin Scenic Area and its focal point Mono Lake and the nearby volcanic area. It also serves as the initial contact point for visitors to the Eastern Sierra traveling south on U.S. Highway 395 and those visiting Yosemite National Park from the east side of the Sierras. Over 110,000 people visit the SAVC annually during the center's eight month operating season from April through November.

The SAVC parking area has deteriorated since it was constructed in 1983 due to heavy traffic and harsh weather conditions. Improvements to the parking lot will enhance visitor experience through increased accessibility through greater comfort and safety. The project includes repairing approximately 60,600 square feet of parking area and 0.4 miles of entrance road.

A contract was awarded to KW Emerson out of San Andreas, California, for the amount of $187,844. This parking lot was repaved using asphalt recycling. The surface of the parking lot was scrapped up then ground up to yield a material similar to cold mix asphalt. This material was recycled and used for the new surface. This project was completed in October 2010.

Program Project Name: Non-Motor/Non-Wilderness Trails

Local Project Name: INF - Lake Mary Bike Trail

Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Forest: Inyo

Ranger District: Mammoth

Nearby City(ies): Mammoth Lakes, CA
Estimated Project Cost: $3,336,080.00
Congressional District(s): CA01, CA02, CA03, CA04, CA19, CA21, CA22, CA25, NV02
County(ies): CA: Butte, Calaveras, Del Norte, El Dorado, Humboldt, Kern, Lassen, Mono, Plumas, Sierra, Siskiyou, Trinity, Tuolumne, Yuba; NV: Douglas
Modified Date: 12/23/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Lake Mary Bike Trail Completion

(Story posted 12/9/2010)

A Recovery Act-funded project completes the Lake Mary Bike Trail Project by finishing the construction of approximately three miles of Class 1 Trail from the Twin Lakes Bridge to Horseshoe Lake. The Lake Mary Bike Trail is located in Mono County, California, and will connect the Town of Mammoth Lakes urban core with the adjacent Mammoth Lakes Basin area. The Lakes Basin is a concentrated recreation area on the Inyo National Forest containing three major wilderness trailheads, five high occupancy campgrounds, six resort complexes, and other recreation amenities.

Approximately 7,000 to 8,000 vehicles access the Mammoth Lakes Basin on a typical summer day. Completion of the Class 1 Bike Path from Twin Lakes Bridge to Horseshoe Lake, in combination with public transit, will reduce vehicle trips to the Lakes Basin and provide for multi-modal transportation throughout the Basin.

This project is in conjunction with the Town of Mammoth Lakes, who have been designing and developing portions of this trail for several years. This partnership will make the final construction of the trail possible. A construction contract and two challenge cost-share agreements will be used to complete this project.

Phase 1 of this project was an agreement with the Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML) was for $450,000 and has been completed. This phase extended the ongoing construction during the summer/fall of 2009 to a logical terminus. After phase 1 was completed, phase 2 began.

Phase 2 of this project is a construction contract awarded to Spiess Construction, Inc. from Santa Maria, California. The contract includes the construction of 3,500 feet of bike trail, retaining walls, a box culvert tunnel, a bridge, several bus shelters and pullouts, and parking space at the end of the trail. The construction portion of this project began in September 2010. The culvert tunnel was successfully installed before the winter weather caused the project to be shut down until the spring.

This second phase is being implemented through a partnership between the Forest Service and the Town of Mammoth Lakes. While the Forest Service is administering the contract, the Town is providing contract oversight and engineering support to ensure the project’s success.

Program Project Name: Mammoth Lakes Trail Signage Infrastructure Improvement Project

Local Project Name: INF - Mammoth Signage & Wayfinding
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Inyo
Ranger District: Mammoth
Nearby City(ies): Mammoth Lakes, CA
Estimated Project Cost: $248,926.00
Congressional District(s): CA25
County(ies): CA: Mono
Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:

Forest Works with Partners to Improve Recreation Signage

(Story posted 12/9/2010)

On the Inyo National Forest, Recovery Act funds are helping recreational visitors find their way. Located in Mono County, California, in and adjacent to the Town of Mammoth Lakes on National Forest System lands, this project is a partnership between the Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML) and Inyo National Forest. TOML has a network of trails within and around the town on National Forest System Lands and this project is helping finalize design, fabricate, and install approximately 175 directional, "you are here" and interpretive signs on this trail network.

The TOML Trails Master Plan had already identified signage needs and initial design and style. Through a Challenge Cost Share agreement, TOML has finalized the signage design and needs, prepared a fabrication and installation contract bid package, and is providing quality assurance and contract inspection services for the Forest Service.

The Forest Service put the fabrication and installation contracts out to bid. This project was broken into two separate contracts: one for the design of the interpretive panels and one for the fabrication and installation of signs.

The interpretive design contract was awarded to Fallon Multimedia from Kings Beach, California. This contract is currently underway. The product will be the digital designs of 16 interpretive panels that will be installed on the trail system described above.

The fabrication and installation contract was awarded to Advertising Concepts from Fort Collins, Colorado. This contract began in August 2010 and has been shut down due to winter weather. Work on the project will resume in the spring.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California Storm Proofing / Reconstruction Roads

Local Project Name: Timber Sale Road Projects
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Stanislaus
Nearby City(ies): Sonora, Groveland, Arnold
Congressional District(s): CA19
County(ies): CA: Calaveras, Tuolumne
Modified Date: 1/7/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Stanislaus National Forest Road Projects Benefit Public, Resources

(Story posted 12/10/2010)

The six Stanislaus National Forest Timber Sale Road rehabilitation projects were bundled within a regional Road Storm Proofing project. Roads were repaired and armored to reduce and prevent erosion and sedimentation and to improve traffic safety and to provide access for haul vehicles for timber sales. The projects were carried out under six contracts:

The Sourgrass contract included reconstruction of 15.5 miles of forest roads to restore vehicle access and reduce erosion. The road system was prepared for a proposed fuel reduction and thinning project, enhancing the economic viability of the fuel reduction project. Road work included road drainage features such as dips, water bars, culverts and ditches; aggregate road surfacing in critical locations; grading the road surface; and removing encroaching brush.

The Strawberry contract reconstructed 3.4 miles of forest road associated with a proposed fuel reduction and thinning project, similar to Sourgrass.

The Middle Fork contract restored a 0.6 mile section of forest road associated with a proposed fuel reduction and thinning project. While similar to the Sourgrass project, it was more limited in scope but included road drainage features such as dips, water bars, and culverts; grading; and brushing.

The Stone contract improved watershed and wildlife habitat conditions by restoring road drainage structures, closing unneeded dirt roads, and realigning roads that encroached on a meadow.

The Forest Road 3N29 contract repaired flood damage on Forest Road 3N29. The repair included reconstructing earthen road fill and armoring the road surface while filling banks with riprap, gabions, and revetment matting to resist future washouts.

The Forest Road 2S30/2S02 contract repaired flood damage on Forest Road 2S30 and Forest Road 2S02. The repair included rehabilitating with road fill and armoring the road surface and filling banks with riprap for robustness; replacing a washed out culvert; installing

a tapered culvert inlet to resist future washouts; and minor paving to resist future erosion.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California – Paving / Chipseal / Aggregate Surfacing

Local Project Name: Los Padres Road Surfacing Work
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Los Padres
Ranger District: Monterey
Nearby City(ies): Santa Barbara
Estimated Project Cost: $977,101.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 9
Congressional District(s): CA17, CA22, CA23, CA24
County(ies): CA: Kern, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara
Modified Date: 1/4/2011

Story:

Los Padres National Forest Road Paving Projects Complete

(Story posted 12/10/2010)

Beginning in May, a series of road paving projects were initiated on Los Padres National Forest thanks to funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Existing roads, fire stations, and campgrounds were all improved under the additional funding through the use of contractors.

The work included 5,225 tons of asphalt paving, more than 310,000 square feet of asphalt sealing, and the installation of 45 highways signs and markers. Four fire stations were sealed and/or paved along with six campgrounds and day use areas. Many of these improvement projects were badly in need of work, and the infusion of additional capital enabled the Forest to bring these roads and parking areas up to standard.

“The quality of the work performed by the contractors was second to none,” according to Bob Jarvis, Los Padres forest transportation system manager. “The intent of the Recovery Act was to put people back to work, and in this case, that is exactly what it did. They did an outstanding job on this.”

The total amount of money directed to Forest road improvements was $977,101. All road improvement projects were completed by November 19, 2010.

Program Project Name: Region-wide Facility Improvement Projects

Local Project Name: San Bernardino National Forest Supervisor's Office Energy Efficiency Upgrades
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: San Bernardino

Nearby City(ies): San Bernardino
Estimated Project Cost: $500,000.00
Congressional District(s): CA41
County(ies): CA: San Bernardino
Modified Date: 12/23/2010

Story:
San Bernardino National Forest Supervisor's Office Gets Energy-efficient Upgrades

(Story posted 12/10/2010)

On the San Bernardino National Forest, a Recovery Act-funded project employed approximately 24 individuals to replace the building's outdated single-pane windows with energy efficient double-pane windows and modify the heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems.

The project work plan was approved, funding obligated, and the contract was completed in early June--on-time and on-budget. The improvements should reduce building utility costs. Southern California Edison has already credited the Forest with utility bill rebates for energy conservation.

Program Project Name: Renewable Energy Co-generation Facilities Northwest California

Local Project Name: Renewable Energy Cogen Facility - Buena Vista Power
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Nearby City(ies): Ione
Estimated Project Cost: $2,452,450.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 50
Congressional District(s): CA03
County(ies): CA: Amador
Modified Date: 12/17/2010

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Support Renewable Energy Power Generation Facility Development

(Story posted 12/10/2010)

The Buena Vista Biomass Power (BVBP) is an 18-megawatt electric generation facility that is currently being re-powered as a long-term sustainable biomass renewable energy power generation facility located in Buena Vista, California. A substantial capital investment has been required prior to a safe, reliable, and environmentally-responsible commercial operation can begin. When in service BVBP will generate enough renewable energy to sustain approximately 16,000 homes and will consume approximately 210,000 tons of woody

biomass fuel.

During construction over fifty (50) skilled and unskilled jobs will be created. When the plant is operational it is anticipated that approximately 90 jobs will be created, including 20 full-time jobs at the site to operate and maintain the facility.

Recovery Act funds were used to purchase equipment to modernize the existing facility that had previously processed coal and reconfigure the facility to utilize renewable woody biomass as the only fuel source. Prior to re-starting the project, BVBP will coordinate with local, county, state, and federal agencies in the review and modification of existing operating permits.

The re-powering investment will include substantial efficiency upgrades; a completely integrated emissions system embracing best available control technology; a biomass fuel handling system; and an energy-management and operating control system. The permits guide each activity from construction to on-going project operation to ensure that it is handled in a safe, reliable manner and meets or exceeds environment standards as set by the various oversight agencies.

Before becoming operational, the facility must complete the permitting and certification process and complete the needed environmental analysis.

BVBP will facilitates forest management by utilizing woody biomass from nearby forests. It creates the opportunity for promote sustainable management practices by having a market for the woody biomass products generated as a result of forest management activities.

The project will provide the following societal benefits: improved air quality, reduced landfill waste, a market for hazardous forest fuels, economic development, a carbon neutral footprint, and contribution to the tax base.

Shasta, Lassen, Modoc, Siskiyou, and Plumas counties will benefit from this project with an expected completion date of late July 2011.

Program Project Name: Renewable Energy Co-generation Facilities Northwest California

Local Project Name: Renewable Energy Cogen Facilities - Blue Lake Power
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Nearby City(ies): Eureka, CA
Estimated Project Cost: $2,006,550.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 10
Congressional District(s): CA01
County(ies): CA: Humboldt
Modified Date: 12/17/2010

Story:
Forest Service Recovery Act Funds Renewable Energy Restart Project

(Story posted 12/10/2010)

The Blue Lake Power Restart Project opened a 12-megawatt plant that had been idle since 1999. In 2008 a group of investors called Renewable Energy Providers and minority owner Land Gas Technology bought Blue Lake Power. The business ran into financing problems during the height of the economic crisis and stockpiled wood chips sat in the yard for months.

With the plant operational, 10 people will be employed at the facility. The plant will indirectly support other jobs such as vendors and suppliers.

Recovery Act funds were used to purchase equipment to modernize the existing facility. The re-powering investment in equipment allows for the handling of biomass, a renewable energy source, unlike natural gas or coal.

The Blue Lake facility has been operational since mid-2010, and the plant has been connected to the California Independent System Operator power grid.

Blue Lake Power has a power purchase agreement with San Diego Gas and Electric, which can use it as an addition to its renewable energy portfolio.

Blue Lake Power coordinated the restart with the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District. The power plant in the Blue Lake business park pays about $100,000 to the city annually in rent. Blue Lake Power has now paid $160,000 to the City of Blue Lake owed for its lease, its water and sewer bill, and other expenses. That money has been built into the city's annual budget, avoiding cuts the city would have had to make without this payment.

At the startup the plant had about five months of chips on hand to begin the wood-to-energy conversion.

The project is providing long-term benefits to the following communities in Humboldt County: Blue Lake, McKinleyville, Eureka, Arcata, and Willow Creek.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California Storm Proofing / Reconstruction Roads

Local Project Name: Old Ridge Route Construction
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Angeles
Nearby City(ies): Castaic
Estimated Project Cost: $416,262.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 9

Congressional District(s): CA22
County(ies): CA: Los Angeles
Modified Date: 1/7/2011

Story:

Contractors work with Forest Service to Repair Historic Highway in California

(Story posted 12/10/2010)

A National historic highway north of Los Angeles has been given a new lease on life through the use of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act project dollars. A portion of the Old Ridge Route, built in 1915 and later paved with concrete, had deteriorated over the decades.

This historic route originally connected Bakersfield and Los Angeles. Today I-5 serves this purpose for the commuting public. The route continues to be a favorite with historians, vintage car enthusiasts, and recreationists. The route also provides access to major utility corridors.

As a Recovery Act project, the Angeles National Forest contracted with Kanayan Construction, a small business, for extensive restoration work on a mile and a half stretch of the highway, north of Lake Castaic. The project contract was $416,000, which provided work for six Kanayan employees, three of whom were new hires.

The Old Ridge Route had slowly declined over its 90 years of life and was heavily damaged by winter storms in 2005. The project included the restoration of a portion of the highway to replicate the original concrete construction. The workers repaired and replaced existing road drains; removed overgrown brush and vegetation; and replaced concrete road surfacing that had disintegrated.

The project was completed September 17, 2010.

Program Project Name: Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

Local Project Name: Granite Saw Log Biomass - Removal/Thinning
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Stanislaus
Nearby City(ies): Sonora, CA
Estimated Project Cost: $386,200.00
Congressional District(s): CA03
County(ies): CA: Stanislaus
Modified Date: 12/10/2010

Story:

A story has not yet been written for this local project.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California – Paving / Chipseal / Aggregate Surfacing

Local Project Name: SRF - Lower Trinity, Salyer Compound Paving
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Six Rivers
Ranger District: Lower Trinity
Nearby City(ies): Willow Creek, CA
Congressional District(s): CA02
County(ies): CA: Trinity
Modified Date: 12/22/2010

Story:

Six Rivers National Forest Paves Guard Station Roads

(Story posted 12/10/2010)

This Recovery Act-funded project was designed to repair all asphalt and native surface or aggregate surface roads currently existing at the Forest Service Salyer Guard Station in Salyer, California, on the Six Rivers National Forest.

Maintenance and repair within the scope of this project was determined to be as follows:
• Patch potholes (“digouts”)
• Apply two inches of overlay (additional) asphalt to all previously black-topped, native, or aggregate surfaces within the footprint of the Salyer Guard Station
• Crack seal and fog seal where needed throughout all asphalt surfaces within the guard station footprint
• Restore/repaint all parking and traffic lines where needed throughout all asphalt surfaces within the guard station footprint

Work was completed in summer 2010.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California – Paving / Chipseal / Aggregate Surfacing

Local Project Name: SRF - Orleans Lower Parking Lot Paving
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Six Rivers
Ranger District: Orleans
Nearby City(ies): Willow Creek, CA
Congressional District(s): CA01
County(ies): CA: Humboldt
Modified Date: 12/22/2010

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Pave Gravel Parking Lot

(Story posted 12/10/2010)

This project involves repairs to heavily used, deteriorated roads on National Forest lands across California. This project includes asphalt repair and placement on roads and parking lots accessing visitor centers, popular recreation facilities, and a snowmobile park.

Contractors paved the Orleans Ranger District gravel parking lot in the summer of 2010.

Program Project Name: Region-wide Road Maintenance Projects

Local Project Name: Six Rivers NF Roadside brushing project
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Six Rivers
Nearby City(ies): Eureka, CA
Congressional District(s): CA01, CA02
County(ies): CA: Del Norte, Humboldt, Siskiyou, Trinity
Modified Date: 12/23/2010

Story:
Forest-wide Brush Removal Project Improves Traveler Safety

(Story posted 12/10/2010)

The Six Rivers National Forest roadside brush removal project was one of the first projects funded on the Forest under the Recovery Act.

A large backlog of deferred maintenance in brush removal was identified on the Forest, and in March 2009 the Six Rivers received $1,014,000 in Recovery Act funds to remove brush along 749 miles of forest roads.

The brushing work was completed in 2010 across four counties.

Road safety is a major benefit, as removing brush improves visibility along roadways, especially around turns. Fire safety is another benefit because removing brush helps roads function as firebreaks and improves access for firefighters in case of fire. From a natural resource standpoint, opening up roads makes it possible for Forest Service employees to get out and identify road maintenance and restoration needs on the forest that should be addressed to prevent resource damage.

Program Project Name: Wilderness Trail Projects

Local Project Name: Partnership Marble Mountain, Russian and Siskiyou Wilderness Trail Repair -- Cook 2010

Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Forest: Klamath

Nearby City(ies): Happy Camp and Etna, CA

Estimated Project Cost: $13,530.00

Congressional District(s): CA02

County(ies): CA: Siskiyou

Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:

CCC Alumnus Cooks in the Wilderness for a Trail Crew

(Story posted 12/15/2010)

Recovery Act funds are providing support for youth trail crews on the Klamath National Forest. A contract cook was hired to prepare nutritious meals for a 14-17 person backcountry California Conservation Corps (CCC) trail crew. The crew members ranged in age from 18 to 24 years old and worked for 17 weeks between May and September 2010.

The cook, Emily Linders, lived and worked with the crew in three remote wilderness areas: Marble Mountain Wilderness, Siskiyou Wilderness and Russian Wilderness. Camps were located up to six miles from the nearest trailhead. All groceries and kitchen supplies were hauled in on pack animals.

Emily, an alumnus of the CCC backcountry program, knew what to expect when living and working in the backcountry. The previous year she worked as a CCC crew member on several trail projects on the Klamath National Forest.

This contract is part of a larger trail maintenance project on the Klamath National Forest that will utilize youth crews in 2010 and 2011 to improve ~38 miles of trails that were adversely affected by delayed maintenance or by wildfire. The objective of the project is to increase public safety and improve watershed conditions and access to remote wilderness areas.

Program Project Name: Wilderness Trail Projects

Local Project Name: Partnership Marble Mountain, Russian and Siskiyou Wilderness Trail Repair -- Pack Support Contracts

Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Forest: Klamath

Nearby City(ies): Happy Camp, CA and Etna, CA

Estimated Project Cost: $62,000.00

Congressional District(s): CA02

County(ies): CA: Siskiyou

Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:
Recovery Act Funds to Provide Support for Youth Trail Crews on the Klamath National Forest in 2010 and 2011

(Story posted 12/15/2010)

Two local contract packers are providing pack stock to carry materials and supplies to crews maintaining trails in the Marble Mountain, Siskiyou, and Russian wilderness areas on the Klamath National Forest.

Local contractors are using pack stock to carry materials, tools, and provisions, including groceries and kitchen supplies, in to youth crews maintaining trails in the Marble Mountain, Siskiyou, and Russian wilderness areas. The ongoing seasonal project is employing youth crews to improve 38 miles of trails adversely affected by delayed regular maintenance or wildfires.

The project is enhancing public safety, improving watershed conditions, and reducing the Forest's deferred maintenance backlog while providing youth between the ages of 18 to 24 with work opportunities and job training. Wilderness trail restoration is highly labor intensive and requires using hand tools and other non-mechanized equipment that also calls for pack stock delivery. Work will continue in spring 2011 for another field season.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California Storm Proofing / Reconstruction Roads

Local Project Name: Perazzo Watershed Improvement Project
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Tahoe
Ranger District: Truckee
Nearby City(ies): 10 miles north of Truckee
Congressional District(s): CA02, CA03, CA04, CA19, CA21, CA25, CA26, CA41, CA45
County(ies): CA: El Dorado, Los Angeles, Madera, Modoc, Plumas, San Bernardino, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne
Modified Date: 1/7/2011

Story:
Perazzo Meadows Undergoes Restoration Using Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 1/6/2011)

Perazzo Meadows, on the east side of the Tahoe National Forest, is undergoing restoration after 100 years of deterioration due to historic dairy operations and development of canals and railroad grades. Dairy operations diverted the stream from its original channel, initiating a chain of events leading to the meadow deterioration.

This project has been in the planning stages for many years as a partnership between the Forest Service, the Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC), the Truckee Donner Land Trust, and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funds to both the Forest Service and the TRWC were combined to fund this project at approximately $800,000 for both the upper meadow in 2009 and the middle meadow restoration and monitoring.

The stream channel through the meadow has been down-cutting and widening, thus lowering the water table (as evidenced by the presence of sagebrush). This in turn has led to warm water temperatures, a decrease in trout populations, and high run-off, which continues to down-cut the streambed. The project is designed to reduce the energy of the water and slow it down so that it will flood the banks of the channel and spread over the entire meadow, raising the water table.

Tractors and backhoes built plugs (or mini earthen barriers) in the existing stream channel. In 2009, contractors built 30 plugs along the 1.5 mile stretch of the upper meadow, and in 2010, they built 38 plugs along 1.75 miles of stream in the middle meadow. During the winter, these plugs cause the stream to flood the meadow, raise the water table to make the water more accessible to the vegetation, and keep it longer in the meadow.

This action is a matter of timing, not the amount of water. If the meadow can hold onto the water longer and release it slowly, the meadow will recover. It will take approximately three years after the work has been completed for the meadow vegetation to recover. This plug and pond system is expected to raise the water table three feet or more, enhancing the health of the meadow and the habitat for various species of wildlife.

Program Project Name: Recreation Site Reconstruction

Local Project Name: White Cloud Day Use Area Demolition

Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Forest: Tahoe

Ranger District: Yuba River Ranger District

Nearby City(ies): 10 Miles East of Nevada City

Estimated Project Cost: $135,134.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 0.27

Congressional District(s): CA01, CA02, CA03, CA04, CA19, CA22, CA24, CA25, CA26, CA27, CA41, CA45, CA49

County(ies): CA: Butte, El Dorado, Kern, Lake, Los Angeles, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Plumas, Riverside, San Bernardino, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yuba

Modified Date: 1/14/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Help Decommission Targeted Facilities

(Story posted 1/6/2011)

On the Tahoe National Forest, Recovery Act-funded projects to improve recreation sites are underway. In addition, workers are removing outdated sites in poor condition that have been identified as no longer needed for numerous reasons. Well-maintained recreation facilities, including accessible picnic areas, sanitary restrooms, and clean drinking water enhance visitor enjoyment.

The Tahoe National Forest Recreation Facility Analysis identified the White Cloud Day Use Area as a site to be decommissioned. Contractors demolished the picnic ground, removing asphalt, picnic facilities, and restrooms and returning the ground to natural conditions.

Program Project Name: Recreation Site Reconstruction

Local Project Name: Oregon Creek Day Use Site Improvement
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Tahoe
Ranger District: Yuba River Ranger District
Nearby City(ies): 5 Miles south of Camptonville
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 1.29
Congressional District(s): CA01, CA02, CA03, CA04, CA19, CA22, CA24, CA25, CA26, CA27, CA41, CA45, CA49
County(ies): CA: Butte, El Dorado, Kern, Lake, Los Angeles, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Plumas, Riverside, San Bernardino, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yuba
Modified Date: 1/12/2011

Story:

Recreation Improvements Support Visitor Enjoyment, Protect Resources

(Story posted 1/6/2011)

On the Tahoe National Forest, Recovery Act-funded projects to improve recreation sites are underway. Well-maintained recreation facilities, including accessible picnic areas, sanitary restrooms, and clean drinking water enhance visitor enjoyment.

Contractors reconstructed the Oregon Creek Day Use Area to provide better picnic facilities and parking with emphasis on improving accessibility for people of all abilities. A storm water protection plan was developed and implemented to handle drainage and minimize erosion.

The finished project has improved visitors' experiences, thus supporting the local tourism economy. The storm water protection work is protecting resources.

Program Project Name: Recreation Site Reconstruction

Local Project Name: Yuba Pass and Upper Little Truckee Campground Improvements
Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Forest: Tahoe

Ranger District: Yuba River Ranger District

Nearby City(ies): Sierraville is about 13 miles from both campgrounds

Congressional District(s): CA01, CA02, CA03, CA04, CA19, CA22, CA24, CA25, CA26, CA27, CA41, CA45, CA49

County(ies): CA: Butte, El Dorado, Kern, Lake, Los Angeles, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Plumas, Riverside, San Bernardino, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yuba

Modified Date: 1/7/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds to Support Campground Reconstruction

(Story posted 1/6/2011)

On the Tahoe National Forest, Recovery Act-funded projects to improve recreation sites are underway. Well-maintained recreation facilities, including accessible picnic areas, sanitary restrooms, and clean drinking water enhance visitor enjoyment.

Contractors will reconstruct both Yuba Pass and Upper Little Truckee campgrounds to improve accessibility and complete deferred maintenance. The improvements to these Sierra County campgrounds will benefit people of all abilities.

Program Project Name: Recreation Site Reconstruction

Local Project Name: Installation of Concrete Vault Toilet Buildings

Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Forest: Tahoe

Ranger District: Yuba River Ranger District

Nearby City(ies): Sierraville is about 13 miles from both Upper Little Truckee and Yuba Pass Campgrounds. Camptonville is about 5 miles from Oregon Creek Day Use Area

Estimated Project Cost: $174,659.45

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 1.08

Congressional District(s): CA01, CA02, CA03, CA04, CA19, CA22, CA24, CA25, CA26, CA27, CA41, CA45, CA49

County(ies): CA: Butte, El Dorado, Kern, Lake, Los Angeles, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Plumas, Riverside, San Bernardino, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yuba

Modified Date: 1/14/2011

Story:

New Facilities Benefit Recreationists

(Story posted 1/6/2011)

On the Tahoe National Forest, Recovery Act-funded projects projects to improve recreation sites are underway. Well-maintained recreation facilities, including accessible picnic areas, sanitary restrooms, and clean drinking water enhance visitor enjoyment.

Contractors replaced six restroom buildings at Yuba Pass Campground, Upper Little Truckee Campground, and Oregon Creek Day Use Area.

Program Project Name: Recreation Site Reconstruction

Local Project Name: Campground Toilet Demolition

Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Forest: Tahoe

Ranger District: Yuba River Ranger District

Nearby City(ies): Sierraville is about 13 miles from both Yuba Pass and Upper Little Truckee Campground. Camptonville is about 5 miles from Oregon Creek Day Use Area

Congressional District(s): CA01, CA02, CA03, CA04, CA19, CA22, CA24, CA25, CA26, CA27, CA41, CA45, CA49

County(ies): CA: Butte, El Dorado, Kern, Lake, Los Angeles, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Plumas, Riverside, San Bernardino, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yuba

Modified Date: 1/7/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Tahoe National Forest Removal of Outdated Facilities

(Story posted 1/6/2011)

On the Tahoe National Forest, Recovery Act-funded projects to improve recreation sites are underway. Well-maintained recreation facilities, including accessible picnic areas, sanitary restrooms, and clean drinking water enhance visitor enjoyment.

Contractors removed four restroom buildings in poor condition at the Yuba Pass Campground, Upper Little Truckee Campground, and the Oregon Creek Day Use Area.

Program Project Name: Water/Wastewater System Health and Safety

Local Project Name: Union Flat Water System Rehabilitation

Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Forest: Tahoe

Nearby City(ies): Six miles east of Downieville

Congressional District(s): CA02, CA04, CA17, CA19, CA21, CA22, CA24, CA25, CA26, CA27, CA41, CA44, CA45, CA49, CA52

County(ies): CA: Butte, El Dorado, Fresno, Lassen, Los Angeles, Monterey, Nevada, Orange, Plumas, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Sierra, Ventura, Yuba

Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

New Well, Water Tank to Improve Potable Water Supply at Union Flat Campground

(Story posted 1/7/2011)

To provide a more consistent and potable water supply for Union Flat Campground, located six miles east of Downieville, California, workers will drill a new well and install a new water tank. The campground is located in Sierra County along Hwy 49 and the North Yuba River.

Providing safe drinking water and protecting public health and the environment through the proper treatment of wastewater is an increasingly important issue, particularly in California, where water shortages are a growing problem.

The Union Flat Campground work is one portion of a $1.01 million wastewater system health and safety project funded by Forest Service Recovery Act dollars that is being conducted across several national forests throughout California.

This Recovery Act project repairs or replaces select water and wastewater systems that serve heavily used recreation areas and offices on national forests throughout California. Most of the water and wastewater systems that will be repaired or replaced through this project were constructed between the 1930s and 1960s, but continue to be used beyond their original design life.

Maintenance costs of these systems are high, and the maintenance backlog needs are longstanding. This project is repairing or replacing water and sanitation infrastructure such as wells, tanks, septic, and filtration systems that do not meet current health and safety standards. The public will benefit from improvements in water quality, a reduction in water consumption, an increase in water conservation, and a reduction in future maintenance costs at Forest Service sites where these investments are made.

Program Project Name: Water/Wastewater System Health and Safety

Local Project Name: Forest-wide Water System Rehabilitation

Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Forest: San Bernardino

Nearby City(ies): Lytle Creek, Wrightwood, Happy Jack, Forest Falls, Mountain Home Village, Angelus Oaks, Crestline, Lake Arrowhead, Running Springs, Fawnskin, Big Bear, Hemet, Banning, Palm Springs, Idyllwild

Congressional District(s): CA26, CA41, CA43, CA45

County(ies): CA: Riverside, San Bernardino

Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Forest-wide Water System Improvements Underway at San Bernardino National Forest

(Story posted 1/13/2011)

Providing safe drinking water and protecting public health and the environment through the proper treatment of wastewater is an increasingly important issue, particularly in California, where water shortages are a growing problem.

This Recovery Act project repairs or replaces select water and wastewater systems that serve heavily used recreation areas and offices on national forests throughout California. Workers constructed most of the water and wastewater systems that will be repaired or replaced through this project between the 1930s and 1960s, but they continue to be used beyond their original design life.

Maintenance costs of these systems are high and the backlog of maintenance needs is longstanding. This project is repairing or replacing water and sanitation infrastructure such as wells, tanks, septic, and filtration systems that do not meet current health and safety standards. The public will benefit from improvements in water quality, a reduction in water consumption, an increase in water conservation, and a reduction in future maintenance costs at Forest Service sites where these investments are made.

In San Bernardino National Forest, located in California's Riverside and San Bernardino counties, forest-wide water system improvements at recreation and administrative sites are underway. Chlorinators, cleaning tanks, repairing lids, and replacing valves, tanks, and waterlines is anticipated. Funds were awarded in September 2010, with work expected to be completed by September 2011.

Program Project Name: Water/Wastewater System Health and Safety

Local Project Name: Loma Rica Sweer Repair - emergency Command Center wastewater disposal improvements

Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Forest: Tahoe

Nearby City(ies): 3 miles east of Grass Valley

Congressional District(s): CA02, CA04, CA17, CA19, CA21, CA22, CA24, CA25, CA26, CA27, CA41, CA44, CA45, CA49, CA52

County(ies): CA: Butte, El Dorado, Fresno, Lassen, Los Angeles, Monterey, Nevada, Orange, Plumas, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Sierra, Ventura, Yuba

Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds New Septic System at Emergency Command Center

(Story posted 1/10/2011)

Providing safe drinking water and protecting public health and the environment through the proper treatment of wastewater is an increasingly important issue, particularly in California, where water shortages are a growing problem.

This Recovery Act project repairs or replaces select water and wastewater systems that serve heavily used recreation areas and offices on national forests throughout California. Workers constructed most of the water and wastewater systems that will be repaired or

replaced through this project between the 1930s and 1960s, but they continue to be used beyond their original design life.

Maintenance costs of these systems are high and the backlog of maintenance needs is longstanding. This project is repairing or replacing water and sanitation infrastructure such as wells, tanks, septic, and filtration systems that do not meet current health and safety standards. The public will benefit from improvements in water quality, a reduction in water consumption, an increase in water conservation, and a reduction in future maintenance costs at Forest Service sites where these investments are made.

At the emergency command center in Nevada County, crews will bring the septic system up to current standards and increase capacity at the command center for the Forest Service and CAL FIRE, the Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit, who both share use of the facility. The project will also include repaving of the parking area at the complex.

Program Project Name: Hazardous Fuels Mitigation

Local Project Name: Loyalton Pines Fuelbreak
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Tahoe
Ranger District: Sierraville
Nearby City(ies): 4 miles from the town of Loyalton
Estimated Project Cost: $317,046.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 0.77
Congressional District(s): CA04, CA17, CA19, CA21, CA22, CA24
County(ies): CA: Fresno, Kern, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Sierra, Ventura
Modified Date: 2/15/2011

Story:

Workers Thin Thick Pine, Fir Stands on Tahoe National Forest to Reduce Wildfire Risk

(Story posted 1/14/2011)

The current drought in California, coupled with vast landscapes of trees killed by insects and thousands of acres of old decadent chaparral brush, has created hazardous fuels buildup throughout the state. Contiguous buildup of dead and dying vegetation can lead to large, dangerous, and expensive wildfires that can be harmful to forest watersheds and threaten surrounding communities.

A fuels reduction project is underway on the northeastern area of the Tahoe National Forest, adjacent to the Loyalton Pines subdivision. Thick stands of pine and fir trees created hazardous fuel conditions for the subdivision. Workers thinned the stands by hand and piled the timber on steep ground. Workers will burn the piles once they fully dry out.

This is one effort within a larger project that is being funded by Forest Service Recovery Act

funds. The project's overall goal is to reduce the size and scale of forest fires by clearing brush along roads and fire lines and removing dead trees in areas where they create an unnatural fuel buildup. The fuel breaks created will help slow the rate of spread of wildfires and provide places for firefighters to take a stand in fighting fires. The woody biomass byproduct will help support the wood-to-energy industry in the Sierra Nevada region of California.

Program Project Name: Hazardous Fuels Mitigation

Local Project Name: Scraps Defensible Fuel Profile Zone
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Tahoe
Ranger District: Sierraville
Nearby City(ies): 8 miles east of Sierraville
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 14
Congressional District(s): CA04, CA17, CA19, CA21, CA22, CA24
County(ies): CA: Fresno, Kern, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Sierra, Ventura
Modified Date: 2/15/2011

Story:

Contractors Remove Small Trees on 792 Acres to Reduce Hazardous Fuels Buildup

(Story posted 1/12/2011)

The current drought in California, coupled with vast landscapes of trees killed by insects and thousands of acres of old decadent chaparral brush, has created hazardous fuels buildup throughout the state. Contiguous buildup of dead and dying vegetation can lead to large, dangerous, and expensive wildfires that can be harmful to forest watersheds and threaten surrounding communities.

On the northeast portion of the Tahoe National Forest, contractors embarked on a fuels reduction project on 792 acres to remove small trees though hand piling along the fuel break or Defensible Fuel Profile Zone.

The project created 14 jobs with Pacific Coast Contracting, Inc.

This is one effort within a larger project with the goal of reducing the size and scale of forest fires by clearing brush along roads and fire lines and removing dead trees in areas where they create an unnatural fuel buildup. The fuel breaks created will help slow the rate of spread of wildfires and provide places for firefighters to take a stand in fighting fires. The woody biomass byproduct will help support the wood-to-energy industry in the Sierra Nevada region of California.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded the project.

Program Project Name: Hazardous Fuels Mitigation

Local Project Name: Scraps Mastication Project
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Tahoe
Ranger District: Sierraville
Nearby City(ies): 10 miles east of Sierraville
Congressional District(s): CA04, CA17, CA19, CA21, CA22, CA24
County(ies): CA: Fresno, Kern, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Sierra, Ventura
Modified Date: 2/15/2011

Story:

Crews Minimize Fire Hazard on Tahoe National Forest

(Story posted 1/10/2011)

The current drought in California, coupled with vast landscapes of trees killed by insects and thousands of acres of old decadent chaparral brush, has created hazardous fuels buildup throughout the state. Contiguous buildup of dead and dying vegetation can lead to large, dangerous, and expensive wildfires that can be harmful to forest watersheds and threaten surrounding communities.

On the Tahoe National Forest, workers masticated small trees and brush to reduce the fire hazard on 249 acres. Their work included a thinning and pre-commercial thinning.

This is one effort within a larger project with the goal of reducing the size and scale of forest fires by clearing brush along roads and fire lines and removing dead trees in areas where they create an unnatural fuel buildup. The fuel breaks created will help slow the rate of spread of wildfires and provide places for firefighters to take a stand in fighting fires. The woody biomass byproduct will help support the wood-to-energy industry in the Sierra Nevada region of California.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded the project.

Program Project Name: Insect and Disease Mitigation for Sugar Pines

Local Project Name: Mistletoe Removal in Scraps DFPZ area
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Tahoe
Ranger District: Sierraville
Nearby City(ies): 8 miles east of Sierraville
Congressional District(s): CA03, CA04, CA21
County(ies): CA: Alpine, Sierra, Tulare
Modified Date: 2/15/2011

Story:
Workers Removing Mistletoe from 32-acre Pine Plantation

(Story posted 1/10/2011)

White pine blister rust is a tree mortality disease that is infecting sugar pines and other white pines throughout California. By finding sugar pines that are resistant to white pine blister rust and collecting their cones, disease-resistant trees can be grown from the seeds inside the cones. People can then plant these seedlings in areas where other trees have died, creating a healthy forest that is resistant to disease.

The Forest Service will work with the Sugar Pine Foundation to survey areas throughout California to locate areas infected with white pine blister rust and to find stands of healthy trees that are resistant to this disease. Brush, smaller trees, and other vegetation will be cleared from the stand in order to increase the life spans of the healthy trees. The resulting healthy forests will provide clean water, abundant wildlife, and recreational opportunities for future generations.

On the Tahoe National Forest, workers are removing mistletoe on a 32-acre pine plantation located eight miles east of Sierraville.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded the project.

Program Project Name: Insect and Disease Mitigation for Sugar Pines

Local Project Name: End of World Plantation Roadside Thinning
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Tahoe
Ranger District: American River Ranger District
Nearby City(ies): 25 miles east of Foresthill
Congressional District(s): CA03, CA04, CA21
County(ies): CA: Alpine, Sierra, Tulare
Modified Date: 2/15/2011

Story:
Workers Thin 170 Acres to Meet Forest Health Needs

(Story posted 1/10/2011)

White pine blister rust is a tree mortality disease that is infecting sugar pines and other white pines throughout California. By finding sugar pines that are resistant to white pine blister rust and collecting their cones, disease-resistant trees can be grown from the seeds inside the cones. People can then plant these seedlings in areas where other trees have died, creating a healthy forest that is resistant to disease.

The Forest Service will work with the Sugar Pine Foundation to survey areas throughout California to locate areas infected with white pine blister rust and to find stands of healthy trees that are resistant to this disease. Brush, smaller trees, and other vegetation will be cleared from the stand in order to increase the life spans of the healthy trees. The resulting healthy forests will provide clean water, abundant wildlife, and recreational opportunities for future generations.

Off of Mosquito Ridge Road on the southern portion of the Tahoe National Forest, workers are hand thinning and piling 170 acres for fuels reduction and forest health needs. A chipping project along primary roads is also planned.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded the project.

Program Project Name: Insect and Disease Mitigation for Sugar Pines

Local Project Name: End of World Mechanical Thin
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Tahoe
Ranger District: American River Ranger District
Nearby City(ies): 25 miles east of Foresthill
Congressional District(s): CA03, CA04, CA21
County(ies): CA: Alpine, Sierra, Tulare
Modified Date: 2/15/2011

Story:

Forest Service Surveys Tahoe National Forest for White Pine Blister Rust

(Story posted 1/10/2011)

White pine blister rust is a tree mortality disease that is infecting sugar pines and other white pines throughout California. By finding sugar pines that are resistant to white pine blister rust and collecting their cones, disease-resistant trees can be grown from the seeds inside the cones. People can then plant these seedlings in areas where other trees have died, creating a healthy forest that is resistant to disease.

The Forest Service will work with the Sugar Pine Foundation to survey areas throughout California to locate areas infected with white pine blister rust and to find stands of healthy trees that are resistant to this disease. Brush, smaller trees, and other vegetation will be cleared from the stand in order to increase the life spans of the healthy trees. The resulting healthy forests will provide clean water, abundant wildlife, and recreational opportunities for future generations.

On the southern part of the Tahoe National Forest, workers are completing mechanical thinning of a plantation through mastication for fuel reduction and forest health needs.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded the project.

Program Project Name: Thinning and Biomass Phase 2

Local Project Name: Trimble 2008 GEO XT Handheld GPS
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Tahoe
Ranger District: American River Ranger District
Nearby City(ies): Foresthill, CA
Congressional District(s): CA04, CA19
County(ies): CA: Mariposa, Placer, Sierra
Modified Date: 2/15/2011

Story:

Forest Service Purchases GPS Technology with Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 1/10/2011)

Thinning over-crowded stands of trees will make important strides towards improving forest health in California. The overcrowding, along with the current drought, makes trees weak and vulnerable to disease and insect attacks, resulting in tree mortality. By thinning a stand, the remaining trees become healthier and more vigorous, which reduces susceptibility to the western bark beetle and other damaging organisms.

Creating healthier stands of trees also increases the stand's resilience to wildfires. Reducing the risk of beetle infestation through thinning, and the resulting decrease in future standing dead trees, will help protect local communities from devastating wildland fires and create more fire-safe communities.

This project focuses thinning in areas of high susceptibility to mortality in the Sierra Nevada region in California. The byproduct from this project, known as woody biomass, will be used to not only manufacture wood products but also to produce energy. Wood-to-energy projects such as this support the nation's goal to reduce our use and reliance on fossil fuels.

Utilizing American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds awarded to the project, the Forest Service purchased a handheld GPS unit for temporary employees to use for training, coordination, and inspection of projects.

Program Project Name: Thinning and Biomass Phase 2

Local Project Name: One full size truck rental
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Tahoe
Ranger District: American River Ranger District

Nearby City(ies): Foresthill, CA
Congressional District(s): CA04, CA19
County(ies): CA: Mariposa, Placer, Sierra
Modified Date: 2/15/2011

Story:
Forest Service Recovery Act Funds Pay for Employee Transport to Project Site

(Story posted 1/10/2011)

Thinning over-crowded stands of trees will make important strides towards improving forest health in California. The overcrowding, along with the current drought, makes trees weak and vulnerable to disease and insect attacks, resulting in tree mortality. By thinning a stand, the remaining trees become healthier and more vigorous, which reduces susceptibility to the western bark beetle and other damaging organisms.

Creating healthier stands of trees also increases the stand's resilience to wildfires. Reducing the risk of beetle infestation through thinning, and the resulting decrease in future standing dead trees, will help protect local communities from devastating wildland fires and create more fire-safe communities.

This project focuses thinning in areas of high susceptibility to mortality in the Sierra Nevada region in California. The byproduct from this project, known as woody biomass, will be used to not only manufacture wood products but also to produce energy. Wood-to-energy projects such as this support the nation's goal to reduce our use and reliance on fossil fuels.

Utilizing American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds, the Forest Service rented a truck to transport employees to the project.

Program Project Name: Thinning and Biomass Phase 2

Local Project Name: Inspection Services ARRA Project Coordinator/COR
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Tahoe
Ranger District: American River Ranger District
Nearby City(ies): Foresthill, CA
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 1
Congressional District(s): CA04, CA19
County(ies): CA: Mariposa, Placer, Sierra
Modified Date: 2/15/2011

Story:
Project Coordinator Hired to Prepare Layout, Design of Thinning Project

(Story posted 1/12/2011)

Thinning over-crowded stands of trees will make important strides towards improving forest health in California. The overcrowding, along with the current drought, makes trees weak and vulnerable to disease and insect attacks, resulting in tree mortality. By thinning a stand, the remaining trees become healthier and more vigorous, which reduces susceptibility to the western bark beetle and other damaging organisms.

Creating healthier stands of trees also increases the stand's resilience to wildfires. Reducing the risk of beetle infestation through thinning, and the resulting decrease in future standing dead trees, will help protect local communities from devastating wildland fires and create more fire-safe communities.

This project focuses thinning in areas of high susceptibility to mortality in the Sierra Nevada region in California. The byproduct from this project, known as woody biomass, will be used to not only manufacture wood products but also to produce energy. Wood-to-energy projects such as this support the nation's goal to reduce our use and reliance on fossil fuels.

Utilizing American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds, the Forest Service hired a temporary project coordinator to prepare layout and design of the project and to coordinate crew member training.

Program Project Name: Thinning and Biomass Phase 2

Local Project Name: Inspection Services - ARRA Project Inspector
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Tahoe
Ranger District: American River Ranger District
Nearby City(ies): Foresthill, CA
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 1
Congressional District(s): CA04, CA19
County(ies): CA: Mariposa, Placer, Sierra
Modified Date: 2/15/2011

Story:

Forest Service Hires Temporary Employee to Provide Project Inspection

(Story posted 1/12/2011)

Thinning over-crowded stands of trees will make important strides towards improving forest health in California. The overcrowding, along with the current drought, makes trees weak and vulnerable to disease and insect attacks, resulting in tree mortality. By thinning a stand, the remaining trees become healthier and more vigorous, which reduces susceptibility to the western bark beetle and other damaging organisms.

Creating healthier stands of trees also increases the stand's resilience to wildfires. Reducing

the risk of beetle infestation through thinning, and the resulting decrease in future standing dead trees, will help protect local communities from devastating wildland fires and create more fire-safe communities.

This project focuses thinning in areas of high susceptibility to mortality in the Sierra Nevada region in California. The byproduct from this project, known as woody biomass, will be used to not only manufacture wood products but also to produce energy. Wood-to-energy projects such as this support the nation's goal to reduce our use and reliance on fossil fuels.

Utilizing American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds, the Forest Service hired a temporary employee to provide project inspection.

Program Project Name: Clean-up of Abandoned Mines

Local Project Name: Poorman Mine Tailings
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Tahoe
Ranger District: Yuba River Ranger District
Nearby City(ies): 20 miles northeast of Nevada City
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 0.18
Congressional District(s): CA04
County(ies): CA: Nevada, Sierra
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Workers Clean Up Mine Tailings, Remove Contaminated Soil at Poorman Mine

(Story posted 1/12/2011)

The Tahoe National Forest is in the heart of one of the most historic gold mining areas in California. But this legacy has left behind hundreds of abandoned hazardous mine openings, many located near communities, schools, campgrounds, and other popular public use sites.

Because of physical hazards, such as uncovered mine entrances and shafts, abandoned equipment and vehicles, and deteriorating structures, workers are cleaning up old mine tailings and removing contaminated soil at Poorman Mine, located about two miles north of the town of Washington.

Reclamation of this site will result in improved public safety, enhanced water quality for downstream users, elimination of noxious weeds, and stabilization of erosive soils. The project will decrease hazards as well as diminish associated environmental issues on public lands.

The Tahoe National Forest will partner with the State of California: Department of Conservation, and the Office of Mine Reclamation on this project. The Forest received

funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for this project.

Program Project Name: Clean-up of Abandoned Mines

Local Project Name: Eaglebird, Dredge 1,2,3
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Tahoe
Ranger District: Yuba River Ranger District
Nearby City(ies): 2 miles west of Sierra City
Congressional District(s): CA04
County(ies): CA: Nevada, Sierra
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Cleanup Project Progresses at Superfund Site on Tahoe National Forest

(Story posted 1/10/2011)

The Tahoe National Forest is in the heart of one of the most historic gold mining areas in California. But this legacy has left behind hundreds of abandoned hazardous mine openings, many located near communities, schools, campgrounds and other popular public use sites.

Because of physical hazards, such as uncovered mine entrances and shafts, abandoned equipment and vehicles, and deteriorating structures, workers are removing unauthorized occupancy and facilities and moving forward with critical removal action to remove hazardous materials in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) at a site two miles west of Sierra City.

Reclamation of this site will result in improved public safety, enhanced water quality for downstream users, elimination of noxious weeds, and stabilization of erosive soils. The project will decrease hazards as well as diminish associated environmental issues on public lands.

The Forest received funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for this project.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California Storm Proofing / Reconstruction Roads

Local Project Name: Merrill Davies Watershed Restoration
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Tahoe
Ranger District: Sierraville
Nearby City(ies): 15 miles southeast of Sierraville
Estimated Project Cost: $89,280.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 1.03

Congressional District(s): CA02, CA03, CA04, CA19, CA21, CA25, CA26, CA41, CA45
County(ies): CA: El Dorado, Los Angeles, Madera, Modoc, Plumas, San Bernardino, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Tahoe National Forest awarded funds to restore Merrill Davies Watershed

(Story posted 1/14/2011)

In the northeastern area on the Tahoe National Forest, 15 miles southeast of Sierraville, workers are restoring the Merrill Davies Watershed. They are using plug and pond techniques and re-contouring an old railroad grade through the meadow.

The Forest was awarded funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to complete the restoration project.

This work is part of a larger project that involves maintenance and reconstruction of Forest Service roads throughout California. Forest Service roads provide important access to public lands and the recreational opportunities they provide. Many of these roads are unpaved, and storm events can cause erosion or even road failure.

This project also includes improving water drainage on the road surface, removing brush out of ditches and replacing undersized road culverts. Small culverts under the roads will be replaced with larger, appropriately sized culverts so storm drainage can safely pass from one side to the other without damaging the road or the surrounding environment. Larger culverts also help fish and aquatic wildlife such as toads and frogs pass through the culvert, re-establishing habitat connections for these fish and animals. This project will improve downstream water quality through reduction of erosion and sedimentation, thus protecting threatened, endangered, and sensitive species habitat.

This work will also improve public safety by making critical road repairs that are needed now and reducing the risk of catastrophic road failure during future storm events.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California Storm Proofing / Reconstruction Roads

Local Project Name: Merrill Davies Road Improvements
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Tahoe
Ranger District: Sierraville
Nearby City(ies): 15 miles southeast of Sierraville
Congressional District(s): CA02, CA03, CA04, CA19, CA21, CA25, CA26, CA41, CA45
County(ies): CA: El Dorado, Los Angeles, Madera, Modoc, Plumas, San Bernardino, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:
Workers Storm-proof Road Segments in Merrill Davies Watershed

(Story posted 1/10/2011)

Workers are storm-proofing two road segments in the Merrill Davies Watershed, located on the Tahoe National Forest, by maintaining drainage structures including ditches, dips, water bars, and culverts.

The project, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, also included stabilizing road surfaces with aggregate placement. Workers moved some road segments out of the stream zones. Workers also placed boulders to restrict traffic to authorized areas.

These efforts are part of a larger project that involves maintenance and reconstruction of Forest Service roads throughout California. Forest Service roads provide important access to public lands and the recreational opportunities they provide. Many of these roads are unpaved, and storm events can cause erosion or even road failure.

This project also includes improving water drainage on the road surface, removing brush out of ditches and replacing undersized road culverts. Small culverts under the roads will be replaced with larger, appropriately sized culverts, so storm drainage can safely pass from one side to the other without damaging the road or the surrounding environment. Larger culverts also help fish and aquatic wildlife such as toads and frogs pass through the culvert, re-establishing habitat connections for these fish and animals. This project will improve downstream water quality through reduction of erosion and sedimentation, thus protecting threatened, endangered, and sensitive species habitat.

This work will also improve public safety by making critical road repairs that are needed now and reducing the risk of catastrophic road failure during future storm events.

Program Project Name: Thinning and Biomass Phase 2

Local Project Name: Cap Plantation Thinning Stewardship
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Tahoe
Ranger District: Yuba River Ranger District
Nearby City(ies): North of the town of Downieville
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 12
Congressional District(s): CA04, CA19
County(ies): CA: Mariposa, Placer, Sierra
Modified Date: 2/15/2011

Story:
Thinning Over-crowded Tree Stands Improves Forest Health in California

(Story posted 1/12/2011)

Thinning over-crowded stands of trees will make important strides toward improving forest health in California. The overcrowding, along with the current drought, makes trees weak and vulnerable to disease and insect attacks, resulting in tree mortality. By thinning a stand, the remaining trees become healthier and more vigorous, which reduces susceptibility to the western bark beetle and other damaging organisms.

Creating healthier stands of trees also increases the stand's resilience to wildfires. Reducing the risk of beetle infestation through thinning, and the resulting decrease in future standing dead trees, will help protect local communities from devastating wildland fires and create more fire-safe communities.

This project focuses thinning in areas of high susceptibility to mortality in the Sierra Nevada region in California. The byproduct from this project, known as woody biomass, will be used to not only manufacture wood products but also to produce energy. Wood-to-energy projects such as this support the nation's goal to reduce our use and reliance on fossil fuels.

On the northwestern portion of the Tahoe National Forest, crews conducted pre-commercial thinning of trees up to eight inches diameter-at-breast-height (dbh) on 200 acres. Crews also completed fuels reduction work, involving roadside chipping, lop-and-scattering, and hand piling. Forest Service force account crews burned the piles.

The project, funded with Forest Service Recovery Act funds, generated 12 new jobs.

Program Project Name: Thinning and Biomass Phase 2

Local Project Name: Cap Plantation Stewardship Thin
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Tahoe
Ranger District: Yuba River Ranger District
Nearby City(ies): North of Downieville
Congressional District(s): CA04, CA19
County(ies): CA: Mariposa, Placer, Sierra
Modified Date: 2/15/2011

Story:

Crews to Remove Nearly Half a Million Feet of Timber While Thinning Tahoe National Forest

(Story posted 1/10/2011)

Thinning over-crowded stands of trees will make important strides toward improving forest health in California. The overcrowding, along with the current drought, makes trees weak and vulnerable to disease and insect attacks, resulting in tree mortality. By thinning a stand, the

remaining trees become healthier and more vigorous, which reduces susceptibility to the western bark beetle and other damaging organisms.

Creating healthier stands of trees also increases the stand's resilience to wildfires. Reducing the risk of beetle infestation through thinning, and the resulting decrease in future standing dead trees, will help protect local communities from devastating wildland fires and create more fire-safe communities.

This project focuses thinning in areas of high susceptibility to mortality in the Sierra Nevada region in California. The byproduct from this project, known as woody biomass, will be used to not only manufacture wood products but also to produce energy. Wood-to-energy projects such as this support the nation's goal to reduce our use and reliance on fossil fuels.

On the northwestern portion of the Tahoe National Forest, crews will complete pre-commercial and commercial thinning of trees on 82 acres for forest health and fuels reduction. Workers will use a feller buncher, and will remove nearly one half million board feet of timber and 985 tons of chips.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded the project.

Program Project Name: Thinning and Biomass Phase 2

Local Project Name: Indian Suite Fuels Reduction Mastication Thin
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Tahoe
Ranger District: Yuba River Ranger District
Nearby City(ies): Northwest of the town of Downieville
Congressional District(s): CA04, CA19
County(ies): CA: Mariposa, Placer, Sierra
Modified Date: 2/15/2011

Story:

Crews to Thin Over-crowded Trees on Tahoe National Forest

(Story posted 1/10/2011)

Thinning over-crowded stands of trees will make important strides towards improving forest health in California. The overcrowding, along with the current drought, makes trees weak and vulnerable to disease and insect attacks, resulting in tree mortality. By thinning a stand, the remaining trees become healthier and more vigorous, which reduces susceptibility to the western bark beetle and other damaging organisms.

Creating healthier stands of trees also increases the stand's resilience to wildfires. Reducing the risk of beetle infestation through thinning, and the resulting decrease in future standing dead trees, will help protect local communities from devastating wildland fires and create

more fire-safe communities.

This project focuses thinning in areas of high susceptibility to mortality in the Sierra Nevada region in California. The byproduct from this project, known as woody biomass, will be used to not only manufacture wood products but also to produce energy. Wood-to-energy projects such as this support the nation's goal to reduce our use and reliance on fossil fuels.

On the northeastern portion of the Tahoe National Forest, crews will complete thinning of trees and mastication of brush on 159 acres for fuels reduction and improvement of forest health.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded this project.

Program Project Name: Thinning and Biomass Phase 2

Local Project Name: Indian Suite Fuels Reduction Hand Cut/Pile
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Tahoe
Ranger District: Yuba River Ranger District
Nearby City(ies): 12 miles northwest of Downieville
Congressional District(s): CA04, CA19
County(ies): CA: Mariposa, Placer, Sierra
Modified Date: 2/15/2011

Story:

Crews to Remove Ladder Fuels on Tahoe National Forest

(Story posted 1/10/2011)

Thinning over-crowded stands of trees will make important strides towards improving forest health in California. The overcrowding, along with the current drought, makes trees weak and vulnerable to disease and insect attacks, resulting in tree mortality. By thinning a stand, the remaining trees become healthier and more vigorous, which reduces susceptibility to the western bark beetle and other damaging organisms.

Creating healthier stands of trees also increases the stand’s resilience to wildfires. Reducing the risk of beetle infestation through thinning, and the resulting decrease in future standing dead trees, will help protect local communities from devastating wildland fires and create more fire-safe communities.

This project focuses thinning in areas of high susceptibility to mortality in the Sierra Nevada region in California. The byproduct from this project, known as woody biomass, will be used to not only manufacture wood products but also to produce energy. Wood-to-energy projects such as this support the nation's goal to reduce our use and reliance on fossil fuels.

On the northeastern area of the Tahoe National Forest, crews will remove ladder fuels, including both shrubs and small trees, and hand pile material 150 feet along the 25 Road and 23 acres near the town of Forest.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded this project.

Program Project Name: Recreation Site Reconstruction

Local Project Name: Recreation Site Improvement and Maintenance - Fairview Boat Ramp
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Shasta-Trinity
Ranger District: Shasta Lake
Nearby City(ies): Lewiston
Estimated Project Cost: $89,228.00
Congressional District(s): CA02
County(ies): CA: Trinity
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Project Makes Fairview Boat Ramp More Accessible, Safer

(Story posted 1/11/2011)

On the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, workers last year constructed a concrete overlay on 100 feet of the existing Fairview Boat Ramp and extended the sidewalk along the ramp with a fabricated metal boarding float rail system.

The project was funded with Forest Service Recovery Act dollars. Vendor P.F. Pepoit Contracting was awarded the contract for the project, which was completed on May 13, 2010.

This site improvement provides the public with a more accessible and safe facility for a quality recreation experience.

Program Project Name: Recreation Site Reconstruction

Local Project Name: Recreation Site Improvement and Maintenance - Fowlers Campground
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Shasta-Trinity
Ranger District: Mccloud
Nearby City(ies): McCloud, Mount Shasta
Estimated Project Cost: $106,324.00
Congressional District(s): CA02
County(ies): CA: Siskiyou
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:
Roads Resurfaced at Fowlers Campground

(Story posted 1/11/2011)

On the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, workers finished a repair project at Fowlers Campground last fall. The project entailed resurfacing the existing campground loop road by applying an asphalt overlay for more than one mile and repairing potholes and cracked pavement.

The project was funded with Recovery Act funds. Vendor TL Peterson Inc. was awarded the contract for the project, which was completed on September 7, 2010.

These efforts are part of a larger project funded by Forest Service Recovery Act dollars, which will improve many recreation sites across 13 National Forests in California. Recreation facilities, picnic areas, sanitary restrooms, and clean drinking water enhance visitor enjoyment. Many of these sites are in poor condition due to heavy use and their age.

Improvements under this project include such things as replacing picnic tables, grills, fire rings, restrooms, and water systems, and installing signs in campgrounds. Systems and equipment that promote water and energy conservation will be used in the repair work. Additionally, this project will make upgrades to increase access to people of all abilities.

Program Project Name: Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest - California

Local Project Name: Mill Canyon Fuels Reduction and Habitat Improvement Project
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Humboldt & Toiy
Ranger District: Bridgeport
Nearby City(ies): Walker, Coleville and Camp Antelope, CA
Estimated Project Cost: $157,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 20
Congressional District(s): CA03, CA04, CA25
County(ies): CA: Mono
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:
Crews Thin Trees, Brush to Reduce Risk of Wildland Fires

(Story posted 1/11/2011)

Crews thinned and piled 414 acres of small diameter trees and brush at the end of 2010 in the Mill Canyon area on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in Mono County, California in an effort to reduce the risk of wildland fires.

The Mill Canyon project is located in a wildland-urban interface area that has a high severity and frequent fire history. In the past 10 years, wildland fires have threatened the nearby communities of Walker and Coleville, California and tribal community of Camp Antelope five times, totaling three fatalities and an approximate cost of over $35 million. The work accomplished through the Mill Canyon project will help decrease the wildland fire risk to the surrounding communities and help remaining timber stands become more resilient to fires.

Contractors completed the project on November 8, 2010. A crew of 20 workers from contractor Summitt Forests Inc., based out of Ashland, Oregon, spent about 30 days completing the work.

A total of $157,000 in Forest Service Recovery Act funds was awarded to the project. The cost averaged to be $380 an acre, including funding for contract, contract inspection and supplies. This was a first entry treatment and was expected to be over $400 an acre.

“This important fuels reduction work would have taken at least an additional two years to be completed if it had not been for the stimulus funding,” said Bridgeport District Fuels Specialist, Annamaria Echeverria

The Mill Canyon area holds one of the last unburned eastside mixed conifer stands in the area. This project will help the remaining stands to grow healthier and become less susceptible to a catastrophic wildland fire. The area is a popular recreational site, along with being a very important training area for the U.S. Marine Corps. The Mountain Warfare Training Center has been using the locale for training purposes for the last 50 years.

Program Project Name: Recreation Site Reconstruction

Local Project Name: Recreation Site Improvement and Maintenance - Hayden Flat Campground Well
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Shasta-Trinity
Ranger District: Big Bar
Nearby City(ies): Big Bar, Weaverville
Estimated Project Cost: $158,578.00
Congressional District(s): CA02
County(ies): CA: Trinity
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Campers to See Improved Potable Water Services at Hayden Flat Campground

(Story posted 1/12/2011)

Visitors to Hayden Flat Campground on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest will see improved

potable water services this year.

Workers replaced an unusable well at the Hayden Flat Campground using Forest Service Recovery Act dollars to fund the project. The project involved drilling a new well and connecting a new water source into the existing water system.

Diamond Core Drilling performed the drilling portion of the project, which was completed by June 2010. The new water source was connected into the existing water systems and tank by Whitson, Incorporated. The work will be completed in January 2011.

Program Project Name: Facility Maintenance/Renovation

Local Project Name: McCloud Office #2
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Shasta-Trinity
Ranger District: Mccloud
Nearby City(ies): McCloud, Mount Shasta
Estimated Project Cost: $908,133.00
Congressional District(s): CA02
County(ies): CA: Siskiyou
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Shasta-Trinity National Forest to Construct Energy-Efficient, ADA-Compliant Office Building

(Story posted 1/12/2011)

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is helping pay for construction of an energy-efficient and office building that is accessible to people of all abilities on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

The project consists of the construction of an office building that will be employee- and public-friendly, highly energy-efficient, and will meet all the model codes and government standards, including the Americans with Disabilities Act and Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines.

The trailers that have been used for office space were antiquated, not accessible to people of all abilities, and not energy-efficient.

Vendor Shasta Services Inc. received the contract for the project, which is planned to be completed in August 2011.

Program Project Name: Golinsky Mine Acid Mine Drainage Treatment

Local Project Name: Golinsky Mine Acid Mine Drainage Treatment

Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Shasta-Trinity
Ranger District: Shasta Lake
Nearby City(ies): Shasta Lake, Redding
Estimated Project Cost: $1,256,092.00
Congressional District(s): CA02
County(ies): CA: Shasta
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Golinsky Mine Cleanup to Reduce Contamination of Lake Shasta

(Story posted 1/12/2011)

The Golinsky Mine, located on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest in Shasta County, California, is one of several historic copper mines that were part of the Shasta mining district of northern California. Mining from a century ago left many abandoned tunnels and mine workings that are generating acid mine drainage from dissolving metals such as cadmium, zinc, and copper. The Golinsky Mine was discharging heavy metals into Lake Shasta, affecting water quality and habitat.

The objective of the Golinsky Mine Project is to reduce the copper loading into Lake Shasta and clean up a contaminant source that is negatively impacting the lake habitat, while also creating jobs.

Workers achieved this goal by building a passive biological treatment system. The contaminated water is piped into a 120-foot by 80-foot earthen treatment cell that is filled with organic material, such as wood chips, rice hulls, manure, hay, and limestone, which creates a sulfate-reducing bacteria. The resulting chemical process reduces the water's acidity.

Forest Service Recovery Act dollars are funding the project, which has an estimated completion date of June 2011.

Program Project Name: Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

Local Project Name: Jobs Partnership and Community Wildfire Protection Project - Mount Shasta/McCloud Management Unit
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Shasta-Trinity
Ranger District: Mt Shasta
Nearby City(ies): Mount Shasta, McCloud
Estimated Project Cost: $1,625,604.00
Congressional District(s): CA02
County(ies): CA: Shasta, Siskiyou
Modified Date: 2/15/2011

Story:
Fuels Reduction Project Creates Jobs for Youth in California Conservation Corps

(Story posted 1/14/2011)

The Jobs Partnership and Community Wildfire Protection Project on the Mount Shasta and McCloud ranger districts is a fuels reduction project with multiple project work sites distributed across Siskiyou and Shasta counties.

The project, taking place on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, will benefit the environment by reducing fire-prone material on public lands and providing access for fire suppression. The project is also benefitting the local economy by creating jobs for youth in the California Conservation Corps as well as generating jobs for many contracted vendors.

This effort is part of a larger project that is a continuation of work currently funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. One part of the project will ensure the sustainability of critical small business saw mills in the southern Sierras. Grants and contracts will be provided to support removal and utilization of woody biomass material from national forest lands to support these mills.

Another part of this project is an integrated project in northern California involving fuel reduction work near communities, recreation facilities, and access routes by the California Conservation Corps and private sector contractors. The work also includes addressing longstanding facility maintenance needs.

Program Project Name: Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

Local Project Name: Jobs Partnership and Community Wildfire Protection Project - Shasta Lake (NRA)
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Shasta-Trinity
Ranger District: Shasta Lake
Nearby City(ies): Shasta Lake, Redding
Estimated Project Cost: $1,532,332.00
Congressional District(s): CA02
County(ies): CA: Shasta
Modified Date: 2/15/2011

Story:
Forest Service Project Creates Jobs for Youth in Shasta County

(Story posted 1/14/2011)

The Jobs Partnership and Community Wildfire Protection Project on the Shasta Lake District is a fuels reduction project with multiple project work sites within Shasta County.

The project, taking place on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, will benefit the environment by removing fire-prone material from public lands and providing access for fire suppression. The project is also benefitting the local economy by creating jobs for youth in the California Conservation Corps as well as generating jobs for many contracted vendors.

This effort is part of a larger project that is a continuation of work currently funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. One part of the project will ensure the sustainability of critical small business saw mills in the southern Sierras. Grants and contracts will be provided to support removal and utilization of woody biomass material from national forest lands to support these mills.

Another part of this project is an integrated project in northern California involving fuel reduction work near communities, recreation facilities, and access routes by the California Conservation Corps and private sector contractors. The work also includes addressing longstanding facility maintenance needs.

Program Project Name: Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

Local Project Name: Jobs Partnership and Community Wildfire Protection Project - South Fork Management Unit
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Shasta-Trinity
Ranger District: Hayfork
Nearby City(ies): Hayfork
Estimated Project Cost: $1,105,970.00
Congressional District(s): CA02
County(ies): CA: Shasta, Trinity
Modified Date: 2/15/2011

Story:

California Conservation Corps Works with Forest Service on Wildfire Protection Project

(Story posted 1/12/2011)

A fuels reduction project with multiple project work sites distributed across the counties of Shasta and Trinity is underway on the Hayfork and Yolla Bolla ranger districts.

The project, taking place on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, will benefit the environment by reducing fire-prone material on public lands and providing access for fire suppression. The project is also benefiting the local economy by creating jobs for youth in the California Conservation Corps as well as generating jobs for many contracted vendors.

This effort is part of a larger project that is a continuation of work currently funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. One part of the project will ensure the sustainability of critical small business saw mills in the southern Sierras. Grants and

contracts will be provided to support removal and utilization of wood from national forest lands to support these mills.

Another part of this project is an integrated project in northern California involving fuel reduction work near communities, recreation facilities, and access routes by the California Conservation Corps and private sector contractors. The work also includes addressing longstanding facility maintenance needs.

Program Project Name: Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

Local Project Name: Jobs Partnership and Community Wildfire Protection Project - Trinity River Management Unit
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Shasta-Trinity
Ranger District: Weaverville
Nearby City(ies): Weaverville
Estimated Project Cost: $2,675,500.00
Congressional District(s): CA02
County(ies): CA: Trinity
Modified Date: 2/15/2011

Story:

Project Provides Easier Access for Fire Suppression on Public Lands

(Story posted 1/14/2011)

The Jobs Partnership and Community Wildfire Protection Project on the Hayfork and Yolla Bolla ranger districts is a fuels reduction project with multiple project work sites distributed across Trinity County.

The project, taking place on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, will benefit the environment by reducing fire-prone material on public lands and providing access for fire suppression. The project is also benefiting the local economy by creating jobs for youth in the California Conservation Corps as well as generating jobs for many contracted vendors.

This effort is part of a larger project that is a continuation of work currently funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. One part of the project will ensure the sustainability of critical small business saw mills in the southern Sierras. Grants and contracts will be provided to support removal and utilization of woody biomass material from national forest lands to support these mills.

Another part of this project is an integrated project in northern California involving fuel reduction work near communities, recreation facilities, and access routes by the California Conservation Corps and private sector contractors. The work also includes addressing longstanding facility maintenance needs.

Program Project Name: Faciliites Decommissioning/Maintenance

Local Project Name: Forestwide admin sites- Painting, siding replacement and re-roofing

Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Forest: San Bernardino

Nearby City(ies): Idyllwild, Hemet, Banning, Palm Springs, Big Bear, Fawnskin, Lake Arrowhead, Crestline, Running Springs, Forest Falls, Mountain Home Village, Angelus Oaks, Seven Oaks, Happy Jack, Wrightwood

Congressional District(s): CA26, CA41, CA43, CA45

County(ies): CA: Riverside, San Bernardino

Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Funding Awarded for Administrative Site Repairs on San Bernardino National Forest

(Story posted 1/14/2011)

Across California, there are Forest Service facilities in various states of disrepair. Some have deteriorated to the point of no longer being economical to maintain and have become unsafe. Other facilities are very much needed, but have numerous longstanding maintenance needs. Many of these facilities are being demolished or undergoing repairs paid for with Forest Service Recovery Act funds.

On California's San Bernardino National Forest, Forest Service Recovery Act dollars are funding building, painting, and re-siding at an administrative site. Funding for the overall project was awarded September 2010, with work expected to be completed by September 2011. Funding for administrative site building and re-roofing was also awarded September 2010, with work expected to be completed by September 2011.

Program Project Name: Recreation Site Reconstruction

Local Project Name: Forest-wide deferred recreation maintenance and improvements

Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Forest: San Bernardino

Nearby City(ies): Forest Falls,Mountain Home Village, Angelus Oaks, Seven Oaks, Happy Jakc, Wrightwood, Idyllwild, Hemet, Banning, Palm Springs, Big Bear, Fawnskin, Lake Arrowhead, Crestline, Running Springs

Congressional District(s): CA26, CA41, CA43, CA45

County(ies): CA: Riverside, San Bernardino

Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Conservation Corps Fieldwork Underway on San Bernardino National Forest

(Story posted 1/14/2011)

Conservation Corps fieldwork is underway on the San Bernardino National Forest. The Forest was awarded funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Workers used a portion of this funding to develop recreation sites and complete deferred maintenance work. Workers also spent funds on improvement projects and developing recreation sites.

These efforts are part of a larger project funded by Forest Service Recovery Act dollars, which will improve many recreation sites across 13 National Forests in California. Many of these sites are in poor condition due to heavy use and their age. Recreation facilities, picnic areas, sanitary restrooms, and clean drinking water enhance visitor enjoyment.

Improvements under this project include such things as replacing picnic tables, grills, fire rings, restrooms, and water systems, and installing signs in campgrounds. Systems and equipment that promote water and energy conservation will be used in the repair work. Additionally, this project will make upgrades to increase access to people of all abilities.

Program Project Name: San Bernardino and Riverside County Partners Fuels Project

Local Project Name: Hazardous Fuels Reduction

Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Forest: San Bernardino

Nearby City(ies): Big Bear, Fawnskin, Lake Arrowhead, Crestline, Running Springs, Forest Falls, Mountain Home Village, Angelus Oaks, Seven Oaks, Happy Jack, Wrightwood, Idyllwild, Hemet, Banning, Palm Springs

Congressional District(s): CA26, CA41, CA43, CA45

County(ies): CA: Riverside, San Bernardino

Modified Date: 2/15/2011

Story:

San Bernardino National Forest Awards Grants to Fund Projects on State, Private Lands

(Story posted 1/14/2011)

Work is underway on state and private lands to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfires near communities by the clearance of hazardous fuels in the next few years.

The San Bernardino National Forest has awarded grants to San Bernardino County, Riverside County, and the San Bernardino National Forest Association-Forest Care with CalFire Partner.
These grants are paying for projects that will be carried out on state and private lands. The states are selecting specific projects.

Work on these projects, paid for with Forest Service Recovery Act funds, is expected to be completed by 2013.

Program Project Name: National Forests throughout California - Decommissioning Roads (Reducing Deferred Maintenance, Increasing Water Quality)

Local Project Name: Unauthorized route decommissioning and restoration

Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Forest: San Bernardino

Nearby City(ies): Forest Falls, Mountain Home Village, Angelus Oaks, Seven Oaks, Happy Jack, Wrightwood, Idyllwild, Hemet, Banning, Palm Springs, Big Bear, Fawnskin, Lake Arrowhead, Crestline, Running Springs

Congressional District(s): CA26, CA41, CA43, CA45

County(ies): CA: Riverside, San Bernardino

Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Unauthorized Roads Closed at San Bernardino National Forest to Reduce Environmental, Safety Hazards

(Story posted 1/14/2011)

On the San Bernardino National Forest, Recovery Act funds helped crews close unauthorized forest roads, which, in effect, reduced environmental and safety hazards.

The Forest was awarded a contract in spring 2010, and workers completed a portion of the project in summer 2010 using these funds. The Recovery Office released additional funding in June 2010, and awarded the Forest a contract in August 2010, with work expected to be completed by December 2010.

The route decommissioning and restoration work on the San Bernardino National Forest is part of a larger project in the Pacific Southwest that involves the decommissioning of unauthorized forest roads or roads that are no longer needed on the national forests throughout California. Most of these roads present environmental and potential safety hazards to users because they are not maintained for vehicle use. The erosion from these roads also endangers the downstream health of watersheds that provide drinking water to millions of Californians and provide critical habitat for fish and wildlife species.

Road decommissioning includes removal of all drainage culverts and the earthen fills that cover them, and ensuring that the roadway surface slopes and drains properly to minimize erosion. The Forest Service planned to partner with the California State Off-Highway Vehicle Division on a number of these projects.

This project will benefit the public by eliminating roads that are hazardous for vehicle travel, reducing erosion and sedimentation into streams and rivers, and improving water quality and habitat downstream for fish and wildlife species. Many of the roadbeds will continue to be utilized by the public as hiking trails.

Program Project Name: Facility Maintenance/Renovation

Local Project Name: Facility Maintenance/Renovation Supervisor's Office Replacement
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Angeles
Nearby City(ies): Arcadia, Calif.
Estimated Project Cost: $12,000,000.00
Congressional District(s): CA26
County(ies): CA: Los Angeles
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Forest Officials Use Recovery Act Funds to Build New Admin Building in Southern California

(Story posted 1/14/2011)

Forest Service officials have contracted with a local firm to build a 24,000-foot administrative building in Arcadia, California. The project, funded by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act dollars, is planned to include many features that will make the building environmentally-friendly.

The new structure will house administrative offices and a training facility for the Angeles National Forest. The building will replace the deteriorating temporary modular trailers put in place for the current building in 1986. The modular units were never intended to be permanent structures. They are not energy-efficient, have inadequate lighting and ventilation, and annual maintenance is costly.

The new building will house about 100 employees, and will be at a minimum Silver Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certificated, indicating various “green” features, which are still being planned.

The building will also be much closer to the Forest Service entrance gate, and thus more accessible to the public.

The Angeles has contracted with PW Construction Inc., out of Chino, California, for the project.

The project also includes an atrium, and a training center available to local, county and federal fire personnel. The project budget is about $12 million, and it is expected to employ many people. Completion is expected in summer 2012.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California-Bridge Maintenance/Deficient Bridges

Local Project Name: Road Bridge Maintenance Camp Colby Bridge Repair Ang 0501

Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Angeles
Nearby City(ies): Glendora, Calif.
Estimated Project Cost: $222,000.00
Congressional District(s): CA26
County(ies): CA: Los Angeles
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Forest Service Utilizes Recovery Act Funds to Repair Fire-damaged Bridge

(Story posted 1/14/2011)

The Forest Service has contracted with a local firm to fix a deteriorating bridge on Angeles National Forest.

The Camp Colby Bridge is a decades-old “Bailey” steel girder bridge, which spans Big Tujunga Creek. This 50-year-old bridge has been slowly eroding, and the 2009 Station Fire also damaged it. The bridge shows signs of decay with one-inch gaps in the asphalt-and-wood decking with tar loosening due to deterioration from years of auto crossings.

MGP Construction, based in Upland, California, received the contract to repair and upgrade the structure.

Workers began construction in mid-November 2010, and completion is expected by March. MGP Construction is replacing the deck with an upgraded steel-grated material, spot painting, and installing new yellow and black reflective markers at each end of the bridge.

About a third of the bridge was fire-damaged, so workers will sand and repaint the bridge’s metal surfaces to match the previous green color.

The Camp Colby Bridge is one of several that workers are replacing using Forest Service Recovery Act funds on 12 national forests throughout California. The complete project includes replacement or repair of structurally unsound bridge decks and railings and painting of steel structures and approach repairs. These replacement and rehabilitations will improve public safety and public land access while protecting the natural environment that surrounds the bridges.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California – Paving / Chipseal / Aggregate Surfacing

Local Project Name: Road Maintenance Mountain Top & Front Country RD's
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: San Bernardino
Nearby City(ies): Big Bear, Fawnskin, Lake Arrowhead, Crestline, RunningSprings, Forest Falls, Mountain Home Village, Angelus Oaks, Seven Oaks, Happy Jack, Wrightwood

Congressional District(s): CA26, CA41, CA43
County(ies): CA: San Bernardino
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:
Backlogged Road Maintenance Completed on San Bernardino National Forest

(Story posted 1/14/2011)

Workers completed backlogged road maintenance on the San Bernardino National Forest in summer 2010. The Forest was awarded Recovery Act funds to go toward the maintenance work in spring 2010. Additional funds were released by the Recovery Office in June 2010. Another contract was awarded, and work was completed in September 2010.

This work was part of a larger project that involved making repairs to heavily used, deteriorated roads on national forest lands across California. Work included asphalt repair and placement on roads and parking lots accessing visitor centers, popular recreation facilities, and a snowmobile park.

Program Project Name: Faciliites Decommissioning/Maintenance

Local Project Name: Facilities Decommissioning/Maintenance Forestwide Roofing
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Angeles
Nearby City(ies): Arcadia, Calif.
Estimated Project Cost: $300,000.00
Congressional District(s): CA25, CA26
County(ies): CA: Los Angeles
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:
Forest Officials Contract for New Roofing, Seek ‘Longevity’ in the Repairs

(Story posted 1/14/2011)

Using Forest Service Recovery Act funds, federal officials have contracted to replace damaged roofing with more durable materials on 16 buildings on the Angeles National Forest. Typically, it has taken 20 to 30 years before these roofs have been replaced.

Workers are repairing several structures, including a barracks, engine garages, a visitor center, and utility buildings.

The Angeles has contracted with Reva Murphy Associates, out of Livermore, California, for the renovation.

The Murphy employees will replace sheeting and roofing on each building. They typically use asphalt or metal roofing as the replacement materials. The metal roofing, with steel components, will last up to 50 years.

Murphy employees began the project in July 2010, and completion is tentatively expected in February 2011.

Program Project Name: Faciliites Decommissioning/Maintenance

Local Project Name: Facilities Decommissioning/Maintenance Barley Flats
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Angeles
Nearby City(ies): Sierra Madre, Calif.--about seven miles away
Estimated Project Cost: $1,444,950.00
Congressional District(s): CA26
County(ies): CA: Los Angeles
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Angeles Forest Contracts with Firm to Clean Up Debris at Former Missile Site

(Story posted 1/14/2011)

The Forest Service has contracted with a California firm to demolish and clean up debris from burned out buildings at a one-time Nike missile site located on the Angeles National Forest.

The five-acre site in the Barley Flats area was in military service until the early 1960s. It was later used as a Los Angeles County Probation Department work camp until 1992.

The 20 aging buildings could not be retrofitted economically. Many of the structures contained materials including asbestos, lead paint, mercury, and chlorofluorocarbons. Additionally, the buildings were heavily damaged in the 2009 Station Fire.

TL Peterson Inc., out of Red Bluff, California, is completing clean-up, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. TL Peterson workers have demolished the building remains and hauled off the debris in trucks.

The plan is to return the site “to a state of nature,” meaning the land will be restored to its natural state. Work on the project began in September 2010 and completion was expected in January 2011.

Program Project Name: Recreation Site Reconstruction

Local Project Name: Recreation Site Improvement (Chilao Site)

Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Angeles
Nearby City(ies): Sierra Madre, Calif.--about 10 miles away
Estimated Project Cost: $337,000.00
Congressional District(s): CA26
County(ies): CA: Butte, Los Angeles
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Forest Service Contracts to Renovate Chilao Campground Restroom Facilities

(Story posted 1/14/2011)

A campground on the Angeles National Forest will soon have multiple new restroom facilities which are Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant. These newer renditions include solar-powered ventilation and waterless toilets. They are replacing facilities that have not been upgraded since the 1970s.

Workers will install new waterless toilets that are made almost entirely of concrete and improve user access. The project also includes the demolition of the existing block buildings.

The project at the Chilao Campground will be funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Forest Service has contracted with CXT, Inc., out of Spokane, Washington, to complete the project. CXT will hire local subcontractors to perform many of the tasks associated with this project including the demolition and hauling of debris.

Completion is expected in spring 2011.

Program Project Name: Regionwide Trail Maintenance Project

Local Project Name: San Bernardino-Backlog of trail needs
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: San Bernardino
Nearby City(ies): Idyllwild, Hemet, Banning, Palm Springs, Big Bear, Fawnskin,Lake Arrowhead, Crestline, Running Springs, Forest Falls, Mountain Home Village, Angelus Oaks, Seven Oaks, Happy Jack, Wrightwood
Congressional District(s): CA26, CA41, CA43, CA45
County(ies): CA: Riverside, San Bernardino
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Conservation Corps Maintain Trails on San Bernardino National Forest

(Story posted 1/21/2011)

Three youth conservation corps groups completed trail maintenance work on the San

Bernardino National Forest last year.

Members of the conservation corps groups groomed trail surfaces and completed tread improvement work, removed rock, repaired or created erosion control features, removed vegetation, such as dangerous tree limbs and brush, removed graffiti, repaired or replaced signs, and picked up trash. They also repaired popular motorized and non-motorized trails and trailheads.

The Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC) completed their portion of the work in August 2009, the California Conservation Corps (CCC) completed work in September 2010, and the Urban Conservation Corps of the San Bernardino National Forest Association (SBNFA) completed work in September 2010.

The Bureau of Land Management provided funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which was used to supplement the CCC for Monument trails. This work was completed in August 2010.

The Regional Office provided 30 weeks of Student Conservation Association (SCA) crew time and Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) oversight on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, along with supply funding. This portion of the project was completed in September 2010.

The Regional Office released additional funds for subsequent trail work, which was finalized as agreement modifications to the CCC and SBNFA in August 2010.

Program Project Name: Recreation Site Reconstruction

Local Project Name: Recreation Site Improvement (Buckhorn Site)
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Angeles
Nearby City(ies): San Gabriel, about 12 miles away
Estimated Project Cost: $841,000.00
Congressional District(s): CA26
County(ies): CA: Los Angeles
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Forest Service Contracts to Renovate Campground in Southern California

(Story posted 1/14/2011)

Forest Service contracts using funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will allow workers to renovate a campground in Angeles National Forest that has not been upgraded in decades.

The project at the Buckhorn Campground includes installing barbecues, walkways, restrooms, and picnic tables that are accessible to people of all abilities.

Two contractors will perform the work: Two Five Construction Inc., out of Shafter, California, and CXT, Inc., out of Spokane, Washington. Completion is expected in spring 2011.

Program Project Name: Water/Wastewater System Health and Safety

Local Project Name: Facilities Water/Wastewater System Health and Safety
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Angeles
Nearby City(ies): Monrovia, Calif.--12 miles away
Estimated Project Cost: $967,000.00
Congressional District(s): CA25, CA26
County(ies): CA: Los Angeles
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Forest Service Contract Project to Replace Forest Water Tanks and Install Fences to Ensure Security

(Story posted 1/14/2011)

The Forest Service has awarded a contract to replace five above-ground potable water tanks in Angeles National Forest. While fire damaged some, others have simply deteriorated to the point they are becoming nonfunctional. The contract enhances security by fencing the perimeter of the tanks.

The tank removal and installation targets five areas of the Forest. One tank damaged during the 2009 Station Fire is located at the Charlton Flat Recreation Area on the Los Angeles River Ranger District.

Other tanks scheduled to be replaced are located at Oak Flat, Rincon, and Valyermo fire stations. The deteriorating tanks located at fire stations will be replaced with tanks twice as large in order to enhance water quantity for firefighting and other needs.

All new tanks are made of concrete and are more fire-resistant and require less maintenance than previous tanks. Sansone Co. Inc., out of San Luis Obispo, California, has contracted for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act project. The six-foot security fencing portion of the project around the tanks will be completed by J. M. Justus Fence Co. out of Temecula, California.

Completion is expected by May 2011.

Program Project Name: Western States - Forests Adapting To and Mitigating Climate Change Effects

Local Project Name: Forest Inventory in Urban Areas

Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station

Nearby City(ies): various

Estimated Project Cost: $1,780,000.00

Congressional District(s): AK00, CA01, CA02, CA03, CA04, CA05, CA06, CA07, CA08, CA09, CA10, CA11, CA12, CA13, CA14, CA15, CA16, CA17, CA18, CA19, CA20, CA21, CA22, CA23, CA24, CA25, CA26, CA27, CA28, CA29, CA30, CA31, CA32, CA33, CA34, CA35, CA36, CA37, CA38, CA39, CA40, CA41, CA42, CA43, CA44, CA45, CA46, CA47, CA48, CA49, CA50, CA51, CA52, CA53, HI01, HI02, OR01, OR02, OR03, OR04, OR05, WA01, WA02, WA03, WA04, WA05, WA06, WA07, WA08, WA09

County(ies): AK: Bethel Census Area, Bristol Bay Borough, Denali Borough, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Lake and Peninsula Borough, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Nome Census Area, Northwest Arctic Borough, Southeast Fairbanks Census Area, Valdez-Cordova Census Area, Wade Hampton Census Area, Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area; CA: Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yolo, Yuba; HI: Hawaii, Honolulu, Kalawao, Kauai, Maui; OR: Baker, Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Coos, Crook, Curry, Deschutes, Douglas, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine, Klamath, Lake, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Malheur, Marion, Morrow, Multnomah, Polk, Sherman, Tillamook, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco, Washington, Wheeler, Yamhill; WA: Adams, Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Clallam, Clark, Columbia, Cowlitz, Douglas, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lewis, Lincoln, Mason, Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Spokane, Stevens, Thurston, Wahkiakum, Walla Walla, Whatcom, Whitman, Yakima

Modified Date: 2/15/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Urban Forest Project Spanning Five States

(Story posted 1/14/2011)

This project, led by John Mills of the PNW Research Station's Resource Monitoring and Assessment Program, is using $1,795,000 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to employ field crews to gather data on the condition of forests from approximately 1,000 sites in populated areas in five western states: Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington.

The project uses the scientifically-rigorous protocols of the USDA Forest Service's nationwide Forest Inventory and Analysis Program, and will result in a network of permanently located plots in urbanized areas that can be measured again in the future. The Forest Service is conducting the work in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Forestry, California Polytechnic State University, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Hawaii Urban Forestry Council, and Davey Resource Group.

Having Recovery Act funds become available for this project means that workers have the opportunity to collect systematic data on the abundance, extent, and health of trees and other vegetation in urban areas for the first time. To help urban forests adapt and be resilient to a changing climate, the Forest Service needs to know their current health status.

Urban forests will change as the climate changes, with shifts in species composition, growth rates, mortality, and susceptibility to pests all possible. Having a baseline of urban forest conditions will help local resource managers and planners to understand and articulate the contributions of urban forests to ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, water retention, energy savings, and quality of life for residents. Over the long term, monitoring will help to determine if and how urban forests are adapting to changing conditions, and might shed some light on potential mitigations.

Work on the initial plot installation will continue through 2013, with a large amount of data gathering planned for 2011. As of November 2010, this project had expended about 3 percent of its funds, generating direct employment for approximately 15 people, with significant additional jobs expected as the project ramps up.

Colorado

Program Project Name: Rocky Mountain Region Bark Beetle and Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects

Local Project Name: Routt National Forest Hazard Tree Removal
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Medicine Bow-Routt
Ranger District: Hahns Peak/Bears Ear
Nearby City(ies): Steamboat Springs, Colorado and Walden Colorado
Estimated Project Cost: $0.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 55
Congressional District(s): CO03
County(ies): CO: Grand, Jackson, Routt
Modified Date: 7/13/2010

Story:

Routt National Forest Hazard Tree Removal Provides Jobs, Enhances Safety

(Story posted 4/2/2010)

Three northwestern Colorado companies were able to maintain and add jobs in 2009 as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Rocky Mountain Youth Corps also hired about dozen young people to work on hazard tree removal.

The Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests received $2.2 million to remove hazardous dead trees from roadsides and campgrounds in 2009. The dead trees are a result of a landscape-scale beetle epidemic and pose a safety threat to people recreating and working in the forest. About 150 miles of forest roads, 15 campgrounds, and numerous trailheads and dispersed campsites were cleared of dead trees last summer and fall.

“This money truly did create and keep jobs,” said Trent Jones of Rogue Resources in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, one of the companies subcontracted to do the work. “Before we got this work, we had five full time loggers. We were able to keep all of them on and add 10 additional employees,” he said. Jones said that since his company started the work in June it has been able to keep all those people on the payroll and spending money in the community.

The City of Steamboat Springs also received $1 million ARRA money through a Colorado State Forest Service program and hired Rogue Resources to remove hazard trees on 300 acres last fall and this winter, so Rogue Resources employees will likely be working all winter long.

“These jobs also supported our sawmill. Because we have the logs from the hazard tree removal projects, we’re able to keep our sawmill running, which has another 10 employees,” Jones said. “Without the stimulus money, we might not still be around.”

Another company, West Range Reclamation also managed to keep its employees working due to ARRA. “That job was very timely,” said Cody Neff, owner of West Range Reclamation. “We were able to keep 11 men working for two months on that project. “The Forest Service was great to work with, and I’d like to say thanks to all of them. I hope that in future we can have a sustainable timber industry without government support.”

In addition, Forest Products, Inc. in Walden, Colorado was able to maintain seven jobs removing hazard trees throughout the summer, according to owner Don Shellhass.
The Rocky Mountain Youth Corps also received $500,000 of ARRA funds and was able to add four people to their administrative workforce and 33 youths to cut up hazard trees felled by forest service crews in campgrounds, along trails and at trailheads. “It was really exciting to be able to put young people to work while helping restore economic vitality,” said Gretchen Van De Carr, executive director of Rocky Mountain Youth Corps.

In addition to providing an opportunity to create or retain jobs to complete these projects, the removal of the dead trees will maintain access for the public, emergency vehicles, and to power lines and communication sites, all for greater public safety. These efforts also increase firefighter safety and ingress/egress in the event of forest fires, as well as creating fuel breaks to help contain fires.

Program Project Name: Confluence Energy, LLC

Local Project Name: Grinding, Hauling and Processing of Biomass
Region: Forest Products Laboratory
Nearby City(ies): Kremmling
Estimated Project Cost: $250,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 5.5
Congressional District(s): CO02
County(ies): CO: Grand
Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds the Grinding, Hauling and Processing of Biomass

(Story posted 4/26/2010)

Mountain pine beetle infestation has reached unprecedented, catastrophic levels within modern times in Northern Colorado and Southern Wyoming. Confluence Energy currently operates a large wood pellet facility that is in the epicenter of the mountain pine beetle infestation. Confluence Energy is taking some of this material and turning it into renewable energy, namely wood pellets.

Since we received the grant, we have been able to increase our production of wood pellets by 25% for our daily volume. In the beginning of the grant, the flow of material through our process started slowly, and ramped up through the year. We were able to add 5 to 6

incremental jobs. The wood pellet industry is experiencing a very difficult year. The grant helped us keep operating and ensure that we are a low cost provider. The purchase of fuel and parts in the community also impacted other businesses in Kremmling, CO. We estimate that the impact of this grant will be about 10 years on the community of Kremmling.

Program Project Name: Boulder County Parks

Local Project Name: The Boulder County Woody Biomass Utilization Project
Region: Forest Products Laboratory
Nearby City(ies): Longmont
Estimated Project Cost: $250,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 0
Congressional District(s): CO02
County(ies): CO: Boulder
Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Boulder County Has Great Expectations For The Woody Biomass Utilization Project

(Story posted 5/17/2010)

Boulder County is piloting a woody biomass utilization project that has two components. The first component includes enhancing operation of an existing sort yard and starting a second collection site and sort yard to utilize woody biomass produced from forest management activities on the Arapho and Roosevelt NF and adjacent private and county lands. The second component is to recommission a biomass heating system at a suitable site in Boulder County.

The grant will support the purchase of equipment to enhance the sort yards as well as contributing capital to costs incurred in relocating the Nederland biomass heating system. Equipment supported by this grant include a tracked log loader to facilitate more efficient sorting of merchantable material and loading and off-loading trucks and trailers, and a modular kiln that would be used to heat treat material that is currently infested with bark beetles.

Boulder County sent out a Request for Proposal for the equipment portion of the grant. We received two bids - one from Honnen Equipment and one from Universal Tractor. With all considerations taken into account, Boulder County accepted Honnen's bid. We are in the process of obtaining this equipment, which is scheduled for delivery in May 2010.

The grant is anticipated to have a 20-year benefit to Boulder County and its residents, as well as an increase in management of forested lands across various land ownerships. In addition, it is anticipated that new jobs will be created as a result of increase forest management in the area.

Program Project Name: Pawnee National Grassland - Bird Tour Roads

Local Project Name: Bird Tour
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Arapaho/Roosevelt
Ranger District: Pawnee
Nearby City(ies): Greeley, Colorado
Estimated Project Cost: $2,500,000.00
Congressional District(s): CO04
County(ies): CO: Weld
Modified Date: 7/23/2010

Story:

Pawnee National Grassland Bird Tour Road to Benefit from Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 4/16/2010)

The Pawnee National Grassland (PNG) located in northeast Weld County, Colorado, is known internationally for its outstanding bird watching opportunities which contribute to tourism in Colorado. There are several key sites on the PNG where much of the bird watching occurs.

The Pawnee Bird Tour utilizes grassland and county roads and provides recreational visitors the opportunity to view a variety of bird species in their natural environment. The Pawnee Buttes are also a key site for bird watching, especially raptors. The Bird Tour road has degraded due to loss of aggregate surfacing and erosion problems caused by poor road drainage. It is also in need of designated interpretive points of interest.

Project funding will provide for backlogged road maintenance and designated and signed interpretive pullouts. Past partners who have made the Bird Tour successful include the National Audubon Society and the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

Program Project Name: Molly Margerat Moon Trailhead Reconstruction

Local Project Name: Molly Margaret Moon Trailhead Construction
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Arapaho/Roosevelt
Ranger District: Canyon Lakes
Nearby City(ies): Fort Collins, Colorado
Estimated Project Cost: $750,000.00
Congressional District(s): CO04
County(ies): CO: Larimer
Modified Date: 7/23/2010

Story:
Trailhead Reconstruction Planned

(Story posted 4/16/2010)

The need for this project originated from insufficient trailhead and trail facilities to accommodate significant increases in use. Mount Margaret, Molly Moon, Lady Moon, and Elkhorn Creek Trailheads are small, minimally developed and adjacent to busy county roads.

Trailhead reconstruction is one phase of this multi-part project to repair and reroute trails and decommission unneeded roads. This project includes reconstruction of four trailheads and decommissioning of two road-side pull-offs. A safe and enjoyable recreation experience will be restored.

Program Project Name: Rainbow Lakes Trailhead Reconstruction Improves Safety and Accessibility

Local Project Name: Rainbow Lakes Trailhead Reconstruction
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Arapaho/Roosevelt
Ranger District: Boulder
Nearby City(ies): Boulder, Colorado
Estimated Project Cost: $1,000,000.00
Congressional District(s): CO02
County(ies): CO: Boulder
Modified Date: 7/23/2010

Story:
Rainbow Lakes Trailhead Reconstruction to Improve Accessibility

(Story posted 4/16/2010)

The Rainbow Lakes trailhead will be relocated outside of the Rainbow Lakes Campground but still within close proximity. The new trailhead will consolidate parking, provide new toilets, and new signing, all designed to modern standards for convenience and accessibility.

The area will ultimately be reconfigured and upgraded to provide the public with safe and sustainable facilities for quality recreation opportunities in the area.

Program Project Name: Fort Collins Lab Improvements

Local Project Name: Station Headquarters New Laboratory
Region: Rocky Mountain Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Fort Collins, Colorado

Congressional District(s): CO04
County(ies): CO: Larimer
Modified Date: 7/13/2010

Story:
Station Headquarters New Laboratory Receives Additional Footage

(Story posted 5/13/2009)

This 21,000 square foot, two story, plus basement building is adjacent to the existing RMRS headquarters building in Fort Collins, CO. The new facility, scheduled to be completed by summer of 2010, will house both office and lab space. The Station has received $1.543 million to help construct the new lab. This funding adds an additional 6,000 square feet to what was initially funded.

Program Project Name: Rocky Mountain Region Bark Beetle and Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects

Local Project Name: City of Steamboat Springs
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Medicine Bow-Routt
Nearby City(ies): Steamboat Springs
Estimated Project Cost: $1,000,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 31
Congressional District(s): CO02, CO04, CO05
County(ies): CO: Garfield, Grand, Jackson, Rio Blanco, Routt
Modified Date: 7/13/2010

Story:
Steamboat Springs Benfits From Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 5/25/2010)

From Steamboat Springs, a world-renowned ski destination, one can see changes in the forest. Routt County's forests are experiencing the changes associated with the current mountain pine beetle epidemic that reaches across the lodgepole pine forests of Northern Colorado. Residents in the Steamboat Springs area understand that the changes associated with beetle-killed trees are potentially more threatening to the city than the beetle epidemic.

The purpose of the $1 million project is to reduce the amount of fuels available to an uncontained wildland fire. Most of the fuel being removed is in the form of dead lodgepole pine trees. The project – which is a team effort – includes 138 parcels of non-federal land in the Steamboat Springs Rural Fire Protection District. First, Steamboat Springs Fire Rescue explains the project to property owners, and then two contracted forestry consultant businesses, Western Bionomics and Natural Resource Consultants, prepare the parcels.

Rogue Resources, Inc., removes the trees, and the fire department, forest consultants, and the Colorado State Forest Service project manager all provide on-the-ground quality control.

The process has provided an interesting learning experience for all involved. As Anne Small, City of Steamboat Springs Purchasing and Risk Manager relates, “Some potential participants support the concept, but moving past the idea stage is difficult, even though the landowners know removal of the trees is in their best interest. It is a big change that is difficult for some to absorb. A few people who initially wanted nothing to do with the project have become advocates and participants.”

Mike McBeth, Rogue Resources employee, shared his experience in the Spring Creek area. “Some local residents were disappointed that the area had to be temporarily closed to recreation, but they soon realized the short-term inconvenience was worth the long-term benefits. To show their appreciation, Spring Creek residents delivered brownies to the workers setting the chokers in the numbing temperatures.”

Storm Mountain Ranch was one of the first project participants. The trees were cut and removed in early winter. Dan Bell, ranch manager for the past three years, commented, “Removing the dead trees adjacent to the roads has been a positive experience. I received a couple logistic questions as trees were being cut, but no complaints about the results. We feel fortunate to be included in the project.”

The city is five months into the Recovery Act project. Fuels have been reduced on more than 130 acres. Despite the time involvement, Small said, “I would encourage other cities to take the same approach of applying for the grants and subcontract the parts to the people with the experience. The city can be the checks and balances for the project that includes private land and private contractors.”

As U.S. Sen. Mark Udall of Colorado stated in his support letter for the project, “This project will bring significant job creation benefit both in the short term (the tree removal phase) and long term (the creation of useful wood products)."

The senator’s statement is confirmed by Trent Jones, Rogue Resources controller, “The positive impact of the ARRA funds cannot be overstated. Without the Steamboat Springs project, there would not be much of a company left, maybe five people. With this project, we are employing 25 people.”

Program Project Name: San Juan National Forest-Road Resurfacing/Stabilization and Decommissioning

Local Project Name: SJNF Road Resurfacing/Stabilization and Decommissioning
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: San Juan
Nearby City(ies): Durango, Colorado
Congressional District(s): CO03
County(ies): CO: Archuleta, Dolores, Hinsdale, Montezuma

Modified Date: 12/21/2010

Story:

Forest Road System Improved Thanks to Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 11/16/2010)

The San Juan National Forest has more than 1,800 miles of authorized roads providing public access for recreation, multiple uses, and agency administrative access. Many are also used by citizens to access private residences and subdivisions. The San Juan's road system requires ongoing maintenance for public safety, forest and watershed health, and preservation of road surfaces. The San Juan's current deferred maintenance backlog for its road system exceeds $45 million. Recovery Act funding is allowing the San Juan to complete $4.9 million of its deferred maintenance projects.

The Piedra Road has been in existence since the early 20th century and now handles the highest traffic volume on the San Juan National Forest. It includes a portion of County Road 600, is designated as a Forest Highway, and provides access to several rural residences and year-round recreational opportunities. The Recovery Act has funded the repair of a pot-holed and wash-boarded segment of the road, with about two miles brought up to county road standards. Existing drainage structures have been repaired, gravel added, and the road surface treated with magnesium chloride. The gravel used in the project was crushed and stockpiled at a reopened gravel pit, which will continue to offer materials for current and future road maintenance.

The Dolores-Norwood Road has the second highest traffic volume on the San Juan. It has been in existence since the late 1800s. In addition to offering access to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands, the road is used by residents and subdivisions for year-round access. Recovery Act funding has made possible a new application of chip seal on 7.6 miles and new gravel and magnesium lignin treatment on 4.3 miles.

The Jackson Mountain Road received Recovery Act funding for resurfacing of 4.6 miles of this forest road from near its intersection of with U.S. Highway 160 north to the Turkey Creek Trailhead. Gravel was spread and compacted to accommodate travel by recreationists and outfitter/guides accessing Jackson Mountain and Weminuche Wilderness.

The McPhee Recreation Complex includes campgrounds, picnic areas, and a boat ramp at McPhee Reservoir. Its roads and parking lots were constructed more than 20 years ago, with only minor maintenance and repair over the years. The Recovery Act has funded reconstruction and repair of 3.6 miles of roads and parking areas in the complex. Old asphalt surfaces were ground up and recycled for use as new base material. The project is expected to extend the life of the road system for another 15 to 20 years.

The East Fork Road is being reconstructed with Recovery Act funding under a cooperative agreement with the Federal Highway Administration. A section of this forest road, important to hunters and recreationists accessing the National Forest northeast of Pagosa Springs,

was destroyed by a natural landslide in 2008. Slide stabilization is being accomplished by the installation of a subsurface drainage system to dewater the slide zone and culverts to divert drainage away from the road. In addition, 800 feet of the road is being reconstructed.

The Price Lakes Road had its surface reconditioned and new culverts installed, thanks to Recovery Act funding. The project upgraded 7.6 miles of this gravel road from its intersection with County Road 382 to the Navajo Peak Trailhead southeast of Pagosa Springs. The road had little to no surface rock for most of its length, making it impassible during wet conditions. It is used primarily by recreationists for access to the South San Juan Mountains.

County Cooperative Agreements are used by the San Juan to help share road-maintenance costs with counties on shared National Forest System roads with high traffic volumes. Additional Recovery Act funding has been transferred to Archuleta and Dolores counties to maintain the Piedra and Dolores-Norwood roads to county standards. In addition to providing access to public lands, these Forest roads provide access for private residences and services, such as emergency response, and school bus and mail routes.

Road Decommissioning entails the obliteration of unauthorized routes causing safety hazards and/or natural-resource damage. The San Juan National Forest has inventoried 900 miles of such unmaintained routes. Following environmental analysis, 103 miles were identified for rehabilitation to a natural state. This entails loosening compacted soils so moisture can penetrate the surface and seeds can take hold. Earthen or rock barricades are installed to prevent vehicles from damaging rehabilitated sites. Sites are monitored and treated for noxious weeds.

The San Juan also has several open roads that are seasonally closed annually to prevent road damage during wet conditions or wildlife seasons. Until now, funding has not been available to install gates to enforce these existing temporary closures. Recovery Act funding is being used to install 22 gates to better prevent illegal motorized intrusions during existing closure periods.

Contractors and partners who received Recovery Act funding include the following:
• Four Corners Materials of Montezuma County
• J. E. Hurley Construction of Colorado Springs
• Aztec Archaeological Construction of Aztec, New Mexico
• Bankston Trucking and Excavation of Dolores
• F and M Construction of Bayfield
• Federal Highway Administration
• KW Enterprises of Durango
• McStone Aggregates of Dolores
• Archuleta and Dolores counties

Program Project Name: San Juan National Forest Trails and Trail Bridges Maintenance
Local Project Name: San Juan National Forest Trails and Trail Bridges Maintenance

Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: San Juan
Nearby City(ies): Durango, Colorado
Congressional District(s): CO03
County(ies): CO: Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma
Modified Date: 1/20/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Trail Improvements Protect Resources, Support Visitor Safety

(Story posted 11/16/2010)

The San Juan National Forest averages 1.7 million visitor days annually, contributing significantly to the tourism industry of the Four Corners. Its 1,800-mile trail system includes major segments of the Continental Divide and Colorado trails. Recovery Act funding has made possible the repair of 169 miles of backcountry trails and reconstruction of 17 trail bridges to ensure resource protection and visitor safety.

TRAILS
Recovery Act funding was used to accomplish improvements to tread and drainage, stabilization, cribbing, clearing, brushing, and new signage on 169 miles of San Juan trails.

One of the most difficult projects was the reconstruction of a section of the remote Rincon La Osa Trail in the heart of the Weminuche Wilderness, Colorado's largest Congressionally designated Wilderness area.

Horseback riders and pack strings had had to use an old corduroy trail and bridge-type structure to cross a steep granite side slope seeking access to the upper Pine River drainage and Continental Divide. The Recovery Act funded the reconstruction of this degraded structure, which was dangerous to stock travel.

Because Rincon La Osa is within Wilderness, all aspects of the project had to be accomplished by primitive means. After the old structure was removed, trees were felled and stripped by hand. Large rocks were moved by hand, and yards of soil were carried to the site by crews and stock animals. The structure was contoured to reduce the grade and enlarge the crib steps, which are anchored into the granite slab via rebar and hand-drilled holes. The result is a new structure that offers a safe crossing over 100 feet of the steep rock slope.

TRAIL BRIDGES
Seventeen trail bridges are being reconstructed and repaired across the San Juan National Forest, thanks to Recovery Act funding. Some projects involved extensive work; others were more minor in scope. The Lake Creek Bridge, offering access to Emerald Lake, had to be repaired via primitive methods because it is in the Weminuche Wilderness. Supplies were brought in by pack animals and construction accomplished with hand tools. The bridge's deck structure was replaced, its steel superstructure painted, and approach rails installed.

The Fall Creek Bridge, near the Vallecito Campground but outside the wilderness boundary, was broken in half last year by a fallen tree. The old structure had to be removed and the bridge rebuilt with new steel trusses and braces, treated planks, rails, cross ties, etc. The approach to the bridge was improved with fill materials and riprap.

Several other bridges needed minor repairs, such as removing old rotten timbers and outfitting the structures with new running planks and posts. Drainage was improved and bridge abutments and approaches stabilized.

Contractors and partners who received Recovery Act funding to complete these projects include the following:
• Coal Bed Creek Construction of Dove Creek
• Dillion Fencing and Contracting of Naturita
• First Cut Development of Durango
• Grand Junction Pipe and Supply of Grand Junction
• Richard May Construction of Mammoth Lakes, California
• Southwest Conservation Corps of Durango

Program Project Name: San Juan National Forest Recreation Site Maintenance to Improve Public Safety and Health

Local Project Name: SJNF San Juan Rec Site Deferred Maintenance
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: San Juan
Nearby City(ies): Durango, Colorado
Congressional District(s): CO03
County(ies): CO: Archuleta, Dolores, Hinsdale, La Plata, Montezuma
Modified Date: 1/20/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Recreation Site Upgrades Benefit Visitors

(Story posted 11/16/2010)

The San Juan National Forest receives an annual average of 1.7 million visitor days, contributing significantly to the tourism industry of the Four Corners. Its campgrounds, trailheads, overlooks, picnic areas, cabins, and boat ramps are extensively used. Of the Recovery Act funding received by the San Juan, perhaps none was more important to visitors than that spent to replace outdated restrooms.

In total, 38 new restrooms are being installed at San Juan National Forest campgrounds and trailheads. The prefabricated structures are placed on top of lined underground vaults, which can hold several hundreds of gallons of waste. The buildings are universally accessible and engineered to endure earthquakes, windstorms, and heavy snow loads. Their steel-reinforced concrete will not rot, rust, or burn. Interiors are easy to clean, and exteriors are treated with an anti-graffiti sealer. The new restrooms feature “sweet-smelling technology,”

which employs a continual and positive air flow from the vault through a vent pipe to keep the buildings odor-free. The new structures are designed to blend in with the natural surroundings, remain sanitary even with extensive use, and be easy to clean and maintain for agency crews.

The next most important thing at a National Forest campground--other than great scenery--is probably the availability of potable drinking water. The Recovery Act is funding improvements for several San Juan National Forest campground water systems, which were in disrepair. Eight water systems have been upgraded or replaced with solar-powered water pumps and new chlorination systems. Others are receiving minor repairs, such as water hydrant replacements and valve replacements. The result will be safe drinking water for campground users.

Contractors and partners who received Recovery Act funding to complete these projects include the following:
• Animas Well Drilling of Durango
• Balance Environmental of Denver
• CXT Inc. of Spokane, Washington
• Lane and Company, Inc. of Cortez
• MacNak Construction of Dolores
• Spallone Construction of Gunnison
• U-Can-Afford Landscaping of Pagosa Springs
• Valley Coast Constructors of Durango
• DG Marion of Blanding, Utah

Program Project Name: San Juan National Forest Fuels Project - Noxious Weed Control

Local Project Name: SJNF 5,000 Acre Fuels Project Noxious Weed Control
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: San Juan
Nearby City(ies): Durango, Colorado
Congressional District(s): CO03
County(ies): CO: Archuleta, Dolores, Hinsdale, La Plata, Mineral, Montezuma
Modified Date: 12/21/2010

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Noxious Weed Treatments Ongoing

(Story posted 11/16/2010)

The San Juan National Forest is partnering with local counties and the San Juan Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) to inventory and treat noxious weeds on public lands where fuels-reduction projects have taken place. One of the consequences of fuels reduction is that mowing, thinning. and burning can create the opportunity for the invasion of weeds. Invasive species threaten wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and

plant and animal diversity. For successful results, noxious weed management must go hand in hand with fuels mitigation.

Over the next three years, 52,000 acres within 76 fuel-mitigation areas on the San Juan will be inventoried for infestations. It is estimated that about 5,000 acres of noxious species will be treated.

Recovery Act funding will allow counties to enhance long-term cooperative weed management programs with the purchase of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Global Positioning Systems (GPS), and weed-treatment equipment. The RC&D is being funded to provide GPS and GIS training, field support, and project oversight to improve technical skills with the goal of ensuring consistent, quality data. Skills acquired by county staff will help them to meet national data-collection standards.

Through participating agreements, Recovery Act funding has been transferred to the following entities:
• Upper San Juan Weed District
• Dove Creek Mandatory Weed Control District
• La Plata County Weed Office
• Montezuma Weed Program
• San Juan Resource Conservation and Development Council

Program Project Name: Regionwide Historic Building Restorations

Local Project Name: San Juan National Forest Historical & Archaeological Restoration projects

Region: Rocky Mountain Region

Forest: San Juan

Nearby City(ies): Durango, Colorado

Congressional District(s): CO02, CO03, CO05, SD00, WY00

County(ies): CO: Archuleta, Conejos, Dolores, Eagle, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Lake, Montezuma, Saguache; SD: Custer, Lawrence; WY: Park

Modified Date: 12/21/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funding Supports Historical Site Restoration

(Story posted 11/16/2010)

The San Juan National Forest has a rich historic and prehistoric legacy reflected in its old ranger stations, fire lookout towers, and archaeological sites. Several of these unique and irreplaceable resources have received Recovery Act funding for restoration projects.

GLADE GUARD STATION:
The Recovery Act is funding utility reconstruction at the Glade Guard Station to prepare the historical cabin for public rental in the future. The cabin's potable water supply system has

been reconstructed, its wastewater-disposal system replaced, and a new propane storage tank installed. The Glade Guard Station’s water system has been retrofitted to solar power and its water well and treatment system upgraded for water filtration and disinfection. In addition, a water hydrant is being installed to supply water to the barn and corral. A new wastewater system will be installed to provide for collection and disposal of sewage and gray water generated in the residence.

ASPEN GUARD STATION:
At the Aspen Guard Station, a Civilian Conservation Corps-era ranger’s cabin, Recovery Act funding was used to replace an unreliable spring water source with a safer groundwater well. The new water system includes a solar-powered pump, water line between the well and cabin, chlorination system to disinfect the water, and pressure tanks to provide storage and adequate pressure to fixtures. The Aspen Guard Station has been used for the past 15 years to house the popular San Juan National Forest Artist-in-Residence Program. The updated water system will provide a reliable and safe drinking water system for resident artists and teachers.

CHIMNEY ROCK ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREA:
The Recovery Act is funding several projects at Chimney Rock Archaeological Area that will help preserve cultural resources, improve facilities, and enhance visitors' experiences. Moisture monitors have been installed in prehistoric walls to help archaeologists evaluate the efficiency of past stabilization efforts and to identify and address future stabilization problems in advance before damage occurs.

Other work includes removal of the Chimney Rock Fire Lookout Tower, which shared the mesa top with the prehistoric Great House. The tower was initially constructed in the 1940s, largely removed in the 70s, and reconstructed in the late 80s. Its location detracted from the unique archaeological setting of the world-class Ancestral Puebloan site, obstructing views of the rock pinnacles from the Great House and kiva, and blocking views of astronomical alignments that the prehistoric inhabitants incorporated into their layout of the site. Interpretive signs will be erected at the lower visitor parking lot offering information on the lookout tower and the history of fire suppression.

In addition, crumbling masonry walls around the upper parking lot are receiving a concrete cap to deflect water, and a non-functional restroom has been removed and replaced with a concrete patio area.

Contractors and partners who received Recovery Act funding to complete these projects include the following:
• Chimney Rock Interpretive Association of Pagosa Springs
• MakNak Construction, LLC of Dolores
• Trigon General Contractors and Construction Managers of Durango
• Spallone Construction of Gunnison
• First Cut Development and Animas Well Drilling of Durango
• Clamber, Inc of Durango
• Animas Well Drilling

• Signature Underwriters
• Dominguez Archaeological Research Group
• CR Plumbing and Heating
• Yellow Jacket Solar of Yellow Jacket
• Woods Canyon of Yellow Jacket
• Petrographics of Durango

Program Project Name: Veterans Jobs Project

Local Project Name: San Juan National Forest Veterans Green Corps projects
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: San Juan
Nearby City(ies): Durango, Colorado
Congressional District(s): CO03
County(ies): CO: Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma
Modified Date: 12/21/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Military Veterans

(Story posted 11/16/2010)

The San Juan National Forest is using Recovery Act funding to employ 48 returning military veterans on fuels-reduction projects. The veterans are hired and trained by the Southwest Conservation Corps to conduct hand thinning and brush piling while the Forest Service provides project oversight.

The effort is made possible through the Veterans Green Corps (VGC), a national initiative that helps returning military veterans transition to civilian life by leveraging their leadership experience, strong work ethic, and team approach to meet conservation needs on public lands.

The crews are trained in trail maintenance, noxious-weed control, watershed restoration, monitoring, re-vegetation, data gathering, and mapping. Veterans say they find the opportunity to reconnect with fellow soldiers and work in outdoor settings rewarding in personal and professional ways. Through their work on public lands, they gain valuable experience, training, and an ethic of natural resource stewardship, all of which enhances their opportunities for long-term employment in natural resources.

VGC crews are conducting hand-thinning operations on public lands located in wildland-urban interface areas, where mechanized heavy equipment, such as hydro-mowers, cannot be used because of topography or proximity to homes. Resulting slash is either piled for later burning or offered to the public as firewood. The goal is to train veterans for green jobs while reducing the buildup of flammable fuels on public lands adjacent populated areas, recreational facilities, or cultural sites.

In addition, the San Juan has instituted a Veterans Firefighter Development Program, which allows veterans to receive Red Cards so they can work on fire-management projects, such as prescribed and slash pile burning. This additional training allows for future career development opportunities.

Work accomplished on the San Juan National Forest by the Veterans Green Corps crew and funded by the Recovery Act includes the following:

Pagosa Ranger District/Field Office:
• Ice Cave Ridge – fuels reduction on 54 acres
• Pagosa Lakes Subdivision – fuels reduction on 29 acres
• Chimney Rock Archaeological Area – fuels reduction on 89 acres

Columbine Ranger District/Field Office:
• Saul's Creek – fuels reduction on 100 acres
• Tripp Gulch - fuels reduction on 40 acres

Dolores Public Lands Office:
• Chicken Creek - ponderosa pine thinning on 104 acres
• South Carver - prescribed fire training on 100 acres

These projects were funded by the Recovery Act through a participating agreement with the Southwest Conservation Corps.

Program Project Name: High priority Forest Restoration and Fuels Mitigation

Local Project Name: City of Steamboat Springs
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Medicine Bow-Routt
Nearby City(ies): Steamboat Springs
Congressional District(s): CO02, CO03, CO04, CO05, CO06
County(ies): CO: Gilpin
Modified Date: 12/21/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Bark Beetle-killed Tree Removal

(Story posted 11/17/2010)

From Steamboat Springs, a world-renowned ski destination, one can see changes in the forest. Routt County's forests are experiencing the changes associated with the current mountain pine beetle epidemic that reaches across the lodgepole pine forests of northern Colorado. Residents in the Steamboat Springs area understand that the changes associated with beetle-killed trees are potentially more threatening to the city than the beetle epidemic.

The purpose of the $1 million Recovery Act project was to reduce the amount of fuels available to an uncontained wildland fire. Most of the fuel removed was in the form of dead lodgepole pine trees. The project--which was a team effort--included 138 parcels of non-federal land in the Steamboat Springs Rural Fire Protection District. First, Steamboat Springs Fire Rescue explained the project to property owners, and then two contracted forestry consultant businesses, Western Bionomics and Natural Resource Consultants, prepared the parcels. Rogue Resources, Inc., removed the trees, and the fire department, forest consultants, and the Colorado State Forest Service project manager all provided on-the-ground quality control.

The process provided an interesting learning experience for all involved. As Anne Small, City of Steamboat Springs Purchasing and Risk Manager related, “Some potential participants supported the concept, but moving past the idea stage was difficult, even though the landowners know removal of the trees was in their best interest. It is a big change that is difficult for some to absorb. A few people who initially wanted nothing to do with the project became advocates and participants.”

Mike McBeth, Rogue Resources employee, shared his experience in the Spring Creek area. “Some local residents were disappointed that the area had to be temporarily closed to recreation, but they soon realized the short-term inconvenience was worth the long-term benefits. To show their appreciation, Spring Creek residents delivered brownies to the workers setting the chokers in the numbing temperatures.”

Storm Mountain Ranch was one of the first project participants. The trees were cut and removed in early winter. Dan Bell, ranch manager for the past three years, commented, “Removing the dead trees adjacent to the roads has been a positive experience. I received a couple logistic questions as trees were being cut, but no complaints about the results. We feel fortunate to be included in the project.”

Five months into the Recovery Act project, fuels had been reduced on more than 130 acres. Despite the time involvement, Small said, “I would encourage other cities to take the same approach of applying for the grants and subcontract the parts to the people with the experience. The city can be the checks and balances for the project that includes private land and private contractors.”

As U.S. Senator Mark Udall of Colorado stated in his support letter for the project, “This project will bring significant job creation benefit both in the short term (the tree removal phase) and long term (the creation of useful wood products)."

Trent Jones, Rogue Resources controller, confirmed the senator’s statement. “The positive impact of the Recovery Act funds cannot be overstated. Without the Steamboat Springs project, there would not be much of a company left, maybe five people. With this project, we are employing 25 people.”

Program Project Name: Community Wildfire Protection Plan Implementation

Local Project Name: Perry Park Metropolitan District
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Pike-San Isabel
Ranger District: South Platte
Nearby City(ies): Larkspur
Congressional District(s): CO06
County(ies): CO: El Paso
Modified Date: 2/9/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Community Wildfire Protection Plan, Shape Careers

(Story posted 11/17/2010)

Perry Park Metropolitan District comprises the 3,840-acre Perry Park Ranch. The ranch sits at the base of the Rampart Range west of Larkspur, Colorado, where the vegetation changes from open meadow with scattered ponderosa pine to a pine forest with clumps of Gambel oak shrub to a Douglas-fir forest. Rocky Mountain juniper and mountain mahogany occupy drier sites.

The Pike National Forest is a backdoor neighbor. Approximately half the 1,300 residential lots have homes and other structures. Only one dedicated road provides access to the community.

In December 2004, the Metro District Board received approval for a community wildfire protection plan (CWPP) that shaped the strategy to protect Perry Park Ranch and its residents from the impacts of wildfire. The Metro District Board has built many partnerships to implement the CWPP. The amount of vegetation along county right-of-ways has been reduced. Steps to create a second emergency egress route are underway. The Sheriff's Department in the Douglas County Office of Emergency Management has been vital in providing residents with pertinent evacuation information. The lake owned by the Perry Park Country Club is a fire suppression water source. Other partners include the Intermountain Rural Electric Association, U.S. Forest Service, Colorado State Forest Service, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Douglas Land Conservancy, Perry Park Water and Sanitation District, Firewise Communities/USA, and Larkspur Fire Protection District.

In February 2010, the South Platte District of the Pike National Forest completed an 81-acre thinning project adjacent to Perry Park Ranch. The purpose was two-fold: to restore the forest to a pre-European settlement density and reduce the intensity of a fire. With wildlife and wildfire in mind, Perry Park residents are using photos taken in 1871 as a reference to restore forest diversity on private land.

What makes this project unique is how the work on private land is being accomplished. Private mitigation contractors continue to work on land accessible to equipment that cuts and

chips trees, but thanks to Recovery Act funds, the Metro District also has a seasonal, 11-person fuels mitigation crew that works in tougher terrain. Recovery Act funds allowed the Larkspur Fire Department to hire the seasonal fuels mitigation crew, which also responds to wildfires that occur within the Larkspur Fire Protection District. The crew will work in Perry Park for the next two years. The fire department and residents of Perry Park hope this is just the first season of many to come for the crew.

The Larkspur Fire Department fuels mitigation crew was hired in May 2010. Crew members are 19 to 35 years old and their fire service experience ranges from one to 13 years. The crew is led by Moises Barrera, a 10-year veteran with the fire department.

The crew is divided into two squads, each with a squad boss. The Recovery Act grant gave both squad bosses the opportunity to gain leadership experience and to return to their home state. In addition, Justin Moon was able to purchase a home in June, and Aaron Meyers can see his son more often.

Lori Johnson rode in a fire truck with her uncle when she was young. As a crew member, she is laying the foundation for her career. Steve Wagner's father, brother and brother-in-law all are in the fire service. This is Wagner's first year, and for him, the best part of the job is the teamwork and friendship--and looking out for each other. Andy Geipel and Taylor Reifschneider are passionate about the fire service. Both are fire department volunteers, and both are building careers in the fire service.

Some crew members were on a different career path when the need for a change or an unexpected opportunity brought them into the fire service. Bonnie Holladay has a degree in journalism, but joined AmeriCorps after college. After working on several disaster relief and response projects, she realized emergency response was a better career fit for her than journalism. Chris Gentile worked for an independent office supply store, but he has found the different work environment to be more satisfying.
For Ricky Romanin, a volunteer with the fire department in Sedalia, Colorado, the job is all about doing his part as a community member. "This job gives me the opportunity to be a part of the leading force in helping my community be prepared in case of a large wildfire." Chad Tamanaha agreed, "The best part of the job is serving the public in an outstanding, recognizable manner."

Program Project Name: Rocky Mountain Region Bark Beetle and Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects

Local Project Name: Colorado Youth Corps Association
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Medicine Bow-Routt
Nearby City(ies): Steamboat Springs, Golden, Grand Junction
Congressional District(s): CO02, CO03
County(ies): CO: Garfield, Grand, Jackson, Rio Blanco, Routt
Modified Date: 2/9/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Work Benefits Youth

(Story posted 11/24/2010)

The Colorado Youth Corps Association is a statewide coalition of 10 accredited youth conservation corps whose goal is to create productive and active citizens by offering participants environmental education, life skills, and job-readiness training.

The Youth Corps traditionally works with federal land managers on trail and conservation projects, but in recent years, corps organizations in Colorado expanded their programs to include saw crews. This summer, five youth corps provided the labor for fuels mitigation projects in six Colorado State Parks using Forest Service Recovery Act funds.

State parks and Colorado State Forest Service personnel provided technical expertise and project coordination, and FireReady, Inc., provided risk-management assessment services and technical expertise. The Colorado Youth Corps Association provides statewide grant management and coordination, and the Colorado State Forest Service ensures the projects meet grant expectations.

Fuels reduction work began in June 2010 at Pearl Lake State Park and Steamboat Lake State Park in Routt County. Work at Sylvan Lake State Park in Eagle County and the State Forest State Park in Jackson County followed in July. Each of these parks is dealing with the aftermath of the mountain pine beetle epidemic in lodgepole pine. Fire easily consumes recently killed trees with reddish-brown needles. Trees with a gray cast have a lower fire risk, but rot in the tree base and roots pose a safety risk to park visitors. Corps members addressed both issues.

In Golden Gate Canyon State Park, just west of Golden, the mountain pine beetle population is expanding at a moderate rate and park personnel are taking a proactive stance toward treatment.

In Dolores County, the continuity of dense Gambel oak is a fire concern at Lone Mesa State Park. Corps members removed oak adjacent to a fire access road.

Each youth conservation corps operates somewhat differently, but all corps members participating on saw crews are 18 to 25 years old and are trained to operate chainsaws. In addition to earning wages, corps members can earn high school or college credits and an AmeriCorps Education Award to pay for college, trade school, or student loans.

When the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps crew began work at Pearl Lake, only two of the 10 people knew each other. For the next three months, they worked in the campgrounds at Pearl Lake and Steamboat Lake state parks. The crew often was in the limelight of park visitors who befriended them with cookies, extra provisions, kind words, and letters. The crew cooked, ate, and camped together. Weekends included grocery shopping and a refreshing

shower. Some members recently graduated from college; Cameron has a degree in anthropology and Kerry a degree in geography. For Jeff, the best part of the job was cutting down trees; for Jon, it was meeting people; and for Jake, it was working outside.

The Western Colorado Conservation Corps, based in Grand Junction, had a 12-member crew that cut dead trees adjacent to a popular trail in Sylvan Lake State Park. The crew camped during the week, but went back to Grand Junction on weekends. After working in tamarisk for a month, the crew was excited to be in the forest. “It’s really cool being the leader,” said Dennis Quinn, a seasoned sawyer with a geography degree. He discovers what motivates individual crew members and then tries to match the task to the person. “The challenging part of the job is keeping track of everyone,” Quinn said. Six of the crew members worked together last year, which made his job easier. “It’s a fun job.”

Jason “Willy” Gurath and Sean Flores were co-leaders for the Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) crew that worked in Lone Mesa State Park. Both leaders have chainsaw and conservation corps experience. Flores attended college but was not enjoying what he was studying, so he took some time off and discovered that the outdoors was where he needed to be. “If work gets monotonous, I just look up at the scenery,” Flores said with a smile. Gurath and Flores have complementary leadership styles. Together, they talked through issues and enjoyed their roles. “It’s working out great.” Both leaders discovered the SCC job opportunities while surfing the web.

Program Project Name: Improve Facilities and Reduce Environmental Impacts at Lost Lake Campground

Local Project Name: Delta Timber Company
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: GrandMesa/Uncompahgre/Gunnison
Nearby City(ies): Delta
Congressional District(s): CO03
County(ies): CO: Gunnison
Modified Date: 12/21/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Boost Timber Company's Future

(Story posted 11/24/2010)

Delta Timber Company, a locally owned lumber manufacturing firm, has been in operation since 1990. The sawmill, purchased by Delta Timber and located near downtown Delta, Colorado, has been an historical place marker for 57 years. It has provided living wage jobs and wood products for over six decades and is part of the fabric of the community.

The weakened economy and subsequent collapse of the housing industry has had serious consequences for aspen paneling--Delta Timber’s signature product. Business credit tightened. An unconventional, multi-faceted solution was necessary. The company closed the

mill for almost two months in 2009 to retool and thereby diversify the type of lumber products the mill could produce. If unsuccessful in the competition for Recovery Act funds through the Colorado State Forest Service, the reopening of the mill would have been temporary.

“When selected to receive Recovery Act funds, we knew we had a future,” said Eric Sorenson, Delta Timber Company CEO. The 15 employees laid off during the retooling were rehired. An additional 21 new employees also were hired in November/December 2009.

The company now has a crew to saw logs into boards and another crew to plane the boards. As a result, the high fixed costs of sawmill operations are spread across more finished products in a given time frame. The Recovery Act funds also allowed the company to purchase the raw material supply needed for wood-product production through the upcoming winter months.

Curtis is the head saw filer for Delta Timber and was hired as a result of the Recovery Act grant. As head saw filer, Curtis is in charge of sharpening and maintaining all the saws and knives involved with the sawmilling process. This is the 10th western-state sawmill location he has worked in as saw filer over his career. Six of the 10 locations now are permanently closed—-stark evidence of the challenges the forest products industry is facing.

When asked about the importance of the Recovery Act grant, he stated, "The crew counts on these jobs to feed their families. The effects of Delta Timber trickle throughout the entire community. The mill uses logs that employ loggers in the area, and vendors have businesses in the area that count on Delta Timber for much of their revenue.”

The positive impacts of Recovery Act funds spread like fingers across a Colorado map. Ten logging contractors with crews cut the trees, and another 10 businesses transport the logs to the mill. Independent semi-truck owners distribute the various wood products within and outside of the state. The list continues with a myriad of vendors and purchasers tied just to this one business. The forester in the room adds, “We cannot do our job without a wood-product industry.”

This sentiment echoed what Charles S. Richmond, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests supervisor wrote regarding Delta Timber Company. “DTC is a critically important partner, providing an essential tool in our efforts to accomplish forest treatments, wood utilization, and wildfire mitigation. Commercial harvest is the most economical means to achieve treatment objectives, and DTC is one of the last remaining firms in our area that has the ability to facilitate treatments at a meaningful scale. We currently have five timber sales under contract with DTC, totaling nearly 1,200 acres of treatment for 19 million board feet of products.”

Delta residents are excited to see the rows of logs in the yard stacked nearly two stories high. It signifies hope to the community of 8,000.

Program Project Name: Improve Facilities and Reduce Environmental Impacts at Lost Lake Campground

Local Project Name: Lost Lake Campground Reconstruction
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: GrandMesa/Uncompahgre/Gunnison
Ranger District: Paonia
Nearby City(ies): Paonia, CO
Congressional District(s): CO03
County(ies): CO: Gunnison
Modified Date: 12/21/2010

Story:

Popular Forest Campground Renovations Complete

(Story posted 12/1/2010)

The setting at Lost Lake Campground on the Grand Mesa, Gunnison and Uncompahgre National Forests near the West Elk Scenic Byway is classic. A shimmering jewel of water is perched high in the mountains with a forested backdrop, from which snowy, granite twin peaks rise majestically. Most of the campsites have views of this inspiring sight, as if the Kebler Pass Road wasn't scenic enough on the way up to Lost Lake. Rising out of the West Elk Wilderness, East Beckwith and West Beckwith mountains form twin sentinels over Lost Lake Slough. Against this backdrop lies a much-loved and used campground.

The nearby communities of Crested Butte and Paonia have limited campground facilities and the surrounding area is experiencing explosive use with nearly 100 percent campground occupancy during the open season and 500 vehicles traveling through each day.

The Lost Lake Campground had experienced severe site degradation and overcrowding, resulting in resource damage, creation of user-expanded sites, and a maintenance backlog. Campers and horseback riders access trailheads within the campground, often resulting in conflict. Recovery Act funds enhance supported the reconstruction work already underway to minimize user conflicts by rerouting trails; providing day use, restroom, and picnic facilities; and constructing horse campsites and trailhead facilities to provide a quality site for an array of users and to sustainably support increased use of the area.

Workers reconstructed the campground to accommodate modern vehicles and camper-needed changes; installed a new water system, camp spurs, new campsite furniture, and restroom facilities. Additionally, the restroom, a fishing platform, and 14 of the campsites have been made accessible to handicap users, and five of the sites are specifically suited to equestrian campers.

Program Project Name: Safer Parking at the Mesa Top Trailhead

Local Project Name: Mesa Top Trailhead and Parking Area
Region: Rocky Mountain Region

Forest: GrandMesa/Uncompahgre/Gunnison
Ranger District: Grand Valley-Grand Mesa
Nearby City(ies): Collbran
Congressional District(s): CO03
County(ies): CO: Mesa
Modified Date: 1/6/2011

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Improve Recreation Experience, Protect Resources

(Story posted 12/1/2010)

Recovery Act funds have helped improve a popular recreation trailhead on the Grand Mesa. Using a planned capital investment project to create a larger safer trailhead for winter recreationists with restroom facilities and to accommodate vehicles and snowmobile trailers, the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests added Recovery Act funding to provide a smooth asphalt surface to reduce runoff, rutting, and erosion to enhance water quality and allow for plowing during the winter months.

This site is one of the most popular areas on Grand Mesa in the winter, providing access and parking for snowmobilers, skiers, snowshoers, and other winter recreationists. The addition of paving extended employment of the contractor (and employees) and finishes the project for public use and enjoyment.

Program Project Name: Boundary Identification for Fuels Reduction

Local Project Name: Boundary Program
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Pike-San Isabel
Ranger District: San Carlos
Nearby City(ies): Evergreen, Denver, Colorado Springs
Estimated Project Cost: $200,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 2
Congressional District(s): CO05
County(ies): CO: Teller
Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:
Boundary Survey Work Continues Thanks to Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 12/8/2010)

The Pike-San Isabel National Forests and Cimarron-Comanche National Grasslands (PSICC) boundary program received $200,000 in Recovery Act funding to identify National Forest boundaries for the Fuels Reduction Program.

Several encroachments on the National Forest were identified, and 28 miles of boundary posting were achieved, which contributed to the Rocky Mountain Region National Forest Boundary Program posting target.

This funding allowed the PSICC boundary program to resume conducting surveys, resurveys, and posting by means of a private contractor. This portion of the boundary program had been suspended due to the lack of funding.

Program Project Name: Manchester and Skelton Hazardous Fuel Reduction

Local Project Name: Manchester and Skelton Hazardous Fuels Reduction
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Pike-San Isabel
Ranger District: Pikes Peak
Nearby City(ies): Woodland Park, CO
Estimated Project Cost: $820,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 9
Congressional District(s): CO05
County(ies): CO: Teller
Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funding Supports Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects

(Story posted 12/8/2010)

Using authorities of the U.S. Forest Service, the Pike-San Isabel National Forests and Cimarron-Comanche National Grasslands (PSICC) obtained Recovery Act grant funds to support fuels reduction treatments around the Woodland Park community in Teller County, Colorado. The Rural Fuels Reduction Project was designed to create jobs, develop workforce skills, and stimulate local biomass markets.

Local residents were employed to remove hazardous fuel build-ups around homes, as prescribed within their community wildfire protection plan (CWPP). About nine new temporary jobs were created to treat more than 1,735 acres of hazardous fuels around the community. Workers mostly removed ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir within a critical municipal watershed.

The 1996 Buffalo Creek and 2002 Hayman fires proved the need for a fuels treatment programs along the Colorado Front Range. In response, the local community organized into the “Woodland Park Healthy Forest Initiative” to address the situation. The overall goal of the group is to expedite and enhance implementation of forest health, fuels mitigation, and biomass projects in the area surrounding Woodland Park.

Recovery Act grant funds were used to address their fuels reduction, restoration, and biomass goals. Even more important, the project provided jobs to nine full-time employees during a struggling economy. Compounding trade of biomass material, previously to be determined as waste material, helped stimulate the local economy also.

According to Cody Neff, owner of West Range Reclamation, one of his newly hired temporary employees was unemployed for four months previously. He started out as a pre-commercial brush thinner, which is considered as an entry level position. He was soon promoted to an equipment operator. Because the employee displayed excellent work ethics, he was promoted to a foreman position. This is considered as key within the company, and he is likely to remain employed for years to come.

For information on the total Woodland Park Healthy Forest Initiative effort please visit http://www.wphfi.org/.

Program Project Name: Campground Facilities Replacements and Reconstruction

Local Project Name: Campground Facilities Replacements and Reconstruction
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Pike-San Isabel
Ranger District: Leadville
Nearby City(ies): Salida, Pueblo, Colorado Springs, Leadville and Fairplay
Estimated Project Cost: $682,000.00
Congressional District(s): CO05
County(ies): CO: Chaffee, Custer, El Paso, Huerfano, Lake, Park
Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:

Facility Improvements Benefit Recreationists

(Story posted 12/8/2010)

The Pike-San Isabel National Forests and Cimarron-Comanche National Grasslands received Recovery Act funds to replace 20 restroom facilities in Lake, Chaffee, El Paso, Park, Huerfano, and Custer counties in Colorado.

This project involved replacing 22 30-to-40 year-old restroom facilities at campgrounds and picnic grounds across the Pike-San Isabel National Forests and on the Comanche National Grasslands. The antiquated restrooms were replaced with new pre-cast concrete buildings. The new facilities are far more sanitary; are fully accessible to people of all abilities; address environmental issues, such as leaking vaults; and should have a service life of 50 years.

Twenty-five restrooms were demolished and replaced by the new facilities installed across nine counties, at a cost of $662,000. This project is complete except for some minor site reshaping.

Program Project Name: Bark Beetle - HF reduction around WUI - FY09 Phase 1b

Local Project Name: WyColo/Pelton Creek
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Medicine Bow-Routt
Ranger District: Laramie
Nearby City(ies): Laramie
Estimated Project Cost: $337,561.00
Congressional District(s): CO03, CO04, WY00
County(ies): CO: Boulder, Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Larimer, Routt, Summit; WY: Albany, Carbon
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Workers Remove Dead Trees to Minimize Wildland Fire Risk

(Story posted 1/10/2011)

Over the past five years the national forests in Colorado and Wyoming have been heavily impacted by bark beetles. To date, bark beetles have affected approximately 2.5 million acres of trees.

The dead trees have created a severe fire hazard over a majority of the national forests. This fire hazard is especially concerning to homeowners and communities adjacent to the national forests.

On Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, workers removed beetle-killed trees from 285 acres of wildland-urban interface to protect communities by reducing wildland fire risk.

Forest Service Recovery Act funds were awarded to the project for hazardous tree removal on the wildland-urban interface.

Program Project Name: Bark Beetle - HF reduction around WUI - FY09 Phase 1b

Local Project Name: Porter Creek
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Medicine Bow-Routt
Ranger District: Laramie
Nearby City(ies): Laramie
Estimated Project Cost: $34,672.00
Congressional District(s): CO03, CO04, WY00
County(ies): CO: Boulder, Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Larimer, Routt, Summit; WY: Albany, Carbon
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Cleanup of Beetle-killed Trees

(Story posted 1/10/2011)

Over the past five years, the national forests in Colorado and Wyoming have been heavily impacted by bark beetles. To date, bark beetles have affected approximately 2.5 million acres of trees.

The dead trees have created a severe fire hazard over a majority of the national forests. This fire hazard is especially concerning to homeowners and communities adjacent to the national forests.

On Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, workers removed beetle-killed trees from 31 acres of wildland-urban interface to protect communities by reducing wildland fire risk.

Forest Service Recovery Act funds were awarded to the project for hazardous tree removal on the wildland-urban interface.

Program Project Name: Bark Beetle - HF reduction around WUI - FY09 Phase 1b

Local Project Name: White Rock Estates
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Medicine Bow-Routt
Ranger District: Brush Creek Hayden
Nearby City(ies): Saratoga
Estimated Project Cost: $239,346.00
Congressional District(s): CO03, CO04, WY00
County(ies): CO: Boulder, Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Larimer, Routt, Summit; WY: Albany, Carbon
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:
Workers Remove Trees Killed by Bark Beetles to Reduce Wildland Fire Risk

(Story posted 1/10/2011)

Over the past five years, the national forests in Colorado and Wyoming have been heavily impacted by bark beetles. To date, bark beetles have affected approximately 2.5 million acres of trees.

The dead trees have created a severe fire hazard over a majority of the national forests. This fire hazard is especially concerning to homeowners and communities adjacent to the national forests.

On Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, workers have removed beetle-killed trees from 214 acres of wildland-urban interface to protect communities by reducing wildland fire risk.

Forest Service Recovery Act funds were awarded to the project for hazardous tree removal on the wildland-urban interface.

Program Project Name: Bark Beetle - HF reduction around WUI - FY09 Phase 1b

Local Project Name: Grouse Mountain
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Medicine Bow-Routt
Ranger District: Parks-RT
Nearby City(ies): Kremmling
Estimated Project Cost: $48,093.00
Congressional District(s): CO03, CO04, WY00
County(ies): CO: Boulder, Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Larimer, Routt, Summit; WY: Albany, Carbon
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Beetle-killed Trees Removed from 43 Acres on Medicine-Bow Routt National Forest

(Story posted 1/10/2011)

Over the past five years, the national forests in Colorado and Wyoming have been heavily impacted by bark beetles. To date, bark beetles have affected approximately 2.5 million acres of trees.

The dead trees have created a severe fire hazard over a majority of the national forests. This fire hazard is especially concerning to homeowners and communities adjacent to the national forests.

On Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, workers removed beetle-killed trees from 43 acres of wildland-urban interface to protect communities by reducing wildland fire risk.

Forest Service Recovery Act funds were awarded to the project for hazardous tree removal on the wildland-urban interface.

Program Project Name: Bark Beetle - HF reduction around WUI - FY09 Phase 1b

Local Project Name: Summer Cabin
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Medicine Bow-Routt
Ranger District: Parks-RT
Nearby City(ies): Walden
Estimated Project Cost: $49,211.00

Congressional District(s): CO03, CO04, WY00
County(ies): CO: Boulder, Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Larimer, Routt, Summit; WY: Albany, Carbon
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:
Workers Clear Dead Trees from 44 Acres of Wildland-Urban Interface

(Story posted 1/10/2011)

Over the past five years, the national forests in Colorado and Wyoming have been heavily impacted by bark beetles. To date, bark beetles have affected approximately 2.5 million acres of trees.

The dead trees have created a severe fire hazard over a majority of the national forests. This fire hazard is especially concerning to homeowners and communities adjacent to the national forests.

On Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, workers removed beetle-killed trees from 44 acres of wildland-urban interface to protect communities by reducing wildland fire risk.

Forest Service Recovery Act funds were awarded to the project for hazardous tree removal on the wildland-urban interface.

Program Project Name: Bark Beetle - HF reduction around WUI - FY09 Phase 1b

Local Project Name: Upton/Osage
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Medicine Bow-Routt
Ranger District: Douglas
Nearby City(ies): Douglas
Estimated Project Cost: $722,842.00
Congressional District(s): CO03, CO04, WY00
County(ies): CO: Boulder, Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Larimer, Routt, Summit; WY: Albany, Carbon
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:
Fuels Treatment Applied to 691 Acres to Reduce Wildland Fire Risk

(Story posted 1/10/2011)

Over the past five years, the national forests in Colorado and Wyoming have been heavily impacted by bark beetles. To date, bark beetles have affected approximately 2.5 million acres of trees.

The dead trees have created a severe fire hazard over a majority of the national forests. This fire hazard is especially concerning to homeowners and communities adjacent to the national forests.

On Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, workers completed fuels treatment on 691 acres of wildland-urban interface for community protection from wildland fire.

The Forest Service partnered with the Colorado and Wyoming State Forest Services and local fire departments to plan and facilitate the hazardous fuels treatments for this project. Research by Jack Cowen at the Missoula, Montana Wildland Fire Laboratory shows that the fuels treatments the Forest proposed are effective in reducing fire severity adjacent to homes.

Forest Service Recovery Act funds were awarded to the project for hazardous tree removal on the wildland-urban interface.

Program Project Name: Bark Beetle - HF reduction around WUI - FY09 Phase 1b

Local Project Name: Friend Creek
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Medicine Bow-Routt
Ranger District: Douglas
Nearby City(ies): Douglas
Estimated Project Cost: $44,738.00
Congressional District(s): CO03, CO04, WY00
County(ies): CO: Boulder, Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Larimer, Routt, Summit; WY: Albany, Carbon
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Fuel Reduction Projects Completed to Reduce Risk of Fire

(Story posted 1/10/2011)

Over the past five years, the national forests in Colorado and Wyoming have been heavily impacted by bark beetles. To date, bark beetles have affected approximately 2.5 million acres of trees.

The dead trees have created a severe fire hazard over a majority of the national forests. This fire hazard is especially concerning to homeowners and communities adjacent to the national forests.

On Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, workers completed fuels reduction projects on 40 acres of wildland-urban interface for community protection from wildland fire.

The Forest Service partnered with the Colorado and Wyoming State Forest Services and

local fire departments to plan and facilitate the hazardous fuels treatments for this project. Research by Jack Cowen at the Missoula, Montana Wildland Fire Laboratory shows that the fuels treatments the Forest proposed are effective in reducing fire severity adjacent to homes.

Forest Service Recovery Act funds were awarded to the project for fuels treatment on the wildland-urban interface.

Program Project Name: Bark Beetle - HF reduction around WUI - FY09 Phase 1b

Local Project Name: 42 fuels
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Medicine Bow-Routt
Ranger District: Hahns Peak/Bears Ear
Nearby City(ies): Steamboat Springs
Congressional District(s): CO03, CO04, WY00
County(ies): CO: Boulder, Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Larimer, Routt, Summit; WY: Albany, Carbon
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Removing Dead Trees on Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest Mitigates Wildland Fire Risk

(Story posted 1/10/2011)

Over the past five years, the national forests in Colorado and Wyoming have been heavily impacted by bark beetles. To date, bark beetles have affected approximately 2.5 million acres of trees.

The dead trees have created a severe fire hazard over a majority of the national forests. This fire hazard is especially concerning to homeowners and communities adjacent to the national forests.

On Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, workers have removed beetle-killed trees from the wildland-urban interface to protect communities from wildland fire risk.

Forest Service Recovery Act funds paid for this project.

Program Project Name: Forest-wide Renovations Make Facilities Accessible to All Users

Local Project Name: Forest-wide Recreation Defered Maintenance
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Rio Grande
Nearby City(ies): Creede, South Fork, Saguache, Antonito, Monte Vista
Congressional District(s): CO03

County(ies): CO: Conejos, Hinsdale, Mineral, Rio Grande, Saguache
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Recreation Site Project on Rio Grande Natonal Forest Creates Local Jobs

(Story posted 2/11/2011)

Many of the campgrounds and other recreation sites on the Rio Grande National Forest have been in need of work for quite some time. The Forest gathered all the deferred maintenance needs through a recreation facility analysis and used this data to request American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. The close to $1.4 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds the forest received for recreation deferred maintenance was just the financial infusion needed to maintain recreation facilities and put many locals to work.

Accomplishments included work on 25 campgrounds, 14 trailheads, six picnic sites, five river access points, and five foot bridges. Workers replaced or added 341 tables, 392 fire rings, kiosks, gravel, fences, retaining walls, site markers, fee tubes, entrance signs, rock barriers, cattle guards, and corrals.

The Forest Service Recovery Act funds maintained 11 Forest Service temporary jobs, created nine Forest Service temporary jobs, created 104 temporary jobs for youth, were used for 22 contracts with six contractors, and purchased supplies from numerous local businesses.

In addition to the short term-stimulus provided by Recovery Act funds, the improvement to these recreation sites will provide a long-lasting stimulus to the tourist industry throughout the San Luis Valley. Quality recreation facilities attract tourists, and tourists spend money in the economically depressed communities of the San Luis Valley.

Connecticut

Program Project Name: Greening and Renovation of Connecticut Forest Service Research Facilities

Local Project Name: Greening and Renovation of Connecticut FS Research Facilities - Tile Abatement

Region: Northeastern Research Station

Nearby City(ies): Airports - Bradley International Airport - Windsor Locks, CT ; New Haven Airport - New Haven, CT Newspapers - Hartford Courant, New Haven Register

Congressional District(s): CT03

County(ies): CT: New Haven

Modified Date: 7/13/2010

Story:

Connecticut FS Research Facilities Begins Greening, Renovating

(Story posted 4/27/2009)

One portion of the Recovery Act Project at Hamden, CT is abatement of asbestos floor tile throughout the building at 51 Mill Pond Road. Baystate Contracting Services Inc. was awarded the contract to remove and replace the flooring materials. Work on this project began on March 22.

Florida

Program Project Name: Florida Forest Health Improvement Initiative

Local Project Name: Florida Forest Health Improvement Initiative

Region: Southern Region

Nearby City(ies): Statewide

Estimated Project Cost: $1,570,000.00

Congressional District(s): FL01, FL02, FL03, FL04, FL05, FL06, FL07, FL08, FL09, FL10, FL11, FL12, FL13, FL14, FL15, FL16, FL17, FL18, FL19, FL20, FL21, FL22, FL23, FL24, FL25

County(ies): FL: 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

Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Forest Health Improvement Initiative Benefitting Communities Across Florida

(Story posted 4/2/2010)

The Florida Division of Forestry will work through communities, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions to improve the forest health in communities. The state will have a competitive grant process inviting eligible participants to apply for funding to reforest public rights-of-ways, parks, public schools, and other natural areas, as well as provide opportunities for tree remediation work which include corrective tree pruning, hazard tree removal and rehabilitation of soil conditions for significant trees.

Communities all over Florida will benefit ecologically from the increase in canopy cover and improve health and vigor of existing trees. Projects will contribute to improved water and air quality, improved community aesthetics, and increase in employment opportunities for the green industry.

Priority for funding will be given to communities that have the highest unemployment rates in the state of Florida. These areas should see increased employment opportunity for commercial arborists, landscape contractors, nurserymen, consulting arborists, and landscape architects/designers.

Program Project Name: Bridge Replacement - Deferred Maintenance

Local Project Name: Reconstruction of Bridge 125-6.8

Region: Southern Region

Forest: NFS In Florida

Ranger District: Apalachicola
Nearby City(ies): Bristol
Estimated Project Cost: $497,078.00
Congressional District(s): FL02
County(ies): FL: Baker, Columbia, Liberty, Wakulla
Modified Date: 7/15/2010

Story:

Reconstruction of Bridge 125-6.8 Underway With Help From Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 4/2/2010)

Bridge 125-6.8 is an existing 5-span concrete bridge with wooden piling built in 1963. The substructure was failing as noted in the 2008 bridge inspection; substructure was rated a 3 or poor, a serious condition for safety. The project eliminates deferred maintenance and improves safety for users.

The work for this project includes the removal of the existing bridge and the construction of an all concrete structure complete with guard rails. The contractor began moving on site on February 8. Demolition of the first span was completed March 5 and the driving of piles began on March 8. The contractor told the COR that this project put his subcontractors employees back to work after they had been laid off.

Program Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and Fuels Management

Local Project Name: Alabama – Longleaf Restoration Initiative
Region: Southern Region
Nearby City(ies): Alabama
Estimated Project Cost: $0.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 13.5
Congressional District(s): FL01, FL02, FL03, FL04, FL05, FL06, FL07, FL08, FL09, FL10, FL11, FL12, FL13, FL14, FL15, FL16, FL17, FL18, FL19, FL20, FL21, FL22, FL23, FL24, FL25, GA01, GA02, GA03, GA04, GA05, GA06, GA07, GA08, GA09, GA10, GA11, GA12, GA13, NC01, NC02, NC03, NC04, NC05, NC06, NC07, NC08, NC09, NC10, NC11, NC12, NC13, SC01, SC02, SC03, SC04, SC05, SC06

County(ies): AL: 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; FL: Brevard, Broward, 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; GA: 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; NC: 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; SC: 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

Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project in Alabama

(Story posted 4/13/2010)

The longleaf pine forests that once covered over 90 million acres in southeastern United States has been reduced by 97 percent to 3.4 million acres – only three percent remains. To address these concerns, representatives from over 20 federal, state, and non-government

organizations came together and helped develop the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine, which was released in March 2009. The plan calls for an unprecedented collaborative effort – on all lands – to increase longleaf pine acreage to 8 million acres and improve 1.5 million acres of existing longleaf over the next 15 years.

One of the first efforts to go from the range-wide plan to implementation was the awarding of $8.975 million in Recovery Act funds for the Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project. The funds were awarded through grants to state forestry agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. The Alabama Forestry Commission received $1.757 million.

AFC has contracted with the Longleaf Alliance to administer the project. Anne Rilling, with the Alliance, was hired to coordinate this effort. Other agencies involved include the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The work is being implemented through multiple private contracts.

As of March 15, 2010, there have been many accomplishments: Longleaf establishment on 230 acres on the Geneva State Forest and 650 acres on the Barbour Wildlife Management Area; 800+ acres of mid-story treatments to improve existing longleaf pine and improve cone collection areas on the Geneva State Forest and Little River State Forest; around 298,000 longleaf pine seedlings were purchased and provided to supplement the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Landowner Incentive Program to establishing longleaf on an estimated 596 acres (80% complete) of private land; and tuition provided for 47 professionals to attend the Longleaf Academy for formal training.

Program Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and Fuels Management

Local Project Name: Florida Longleaf Restoration Initiative

Region: Southern Region

Forest: Test Forest R8

Nearby City(ies): throughout Florida

Estimated Project Cost: $0.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 0.7

Congressional District(s): FL01, FL02, FL03, FL04, FL05, FL06, FL07, FL08, FL09, FL10, FL11, FL12, FL13, FL14, FL15, FL16, FL17, FL18, FL19, FL20, FL21, FL22, FL23, FL24, FL25

County(ies): AL: 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; FL: 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; GA: 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; NC: 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; SC: 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

Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project in Florida

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

The longleaf pine forests that once covered over 90 million acres in southeastern United States has been reduced by 97% to 3.4 million acres – only 3% remains. To address these concerns, representatives from over 20 federal, state, and non-government organizations

came together and helped develop the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine, which was released in March 2009. The plan calls for an unprecedented collaborative effort – on all lands – to increase longleaf pine acreage to 8 million acres and improve 1.5 million acres of existing longleaf over the next 15 years.

One of the first efforts to go from the range-wide plan to implementation was the awarding of $8.975 million in Recovery Act funds for the Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project. The funds were awarded through grants to state forestry agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

As of March 2010, there have been many accomplishments: a total of 200 acres of longleaf establishment has been completed on the Indian Lakes State Forest, while 13 state forests are involved in accomplishing prescribed burning, mid-story/understory treatments, and seed collection; currently, a little over 300 acres of longleaf establishment has been completed on through Florida's longleaf pine private lands incentive program (out of 2,000 acres); at Andrews State Nursery work is underway to increase the longleaf seedling capacity by 2.2 million, while planned to be completed by April 2010; and inventory work for gopher tortoise, Indigo snake, and RCW is continuing on public lands.

Program Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and Fuels Management

Local Project Name: Georgia Longleaf Pine Initiative

Region: Southern Region

Nearby City(ies): Throughout Georgia

Estimated Project Cost: $0.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 7

Congressional District(s): GA01, GA02, GA03, GA04, GA05, GA06, GA07, GA08, GA09, GA10, GA11, GA12, GA13

County(ies): AL: 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; FL: 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; GA: 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; NC: 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; SC: 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

Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project in Georgia

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

The longleaf pine forests that once covered over 90 million acres in southeastern United States has been reduced by 97 percent to 3.4 million acres – only three percent remains. To address these concerns, representatives from over 20 federal, state, and non-government

organizations came together and helped develop the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine, which was released in March 2009. The plan calls for an unprecedented collaborative effort – on all lands – to increase longleaf pine acreage to 8 million acres and improve 1.5 million acres of existing longleaf over the next 15 years.

One of the first efforts to go from the range-wide plan to implementation was the awarding of $8.975 million in Recovery Act funds for the Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project. The funds were awarded through grants to state forestry agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

As of March 2010, there have been many accomplishments: Longleaf establishment is complete on 115 acres on the Paulding Forest; wiregrass planting is complete on the Broxton Rocks Legacy Forest – 36 acres; field fumigated in order to expand longleaf bare root capacity by 2 million seedlings; GFC hired John Lathem to administer the Recovery Act longleaf grant; and the GFC has 4,572 acres of longleaf signed up through Georgia's Private Lands Longleaf Restoration Incentive Payment Program. It is estimated that approximately 750 acres will be planted by the end of March. Most of the work this year will be site preparation with majority of planting to occur during the winter of 2010/11.

Program Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and Fuels Management

Local Project Name: North Carolina Longleaf Pine Restoration

Region: Southern Region

Nearby City(ies): Throughout North Carolina

Estimated Project Cost: $0.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 1.5

Congressional District(s): NC01, NC02, NC03, NC04, NC05, NC06, NC07, NC08, NC09, NC10, NC11, NC12, NC13

County(ies): AL: 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; FL: 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; GA: 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; NC: 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; SC: 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

Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project in North Carolina

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

The longleaf pine forests that once covered over 90 million acres in southeastern United States has been reduced by 97 percent to 3.4 million acres – only three percent remains. To address these concerns, representatives from over 20 federal, state, and non-government

organizations came together and helped develop the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine, which was released in March 2009. The plan calls for an unprecedented collaborative effort – on all lands – to increase longleaf pine acreage to 8 million acres and improve 1.5 million acres of existing longleaf over the next 15 years.

One of the first efforts to go from the range-wide plan to implementation was the awarding of $8.975 million in Recovery Act funds for the Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project. The funds were awarded through grants to state forestry agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

As of March 2010, there have been many accomplishments: establishing 431 acres of longleaf pine and 80 acres of wiregrass on Bladen Lakes State Forest; completing 2,464 acres of prescribed burning; improving 430 acres of longleaf pine through mechanical treatments of mid-story and understory; collecting and processing 4,600 pounds of longleaf seed, 14 pounds of wiregrass, and four pounds of other native understory plant species; and the Division of Forestry hired five temporary forestry technicians at Bladen Lakes to help implement the longleaf restoration program.

Program Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and Fuels Management

Local Project Name: South Caroline Longleaf Restoration
Region: Southern Region
Nearby City(ies): throughout South Carolina
Estimated Project Cost: $0.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 10.7
Congressional District(s): SC01, SC02, SC03, SC04, SC05, SC06

County(ies): AL: 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; FL: 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; GA: 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; NC: 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; SC: 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

Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project in South Carolina

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

The longleaf pine forests that once covered over 90 million acres in southeastern United States has been reduced by 97 percent to 3.4 million acres – only three percent remains. To address these concerns, representatives from over 20 federal, state, and non-government

organizations came together and helped develop the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine, which was released in March 2009. The plan calls for an unprecedented collaborative effort – on all lands – to increase longleaf pine acreage to 8 million acres and improve 1.5 million acres of existing longleaf over the next 15 years.

One of the first efforts to go from the range-wide plan to implementation was the awarding of $8.975 million in Recovery Act funds for the Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project. The funds were awarded through grants to state forestry agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

As of March 2010, there have been many accomplishments: establishment of longleaf pine on 625 acres on state lands; 1,150 acres of mid-story/stand improvement treatments have been completed; approximately 4,000 acres of prescribed burning has been completed; work on private lands has been accomplished (reported through first of March) with the Longleaf Restoration Program (landowner incentive program) – 180 acres of longleaf establishment, 183 acres of prescribed burning, and 103 acres of mid-story treatments ;the capacity to produce containerized longleaf pine has been increased at Taylor State Nursery by 750,000 seedlings through contract construction of new raised tables; a private consulting forester has been contracted to inventory state parks lands for longleaf pine; and the SCFC has sent 45 professionals to the Longleaf Academy in Alabama for formal training.

Program Project Name: Apalachicola National Forest- Drainage Rehabilitation

Local Project Name: DRAINAGE REHAB
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NFS In Florida
Ranger District: Apalachicola
Nearby City(ies): Bristol
Estimated Project Cost: $300,000.00
Congressional District(s): FL02
County(ies): FL: Liberty, Wakulla
Modified Date: 8/3/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Eliminating Safety Hazards Through Drainage Rehab

(Story posted 6/22/2010)

This project includes replacement of over 100 pipes on the Forest Service System roads on the Apalachicola NF. Replacing pipes will eliminate safety hazards on the roads caused by failing (rotten) pipes falling in when heavier loads cross them. Replacing failed pipes will help eliminate resource damages and sediment loads to nearby creeks.

Two ID/IQ contracts utilized one to purchase pipes and one to install them.

Program Project Name: Mountain Bike Trail Maintenance for Safety and Protection

Local Project Name: MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL MAINTENANCE
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NFS In Florida
Ranger District: Wakulla
Nearby City(ies): Tallahassee
Estimated Project Cost: $200,233.00
Congressional District(s): FL02
County(ies): FL: Leon
Modified Date: 8/3/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Maintain Mountain Bike Trail

(Story posted 6/22/2010)

Munson Hills Bike Trail is 18 miles long, close to the Capitol in Tallahassee, Fl, and very popular with local riders, runners and walkers. The maintenance needs include: stabilization of trail with lime rock base; building trail components such as undulations and out slope sections for drainage, banked turns, boulders to increase difficulty, and generally rebuilding the trail.

The Recovery Act Funds will provide maintenance for erosion control in areas where sandy soils have washed and will allow riders to stay on trail and stop resource damage where riders have gone around badly eroded sections.

Program Project Name: Maintenance of Three Florida Trails for Safety and Protection

Local Project Name: Leon Sinks
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NFS In Florida
Ranger District: Wakulla
Nearby City(ies): Ocala, Tallahassee
Estimated Project Cost: $950,000.00
Congressional District(s): FL02, FL03
County(ies): FL: Marion
Modified Date: 8/3/2010

Story:

Trail Maintenance Through Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 6/22/2010)

The Leon Sinks Trail Project includes rehabilitation of wooden boardwalks, viewing platforms, trailhead facilities and replacement of old signage.

The Lake Eaton Trails Project includes rehabilitation of wooden boardwalks and viewing platforms, the installation of an accessible restroom and replacement of old signage.

Program Project Name: Maintenance of Three Florida Trails for Safety and Protection

Local Project Name: Lake Eaton Sinkhole and Loop Trail Project
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NFS In Florida
Ranger District: Lake George
Nearby City(ies): Ocala, Silver Springs
Estimated Project Cost: $250,000.00
Congressional District(s): FL03
County(ies): FL: Marion
Modified Date: 8/3/2010

Story:

Recovery Act to Support Lake Eaton Sinkhole and Loop Trail Project

(Story posted 7/16/2010)

The Lake Eaton Loop and Sinhole Trails are two very popular trails on the Ocala National Forest. Part of a historic pioneer road that dates back to the 1800s,the Lake Eaton Loop and Sinkhole Trails provide visitors and opportunity to observe a wet sinkhole and explore the ancient sand pine scrub forest.

Over the years the wooden boardwalks, steps, and observation decks have been degraded. Interpretive signs along the trail are outdated and have seen wear and tear.

Improvements to the trails include replacing portions of wooden boardwalks, observation decks, and steps along with new interpretive kiosks.

Program Project Name: Bridge Replacement - Deferred Maintenance

Local Project Name: DEFERRED MAINTENANCE ON 20 BRIDGES
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NFS In Florida
Ranger District: Apalachicola
Nearby City(ies): Crawfordville, Bristol, Tallahassee
Estimated Project Cost: $270,320.00
Congressional District(s): FL02
County(ies): FL: Baker, Columbia, Liberty, Wakulla
Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Overdue Maintenance On Several Bridges
(Story posted 8/3/2010)

The Recovery Act funding will assist in keeping some of local bridges in place until designs can be done to replace them.

For others, the repairs would include replacing damaged posts, installing approach guard rails, and replacing deteriorating wooden wheel stops for safety.

Preventive maintenance to prolong the life of some bridges includes repairing spalling concrete before rebar is exposed, replacing deteriorating wing walls and posts, missing sacked concrete riprap, missing guardrail hardware, and lime rock base at approach ends to protect concrete decks from cracking due to exposure to traffic.

Routine maintenance would be done at the same time; clearing vegetation from around guard railing, cleaning debris off of decks, and cleaning joints and reseal joints.

As of July 2010, the new bridge at Juniper Creek is in place, guard rails are in the process of going up, and there is a little more rip rap needed. At this time the project is 95 percent complete.

A contract for deferred maintenance on Apalchicola National Forest bridges has been awarded and is currently awaiting bonds.

Program Project Name: Ocean Pond SewageTreatment Facility Rehabilitation

Local Project Name: Ocean Pond Treatment Plant
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NFS In Florida
Ranger District: Osceola
Nearby City(ies): Lake City
Estimated Project Cost: $200,000.00
Congressional District(s): FL04
County(ies): FL: Baker
Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:
Ocean Pond Treatment Plant Gets A Modern Upgrade Through Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 8/3/2010)

This Recovery Act project will replace the current 40 year old facility which does not meet present code requirements for this particular type and size system.

The project will eliminate a system that has begun to fail. Ocean Pond is an outstanding Florida water. It is important to replace the inadequate system in order to reduce negative impacts to the environment.

The replacement plan includes the decommissioning of the old system, replacement of grinder pumps, septic tank and construction of a new drainfield. It also will eliminate the last chemical toilet at the lake and provide more accessible facilities.

As of July 2010, the Rehab of Treatment System project is 100 percent complete and a contract for the demolition of chemical toilets and installation of SST has been awarded and is currently awaiting bonds.

Program Project Name: Lacota Fuels Mitigation

Local Project Name: Lacota Fuels Project
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NFS In Florida
Ranger District: Lake George
Nearby City(ies): Silver Springs, Ocala
Estimated Project Cost: $375,000.00
Congressional District(s): FL03, FL08
County(ies): FL: Lake, Marion, Putnam
Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:

Reducing Wildfire Threats, Aiding Restoration Through Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 8/3/2010)

The Lacota Fuels Project includes mechanical fuels treatment and re-establishment of landlines. Landline re-establishment is imperative due to the “checkerboard” ownership pattern in the area.

Benefits of this treatment include reducing the threat of damaging wildfire and facilitating the restoration of Longleaf Pine ecosystem by enabling future use of prescribed fire to maintain the area.

The re-establishment of landlines has been critical in the prescribed burn aspect in that additional acres that had not been burned in the past have now become available for prescribed burning. This has also benefited the ‘target acres’ for prescription burning on the Forest and restoring fire back into unmanaged fire ecosystems.

The mowing project has enabled the prescribed burn crew to burn acres with low to moderate severity to the canopy trees which is a direct result of mowing which reduced

ladder fuels and reduced flame lengths due to the reduction of the scrub layer height. The reduce flame lengths reduced the scorch to the canopy layer of the mature trees and hence less stress to existing canopy trees and advanced the restoration of longleaf pine and flatwoods.

The increased ground exposure of solar radiation from reduced shrub canopy cover has enabled fire to spread evenly through areas that otherwise may not burn without additional burn treatments over extended years.

Mowing projects in plantations has reduced fire induced mortality to trees, due to dense planting and heavy fuel loadings from a heavy shrub component.

As of July 2010, the Lacota Fuels Project is 100 percent complete. Additional funds became available for Phase II on the Ocala and mowing has already begun.

Program Project Name: Osceola National Forest Deep Creek Community Protection

Local Project Name: Deep Creek Fuel Reduction
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NFS In Florida
Ranger District: Osceola
Nearby City(ies): Lake City
Estimated Project Cost: $775,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 4
Congressional District(s): FL04
County(ies): FL: Baker, Columbia
Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:

Through Recovery Act Funding, Fuel Reduction Reduces Future Wildfire Threat

(Story posted 8/3/2010)

This fuel reduction project will reduce fuel loading through mowing/mulching areas adjacent to forest boundary. This will re-establish a fire break to provide a buffer for private property in the event of a wildfire.

The local community will benefit from this work by reducing the threat of wildfire; residents have had to be evacuated in the past.

As of July 2010, Deep Creek Community Protection has landline and archeological contracts. The first contract for fuel reduction work was awarded April 13th, and the project work is 25 percent complete. An additional contract has started and is approximately five percent complete.

Program Project Name: Osceola National Forest Fuels Reduction

Local Project Name: I-10 Fuel Reduction
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NFS In Florida
Ranger District: Osceola
Nearby City(ies): Lake City
Estimated Project Cost: $560,000.00
Congressional District(s): FL04
County(ies): FL: Baker, Columbia
Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:

Fuel Reduction, Safety Concerns Eliminated With Help From Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 8/3/2010)

The Recovery Act is funding a project will reduce fuel loading along the corridors of Interstate 10 and US 90. Smoke management is the main issue along these corridors; this treatment will eliminate this safety concern.

As of July 2010, I-10/US 90, the project landline contract is done. The contract award for fuel reduction was awarded April 13, and the work is 25 percent complete. An additional contract for optional acreage was awarded and it has not started yet.

Program Project Name: Lacota Fuels Mitigation

Local Project Name: Paisley Mowing
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NFS In Florida
Ranger District: Seminole
Nearby City(ies): Umatilla, Altoona
Estimated Project Cost: $267,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 4
Congressional District(s): FL03, FL08
County(ies): FL: Lake, Marion, Putnam
Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:

Forest, Economic Benefits Come With Help From Recovery Act

(Story posted 8/3/2010)

The Ocala National Forest began a 1,200 acre brush reduction contract on July 12, in the

Paisley area and along County Road 42.

Multiple benefits from this project include reducing the threat of damaging wildfire through removal of brush vegetation that can increase the severity of wildfires. It will also improve wildlife habitat in the area by removing sand pines and brush, allowing the larger oaks to produce more acorns. Another benefit of the project is creating a more open forest needed by threatened and endangered species such as the red cockaded woodpecker.

“We are cutting out the oak brush, so the larger oaks have the ability to produce more acorns which in turn improves the food source for game species,” said Ocala National Forest District Biologist Carrie Sekerak.

Along with benefits to the forest, there are economic benefits for individuals. The contractor, Badger Technical Services from Titusville, Florida, has hired four temporary full-time employees from the local area to work on the contract.

“While we have offices in other states, we are a relatively new small business in the state of Florida,” said Gregg Rexroad Senior Program Manager for Badger Technical Services which is an Alaska Native Corporation. “As a certified small business ourselves, we support the local area as much as we can by hiring local people and buying goods and services we need locally.

“Following the removal of the brush, these areas may not look as pretty as people would like,” says Sekerak. “But over the next two years this area will develop oaks with full crowns and spreading canopies, and the forest will be a better producer of nutritious tender plants, berries, acorns and grass seeds that wildlife will love.”

Program Project Name: Florida Community Fuels Management Program, Phase 1

Local Project Name: Florida Community Fuels Management Program Phase I

Region: Southern Region

Nearby City(ies): Tallahassee, Orlando, Miami, Jacksonville, Tampa, Ocala, Pensacola

Estimated Project Cost: $900,000.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 13

Congressional District(s): FL01, FL02, FL03, FL04, FL05, FL06, FL07, FL08, FL09, FL10, FL11, FL12, FL13, FL14, FL15, FL16, FL17, FL18, FL19, FL20, FL21, FL22, FL23, FL24, FL25

County(ies): FL: 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

Modified Date: 8/13/2010

Story:
Florida Community Fuels Management Initial Program Funded By Recovery Act

(Story posted 8/11/2010)

Recovery Act will provide funding through "no-match" State Fire Assistance grants for a four part project.

The initial part of this project is fuel reduction. A contract for mechanical fuel reduction in areas of high wildfire risk, throughout Florida, strategically placed to provide protection to thousands of residents. Projects would be at least one in all 15 Florida DOF field units targeting high risk areas.

The Division of Forestry field unit personnel will conduct hazardous fuels treatments on private and public lands in addition to contracted fuels reduction projects.

There will be a contract for Firewise program delivery to Florida's highest risk urban interface areas threatened by wildfire, the Division has four to five programs ready to go based on funding.

Finally, there will be public wildfire prevention and safety education outreach through a multi-media approach.

Program Project Name: Florida Community Fuels Management Program Phase 2

Local Project Name: Florida Community Fuels Management Program Phase II

Region: Southern Region

Nearby City(ies): Tallahassee, Jacksonville, Orlando, Tampa, Miami, Pensacola, Ocala

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 132

Congressional District(s): FL01, FL02, FL03, FL04, FL05, FL06, FL07, FL08, FL09, FL10, FL11, FL12, FL13, FL14, FL15, FL16, FL17, FL18, FL19, FL20, FL21, FL22, FL23, FL24, FL25

County(ies): FL: 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

Modified Date: 8/13/2010

Story:
Florida Community Fuels Management Program Funded By Recovery Act

(Story posted 8/11/2010)

Recovery Act will provide funding through "no-match" State Fire Assistance grants for a five part project.

The initial part of this project is prescribed burning. Three hazard mitigation teams will be stationed geographically across the state to conduct prescribed burning/fuel reduction on private and state lands in Florida and to support wildfire efforts as needed.

Second five heavy, low ground pressure mowers will be provided and placed throughout the state for fuel reduction in the urban and rural interface in Florida.

Next, there will be a contract for mechanical fuel reduction in areas of high wildfire risk throughout Florida; strategically placed to provide protection to thousands of residents.

There will also be a contract for Community Wildfire Protection Plan development to include training and contracting for plan development in Florida's highest risk areas that are potentially threatened by wildfire.

The fifth and final part to this project is a contract for Firewise program delivery to Florida's highest risk urban interface areas threatened by wildfire; this includes hiring two additional fire mitigation specialists.

Program Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and Fuels Management

Local Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative

Region: Southern Region

Nearby City(ies): Atlanta, Columbia, Asheville, Tallahassee, Montgomery

Estimated Project Cost: $0.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 85

Congressional District(s): AL01, AL02, AL03, AL04, AL05, AL06, AL07, FL01, FL02, FL03, FL04, FL05, FL06, FL07, FL08, FL09, FL10, FL11, FL12, FL13, FL14, FL15, FL16, FL17, FL18, FL19, FL20, FL21, FL22, FL23, FL24, FL25, GA01, GA02, GA03, GA04, GA05, GA06, GA07, GA08, GA09, GA10, GA11, GA12, GA13, NC01, NC02, NC03, NC04, NC05, NC06, NC07, NC08, NC09, NC10, NC11, NC12, NC13, SC01, SC02, SC03, SC04, SC05, SC06

County(ies): AL: 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; FL: 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; GA: 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; NC: 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; SC: 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

Modified Date: 8/13/2010

Story:

Longleaf Pine Restoration Funded Through Recovery Act

(Story posted 8/11/2010)

A total of $8.975 million Recovery Act funding, through USDA Forest Service - State & Private Forestry, was awarded through five separate grants to state forestry agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina during the summer of 2009. As of June 30, 2010, approximately 43.6 percent ($3.75 million) of the grant funding has

been reimbursed to the states for work accomplished. The grants have been in effect almost one year.

Based on the original grant program narratives from each state, the estimated total jobs created/saved were projected to be 85 FTEs (does not include estimate from Alabama). Since the initial planned projections, more uniform guidance for calculating jobs (FTEs)is being employed by each state (based on hours worked). As of June 30, 2009, an estimated 85 FTEs have been generated from this program across all five states. It appears the accomplished FTEs will exceed the estimates provided by the states in the original project narratives.

A total 8,397 acres of longleaf establishment has been reported completed by the five states on both private and state lands. This represents around 62 percent completed of the total 13,619 acres planned. The accomplishments signify areas in which all site preparation and tree planting has been completed. Site preparation work is continuing during the summer and fall seasons of 2010 to prepare areas for planting during the winter 2010-11.

A total of 3,630 acres of the planned 7,344 acres for longleaf establishment has been completed on state lands (i.e. state forests, DNR lands). A total of 4,767 acres of the planned 6,275 acres for longleaf establishment has been completed on four private non-industrial land ownerships. The Recovery Act landowner incentives programs for South Carolina, Florida, and Georgia have proven to be very successful in reaching landowners interested in establishing longleaf pine or improving existing longleaf pine.

A total 23,772 acres of existing longleaf pine improvement has been reported completed by the five states on both private and state lands. This represents around 75 percent of the total planned 31,488 acres of longleaf establishment completed. Work activities include native understory plant establishment, prescribed burning, midstory/stand improvement treatments, and nonnative, invasive plant species treatments.

Work accomplishments for existing longleaf improved on state lands has exceeded the planned goals, with 21,538 acres reported accomplished. Work accomplishments on private lands are reported at 2,234 acres.

An overall goal of the grants is for state nurseries in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina to improved facilities in order to increase longleaf seedling production capacity by 7.6 million seedlings. To date, the states have reported increased completed capacity at the nurseries of 6.95 million seedlings. Another goal was to increase longleaf seed collected/processed by 8,350 pounds. The states exceeded this goal by collecting/processing over 11,000 pounds of longleaf seed. To date there has been 1,743 acres of improvements reported in longleaf cone collection areas to improve access for cone collection.

The overall goal of the grants is to increase the number of native understory plants produced at state nurseries by 600,000 plant sets. To date 200,000 plant sets were reported produced. Additional planning and work is underway to improve understory plant seed collection areas

(135 acre goal) and to increase native plant seed collected/processed (1,300 pound goal). Most of the remaining work is scheduled for completion in Florida.

As of June 30, 2010, 125 professionals have been trained at the Longleaf Academies administered by the Longleaf Alliance. The five states are planning 36 training sessions o reach 1,200 private landowners related to restoring and management of longleaf pine. Work is underway to draft a brochure for private landowners that address the economics for managing longleaf pine.

Georgia

Program Project Name: Community Tree Planting for Ecosystem Restoration and Green Jobs: Georgia's Growing Green

Local Project Name: Community Tree Planting for Ecosystem Restoration and Green Jobs: Georgia's Growing Green Project

Region: Southern Region

Nearby City(ies): Statewide

Estimated Project Cost: $897,000.00

Congressional District(s): GA01, GA02, GA03, GA04, GA05, GA06, GA07, GA08, GA09, GA10, GA11, GA12, GA13

County(ies): GA: Clarke, Dawson, Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer, Gordon, Habersham, Lumpkin, Morgan, Murray, Oglethorpe, Rabun, Towns, Union, White, Whitfield

Modified Date: 8/6/2010

Story:

Georgia Forestry Commission Funds Community Tree Planting for Ecosystem Restoration

(Story posted 4/2/2010)

Funding is available from the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) to local governments, landscape contractors, nonprofit partners, schools or universities for projects that involve the planting and care of trees in watersheds, stream banks, parking lots, streets, housing developments, brownfields and schools to restore ecological health. On average, Georgia is losing 106 acres of tree canopy per day to urban sprawl. This funding will help restore trees as part of the infrastructure missing from many original growth plans, and also provide green jobs for nursery professionals, equipment operators, transportation and maintenance staff, landscape architects, arborists and planners. Community forest professionals must be involved and guide the strategic placement of trees for economic and environmental benefits including water and air quality, climate change, energy savings, and mitigation of storm water runoff. Target areas include, but are not limited to, Lumpkin, Fannin, Dawson, Union, White, Clarke (Athens), Floyd (Rome), Gordon, Murray, Oglethorpe, Habersham, Morgan, Towns, Rabun, Gordon, Whitfield and Gilmer Counties.

Utilizing Forestry Resources to Create Green Jobs and Restore Ecosystems – $344,758.98
Limestone Valley and Rolling Hills Resource Conservation and Development Councils will provide technical assistance to 47 Northwest Georgia community planting projects. Trees will be planted for a variety of environmental benefits in locations including school yards, parks and public rights of way.

Northeast Georgia Tree Planting for Ecosystem Restoration and Green Jobs - $225,669.12
The Chestatee-Chattahoochee, Upper Ocmulgee River and Oconee River Resource Conservation and Development Councils are working with local governments and the private sector to create and sustain green industry jobs by planting trees in Northeast Georgia. Trees will be planted for a variety of environmental benefits as part of 37 planting projects including

school yards, parks and public rights of way.

Midtown Gainesville Multi-Use Trail - $10,000
The City of Gainesville proposes to restore part of the community forest in a portion of the urban core known as Midtown Gainesville. Specifically, the City will plant various native species of deciduous and evergreen trees along an abandoned railroad corridor that is a recently reclaimed Brownfield.

City of Hartwell Tree Project - $20,000
City of Hartwell will plant 50 street trees where they have been lost due to development or decline or in other open spaces. This planting will help to mitigate the urban heat island effect by providing shade and enhance storm drainage for the downtown area.

Trees Mean $Green$ - $50,000
City of Jefferson will plant 110 canopy trees on city street rights-ofway, in parks, in parking lots and on city school campuses in high priority sites identified during the 2009 and 2010 tree inventories. These plantings will stimulate the local economy, create green jobs, increase tree canopy cover and restore the community forest ecosystem. Trees will be planted where their function and benefits are maximized.

City of Royston Tri-County Wellness Park - $20,000
City of Royston has purchased 43 acres to establish a Tri-County Wellness Park. The City will restore some of the canopy that has been lost in the community due to development by planting 100 trees in this park.

A Walk in the Shade: Creating Green Jobs in Toccoa – $25,787
Toccoa will improve the walkability of downtown and lower the city's heat index by planting 71 trees along downtown streets to replace those that have died or are in decline.

Program Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and Fuels Management

Local Project Name: Alabama – Longleaf Restoration Initiative

Region: Southern Region

Nearby City(ies): Alabama

Estimated Project Cost: $0.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 13.5

Congressional District(s): FL01, FL02, FL03, FL04, FL05, FL06, FL07, FL08, FL09, FL10, FL11, FL12, FL13, FL14, FL15, FL16, FL17, FL18, FL19, FL20, FL21, FL22, FL23, FL24, FL25, GA01, GA02, GA03, GA04, GA05, GA06, GA07, GA08, GA09, GA10, GA11, GA12, GA13, NC01, NC02, NC03, NC04, NC05, NC06, NC07, NC08, NC09, NC10, NC11, NC12, NC13, SC01, SC02, SC03, SC04, SC05, SC06

County(ies): AL: 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; FL: Brevard, Broward, 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; GA: 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; NC: 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; SC: 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

Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project in Alabama

(Story posted 4/13/2010)

The longleaf pine forests that once covered over 90 million acres in southeastern United States has been reduced by 97 percent to 3.4 million acres – only three percent remains. To address these concerns, representatives from over 20 federal, state, and non-government

organizations came together and helped develop the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine, which was released in March 2009. The plan calls for an unprecedented collaborative effort – on all lands – to increase longleaf pine acreage to 8 million acres and improve 1.5 million acres of existing longleaf over the next 15 years.

One of the first efforts to go from the range-wide plan to implementation was the awarding of $8.975 million in Recovery Act funds for the Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project. The funds were awarded through grants to state forestry agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. The Alabama Forestry Commission received $1.757 million.

AFC has contracted with the Longleaf Alliance to administer the project. Anne Rilling, with the Alliance, was hired to coordinate this effort. Other agencies involved include the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The work is being implemented through multiple private contracts.

As of March 15, 2010, there have been many accomplishments: Longleaf establishment on 230 acres on the Geneva State Forest and 650 acres on the Barbour Wildlife Management Area; 800+ acres of mid-story treatments to improve existing longleaf pine and improve cone collection areas on the Geneva State Forest and Little River State Forest; around 298,000 longleaf pine seedlings were purchased and provided to supplement the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Landowner Incentive Program to establishing longleaf on an estimated 596 acres (80% complete) of private land; and tuition provided for 47 professionals to attend the Longleaf Academy for formal training.

Program Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and Fuels Management

Local Project Name: Florida Longleaf Restoration Initiative

Region: Southern Region

Forest: Test Forest R8

Nearby City(ies): throughout Florida

Estimated Project Cost: $0.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 0.7

Congressional District(s): FL01, FL02, FL03, FL04, FL05, FL06, FL07, FL08, FL09, FL10, FL11, FL12, FL13, FL14, FL15, FL16, FL17, FL18, FL19, FL20, FL21, FL22, FL23, FL24, FL25

County(ies): AL: 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; FL: 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; GA: 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; NC: 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; SC: 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

Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project in Florida

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

The longleaf pine forests that once covered over 90 million acres in southeastern United States has been reduced by 97% to 3.4 million acres – only 3% remains. To address these concerns, representatives from over 20 federal, state, and non-government organizations

came together and helped develop the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine, which was released in March 2009. The plan calls for an unprecedented collaborative effort – on all lands – to increase longleaf pine acreage to 8 million acres and improve 1.5 million acres of existing longleaf over the next 15 years.

One of the first efforts to go from the range-wide plan to implementation was the awarding of $8.975 million in Recovery Act funds for the Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project. The funds were awarded through grants to state forestry agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

As of March 2010, there have been many accomplishments: a total of 200 acres of longleaf establishment has been completed on the Indian Lakes State Forest, while 13 state forests are involved in accomplishing prescribed burning, mid-story/understory treatments, and seed collection; currently, a little over 300 acres of longleaf establishment has been completed on through Florida's longleaf pine private lands incentive program (out of 2,000 acres); at Andrews State Nursery work is underway to increase the longleaf seedling capacity by 2.2 million, while planned to be completed by April 2010; and inventory work for gopher tortoise, Indigo snake, and RCW is continuing on public lands.

Program Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and Fuels Management

Local Project Name: Georgia Longleaf Pine Initiative

Region: Southern Region

Nearby City(ies): Throughout Georgia

Estimated Project Cost: $0.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 7

Congressional District(s): GA01, GA02, GA03, GA04, GA05, GA06, GA07, GA08, GA09, GA10, GA11, GA12, GA13

County(ies): AL: 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; FL: 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; GA: 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; NC: 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; SC: 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

Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project in Georgia

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

The longleaf pine forests that once covered over 90 million acres in southeastern United States has been reduced by 97 percent to 3.4 million acres – only three percent remains. To address these concerns, representatives from over 20 federal, state, and non-government

organizations came together and helped develop the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine, which was released in March 2009. The plan calls for an unprecedented collaborative effort – on all lands – to increase longleaf pine acreage to 8 million acres and improve 1.5 million acres of existing longleaf over the next 15 years.

One of the first efforts to go from the range-wide plan to implementation was the awarding of $8.975 million in Recovery Act funds for the Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project. The funds were awarded through grants to state forestry agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

As of March 2010, there have been many accomplishments: Longleaf establishment is complete on 115 acres on the Paulding Forest; wiregrass planting is complete on the Broxton Rocks Legacy Forest – 36 acres; field fumigated in order to expand longleaf bare root capacity by 2 million seedlings; GFC hired John Lathem to administer the Recovery Act longleaf grant; and the GFC has 4,572 acres of longleaf signed up through Georgia's Private Lands Longleaf Restoration Incentive Payment Program. It is estimated that approximately 750 acres will be planted by the end of March. Most of the work this year will be site preparation with majority of planting to occur during the winter of 2010/11.

Program Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and Fuels Management

Local Project Name: North Carolina Longleaf Pine Restoration

Region: Southern Region

Nearby City(ies): Throughout North Carolina

Estimated Project Cost: $0.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 1.5

Congressional District(s): NC01, NC02, NC03, NC04, NC05, NC06, NC07, NC08, NC09, NC10, NC11, NC12, NC13

County(ies): AL: 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; FL: 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; GA: 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; NC: 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; SC: 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

Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project in North Carolina

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

The longleaf pine forests that once covered over 90 million acres in southeastern United States has been reduced by 97 percent to 3.4 million acres – only three percent remains. To address these concerns, representatives from over 20 federal, state, and non-government

organizations came together and helped develop the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine, which was released in March 2009. The plan calls for an unprecedented collaborative effort – on all lands – to increase longleaf pine acreage to 8 million acres and improve 1.5 million acres of existing longleaf over the next 15 years.

One of the first efforts to go from the range-wide plan to implementation was the awarding of $8.975 million in Recovery Act funds for the Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project. The funds were awarded through grants to state forestry agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

As of March 2010, there have been many accomplishments: establishing 431 acres of longleaf pine and 80 acres of wiregrass on Bladen Lakes State Forest; completing 2,464 acres of prescribed burning; improving 430 acres of longleaf pine through mechanical treatments of mid-story and understory; collecting and processing 4,600 pounds of longleaf seed, 14 pounds of wiregrass, and four pounds of other native understory plant species; and the Division of Forestry hired five temporary forestry technicians at Bladen Lakes to help implement the longleaf restoration program.

Program Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and Fuels Management
Local Project Name: South Caroline Longleaf Restoration
Region: Southern Region
Nearby City(ies): throughout South Carolina
Estimated Project Cost: $0.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 10.7
Congressional District(s): SC01, SC02, SC03, SC04, SC05, SC06

County(ies): AL: 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; FL: 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; GA: 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; NC: 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; SC: 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

Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project in South Carolina

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

The longleaf pine forests that once covered over 90 million acres in southeastern United States has been reduced by 97 percent to 3.4 million acres – only three percent remains. To address these concerns, representatives from over 20 federal, state, and non-government

organizations came together and helped develop the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine, which was released in March 2009. The plan calls for an unprecedented collaborative effort – on all lands – to increase longleaf pine acreage to 8 million acres and improve 1.5 million acres of existing longleaf over the next 15 years.

One of the first efforts to go from the range-wide plan to implementation was the awarding of $8.975 million in Recovery Act funds for the Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project. The funds were awarded through grants to state forestry agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

As of March 2010, there have been many accomplishments: establishment of longleaf pine on 625 acres on state lands; 1,150 acres of mid-story/stand improvement treatments have been completed; approximately 4,000 acres of prescribed burning has been completed; work on private lands has been accomplished (reported through first of March) with the Longleaf Restoration Program (landowner incentive program) – 180 acres of longleaf establishment, 183 acres of prescribed burning, and 103 acres of mid-story treatments ;the capacity to produce containerized longleaf pine has been increased at Taylor State Nursery by 750,000 seedlings through contract construction of new raised tables; a private consulting forester has been contracted to inventory state parks lands for longleaf pine; and the SCFC has sent 45 professionals to the Longleaf Academy in Alabama for formal training.

Program Project Name: Georgia Forestry Commission Cogongrass Eradication

Local Project Name: Cogongrass and Invasive Species Eradication-Georgia Forestry Commission

Region: Southern Region

Nearby City(ies): Atlanta, Macon, Savannah, Athens, Savannah, Columbus, Valdosta, Augusta

Estimated Project Cost: $0.00

Congressional District(s): GA01, GA02, GA03, GA04, GA05, GA06, GA07, GA08, GA09, GA10, GA11, GA12, GA13

County(ies): GA: Atkinson, Bacon, Baker, Berrien, Bibb, Bleckley, Brantley, Brooks, Bryan, Bulloch, Calhoun, Camden, Candler, Carroll, Charlton, Chatham, Clinch, Cobb, Colquitt, Cook, Crisp, Decatur, Dooly, Dougherty, Early, Echols, Effingham, Emanuel, Evans, Glynn, Grady, Haralson, Houston, Lanier, Laurens, Lee, Liberty, Long, Lowndes, McDuffie, McIntosh, Macon, Marion, Miller, Mitchell, Newton, Paulding, Peach, Randolph, Seminole, Stewart, Talbot, Tattnall, Thomas, Tift, Treutlen, Troup, Turner, Ware, Wayne, Wilcox, Worth

Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:

Georgia Forestry Commission and Recovery Act Funds Tackle Invasive Cogongrass

(Story posted 8/11/2010)

Cogongrass has been present for almost 100 years in adjacent states (Alabama and Florida), and now it occurs on vast acreages. Cogongrass is only known to occur in 29 Georgia counties, making eradication a viable option---this species is the priority invasive species.

Cogongrass greatly increases the risk of damaging wildfire in the forest, especially during the dormant season. Firefighter risk is of great concern.

Furthermore, Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) professionals have identified other invasive plant species as threats to forests (and associated fauna and flora) within Georgia and these include non-native privet species; Japanese climbing fern; Chinese tallowtree; non-native olive species; and multiflora rose. Survey and treatments will be made on state-owned lands (GFC, University of Georgia, and Georgia State parks), as well as privately-owned forests. One or more of these species of invasive plants occur in all counties within Georgia, and this will be a statewide effort.

Jobs will be created throughout the state as these invasive plant surveys and treatments occur across many landscapes throughout Georgia.

The goal of this program is the detection and eradication of target invasive species on both state and private forest land. A public outreach and educational campaign for invasive plant species in Georgia will be planned and executed.

The majority of funds are budgeted toward private landowner treatments, and GFC foresters have solicited applications and are overseeing implementation.

The foresters hired under the invasive species grant have helped survey, develop prescriptions, procure contractors and oversee treatments on private landowner applications. The Warnell School (within the Univeristy of Georgia or UGA) is in the process of an invasive species survey. UGA foresters will develop prescriptions, procure contractors, and oversee treatments. The Georgia State Parks will use the existing invasive species survey to prioritize parks, develop prescriptions, obtain contractors, and oversee treatments on their lands.

Furthermore, UGA will develop and plan for public outreach tools to be used in conjunction with this effort to educate the public and stimulate learning about the harm non-native invasive plants pose to our native ecosystems.

The timeline for this project will allow for at least two treatments on each area to ensure adequate coverage and eradication is successful.

Work Accomplishments:

• 364 acres have been treated on Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites as of 6/30/10

• 1,464 acres of private land has been treated for invasive species as of 6/30/10

• Over 2,100 acres of University of Georgia owned forest land has been surveyed for invasive species

• In addition to the acres treated on public and private lands, UGA has created fact sheets on

the target invasive species and an information poster. These have been distributed to the State Parks, County Forestry Units, and Extension Offices.

• Information on invasive species has been published on the website www.invasive.org.

• UGA is developing information brochures on invasive species and is developing a marketing plan for new programs for invasive species awareness.

Program Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and Fuels Management

Local Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative

Region: Southern Region

Nearby City(ies): Atlanta, Columbia, Asheville, Tallahassee, Montgomery

Estimated Project Cost: $0.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 85

Congressional District(s): AL01, AL02, AL03, AL04, AL05, AL06, AL07, FL01, FL02, FL03, FL04, FL05, FL06, FL07, FL08, FL09, FL10, FL11, FL12, FL13, FL14, FL15, FL16, FL17, FL18, FL19, FL20, FL21, FL22, FL23, FL24, FL25, GA01, GA02, GA03, GA04, GA05, GA06, GA07, GA08, GA09, GA10, GA11, GA12, GA13, NC01, NC02, NC03, NC04, NC05, NC06, NC07, NC08, NC09, NC10, NC11, NC12, NC13, SC01, SC02, SC03, SC04, SC05, SC06

County(ies): AL: 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; FL: 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; GA: 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; NC: 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; SC: 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

Modified Date: 8/13/2010

Story:

Longleaf Pine Restoration Funded Through Recovery Act

(Story posted 8/11/2010)

A total of $8.975 million Recovery Act funding, through USDA Forest Service - State & Private Forestry, was awarded through five separate grants to state forestry agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina during the summer of 2009. As of June 30, 2010, approximately 43.6 percent ($3.75 million) of the grant funding has

been reimbursed to the states for work accomplished. The grants have been in effect almost one year.

Based on the original grant program narratives from each state, the estimated total jobs created/saved were projected to be 85 FTEs (does not include estimate from Alabama). Since the initial planned projections, more uniform guidance for calculating jobs (FTEs)is being employed by each state (based on hours worked). As of June 30, 2009, an estimated 85 FTEs have been generated from this program across all five states. It appears the accomplished FTEs will exceed the estimates provided by the states in the original project narratives.

A total 8,397 acres of longleaf establishment has been reported completed by the five states on both private and state lands. This represents around 62 percent completed of the total 13,619 acres planned. The accomplishments signify areas in which all site preparation and tree planting has been completed. Site preparation work is continuing during the summer and fall seasons of 2010 to prepare areas for planting during the winter 2010-11.

A total of 3,630 acres of the planned 7,344 acres for longleaf establishment has been completed on state lands (i.e. state forests, DNR lands). A total of 4,767 acres of the planned 6,275 acres for longleaf establishment has been completed on four private non-industrial land ownerships. The Recovery Act landowner incentives programs for South Carolina, Florida, and Georgia have proven to be very successful in reaching landowners interested in establishing longleaf pine or improving existing longleaf pine.

A total 23,772 acres of existing longleaf pine improvement has been reported completed by the five states on both private and state lands. This represents around 75 percent of the total planned 31,488 acres of longleaf establishment completed. Work activities include native understory plant establishment, prescribed burning, midstory/stand improvement treatments, and nonnative, invasive plant species treatments.

Work accomplishments for existing longleaf improved on state lands has exceeded the planned goals, with 21,538 acres reported accomplished. Work accomplishments on private lands are reported at 2,234 acres.

An overall goal of the grants is for state nurseries in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina to improved facilities in order to increase longleaf seedling production capacity by 7.6 million seedlings. To date, the states have reported increased completed capacity at the nurseries of 6.95 million seedlings. Another goal was to increase longleaf seed collected/processed by 8,350 pounds. The states exceeded this goal by collecting/processing over 11,000 pounds of longleaf seed. To date there has been 1,743 acres of improvements reported in longleaf cone collection areas to improve access for cone collection.

The overall goal of the grants is to increase the number of native understory plants produced at state nurseries by 600,000 plant sets. To date 200,000 plant sets were reported produced. Additional planning and work is underway to improve understory plant seed collection areas

(135 acre goal) and to increase native plant seed collected/processed (1,300 pound goal). Most of the remaining work is scheduled for completion in Florida.

As of June 30, 2010, 125 professionals have been trained at the Longleaf Academies administered by the Longleaf Alliance. The five states are planning 36 training sessions o reach 1,200 private landowners related to restoring and management of longleaf pine. Work is underway to draft a brochure for private landowners that address the economics for managing longleaf pine.

Hawaii

Program Project Name: Western States - Forests Adapting To and Mitigating Climate Change Effects

Local Project Name: Forest Inventory in Urban Areas

Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station

Nearby City(ies): various

Estimated Project Cost: $1,780,000.00

Congressional District(s): AK00, CA01, CA02, CA03, CA04, CA05, CA06, CA07, CA08, CA09, CA10, CA11, CA12, CA13, CA14, CA15, CA16, CA17, CA18, CA19, CA20, CA21, CA22, CA23, CA24, CA25, CA26, CA27, CA28, CA29, CA30, CA31, CA32, CA33, CA34, CA35, CA36, CA37, CA38, CA39, CA40, CA41, CA42, CA43, CA44, CA45, CA46, CA47, CA48, CA49, CA50, CA51, CA52, CA53, HI01, HI02, OR01, OR02, OR03, OR04, OR05, WA01, WA02, WA03, WA04, WA05, WA06, WA07, WA08, WA09

County(ies): AK: Bethel Census Area, Bristol Bay Borough, Denali Borough, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Lake and Peninsula Borough, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Nome Census Area, Northwest Arctic Borough, Southeast Fairbanks Census Area, Valdez-Cordova Census Area, Wade Hampton Census Area, Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area; CA: Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yolo, Yuba; HI: Hawaii, Honolulu, Kalawao, Kauai, Maui; OR: Baker, Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Coos, Crook, Curry, Deschutes, Douglas, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine, Klamath, Lake, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Malheur, Marion, Morrow, Multnomah, Polk, Sherman, Tillamook, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco, Washington, Wheeler, Yamhill; WA: Adams, Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Clallam, Clark, Columbia, Cowlitz, Douglas, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lewis, Lincoln, Mason, Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Spokane, Stevens, Thurston, Wahkiakum, Walla Walla, Whatcom, Whitman, Yakima

Modified Date: 2/15/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Urban Forest Project Spanning Five States

(Story posted 1/14/2011)

This project, led by John Mills of the PNW Research Station's Resource Monitoring and Assessment Program, is using $1,795,000 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to employ field crews to gather data on the condition of forests from approximately 1,000 sites in populated areas in five western states: Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington.

The project uses the scientifically-rigorous protocols of the USDA Forest Service's nationwide Forest Inventory and Analysis Program, and will result in a network of permanently located plots in urbanized areas that can be measured again in the future. The Forest Service is conducting the work in collaboration with the Oregon Department of

Forestry, California Polytechnic State University, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Hawaii Urban Forestry Council, and Davey Resource Group.

Having Recovery Act funds become available for this project means that workers have the opportunity to collect systematic data on the abundance, extent, and health of trees and other vegetation in urban areas for the first time. To help urban forests adapt and be resilient to a changing climate, the Forest Service needs to know their current health status.

Urban forests will change as the climate changes, with shifts in species composition, growth rates, mortality, and susceptibility to pests all possible. Having a baseline of urban forest conditions will help local resource managers and planners to understand and articulate the contributions of urban forests to ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, water retention, energy savings, and quality of life for residents. Over the long term, monitoring will help to determine if and how urban forests are adapting to changing conditions, and might shed some light on potential mitigations.

Work on the initial plot installation will continue through 2013, with a large amount of data gathering planned for 2011. As of November 2010, this project had expended about 3 percent of its funds, generating direct employment for approximately 15 people, with significant additional jobs expected as the project ramps up.

Idaho

Program Project Name: Sawmill/Shavings Plants - Emmett

Local Project Name: Emmett Saw and Shavings Mill
Region: Intermountain Region
Nearby City(ies): Tamarack, Idaho; Boise is 141 miles south
Estimated Project Cost: $400,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 37
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Gem
Modified Date: 8/13/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funding Helping Locals Get Back To Work, Changing Lives

(Story posted 3/19/2010)

Since summer 2009, over 30 people have been working on the construction phase of Recovery Act funded Emmett Saw and Shavings Mill project in Idaho. Emerald Forest Products has purchased 30 truckloads of used equipment from four different sawmills stretching from Wyoming to Oregon to assemble the mill, with completion slated for early spring.

In addition to the construction crews, this project is expected to provide long-term employment for up to 46 people at the saw and shavings mill plus additional people in the logging and trucking industries.

The mill should be operational by April. Emerald Forest Products has agreements with a national hardware and lumber chain store to provide lumber for the eight- twelve foot board market, helping ensure the long-term viability of the operations.

"Our feasibility study indicated a strong market for a small efficient mill," explained Dick Vinson of Emerald Forest Products.

Furthermore, the on-site power plant will produce 19 megawatts of energy, enough to cover mill site operations with excess sold to Idaho Power. If those aren't benefits enough, a locally invasive juniper will be used for fuel, thus restoring the local ecosystem while providing a sustainable energy source.

According to Gem County Commissioner Lan Smith, the Emmett Saw and Shavings Mill project has made a big difference to the county’s local economy while improving community morale. Smith said 60 percent of the local workforce typically leaves the community to find work. With a population of just under 17,000, 35 to 40 new good-paying jobs means more money stays in the community as more people shop locally because their work is nearby.

Smith said the county has been seeking additional businesses to provide new long-term jobs, and Emerald Forest Products' decision to build the mill is a tremendous boon to the area. "We're excited about other business ventures Emerald Forest Products may consider bringing to Gem County," Smith said.

The project's construction work immediately helped ease the difficult employment situation in southwest Idaho.

Lowell and Nichole Lowe and their four children of Middleton, Idaho, know first-hand what the Recovery Act means in terms of getting people back to work and changing lives in the process. Lowell Lowe had been unemployed for a year when he was hired in October 2009 to do construction work on the Emmett Saw and Shaving Mill project. The Lowes were two weeks away from losing their home to foreclosure.

In August 2009, Nichole had undergone serious brain surgery that could only be performed on the East Coast because of it rarity and the need for unique surgeons. She is still traveling to Washington, D.C., every three months for follow-up visits.

With four children aged seven to 16 in school, the Lowes were in no position to move even if work could have been found elsewhere.

"Lowell's new job has saved our lives," said Nichole. She pointed out the couple's inability to even seek a place to rent without income. "We totally expected to be homeless," she said.

The family had even lived in a tent for two weeks to help prepare them for what at the time seemed to be the inevitability of being out on the streets. After Lowell could prove to the mortgage company that he had a good-paying job, the company negotiated a payment plan, and the danger of losing their home is now a thing of the past.

The Lowes were also sharing their quarters with another family that had lost their home, so essentially one job directly helped two families.

Nichole said the entire experience and Lowell's getting the job has made them realize what is truly important in life. Always a generous couple, they are now more committed than ever to helping others who are going through tough times.

The project's long-term benefits include job retention and expansion. "It will take 46 people to run the mill in one shift, here on site…besides the people here and in the shavings part, we'll have the people in the woods bringing in the product and the people hauling our finished product out, so all in all it could easily make 100 jobs," said Vinson.

The project supports timber industry infrastructure viability, as well as ensuring that critical hazardous fuel reduction and forest health improvement treatments are able to be accomplished on forested lands on and adjacent to wildland-urban interfaces of the Boise, Payette, and Sawtooth national forests.

The resulting forests are healthier and more resistant to fire and resilient to insect and disease infestations and with the funding provided through the Recovery Act, individual families and communities are economically healthier and more resilient as well.

Program Project Name: North Idaho Abandoned Mines Cleanup

Local Project Name: Sherlock Creek Placer Mining Restoration Project
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Idaho Panhandle
Ranger District: Avery
Nearby City(ies): Superior Idaho
Estimated Project Cost: $1,000,000.00
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Idaho, Shoshone
Modified Date: 6/4/2010

Story:

Sherlock Creek Placer Mining Restoration Project Protects Environment, People

Posted 3/19/2010

Heavy metal contamination from three major mines abandoned over 100 years ago in northern Idaho is both a human health and an environmental concern. Contamination on National Forest System and surrounding lands has damaged habitat for many aquatic species, including native trout.

The abandoned placer mining disturbance encompassed over 20 acres of Sherlock Creek's floodplain, which is located in a roadless area. The site is very remote and in the upper reaches of the St. Joe River watershed nearly at the Idaho-Montana divide southwest of Superior, Montana.

The restoration project has focused on rebuilding and enhancing over one mile of straight artificially channelized stream and tributary routes. Total floodplain reconstruction was needed in many areas to make the project hydrologically stable in the long term. Local contractors were used to complete the project.

Through 2009 tasks included new stream channel construction and fish habitat structure installations along with native revegetation.

With over 90 percent of the project complete, in 2010 final site closure will be accomplished. The result of the project will be of great benefit to a true Bull Trout strong hold for the St. Joe River/Coeur d'Alene Lake system and represents a very high quality trout restoration effort.

Program Project Name: Swan Valley Historic Restoration

Local Project Name: Swan Valley Historic Guard Station Will Receive Repairs Thanks to Recovery Act Funds
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Caribou/Targhee
Ranger District: Palisades
Nearby City(ies): Idaho Falls
Estimated Project Cost: $272,000.00
Congressional District(s): ID02
County(ies): ID: Bonneville
Modified Date: 7/8/2010

Story:

Swan Valley Historic Guard Station Will Receive Repairs Thanks to Recovery Act Funds

Repair Work on the Swan Valley Historic Guard Station Has Started

(Story posted 3/01/2010)

The Caribou-Targhee National Forest (CTNF) received Recovery Act funds to repair the Swan Valley Historic Guard Station and Work Center in Bonneville County, Idaho. Over the years, many of the buildings have fallen into disrepair with broken hardware, leaking roofs, and lead paint peeling off the siding.

The Work Center is used by recreation, range, and fire personnel stationed in Swan Valley during the summer. The site, which consists of 12 buildings on 36 acres, is a unique part of CTNF's history and an integral part of the Swan Valley community. It is the only historic guard station compound left on the forest that remains intact.

The contract for $272,000 in Recovery Act funds was awarded to J.L. Hardy Construction. Approximately 15 people will be employed through this project, including subcontractors. Restoration work has begun and is expected to be completed by the end of September 2010.

This project continues restoration of six remaining historic buildings on the Swan Valley site. Work includes the following:

* lead abatement, disposal, or repainting of all painted wooden surfaces

* construction and installation of a historic wooden flagpole replica

* installation of post and rail fencing

* concrete ramp construction

* porch reconstruction

* repair and consolidation of wooden doors and windows

* construction of historic replicas of wooden doors

* replacement of the shingle roof

* installation of new roof sheathing and trim

* soil contamination cleanup

* re-grading the site

The Swan Valley Work Center was established in 1922 in Swan Valley, Idaho. The Forest has worked closely with Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on the restoration effort of these buildings as part of the heritage mitigation for conveyance of other under-utilized sites on the Forest. In 2005, the Swan Valley Dwelling was restored using funds collected from the conveyance of other facilities. When the site was evaluated in 2006, eight of the 12 buildings were deemed eligible of historical building status.

Program Project Name: Payette National Forest Trail Maintenance Needed to Assure Visitor Safety and Resource Protection

Local Project Name: 20 Miles of Trail Maintenance Completed on the Payette National Forest Thanks to Recovery Act Funds
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Payette
Ranger District: New Meadows
Nearby City(ies): McCall, Idaho
Estimated Project Cost: $32,000.00
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Adams
Modified Date: 6/16/2010

Story:

Twenty Miles of Trail Maintenance Completed on the Payette National Forest Thanks to Recovery Act Funds

Motorized and Non-Motorized Trails Improved

(Story posted 3/9/2010)

The Payette National Forest received funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to complete 20 miles of trail maintenance within Adams County, Idaho. Completed in October 2009, this is the first of three trail maintenance projects on the Payette National Forest.

A six-person youth trail crew, under agreement with the Student Conservation Association (SCA), spent four weeks working on 20 miles of trails. Access to popular high mountain lakes near McCall, Idaho is provided by the trails. These improvements will make hiking and mountain biking along the trails easier and more pleasant. The crews also completed work on trails in Hells Canyon along the Snake River.

Jane Cropp, Payette National Forest recreation program manager, said, "This project put youth crews to work and accomplished much needed deferred trail maintenance within the Payette National Forest, benefiting both motorized and non-motorized trail users."

Approximately $32,000 was allocated towards the project. The crew completed heavy maintenance consisting of clearing logs, rocks, boulders, and brush from the trail, as well as digging drainages. The crew also built two short bridges across the drainages which will make crossing easier in the spring. The trails serve two-wheel motorized users as well as hiker, stock users, and mountain bikers.

Program Project Name: Evergreen Forest Products Dry Kiln

Local Project Name: Idaho's Evergreen Dry Kiln Recovery Act Project Creates Employment, Healthier Forests & Sustainable Energy
Region: Intermountain Region
Nearby City(ies): Tamarack
Estimated Project Cost: $2,500,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 260
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Adams
Modified Date: 7/13/2010

Story:

Emmett Sawmill Recovery Act Project Creates Employment Opportunities, Improves Forest Health and Uses Woody Biomass to Generate Sustainable Energy

(Story posted 4/15/2010)

Construction Workers plan to be complete, with new mill open, by first quarter of 2010

Project Description: This Recovery Act project is creating critical short-term benefits by easing the difficult employment situation in southwest Idaho. The longer-term benefits include retention and expansion of jobs while supporting the viability of the timber industry infrastructure, as well as ensuring that critical hazardous fuel reduction and forest health improvement treatments are able to be accomplished on forested lands on and adjacent to wildland-urban interfaces of the Boise, Payette and Sawtooth National Forests. The Recovery Act funds will further ensure improved air quality, as woody biomass slash is utilized to heat the Saw and Shaving Mills and provide excess energy to Idaho Power.

The resulting forests are healthier and more resistant to fire and resilient to insect and disease infestations and with the funding provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, individual families and communities are economically healthier and more resilient as well.

Economic Recovery Project Details

Recovery Act Funding: $4,000,000

Program Project Name: Sawmill/Shavings Plants - Emmett

Local Project Name: Idaho's Emerald Forest Products Emmett Sawmill Woody Biomass Utilization Project
Region: Intermountain Region
Nearby City(ies): Emmett
Estimated Project Cost: $400,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 37
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Gem
Modified Date: 7/13/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Emmett Sawmill Project Creates Employment Opportunities, Improves Forest Health and Uses Woody Biomass to Generate Sustainable Energy

(Story posted 10/9/2010)

Construction Workers plan to be complete, with new mill open, by first quarter of 2010
Project Description: This Recovery Act project is creating critical short-term benefits by easing the difficult employment situation in southwest Idaho. The longer-term benefits include retention and expansion of jobs while supporting the viability of the timber industry infrastructure, as well as ensuring that critical hazardous fuel reduction and forest health improvement treatments are able to be accomplished on forested lands on and adjacent to wildland-urban interfaces of the Boise, Payette and Sawtooth National Forests. The Recovery Act funds will further ensure improved air quality, as woody biomass slash is utilized to heat the Saw and Shaving Mills and provide excess energy to Idaho Power.

The resulting forests are healthier and more resistant to fire and resilient to insect and disease infestations and with the funding provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, individual families and communities are economically healthier and more resilient as well.

Economic Recovery Project Details

Recovery Act Funding: $4,000,000

Project Reference: #WFM-0460-04WTE

Jobs Created: Supports retention and expansion of 50 person workforce with short-term construction and long-term mill and logging jobs.

Project Update: Over 30 people are employed in the construction phase of the Emmett Saw and Shavings Mills project. Emerald Forest Products has purchased used equipment from 4 different sawmills, stretching from Wyoming to Oregon, and most of their 'new' equipment has already been delivered-all 30 truckloads!

In addition to the construction crews, this project is gearing up to provide long-term employment for up to 45 people at the saw and shavings mills plus additional people in the logging and trucking industries. Emerald Forest Products has agreements with a national hardware and lumber chain store to provide lumber for the 8' - 12' board market, helping ensure the long-term viability of the operations.

Furthermore, the on-site power plant will produce 19 megawatts of energy, enough to cover mill site operations with excess sold to Idaho Power. If those aren't benefits enough, a locally invasive juniper will be used for fuel, thus restoring the local ecosystem while providing a sustainable source of energy.

"Our feasibility study indicated a strong market for a small efficient mill," explains Dick Vinson of Emerald Forest Products. "We plan to be operating in the 1st Quarter of 2010!"

Program Project Name: Boise National Forest - Deferred Road and Bridge Maintenance and Improvement

Local Project Name: Recovery Act Funds Improve Accessibility at Shoreline Campground
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Boise
Ranger District: Cascade
Nearby City(ies): Cascade, Idaho
Estimated Project Cost: $337,338.00
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Valley
Modified Date: 7/27/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Improve Accessibility at Shoreline Campground

(Story posted 4/7/2010)

The Cascade Ranger District on the Boise National Forest in Idaho has its first paved campground thanks to the Recovery Act. Recovery Act funds were used to pave the existing gravel roads, pathways, and parking lot at Shoreline Campground. Cascade District Ranger

Carol McCoy-Brown said these upgrades have improved accessibility to those with disabilities.

"This project couldn't have been possible without the Recovery Act funds," said McCoy-Brown. "It was very difficult for people in wheelchairs to move around the campground on the gravel roads. Paving the parking lot, roads, and walking paths will make Shoreline Campground safer and more enjoyable for forest visitors."

Valley Paving and Asphalt out of Cottonwood, Idaho, was awarded the contract, and 16 of its employees completed the project in fall 2009.

"We were glad to be a part of this project and accomplish work that might not have gotten done," said Tom Reiner, vice-president of Valley Paving and Asphalt. "The construction market was getting pretty tight and this was one more project that put our employees to work."

Reiner says the majority of the work is complete, except for some road striping that will be completed in early 2010.

Program Project Name: Caribou-Targhee National Forest - Forest-wide Road Reconstruction and Aquatic Passage

Local Project Name: Bear Lake County And The Forest Service Improve Roads Thanks To Recovery Act Funds
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Caribou/Targhee
Ranger District: Montpelier-Caribou
Nearby City(ies): Montpelier, Idaho and Paris, Idaho
Congressional District(s): ID02
County(ies): ID: Bear Lake
Modified Date: 7/27/2010

Story:

Bear Lake County And The Forest Service Improve Roads Thanks To Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 4/15/2010)

The Caribou-Targhee National Forest, in Bear Lake County, Idaho, received funds through the Recovery Act to resurface about 10 miles of highly used roads and rebuild a parking lot on the Montpelier Ranger District.

This project focuses on four roads and one parking lot on the Montpelier Ranger District. It includes resurfacing the St. Charles Canyon Road, increasing the size of the Montpelier Reservoir parking lot, and creating a gravel pit and resurfacing roads alongside Georgetown Creek and Deer Creek. Maintenance on the roads will improve access to the forest.

The St. Charles Canyon Road had developed cracks, allowing vegetation to grow up through the shoulders of the road. The road had not been repaired in 10 years. Improvements included sealing the cracks and a surface treatment on the road. The work should defer road maintenance for another 10 years.

The Montpelier Reservoir parking lot was widened by removing some of the adjacent hillside.

Roads parallel to the Georgetown and Deer Creeks were impacting the fish habitats below. Both creeks suffer from run -off sediment from the roads. Georgetown Creek is a historic Bonneville Cutthroat Trout habitat and Deer Creek is a Yellowstone Cutthroat trout stronghold. Resurfacing these roads and creating a gravel pit at the summit between the two watersheds will improve the habitat for the trout in both creeks.

Approximately $459,000 has been allocated towards the project. Bear Lake County used contractors to accomplish a portion of the work. The County reported the creation of about five full time jobs for the duration of the projects.

About 50 percent of the work was completed in 2009 and crews will continue work on the projects when weather allows in 2010. This project is one of eight projects on the Caribou-Targhee totaling $6.5 million to improve roads on the forest.

Program Project Name: Caribou-Targhee National Forest - Forest-wide Road Reconstruction and Aquatic Passage

Local Project Name: Franklin County And The Forest Service Improve Roads Thanks To Recovery Act Funds

Region: Intermountain Region

Forest: Caribou/Targhee

Ranger District: Montpelier-Caribou

Nearby City(ies): Montpelier, Idaho

Estimated Project Cost: $50,000.00

Congressional District(s): ID02

County(ies): ID: Franklin

Modified Date: 7/27/2010

Story:

Franklin County And The Forest Service Improve Roads Thanks To Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 4/15/2010)

The Caribou-Targhee National Forest received funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to reconstruct Hillyard Canyon Road and resurface the Sugar Creek Trailhead on the Montpelier Ranger District in Franklin County, Idaho.

Hillyard Canyon Road provides access through the Forest between Utah and Idaho. The road needed to be maintained because only high clearance vehicles could travel on it. Also,

spring run-off on the road had caused significant erosion and required extensive annual maintenance. Resurfacing and improving the drainage on the road has nearly eliminated the surface erosion.

The Sugar Creek Trailhead is used by ATV, horseback riders, hunters, and permitted livestock grazers. The parking lot had previously been realigned by Franklin County and needed surfacing in order to reduce its impact on a nearby stream.

Wes Stumbo, Caribou-Targhee National Forest Engineer said, "The projects provided the opportunity to work collaboratively with local government agencies to create better access for all of our Forest users."

Nearly all of the work was completed in 2009 by Franklin County road maintenance crews. When weather conditions allows, the Forest Service will finish the final inspections. About $50,000 has been allocated towards the project. The county reported saving one job for four months as a result of the work.

This project is one of eight projects on the Caribou-Targhee totaling $6.5 million that will improve roads on the forest. The work on these roads will increase access to the National Forest for the public and reduce costs for future maintenance.

Program Project Name: Caribou-Targhee National Forest - Forest-wide Road Reconstruction and Aquatic Passage

Local Project Name: Caribou County And The Forest Service Improve Roads Thanks To Recovery Act Funds

Region: Intermountain Region

Forest: Caribou/Targhee

Ranger District: Montpelier-Caribou

Nearby City(ies): Pocatello, Idaho and Soada Springs, Idaho

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 9

Congressional District(s): ID02

County(ies): ID: Caribou

Modified Date: 7/27/2010

Story:

Caribou County And The Forest Service Improve Roads Thanks To Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 4/15/2010)

The Caribou-Targhee National Forest received funds through the Recovery Act to improve recreational access on Caribou County roads. In addition to road maintenance, there was also work done in watershed areas. Project work, completed through an agreement with the county, involves the realignment and surfacing of about 10 miles of road and the installation of two culverts.

Maintenance includes work on the following roads: Cow Fork, Morgan Meadows, Diamond, Sulphur Canyon, Cheatbeck, and Flat Valley.

* The Cow Fork is a main access road to the north end of the Montpelier District. It has contributed a significant amount of sediment run-off into Eightmile Creek, which has a negative impact on the Bonneville Cutthroat Trout in the creek. The Cow Fork Road needed to be reshaped and resurfaced with gravel.

* The Morgan Meadows Road was closed due to a landslide that occurred in the summer of 2008. It is the only road that provides motorized access to the Morgan Meadows trail head, where a famous 1870's wagon road begins. The wagon road was used to deliver supplies to an old gold mining community on Caribou Mountain.

* Diamond Creek Road provides access to popular camping areas. The road had extensive sediment issues due to high motor vehicle use. Surface hardening was used to reduce sediment erosion. Barrier rock was installed to prevent vehicles from driving into a nearby stream.

* Sulphur Canyon Road had drainage issues that caused sediment to fall into Sulphur Creek. The run-off was reduced by the addition of a new culvert and reshaping and graveling a portion of the road.

* Flat Valley Road had pot holes, a wash-boarded surface, poor drainage from the original surfacing, and one mile of the road needed additional gravel.

The projects created four full time jobs. Approximately 65 percent of the project was completed in 2009. The crews will continue work on the projects in 2010, as weather permits.

Caribou-Targhee National Forest Engineer Wes Stumbo said, "These projects increase the ability for the public to access the National Forest and reduce costs for future maintenance."

Program Project Name: Evergreen Forest Products Dry Kiln

Local Project Name: Idaho's Evergreen Dry Kiln Recovery Act Project Update
Region: Intermountain Region
Nearby City(ies): Tamarack, Idaho and New Meadows, Idaho
Estimated Project Cost: $2,500,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 260
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Adams
Modified Date: 7/13/2010

Story:

Wood Is Being Sorted Before Entering The Dry Kiln at Evergreen's Tamarack, Idaho Mill Site

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

50 permanent and 150 temporary jobs have been created while investments in wood products industry ensure healthier forests and sustainable energy fueled by woody biomass. The Evergreen Forest Products American Recovery and Reinvestment Act project is answering the desperate need of unemployed construction and wood products workers while increasing forest industry efficiency and capacity- and thus forest health in west-central Idaho.

Evergreen Forest Products produces rough cut lumber at their mill in Tamarack, Idaho. They no longer need to haul the green lumber 112 miles to their planer mill to dry the boards before they are planed into a market ready product. With the addition of the dry kiln at their Tamarack site, the processing and overall trucking costs are being reduced and providing more funds for purchase of raw material and for wages. The dry kiln, which became operational in February, 2010, is being heated with wood energy. The wood comes from treatment projects on private, state and federal lands, including the Payette and Boise National Forests. These treatment projects protect communities at risk from unplanned wildfires and improvement to forest health. In addition, a co-generation plant at the mill that is fueled by biomass heats the dry kiln and produce excess energy that is sold to Idaho Power.

Adams County, Idaho has a current unemployment rate of 15 percent and a net rate change between 2007 and 2008 of 6.6 percent. The Recovery Act has funded $2,500,000 towards the project.

Its estimated that over 150 people have already benefited from employment opportunities associated with the construction of the dry kilns, manufacturing of steel and equipment for the facility, and even the town's service industries ~ motels and restaurants. Evergreen spokesman Rodney Krogh indicates they expect the cost savings from the efficiencies gained in drying the green lumber before it is transported to the planning mill will be available to secure more raw timber supply and for increased wages for the additional people they have hired at both the sawmill and planer mill, in order to keep up with the mills' increased processing capacity.

"Everybody was hungry… You don't know how appreciative folks are. Motels and restaurants have had steady business for the summer. Businesses as far away as the steel source in Portland (OR) are benefiting from this funding," Rodney Krogh, Member of Family Owned Evergreen Forest Products.

Program Project Name: Treasure Valley Forest Products

Local Project Name: Pellet Mill Expansion to Utilize Small-Diamter Timber and Underutilized Woody Biomass

Region: Forest Products Laboratory

Nearby City(ies): Mountain Home

Estimated Project Cost: $500,000.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 24

Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Ada
Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Pellet Mill Expansion To Utilize Small-Diameter Timber and Underutilized Woody Biomass

(Story posted 4/16/2010)

Prior to receiving the 2009 Recovery Act Woody Biomass Utilization grant, our company had purchased a lot of equipment and already had a business producing pellets. We also have an in-woods crew who do the work on the forests. With the monies from the grant, we were able to finish building our pellet mill at least three months quicker than we had anticipated. Prior to receiving the grant funds, we had been using our own cash to fund the building of our pellet mill and continue logging operations.

Our recovery factors have changed somewhat, although we anticipate this number to increase. Because the Recovery Act funds were dispersed towards the end of the wood pellet season, we did not see much of an increase in production. However, as future seasonal sales continue to increase we know that our expanded capability will increase our production.

Also, due to the grant, we were able to continue working on our stewardship contracts that we have with the Forest Service. These contracts are for thinning operations on National Forests.

We anticipate that the impact of the grant will be felt for many years forward, by developing new markets for woody biomass.

Program Project Name: North Idaho Counties Trail Maintenance & Reconstruction

Local Project Name: Idaho Youth Crew and the Idaho Panhandle National Forest Partner on ARRA Project
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Idaho Panhandle
Nearby City(ies): None Listed
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Boundary, Clearwater, Kootenai, Shoshone
Modified Date: 7/27/2010

Story:

Idaho Youth Crew and the Idaho Panhandle National Forest Partner on Recovery Act Project

(Story posted 11/11/2009)

For eight weeks during July and August 2009, the Idaho State Youth Crew worked hard to improve recreation areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest (IPNF) Priest Lake District. The Youth Crew was hired by the State of Idaho through a Department of Labor program funded by Recovery Act.

A lot of work needed to be done to improve the Upper Priest Lake Trail and nearby reacreation areas. The crew finished the annual trail maintenance and replace a deteriorated trail structure to address public safety concerns.

Completing the annual maintenance included work on about 50 miles of public recreation trail. Three miles of trail tread were improved and sixty feet of puncheon was replaced. A puncheon is a kind of floorboard on a trailbed.

The youth crew also worked with the Ranger District's developed recreation crew painting picnic tables and installing bear-resistant food storage lockers at remote campsites to improve public safety and protect wildlife by keeping the bears out of campers' food and out of trouble.

Hikers, horseback riders, mountain bikers, campers and other visitors now have well-maintained facilities that greatly enhance their visits to the Priest Lake Ranger District within Bonner and Boundary Counties. Thanks to the labor provided by the Idaho State Youth Crew in coordination with the Forest Service's recreation crew, we improved the quality of visitors' outdoor experiences and enhanced public safety on trails and at recreation sites.

Program Project Name: Forest-wide Thinning

Local Project Name: Idaho's 4-County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Creates Jobs in Local Communities
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Idaho Panhandle
Nearby City(ies): Bonners Ferry
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Shoshone
Modified Date: 6/23/2010

Story:

Idaho's Four-County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Creates Jobs in Local Communities

(Story posted 8/8/2009)

This project is designed to ease the difficult employment situation in northern Idaho while accomplishing critical hazardous fuel reduction and forest health improvement treatments.

Project Update: Crews have been at work for nearly two months as part of a two-year project to reduce hazardous fuels, improve forest health and increase the safety and security of rural communities and homeowners throughout northern Idaho.

This month, Alan Flory and his eight-person crew are cutting trees and brush to create fuel breaks around Bonners Ferry, ID. Flory's crew is one of seven contract crews Boundary County is using this summer. Flory said he would have laid most of his workers off this summer if not for this program.

This project will result in 80 acres of fuel breaks that will provide protection from wildfires along the east and southern edges of town. Removing small trees and brush in the fuel breaks removes "ladder fuels" that feed the rapid spread of wildfires.

This summer's "stimulus" work is a continuation of fuels reduction work that has been underway for nearly a decade. The counties continually assess wildfire risk and design and implement projects to mitigate that risk.

The resulting forests are more fire resistant and also healthier and more resilient to insect and disease infestations.

Program Project Name: Garden Valley Fuels for Schools

Local Project Name: Construction has Started on the Garden Valley Fuels For Schools Recovery Act Project!
Region: Intermountain Region
Nearby City(ies): Garden Valley, Idaho
Estimated Project Cost: $2,750,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 27
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Boise
Modified Date: 7/13/2010

Story:

Construction Has Started On The Garden Valley Fuels For Schools Recovery Act Project!

(Story posted 4/15/2010)

A new wood heating system will save school heating costs.

The Garden Valley School District received $2,750,000 through the Recovery Act to install a new wood biomass boiler at the new K-12 school in Garden Valley, Idaho. Construction has started on a new boiler room at the school and the new boiler is expected to arrive in the summer of 2010. The new heating system is anticipated to be fully operational by September 2010.

The Garden Valley School District #71 recently completed construction of a new K-12 school facility. They have occupied this new school beginning this school year (2009-2010).The school is currently being heated with propane, which will be the back-up fuel when the new biomass boiler system is up and running in September.

An economic analysis of the heating system was conducted by McKinstry Industries and found that a wood heating system would save the district heating costs over the original propane heating system. The current heating costs are about $130,000 per year. They anticipate that the wood heating system will cost approximately $65,000 per year. The district contracted with McKinstry Industries to design, supply and install the system.

The biomass facility will rely on 600-900 tons of woodchips annually. The chips are forest waste and will be generated as a by-product from a local supplier. By providing a profitable outlet for these by-products, the boiler will indirectly support jobs at the local supplier along with forestry workers such as loggers and truck and equipment operators. The jobs directly linked to the boiler will include the construction and installation of the system along with annual chip production, loading, trucking and unloading of the material at the school. The annual savings generated by utilizing a biomass heating system will provide students additional educational opportunities from these saved revenues.

Program Project Name: North Idaho Counties Trail Maintenance & Reconstruction

Local Project Name: ARRA Funds Benefit Trail and Road Work on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Idaho Panhandle
Nearby City(ies): None Listed
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Boundary, Clearwater, Kootenai, Shoshone
Modified Date: 7/27/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Benefit Trail and Road Work on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest

(Story posted 11/11/2009

Recently the Idaho Panhandle National Forest(IPNF)upgraded the Pack River Forest Service Road #231 from the forest boundary to the Harrison Lake Trailhead.

This project included removing boulders from the road and upgrading the road in segments from native material to a aggregate surface for greater stability and traveler safety. Drainage structures were also installed along with a new trailbridge on Beehive trail #279.

IPNF District Ranger Dick Kramer was pleased with the work. "The recent road upgrades significantly improved the access into the Pack River drainage. This road in Boundary County is a major recreation destination to numerous high mountain lake. These improvements will provide forest users a smoother and stable access road into the east side of the Selkirk Mountain Range," said Kramer.

The Pack River road has been a very rough road for several years and access was limited to

high clearance vehicles. Several funding sources were used to complete the work including money from the Recovery Act.

On August 26, 2009, Diane Hodel, IPNF roads manager, administered the contract for the new trailbridge and road upgrades. Clint Kimball Company, from Naples, Idaho, completed the majority of the trailbridge installation and road upgrades on October 10, 2009. "This road will be easier to maintain and provide much improved access for the public. With the additional drainage and erosion control improvements, water quality for this river will be greatly enhanced," added Hodel.

Final road work will be completed in summer 2010.

Program Project Name: Boise and Payette National Forests - Stewardship/Biomass Projects

Local Project Name: Boise National Forest Project Promotes Biomass Utilization and Enhances Ecosystem Health

Region: Intermountain Region

Forest: Boise

Nearby City(ies): Mountain Home

Congressional District(s): ID01, ID02

County(ies): ID: Adams

Modified Date: 7/13/2010

Story:

Thinning Project On The Boise National Forest Yields Multiple Benefits

(Story posted 5/18/2010)

A 287-acre project on the Boise National Forest in Idaho was awarded to a local company, Treasure Valley Forest Products, for $143,500. The project included commercial and pre-commercial thinning along with associated slash treatments. The trees are "whole tree" yarded to a landing, which enhances biomass utilization and slash removal.

Once the wood material, or biomass, is removed from the site, the contractor uses it for dimensional lumber, house logs, decorative landscaping bark, woodstove pellets, firewood, and even livestock bedding. Prescribed fire treatments will help dispose of the remaining slash.

Treasure Valley Forest Products was also awarded $500,000 in State and Private Forestry Recovery Act funds to expand a pellet plant operation in a nearby Mountain Home, Idaho. The owner, Dan Balbach, is passionate about creating local jobs. To that end, he has hired local workers for short-term projects, such as paving the plant parking area, and is working to begin a third shift at his biomass processing facility.

Treasure Valley Forest Products will use the funds to:

« Expand a pellet plant operation in nearby Mountain Home, Idaho

« Create about five new jobs by adding a pellet mill second shift.

« Purchase additional logging equipment to improve his ability to hire more workers.

« Keep current employees on the payroll because local vegetation treatment projects have offered a steady supply of woody biomass material.

« Ensure a healthy forest ecosystem by removing trees and brush that are overgrown.

Program Project Name: North Idaho Counties Trail Maintenance & Reconstruction

Local Project Name: ARRA funded YCC Crews Improve Facilities on the Clearwater NF
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Clearwater
Nearby City(ies): None Listed
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Boundary, Clearwater, Kootenai, Shoshone
Modified Date: 6/29/2010

Story:

Recovery Act-Funded YCC Crews Improve Facilities on the Clearwater National Forest

(Story posted 10/10/2009)

From June 22 to August 14, 2009, a group of young people from the local area signed up for Youth Conservation Corps projects improving visitor safety and tackling facilities maintenance on the Clearwater National Forest in Idaho.

This project including replacing destination signs and alert/warning signs along Forest Roads 100, 250, and 247. Various other signs including route identifiers, Motor Vehicle Use signs on the Palouse Ranger District, and the Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark sign were also installed. Sign placement benefits sightseeing travlers and forest road motorized and non-motorized users, providing an element of locational safety and comfort.

During one hard-working week the crew installed a new fence around the Lolo Creek Campground to exclude cattle in the area from the campground to enhance cleanliness and improving aesthtics for visitors.

At the Kooskia Ranger Station, two of the crew demolished an old building and improved the area with a general cleanup of the compound. Two other crew members placed rock around the Weitas Guard Station, helping preserve the foundation and provide drainage away from the building.

With the crew's hard work, forest employees and visitors benefited from the compound cleanup of Kooskia Ranger Station and drain field maintenance at Weitas Guard Station.

Program Project Name: Sawmill/Shavings Plants - Emmett

Local Project Name: Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Emerald Forest Products Sawmill
Region: Intermountain Region
Nearby City(ies): Emmett, Idaho
Estimated Project Cost: $4,000,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 47
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Gem
Modified Date: 7/13/2010

Story:

The Newly Constructed Sawmill Will Create 47 Jobs Thanks To the Recovery Act

(Story posted 5/27/2010)

Gem County Commissioners and the Gem County Chamber of Commerce unveiled and cut the ribbon for the new Emerald Forest Products sawmill on May 21, 2010 in Emmett, Idaho with the support of over 200 people attending the event.

Emerald Forest Products received $4 million dollars from the Recovery Act through the U.S. Forest Service which played a key role to achieve the completion of the sawmill, dry kiln, planer mill and shavings mill. The new sawmill facility will create 47 jobs on site, with additional jobs created through the logging and trucking industries. Currently, 44 people are working at the mill site. The dry kiln and the planer mill should begin operations by the end of June 2010.

Emerald Forest Products already has an agreement with a national hardware and lumber chain store to provide lumber for the 8 – 12 foot board market, helping ensure the long-term viability of the operations. Emerald Forest Products is investigating the possibility of installing an onsite biomass cogeneration facility to create heat and power fueled by slash to cover mill operations. Excess power would be sold to Idaho Power.

The mill began construction in 2002 but stalled because of a poor lumber market and funding challenges. The Recovery Act dollars made it possible for Emerald Forest Products to complete the project. The community support for this project has been outstanding with the inclusion of Gem County, City of Emmett, Idaho Department of Commerce, USDA Rural Development, and the Woody Biomass Utilization Partnership led by coordinator Morris Huffman.

Program Project Name: Caribou-Targhee National Forest - Forest-wide Road Reconstruction and Aquatic Passage

Local Project Name: Teton County and the Forest Service Improve Roads Thanks To Recovery Act Funds

Region: Intermountain Region

Forest: Caribou/Targhee

Ranger District: Teton Basin

Nearby City(ies): Driggs, Idaho

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 1

Congressional District(s): ID02

County(ies): ID: Teton

Modified Date: 7/27/2010

Story:

Teton County and the Forest Service Improve Roads Thanks To Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 6/2/2010)

The Caribou-Targhee National Forest received funds through the Recovery Act to resurface roads, install drains on roads and to install cattle guards on the Teton Basin Ranger District in Teton County, Idaho.

This project is one of eight projects on the Caribou-Targhee totaling $6.5 million to improve roads on the forest.

Work to be accomplished includes resurfacing roads, installing signs, cattle guards, and drainage structures on eight Forest roads. Approximately 50 percent of the work is complete and the remainder of the work will begin when seasonal weather conditions allow.

These Forest Service roads were in poor condition and impassable without high clearance vehicles especially during wet weather. The work on these roads will improve public access to the National Forest and reduce costs for future maintenance. The installation of drainage structures will reduce sediment into streams that parallel the roads.

The projects employed a Teton County road maintenance crew full time in 2009. Wes Stumbo, Caribou-Targhee National Forest Engineer said, “This employment opportunity and improved road conditions would not have been possible without this agreement and money from the Recovery Act.”

When weather conditions allow, county construction crews will be back at work again to finish the projects in 2010. About $60,000 has been allocated towards the project. Work was accomplished through an agreement with Teton County.

Program Project Name: Caribou-Targhee National Forest - Forest-wide Road Reconstruction and Aquatic Passage

Local Project Name: Lincoln County and the Forest Service Improve Roads Thanks To Recovery Act Funds
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Caribou/Targhee
Ranger District: Palisades
Nearby City(ies): Alpine, Wyoming
Congressional District(s): ID02
County(ies): ID: Lincoln
Modified Date: 7/27/2010

Story:

Lincoln County and the Forest Service Improve Roads Thanks To Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 6/2/1010)

The Caribou-Targhee National Forest received $209,000 through the Recovery Act to resurface or add additional surfacing on approximately seven miles of Forest roads on the Palisades Ranger District in Lincoln County, Wyoming.

This project is one of eight projects on the Caribou-Targhee totaling $6.5 million to repair roads and improve access in the forest. Work has been accomplished through an agreement with Lincoln County, Wyoming. Lincoln County utilized their road maintenance crews and contracts. Three different contractors have been utilized for gravel supply.

Most of the project roads were in poor condition and impassable without high clearance vehicles especially during wet weather. Direct benefits of the project include increased access to the National Forest by a greater percentage of the general public and reduced costs for future maintenance. Most of the work is occurring within three miles of the town of Alpine, Wyoming.

Caribou-Targhee National Forest Engineer Wes Stumbo said, “These are great road projects that benefit the community of Alpinek Wyoming." “The road work is an economic benefit to Alpine and the improved access will make travel easier for people using the forest.”

About half of the work has been completed. When weather conditions allow, county construction crews will be back at work to finish existing projects. The project will be finished during the summer of 2010.

Program Project Name: Caribou-Targhee National Forest - Forest-wide Road Reconstruction and Aquatic Passage

Local Project Name: Clark County and The Forest Service Improve Roads Thanks To Recovery Act Funds
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Caribou/Targhee
Ranger District: Dubois

Nearby City(ies): Dubois
Estimated Project Cost: $245,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 0.766
Congressional District(s): ID02
County(ies): ID: Clark
Modified Date: 7/27/2010

Story:

Clark County and The Forest Service Improve Roads Thanks To Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 6/2/1010)

The Caribou-Targhee National Forest received $245,000 through the Recovery Act to resurface roads on the Dubois Ranger District in Clark County, Idaho.

This project is one of eight projects on the Caribou-Targhee totaling $6.5 million to improve roads on the forest. The project is focusing on improving road conditions on 16 miles of roads in Clark County, Idaho on the Dubois Ranger District. Road work includes approximately nine miles on the Cottonwood Loop Road (FS 026).

The Cottonwood Loop Road was in poor condition and was impassable without high-clearance vehicles especially during wet weather. The area is heavily utilized for recreation and the poor road conditions limited the access to the area. About 65 percent of the project is now complete.

The degraded road conditions increased risk to public safety and negatively impacted watershed conditions. Resurfacing the roads will bring road conditions in the Kilgore, Idaho area back up to standard through the upgrading of road drainage structures and surfacing.

The improved road conditions will provide better access to the Caribou-Targhee National Forest for the general public. Wes Stumbo, Caribou-Targhee National Forest Engineer said, “These are very positive projects in the local community.” Resurfacing the roads will reduce the costs for future maintenance on the roads and watershed conditions will be improved due to the reduction of sediment and erosion into streams.

The project is expected to be completed in 2010. The project has created about three full time jobs. Work has been accomplished through an agreement with Clark County, Idaho.

Program Project Name: Caribou-Targhee National Forest - Forest-wide Road Reconstruction and Aquatic Passage

Local Project Name: Bonneville County and the Forest Service Improve Roads
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Caribou/Targhee
Ranger District: Palisades

Nearby City(ies): Alpine, Wyoming, Idaho Falls, Idaho, Rexburg, Idaho
Estimated Project Cost: $0.00
Congressional District(s): ID02
County(ies): ID: Bonneville
Modified Date: 7/27/2010

Story:

Bonneville County and the Forest Service Improve Roads

(Story posted 6/2/2010)

Reducing Sediment in Fish Bearing Streams and Improving 70 Miles of Forest Roads
The Caribou-Targhee National Forest received approximately $4 million through the Recovery Act to resurface, add additional surfacing and replace three major culverts with new crossings on 70 miles of forest roads on the Palisades and Soda Springs Ranger Districts in Bonneville County, Idaho.

This project is one of eight projects on the Caribou-Targhee totaling $6.5 million to improve roads on the forest. Work has been accomplished through an agreement with Bonneville County. Bonneville County utilized their road maintenance crews and contracts. The two major contracts have been with DePatco Inc. and Brett Price Crushing.

The majority of the work to be accomplished includes resurfacing or additional surfacing on approximately 70 miles of forest roads. Additional work includes culvert replacement for improved drainage and replacement of three major culverts with new crossings that will allow fish passage.

There are a variety of benefits to completing the road improvement projects. Many of the roads are impassable in wet weather without four-wheel drive vehicles or with chains. Road damage during wet weather is extreme with large amounts of sediment transported into fish bearing streams.

Direct benefits include increased access to the National Forest by a greater percentage of the general public. Benefits also include reductions in sedimentation transportation into Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout bearing streams and replacement of older culverts with larger, fish passage structures.

Approximately 40 percent of the work has been completed. Much of the contract advertisement and awards have been completed and contractors have been at work. When weather conditions allow, contracts will be back at work again with the potential for more accomplishment in the summer of 2010.

Program Project Name: Caribou-Targhee National Forest - Forest-wide Road Reconstruction and Aquatic Passage

Local Project Name: Madison County and the Forest Service Improve Roads Thanks To Recovery Act Funds
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Caribou/Targhee
Ranger District: Palisades
Nearby City(ies): Rexburg, Idaho and Idaho Falls, Idaho
Estimated Project Cost: $600,000.00
Congressional District(s): ID02
County(ies): ID: Clark
Modified Date: 7/27/2010

Story:

Madison County and the Forest Service Improve Roads Thanks To Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 6/2/2010)

The Caribou-Targhee National Forest received funds through the Recovery Act to improve eight miles of forest road on the Palisades Ranger District in Madison County, Idaho.

This project is one of eight projects on the Caribou-Targhee totaling $6.5 million to improve roads on the forest. Work has been accomplished through an agreement with Madison County, Idaho. Madison County utilized their road maintenance crews for the work.

Most of the project road was in poor condition and impassable without high clearance vehicles, especially during wet weather. The improved road conditions will increase access to the National Forest by the general public and reduced future maintenance costs. Benefits also include significant reduction of sediment and erosion into parallel streams.

The majority of the work accomplished includes resurfacing or additional surfacing on approximately nine miles of forest roads. Additional work includes culvert additions and replacements to reduce erosion and road damage. Approximately eight miles of the actual work is completed with five of 20 culverts in place.
Nearly $600,000 has been allocated towards the project. When weather conditions allow, county construction crews will be back at work again to finish existing projects.

Program Project Name: Boise and Payette National Forests - Stewardship/Biomass Projects

Local Project Name: Reducing Hazardous Fuels Northeast of Idaho City Thanks to the Recovery Act
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Boise
Ranger District: Idaho City
Nearby City(ies): Idaho City, Idaho
Estimated Project Cost: $1,676,186.60

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 25
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Boise
Modified Date: 7/13/2010

Story:

Reducing Hazardous Fuels Northeast Of Idaho City Thanks To The Recovery Act

(Story posted 6/6/2010)

The Mores South Helicopter Stewardship Project, funded in part by $2.3 million dollars from the Recovery Act, provided multiple benefits to the community of Idaho City, Idaho and the Boise National Forest. Not only did the project bring in an influx of business; it put smiles on the local citizens' faces as they conducted business with the loggers and watched the log trucks drive down the highway through the canyon.

The project goal was to reduce hazardous fuels on national forest lands northeast of Idaho City and adjacent to private lands and residences along the State Highway 21 corridor. Treatment methods included commercial thinning, reducing slash and helicopter yarding and decking.

Oregon based Columbia Helicopters was awarded the contract. They used several local sub-contractors to complete road work and helicopter landing construction. The company also hired many truckers to haul the logs out of Idaho City to the sawmills.

Mike Moore, Director of Forest Operations for Columbia Helicopters said the project was a success for his company and the community. "This was a very valuable project. It allowed us to keep our employees working over the winter," said Moore. "We also had very positive feedback from the Idaho City community. The community appreciated our employees being very professional and welcomed their support to the local community," he added.

Trudy Jackson, owner of Trudy's Kitchen & RV/Cabins in Idaho City, said "The project stimulated the local economy because workers ate at the restaurants, filled up their trucks at the gas station and stayed at the lodging facilities. This recovery act project was beneficial to the whole community. Idaho City benefitted immensely."

Boise County Commissioner Terry Day echoed Trudy's thoughts and said the community is no stranger to forest management. He added his appreciation to the contractor and Forest Service for emphasizing public safety during the project.

"The citizens up here know the importance of timber harvest, timber dollars and fire mitigation. I've been through the project a few times and it's well posted with public safety as the priority," said Day. "It's good to see logs being transported out of Boise County."

Program Project Name: Managing Noxious Weeds & Invasive Species - Adams

Local Project Name: Removing Noxious Weeds and Reducing the Risk of Wildland Fire in
Region: Intermountain Region
Nearby City(ies): Council, Idaho
Estimated Project Cost: $508,865.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 4.58
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Adams
Modified Date: 7/13/2010

Story:

Creating Six Jobs to Spray Noxious Weeds and to Reduce Hazardous Fuels

(Story posted 6/7/2010)

State and Private Forestry received funds from the Recovery Act through the U.S. Forest Service to treat noxious weeds and reduce risk of wildfire in Adams County, Idaho. Six employees are working to improve plant community health and stability through the removal of noxious and invasive weeds and reducing potential fire hazards.

Controlling noxious weeds is important to reduce the negative impact they have on the environment, including risks to humans, livestock and wildlife populations. Fuel reduction is important to slow and reduce the risk of wildfires.

Approximately 207 acres of county, private and state lands have been chemically treated for houndstongue, diffuse knapweed, leafy spurge, poison hemlock, rush skeletonweed, scotch thistle and whitetop. Additionally, 3,340 acres of both private and state land has been inventoried and over 8,000 Mediterranean sage plants removed.

Approximately five miles of right-of-way along U.S. Highway 95, starting at the Washington County line, has been chemically treated for houndstongue, diffuse knapweed, leafy spurge, poison hemlock, rush skeletonweed and whitetop.

Six local people have been hired with the Recovery Act grant funds. Four were unemployed at the time they were hired. The jobs provided assistance to the employees and will ultimately help to support the local economy and businesses. They are also working with the County Building Inspector on fuel reduction projects and private land owner's regarding weed control.

Chris York, Professional Applicator, said "This job has helped me and my family to pay the bills and I am learning a new trade that is helping the community."

Dave Klaw, Weed Superintendent for Adams County, said "So far all this has worked out really well. A lot of weed treatments have been accomplished in a short amount of time."

Program Project Name: Payette National Forest - Road and Bridge Maintenance and Improvement

Local Project Name: Repairing the Primary Access Road to Yellow Pine, Idaho Thanks To the Recovery Act

Region: Intermountain Region

Forest: Payette

Ranger District: Krassel

Nearby City(ies): Cascade, Idaho

Estimated Project Cost: $441,743.93

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 10

Congressional District(s): ID01

County(ies): ID: Adams

Modified Date: 7/27/2010

Story:

South Fork Salmon River Road Repaired

(Story posted 7/7/2010)

The Payette National Forest received funds from the Recovery Act to repair the South Fork Salmon River Road, a primary access route to the rural community of Yellow Pine, Idaho. The road is a popular route for recreation activities, including kayaking, salmon fishing, hunting, camping, and back country trail access. The road is receiving subgrade repair work to fix pavement failures in the road and a chip seal overlay. About five percent of the 31-mile-long road requires the repairs.

The South Fork Road was paved 20 years ago to reduce the impact of the road to the South Fork Salmon River and its populations of wild Chinook salmon, Steelhead and Bull Trout, all listed under the Endangered Species Act. The subgrade repair and chip seal will extend the life of the pavement and its benefits to water quality as well as public access to National Forest and the community of Yellow Pine.

Granite Excavation, a local contractor from Cascade, Idaho, was awarded the contract. Work began in April after the snow melted and is expected to be completed by late July 2010. Granite Construction was also awarded the chip seal contract for the South Fork Salmon River road, which is expected to be performed in late July and early August when the temperatures have warmed enough for the rock chips to adhere to the pavement seal coat.

“Because of the Recovery Act funding, we’ve been able to keep 15-20 workers on the payroll that would not have been working for us if we didn’t have those two projects,” said Josh Davis, President of Granite Excavation Inc. “Work is near completion on the subgrade repair and just starting on the chip seal.”

Program Project Name: Region 4 State and Private Forestry Tribal Initiative

Local Project Name: Six Native American Tribes in Three States Received Funding to Treat Hazardous Fuels & Invasive Species Thanks to the Recovery Act

Region: Intermountain Region

Nearby City(ies): Don't know yet.

Estimated Project Cost: $479,438.00

Congressional District(s): ID02, NV02, UT02

County(ies): ID: Bannock, Bingham, Caribou, Owyhee, Power; NV: Churchill, Elko, Lyon, Mineral, Washoe, White Pine; UT: Duchesne, Juab, Uintah

Modified Date: 7/23/2010

Story:

Six American Indian Tribes in Three States Received Funding to Treat Hazardous Fuels and Invasive Species Thanks to the Recovery Act

(Story posted 7/16/2010)

This recently awarded American Recovery and Reinvestment Act project will ease unemployment and under-employment trends in three rural, western states while accomplishing critical hazardous fuel reduction and invasive species treatments on nearly 18,000 acres of Tribal lands managed by nine American Indian Tribes in southern Idaho, Nevada and Utah.

The resulting forests and rangelands will be more fire resistant, healthier and more resilient to noxious weed, insects and diseases infestations. Furthermore, with funding provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, individual families and Tribal communities are economically healthier and more resilient as well.

Shoshone-Paiute Fire Chief Brent Hunter said, “The work is benefiting the communities to reduce the hazardous fuels, helping to improve the economy and the crews are also educating the community members about continuing to improve the defensible space around their homes.”

“This is a great opportunity to work with Tribal partners while reducing the risk from catastrophic wildfire and providing local jobs,” said Mike Dudley, Region 1- 4 Forest Service State and Private Forestry director.

Program Project Name: Payette National Forest Trail Maintenance Needed to Assure Visitor Safety and Resource Protection

Local Project Name: Payette National Forest Deferred Trail Maintenance

Region: Intermountain Region

Forest: Payette

Nearby City(ies): Adams County, Idaho

Estimated Project Cost: $32,081.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 6

Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Adams
Modified Date: 12/22/2010

Story:
Payette National Forest Uses Recovery Act Funds for Trail Work

(Story posted 10/19/2010)

In October of 2009, the Payette National Forest was able to complete the first of three Recovery Act-funded trail projects with the completion of approximately 20 miles of trail maintenance within Adams County. A six-person youth trail crew under agreement with the Student Conservation Association (SCA) worked for two weeks this October to accomplish 15 miles of trail maintenance on Clayborn Trail #505, Lava Lake Trail #374, Trail #149, and Trail #506 on the New Meadows Ranger District.

The crews then moved over to complete work on five miles of trail in the Hells Canyon area, Kinney Creek Trail #221 for the remaining two weeks of their agreement. Early snow moved them out of work planned for Council Mountain.
The crews completed heavy maintenance consisting of clearing logs, rocks, boulders, and brush from the trail as well as digging drainages.

The crew also built two short bridges to cross drainages. The trails serve two-wheel motorized users as well as hikers, stock users, and mountain bike users.
This project put youth crews to work and accomplished much needed deferred trail maintenance within the Payette National Forest, benefiting both motorized and non-motorized trail users.

Program Project Name: Payette National Forest - Roads - Beaver Creek Re-route and Decommissioning

Local Project Name: Beaver Creek Reroute and Decommissioning
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Payette
Ranger District: Council
Nearby City(ies): Council, Idaho
Estimated Project Cost: $270,722.00
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Adams, Idaho
Modified Date: 1/6/2011

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Benefit Travelers, Watershed

(Story posted 12/2/2010)

On the Payette National Forest, the Beaver Creek roads project was completed on the Council Ranger District in Adams County during the summer of 2010. The work consisted of decommissioning 12.2 miles of road, improving 3.6 miles of road, and installing and installing a 14 ft. span open bottom arch with concrete footings. The contract also included hauling and placing 1,676 cubic yards of gravel.

The project completed re-routing roads away from streams and decommissioning roads adjacent to streams. The original road work was started under a timber sale contract in the late 1990s. Work was stopped due to a law suit, and the timber sale was canceled, leaving much of the road work incomplete. The Recovery Act-funded project completed much of the road work and made open routes designated on the travel plan passable and safer for public use while decommissioning roads that were no longer needed.

The project was awarded to 4 Lees Excavation from Annex, Oregon, a family-owned business. Contractor Darren Lee is a member of the Army National Guard and was back from deployment overseas. Darren, his three sons, his sister, and father were the workers. Since completing the project, Darren has been re-deployed overseas.

This completed project improves public access, restores fish habitat degraded by sedimentation, and benefits overall watershed conditions.

Program Project Name: Salmon-Challis Forest Wide Recreation Facility Deferred Maintenance

Local Project Name: Salmon-Challis Forest Wide Recreation Facility Deferred Maintenance
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Salmon-Challis
Nearby City(ies): Salmon, Idaho; Challis, Idaho; Mackay, Idaho; Stanley, Idaho; Leadore, Idaho
Estimated Project Cost: $1,170,086.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 0.423
Congressional District(s): ID02
County(ies): ID: Custer, Lemhi
Modified Date: 12/22/2010

Story:

Recreation Facility Maintenance Projects to Improve Visitor Experiences

(Story posted 12/6/2010)

The Salmon-Challis National Forest received $1,170,086 for recreation facility maintenance projects in Custer and Lemhi counties as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. “The funding will allow us to do much needed replacements and repairs to restrooms, picnic areas, and trailheads through out the Forest,” said Forest Supervisor Frank Guzman. “The money is going to contractors who are helping improve the safety and sanitation in our

developed recreation sites."

Twenty-seven new vault restrooms will be installed at 25 recreation sites across the forest, replacing existing older-model facilities that need extensive repairs or are obsolete. The new restroom facilities are made of poured concrete and have been designed to look like wooden structures with shake roofs. They have seamless vaults for holding human waste and have large diameter thermal ventilation systems that reduce odors. The toilet facilities arrive in several large pieces, which are assembled and placed by crane on the excavation site of the old structure.

Peterson Welding of Leadore is one of the local contractors who are working on a portion of the recreation facilities maintenance project. They are constructing and delivering 81 metal and wood picnic tables to campgrounds where the old tables have become unstable or damaged.

Eleven new hand pumps are being installed in various locations to provide drinking water for campers. The pumps replace existing pumps that are wearing out. In addition, 13 abandoned wells will be decommissioned.

Four campgrounds will have exterior fences replaced by a contractor from Whitebird, Idaho. The fences keep livestock out of the campgrounds. New entrance signs at campgrounds and some new bulletin boards will be installed across the forest to help visitors find their way to their destinations.

These projects are all part of the Forest's deferred maintenance program: more expensive work that is above and beyond normal operations. The Recovery Act funding makes it possible for the Forest to catch up on some much needed deferred maintenance.

"This large scale improvement package is just the boost some of these areas need" said Russ Camper, recreation manager for the south end of the Forest. "This amount of money makes a real difference in terms of visitor health and safety."

Program Project Name: Boise National Forest Recreation Facility Reconstruction Increases Safety and Accessibility

Local Project Name: American Recovery Act Funds Silver Creek Campground Reconstruction
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Boise
Ranger District: Emmett
Nearby City(ies): Crouch, Idaho. Garden Valley, Idaho
Estimated Project Cost: $1,273,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 8
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Valley
Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:
Campground Restoration Work Benefits Many

(Story posted 12/7/2010)

The Emmett Ranger District on the Boise National Forest in Idaho received American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to reconstruct Silver Creek Campground approximately 20 miles north of Crouch, Idaho. Major improvements were made to this largely undeveloped popular camping area located within a 90-minute drive from the Treasure Valley and Idaho's capital city of Boise. Work includes the following:
o Improving 72 campsites
o Adding new campground furniture and features such as fire rings, tent pads, and tables
o Realigning and reconstructing campground access roads and campsite spurs with asphalt and gravel surfacing
o Constructing six new restroom buildings
o Building a new pressurized potable water system
o Installing landscaping
o Building two new group sites with group shelters

The majority of the $1.8 million dollar project is funded by nearly $1.4 million dollars through Recovery Act funds with the work being accomplished by D&H Construction from Emmett, Idaho. Other funds came from the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation and other appropriated funds from the U.S. Forest Service.

"This is a major improvement project that will enhance the experience of recreationists for years to come," said Emmett District Ranger John Erickson. "The infusion of Recovery Act funds and partnering with the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation provides a dual benefit--immediate jobs and future economic benefits from recreation users visiting the area."

D&H Construction out of Emmett, Idaho, was awarded the contract in June 2010. A majority of the work was substantially completed this field season except for the potable water system and group shelters. This work is anticipated to be completed in May or June 2011 with no further campground closures.

"We were excited to be a part of this project. We've been able to keep six to eight employees on the payrolls this year that would not otherwise be working for us," said Rob Hobson, D&H Construction project superintendent. "Work is near completion and will be completed shortly after the snow leaves the area."

Program Project Name: Boise National Forest - Deferred Road and Bridge Maintenance and Improvement

Local Project Name: American Recovery Act Funds Roadside Brushing
Region: Intermountain Region

Forest: Boise
Nearby City(ies): Idaho City, Prairie, Pine, Featherville, Lowman, Garden Valley, and Cascade
Estimated Project Cost: $646,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 5
Congressional District(s): ID01, ID02
County(ies): ID: Boise, Elmore, Gem, Valley
Modified Date: 12/22/2010

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Road Maintenance Work to Continue in 2011

(Story posted 11/12/2010)

Due to declining road maintenance budgets and the reduction in commercial activities and related maintenance, brush encroachment along forest roads has become a major safety issue. The brush has decreased the traveler's site distance and the subsequent ability to negotiate on coming traffic and other obstacles. To exacerbate the problem, recreational traffic, including off-highway vehicles, has increased significantly on forest roads in recent years.

This project focuses on removing brush along 1,800 miles of National Forest System Roads (NFSRs.) Completing this deferred maintenance will improve the safety and public access of forest roads. The brushing is being accomplished through the use of masticating equipment that chips the material along the road way, leaving root systems intact, thus maintaining the stability of the slopes while removing the brush, small trees, and limbs.

Environmental Forestry Inc. from Hayden, Idaho was awarded this contract in October 2009. Approximately 700 miles of roads were brushed during the 2010 field season. Crews will continue work during the 2011 field season. This project is one of eight Recovery Act-funded road maintenance and reconstruction projects on the Boise National Forest, totaling over $5 million.

(news release from earlier this year)

American Recovery Act Funds Brush Removal to Improve Safety on Forest Roads

BOISE, ID – An Idaho contractor will be removing dense brush alongside Boise National Forest roads this season with funds from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act that is supplying jobs for the local area.
Environmental Forestry Inc. of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho received the contract for $452,000 to clear approximately 1200 miles of road using a track excavator with a rotating disc cutting head. The disc has steel bits that chisel through brush and limbs along the road. The advantage of this equipment is the ability to cover many miles of forest roads during a season at a reasonable cost. The machine converts the brush to mulch and woody debris which helps with erosion control on some of the road cut banks.

Removing overhanging brush along forest roads improves safety for drivers by increasing both sight distance around corners and road width currently narrowed by the brush.

Program Project Name: Boise National Forest Trail Maintenance for Visitor Safety and Resource Protection

Local Project Name: Emmett and Mountain Home Ranger Districts Trail Maintenance
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Boise
Ranger District: Emmett
Nearby City(ies): Mountain Home, Emmett, Idaho City, Lowman, and Boise, Idaho
Estimated Project Cost: $707,275.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 46
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Gem
Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds 2010 Boise Community Crew

(Story posted 12/10/2010

Through funds made available from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act), the U.S. Forest Service, Idaho Department of Labor, and the Student Conservation Association established the Boise Community Program in the summer of 2010.

Fourteen youth between the ages of 16 and 19 and four adult leaders completed nine weeks of conservation work in the Boise National Forest's Emmett and Mountain Home ranger districts. To prepare them for the challenging days ahead, the students received two days of training and orientation in conservation work skills, safety, and Leave No Trace practices.

This training continued well into the course of the program as the students built new and maintained existing trail, steps and drainage improvements, and built and installed a trailhead kiosk. Each one gained invaluable job experience, an hourly wage, and a sense of accomplishment from completing projects. They also gained an understanding of what it means to work as a team and of the natural environment near their communities.

Overall accomplishments included the following:

• 3,770 hours worked by IDOL participants of which:
o 338 hours orientation and training in trail work and job readiness
o 110 hours of environmental education
• 66,449 feet (12.6 miles) of trail built/maintained of which
o 18.5 miles of total trail served

• 42 drainage improvements and structures
• 13 stairs
• 8 Water crossings, 2 culverts

Participant Recruitment and Selection

All 14 participants were recruited through IDOL's WIA Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). In order to qualify for the program, there had to be a hiring barrier for each applicant, including but not limited to adjudication, low family income, or parental unemployment or incarceration. Once selected, the applicants were screened for medical conditions using SCA Risk Management protocol. All reasonable medical accommodations were made to include participants qualifying under SYEP criteria. Some conditions where accommodations were made included chronic asthma, depression, ADHD, and acute seasonal allergies.

Program Project Name: Caribou-Targhee Forest Trail Decommissioning Protects Resources

Local Project Name: Caribou-Targhee Forest Trail Decommissioning
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Caribou/Targhee
Ranger District: Dubois
Nearby City(ies): Dubois, Ashton, Island Park, Montpelier, Swan Valley, Soda Springs, Driggs, Victor, Pocatello
Estimated Project Cost: $207,543.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 10
Congressional District(s): ID02
County(ies): ID: Bannock, Bear Lake, Bonneville, Caribou, Clark, Fremont, Teton
Modified Date: 1/6/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Help Restore Forest to Protect Wildlife, Watersheds

(Story posted 12/16/2010)

Recovery Act funding on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest was utilized to close user-created trails, generally all-terrain-vehicle trails, on the Forest. User- created trails lead to erosion and negative effects on water quality. User-created trails also create wildlife disturbance and change the social aspect of those recreating in the area. The project successfully closed over 100 miles of trail.

The work was accomplished by utilization of force account crews and equipment. The extra funding allowed the Forest to extend tours for several members of the force account crew. Most of the work occurred within fiscal year 2010.

This project protected wildlife habitat, reduced resource damage, and improved safety on the forest.

The work began in October 2009 and was completed in August 2010. The project is fully completed.

Illinois

Program Project Name: Regionwide Jobs, Deferred Maintenance Reduction and New Requirement Adherence and Motorized Use Signing for Forest Resource Protection

Local Project Name: Motor Vehicle Use Signing - Carsonite Signs-Reflective Signs

Region: Eastern Region

Forest: Shawnee

Nearby City(ies): Carbondale, Murphysboro, Harrisburg, Marion and Vienna, IL

Estimated Project Cost: $250,000.00

Congressional District(s): IL12, IL19

County(ies): IL: Alexander, Franklin, Gallatin, Jackson, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Saline, Williamson

Modified Date: 7/15/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Motor Vehicle Use Signing--Carsonite and Reflective Signs

(Story posted 4/8/2010)

In June of 2009, forests in Region 9 were selected to receive stimulus funding for updating forest signs. The primary reasons for the funding were motor vehicle use map (MVUM) enforcement and new guidance on reflectivity standards.
All forests enforcing MVUM's are required to have proper identification on all roads. To aid in this, high clearance roads will have vertical markings placed on carsonite drivable markers. All passenger car suitable roads will be marked horizontally and mounted on 4"x4" posts. This will be providing a much better service to aid in the public's future travels on our forest roads.

The Federal Highway Department recommended that signs on all forest roads be updated to the new class three reflective sheeting by the year 2015. As Forest Engineering Technician Mike Hancock stated, "The Forest Leadership decided that updating the signs all at one time would better serve the public by keeping signage uniform across the Forest." The engineering grade sheeting being replaced on the forest is 50-year-old technology that needs upgraded. The new Class 3 sheeting is two to three times brighter than the engineering grade and will last from three to five years longer without degrading in brightness. All signs that aid the public in direction, warning and regulation are being upgraded.

Instead of bringing in a contractor the Forest hired two local people to inventory and install the new signs and road markers. While waiting for the sign shipments these two employees have been painting, replacing signs and inventorying forest gates, as well as helping with the preparation of Recovery Act trails contracts. Temporary laborer Kyle Culver said, "Having this job has kept me out of the unemployment line for about a year."

This is just one more way the Forest is revolutionizing effectiveness and efficiency.

Program Project Name: Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects/Readiness greater than 120 days
Local Project Name: Henslow's Sparrow Improvement Project
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Shawnee
Ranger District: Hidden Springs
Nearby City(ies): Elizabethtown, Golconda, Vienna, Anna, Jonesboro and Murphysboro
Congressional District(s): IL11, IL12, IL19
County(ies): IL: Hardin, Jackson, Johnson, Pope
Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Project to Restore Henslow's Sparrow Habitat

(Story posted 4/8/2010)

The Henslow's sparrow stimulus recovery project was awarded to a private contractor in December 2009. The contractor has delayed beginning work until the end of April of the first week of May due to the unusually rainy conditions so far this year on the Forest.

The reduction of open grassland and prairie habitats has resulted in significant population reductions of wildlife species that depend upon open grasslands for their survival. Grassland birds are experiencing some of the greatest population declines of any group of North American birds. This decline has been evidenced by population trend data from the annual US Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Survey, a continent-wide survey that has been conducted since 1966. Nine out of fourteen grassland bird species that occur east of the Mississippi River declined more than two percent per year from the mid- to late-1990s. Vertebrate and invertebrate species associated with openlands and grasslands that are showing population declines include Henslow's sparrow. The Forest is working with partners to make certain the Henslow's sparrow and other native species have the required open grassland habitats to prosper.

The Henslow's sparrow is one of the most rapidly declining grassland bird species in North America, with an adjusted annual rate of decline of -3.84 percent from 1966-2007. Their population has decreased by an estimated 91 percent since 1966. Henslow's sparrow still exists on the Shawnee National Forest in scattered disconnected patches of grown up grasslands and ungrazed fescue pastures.

While we generally think that national forest lands in southern Illinois have always having been covered by trees, we have come to understand that not all of the national forest was historically covered by trees. Historically, forests in southern Illinois were much more open, with scattered areas of open grasslands. Many valued species, such as the protected Henslow's sparrow and the northern bobwhite quail, eastern cottontail rabbit, white-tailed deer, and wild turkey require open grassy and shrub habitats at least during some part of

their life cycle. With assistance provided by the National Wild Turkey Federation, Quail Unlimited and Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever, over 200 acres of grown up fields have been restored to native grasses and forbs this year. This improves the habitat for species requiring open grassland while expanding public opportunities to enjoy wildlife in their natural habitats on the Shawnee National Forest. This project further connects citizens to the land while walking the talk for sustainability.

Program Project Name: Regionwide Jobs, Deferred Maintenance Reduction and New Requirement Adherence and Motorized Use Signing for Forest Resource Protection

Local Project Name: CIM-0900-4R-747-0908-01- Motorized Use Signing - Reflective Signs-Carsonite Signs

Region: Eastern Region

Forest: Shawnee

Ranger District: Mississippi Bluffs

Nearby City(ies): Harrisburg, Marion, Carbondale, Vienna, Murphysboro and Jonesboro

Estimated Project Cost: $250,000.00

Congressional District(s): IL12, IL19

County(ies): IL: Alexander, Franklin, Hardin, Jackson, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Saline, Union, Williamson

Modified Date: 7/15/2010

Story:

Aiding The Public's Travels With Motorized Carsonite Signing

(Story posted 4/8/2009)

In June of 2009, forests in Region 9 were selected to receive stimulus funding for updating forest signs. The primary reasons for the funding were motor vehicle use map (MVUM) enforcement and new guidance on reflectivity standards.

All forests enforcing MVUM's are required to have proper identification on all roads. To aid in this, high clearance roads will have vertical markings placed on carsonite drivable markers. All passenger car suitable roads will be marked horizontally and mounted on 4"x4" posts. This will be providing a much better service to aid in the public's future travels on our forest roads.

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upgraded.
Instead of bringing in a contractor the Forest hired two local people to inventory and install the new signs and road markers. While waiting for the sign shipments these two employees have been painting, replacing signs and inventorying forest gates, as well as helping with the preparation of Recovery Act trails contracts. Temporary laborer, Kyle Culver said, “Having this job has kept me out of the unemployment line for about a year.”

This is just one more way the Forest is revolutionizing effectiveness and efficiency.

Program Project Name: Region-wide Water/Waste-Water Recreation Facility Deferred Maintenance

Local Project Name: Wells and Cisterns Capping Inventory Project & Removal of Abandoned Wells
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Shawnee
Nearby City(ies): Metropolis and Vienna, within 50 miles of projects.
Estimated Project Cost: $177,861.00
Congressional District(s): IL19
County(ies): IL: Massac, Pope
Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Wells and Cisterns Capping Inventory Project and Removal of Abandoned Wells Underway

(Story posted 6/16/2010)

On the Shawnee National Forest in Illinois,long-term benefits to public health and safety are underway with two succcessful bidders for portions of a project to survey and cap cisterns and wells. On April 1 a letter was sent to a successful bidder for a $150,000 well and cistern survey contract.

A $28,000 contract to cap and fill wells and cisterns is underway. All but two of the drilled wells have been capped, and the remaining two will be capped when the river's flood waters recede.

Program Project Name: Region-wide Historic Facilities Deferred Maintenance

Local Project Name: Lincoln Douglas Debate Site Rehab
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Shawnee
Ranger District: Mississippi Bluffs
Nearby City(ies): Jonesboro is adjacent to the site.
Estimated Project Cost: $404,353.00
Congressional District(s): IL12
County(ies): IL: Union

Modified Date: 7/15/2010

Story:
Lincoln Douglas Debate Site Rehab Funds Through Recovery Act

(Story posted 7/12/2009)

The funding through the Recovery Act will allow for three contracts.

The first contract will replace split-rail fencing, tables and low-level play structures. This contract was awarded March 26, 2010. As of June 16, 2010, contractors have replaced fence and installed play structures.

The second contract will help with trail realignment and repairs/surfacing of a parking lot. This contract was awarded February 10, 2010.

The third contract will design/reconstruct three trail bridges, refurbish toilet building, and replace a shelter with CCC era theme. The bidding for this contract closed May 2010.

Program Project Name: Forest Service Eastern Region – Region-wide Jobs, Critical Deferred Maintenance Reduction Projects

Local Project Name: Shawnee Road Maintenance

Region: Eastern Region

Forest: Shawnee

Nearby City(ies): Marion, Harrisburg, Carbondale, Murphysboro, Anna, Jonesboro, Vienna and Metropolis are all within 30 miles of the Forest.

Estimated Project Cost: $406,480.00

Congressional District(s): IL12, IL19

County(ies): IL: Alexander, Gallatin, Hardin, Jackson, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Saline, Union, Williamson

Modified Date: 7/15/2010

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Shawnee Road Maintenance

(Story posted 7/12/2009)

The Recovery Act funded two separate contracts for Shawnee Road Maintenance.

The first contract was for $197,183 for maintenance on the East Side. This was awarded December 23, 2009, and roadwork began May 2010. As of July 11, 2010, completion is to be expected during the 2010 winter season.

The second contract was for $209,297 for maintenance on the West Side. Like the first contract, this contract was awarded December 23, 2009, and roadwork began May 2010. As

of July 11, 2010, completion is to be expected during the 2010 winter season, as well.

Program Project Name: Phase 1 - Shawnee Designated Trail Improvements

Local Project Name: Phase II Shawnee Designated Trail Improvements
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Shawnee
Ranger District: Hidden Springs
Nearby City(ies): Vienna and Harrisburg are within 30 miles of the project area.
Estimated Project Cost: $281,476.00
Congressional District(s): IL19
County(ies): IL: Pope
Modified Date: 7/29/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Designated Trail Improvements On the Shawnee Trail System

(Story posted 7/12/2010)

Work on the Shawnee Designated Trail Improvements began April 20, 2010 with new trail construction and aggregate surfacing. 37 miles of new trail were constructed while 12 miles received aggregate resurfacing.

On July 11, 2010, the Phase I Contract was awarded and about 75% of the 21 miles of new construction is completed. Completion is expected to be in mid-August.

On July 11, 2010, the bids on Phase II contract were received and the technical evaluations are in progress. Once the bid is awarded, the contractor will have 365 days to complete 33 miles of new construction and 10-12 miles of aggregate surfacing on existing trails.

Program Project Name: Southern Illinois - Deferred Maintenance of Recreation and Administrative Sites

Local Project Name: Southern Illinois Cooperative Dispatch Center Improvements
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Shawnee
Nearby City(ies): Marion, Illinois - within 3 miles.
Estimated Project Cost: $150,000.00
Congressional District(s): IL19
County(ies): IL: Williamson
Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Southern Illinois Cooperative Dispatch Center Improvements Underway

(Story posted 6/16/2010)

A Recovery Act-funded project to improve the Southern Illinois Cooperative Dispatch Center on the Shawnee National Forest near Marion by repairing a porch, installing gutters, re-roofing, and connecting the existing septic system to the municipal sewer system is underway.

Septic system work began June 7 and will be finished in July. Roof, gutter, and porch repalcemetn work will begin later in the summer.

These repairs will improve the facility and reduce associated deferred maintenance.

The project also includes minor deferred maintenance work on public access and parking areas, and dam maintenance at fishing ponds. In addition to providing job opportunities in local communities in several counties, the project will provide quality recreational fishing opportunities. Parts of this project will be completed in partnership with Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Golconda Job Corps Center.

Program Project Name: Southern Illinois - Deferred Maintenance of Recreation and Administrative Sites

Local Project Name: Southern Illinois Deferred Maintenance of Recreation and Administrative Sites

Region: Eastern Region

Forest: Shawnee

Nearby City(ies): Cairo, Anna, Jonesboro, Murphysboro, Carbondale, Marion, Vienna and Harrisburg are all within 30 miles of the Forest.

Estimated Project Cost: $70,000.00

Congressional District(s): IL12, IL19

County(ies): IL: Alexander, Franklin, Gallatin, Hardin, Jackson, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Saline, Union, Williamson

Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Southern Illinois Recreation Site Improvements Underway

(Story posted 6/3/2010)

Golconda job Corps youth are experiencing training opportunities while performing minor deferred maintenance work on Shawnee National Forest recreational public access and parking areas.

The Shawnee National Forest is also partnering with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to improve fisheries habitat/fish structures through dam maintenance at fishing ponds.

In addition to providing job opportunities in local communities in several counties, the project will provide quality recreational fishing opportunities.

Program Project Name: High Priority Region Wide Trail Projects

Local Project Name: Shawnee Designated Trail Improvements
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Shawnee
Ranger District: Hidden Springs
Nearby City(ies): Vienna and Harrisburg are within 30 miles of the project area.
Estimated Project Cost: $1,037,000.00
Congressional District(s): IL19
County(ies): IL: Pope
Modified Date: 7/15/2010

Story:

Shawnee Designated Trail Improvements To Be Contracted With Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 7/12/2009)

High Priority Region-wide Trail Projects have a contract out for bid. April 20, 2010, work began on 21 miles of new construction and some aggregate resurfacing.

Program Project Name: Kaskaskia Experimental Forest Road Maintenance and Improvements

Local Project Name: Kaskaskia Experimental Forest Road Maintenance Project
Region: Northeastern Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Golconda, IL
Estimated Project Cost: $199,072.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 1.25
Congressional District(s): IL19
County(ies): IL: Hardin, Pope
Modified Date: 12/20/2010

Story:

Kaskaskia Experimental Forest Road Maintenance Project Improves Access and Creates Jobs

(Story posted 12/10/2010)

Continued access to an on-going study of long-term changes in an old-growth natural area on the Kaskaskia Experimental Forest was made possible by an Economic Recovery project completed in the summer of 2010. The Northern Research Station received funding for the

project and awarded a $199,072 contract to Freeman Environmental Services of Herrin, Illinois.

Under the supervision of Shawnee National Forest engineers, the company graded and graveled road surfaces, cleaned ditches, replaced culverts, and removed brush. They also replaced culverts and installed a gate. The result was 1.25 jobs and a safer access for researchers to this significant research area.

Indiana

Program Project Name: Regionwide Jobs, Deferred Maintenance Reduction and New Requirement Adherence and Motorized Use Signing for Forest Resource Protection
Local Project Name: ARRA Dollars Make Roads Safer on Hoosier National Forest
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Hoosier
Nearby City(ies): None Listed
Congressional District(s): IN04, IN08, IN09
County(ies): IN: Jackson, Monroe
Modified Date: 7/15/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Monies Replace Almost 3,000 Hoosier Road Signs and Put People to Work

(Story posted 3/3/2010)

The face of the Hoosier National Forest's road system is brighter and safer as a result of the efforts of 11 students and two temporary employees who worked under the auspices of Recovery Actfunding over the last several months.

Engineering Program Manager Brad Lidell said the amount of work these employees have accomplished was phenomenal. "The reflectivity standards have changed. So one of their tasks was to inventory the 255 gates on the Forest and replace the signage on these gates. It's easy to underestimate the scope of that job which entailed a total of 1,350 signs!" Lidell explained there were 600 of the diagonal safety marking signs, 600 yellow reflectors, and 150 'Do Not Block Gate' signs involved with these 225 gates.

Another task was replacing the transportation signs on Forest roads including speed limit, curves ahead, warning signs, and road number signs. Lidell noted there were 115 road signs in the Hoosier's Recreation Areas alone. Road Level 1 and 2 (roads usually gated to the pubic) are also receiving numbers - a total of 921 road numbers will be installed. These correlate to the Forest Motor Vehicle Use Map which should help Forest visitors orient themselves to where they are and help contractors and others better locate access points on the Forest. These numbers will be on the Forest soon and installed this summer.

"We also received funding from Federal Highways to replace our road signs to meet the 2013 reflectivity standards for Forest Highways. This includes county roads through the Hoosier National Forest," said Lidell. A total of 645 road signs on county roads will receive new signs which are upgraded to the new standards. Lidell noted that the signs the crews take down are returned to the counties to be reused (recoated) or recycled.

The crew was hired last June and worked through September when many of them returned to college. Crew members who lived locally continued to work weekends and over the Christmas holidays. Many will return this summer and work through September 2010.

One of the students commented that although in the end he and his fellow crew members will have replaced almost 3,000 signs on Hoosier roadways there were intangible benefits to the project as well. "I saw how a Forest Service district office is run and had a chance to understand career opportunities within the agency," said Michael Shaw, a junior at Indiana University. He said his knowledge of resource management skyrocketed during his work on the Forest. Shaw was appreciative of the financial benefits of his job, but also looks forward to working for the Forest Service in the future.

Program Project Name: Paoli Experimental Forest Road Maintenance and Improvements

Local Project Name: Paoli Experimental Forest Road Improvements
Region: Northeastern Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Paoli, IN
Estimated Project Cost: $15,205.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 0.5
Congressional District(s): IN09
County(ies): IN: Orange
Modified Date: 12/20/2010

Story:

Paoli Experimental Forest Road Maintenance Project Protects Streams and Research Access

(Story posted 12/10/2009)

The hills of the Paoli Experimental Forest support a mixed hardwood forest and a rich legacy of Forest Service research on how to best grow trees in southern Indiana and surrounding states. The Northern Research Station received funding for a Recovery Act project that helped ensure continued road access to this important research site and prevent sediment from reaching local streams.

Many of the culverts on the Experimental Forest roads were beginning to rust out and show signs of erosion. A $15,240 contract awarded to Zeke Ransom Excavating, Inc. of Cannelton, Indiana, allowed replacement of 420 feet of culvert, installation of signs and gates, and cleaning of road ditches.

Hoosier National Forest Engineer Brad Lidell said the project was very helpful in protecting downstream water quality. “The replacement of the deteriorating culverts stopped the erosion that was starting and we were able to retain the existing grass cover in most areas, which prevented sedimentation.”

The project was completed in the fall of 2009.

Kentucky

Program Project Name: Kentucky Ice Storm Trails and Roads Restoration
Local Project Name: Economic recovery aids ice storm cleanup
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Daniel Boone
Ranger District: Cumberland
Nearby City(ies): Big Creek, Morehead, Stanton
Estimated Project Cost: $519,220.00
Congressional District(s): KY05
County(ies): KY: Bath, Clay, Estill, Lee, Leslie, Menifee, Morgan, Powell, Rowan, Wolfe
Modified Date: 7/8/2010

Story:

Economic Recovery Aids Ice Storm Cleanup

(Story posted 4/2/2010)

In January 2009, a devastating ice storm swept across Kentucky, taking down trees and power lines across the state. Power outages left more than 700,000 homes and businesses without electricity and heat for days. Transportation came to a standstill in some areas, where roadways were covered with downed trees.

The Daniel Boone National Forest did not escape the heavy layers of ice that toppled trees to the ground or snapped their branches like matchsticks. Another storm with high winds followed a week later, which brought down more trees in the southern portion of the forest.

The Red River Gorge was one of the hardest hit areas in the national forest. Fallen trees impacted every road and trail throughout the gorge. Forest Service employees cleared the highest priority areas of debris immediately following the storm, but many miles of road and trail remained closed by fallen trees.

In support of ice storm recovery efforts, the Daniel Boone National Forest received some of the first economic stimulus funding in March 2009 under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The storm clean-up projects provided work for people in areas where unemployment rates soar well above the national average. The cleanup efforts occurred on national forest lands in 10 Kentucky counties.

“It’s a hard day's work,” said Darrell Hess, a subcontractor in charge of clearing wood debris from trails in the Red River Gorge, “but I’m just glad to have the work right now.”

Walter Centers, who works for Hess, agreed. “I sort of feel like I’ve been run over after chainsawing all day, but I’ll get used to it.”

“I like picking on Walter, but I feel the same way,” laughed Hess.

Both Hess and Centers are from rural Menifee County, Kentuucky, where the unemployment rate ranks at nearly 19 percent. Much of the trail cleanup efforts occurred in their home county.

“I know every creek and hillside out here,” said Hess. “This is where I grew up, and it’s good when you can find work so close to home.”

Hess started with a crew of five, including himself, but later hired several more local workers to help clear trails in the Clifty Wilderness. Since no motorized equipment is allowed in the wilderness, the crew packed crosscut saws and axes on horseback along the trails. A mule was used to pull cut logs off the trail.

In total, the contract workers cleared 262 miles of roads and 287 miles of trails. The goal was to quickly reduce storm impacts prior to the 2009 recreation season, especially in the communities that rely heavily on tourism.

Program Project Name: Land Between the Lakes Recreation Facilities and Industry Recovery

Local Project Name: ARRA Funds Go to Improving National Recreation Area Facilities, Trails, and Biomass Projects
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Land Between The Lakes
Nearby City(ies): None Listed
Congressional District(s): KY01
County(ies): KY: Lyon, Trigg
Modified Date: 7/15/2010

Story:

Improvements to Land Between the Lakes Recreation Facilities Provide Safer Public Access and Jobs in Local Communities

(Story posted 12/12/2009)

Land Between The Lakes (LBL) National Recreation Area was severely impacted by a two-day ice storm in January 2009. The extremely hazardous conditions resulted in closing LBL to visitors. Recovery Act funded projects provided the area with timely relief, minimizing the impact to the local economy.

With Recovery Act funds, LBL was able to employ several local logging companies, through a stewardship partnership agreement with the National Wild Turkey Federation, to clear roads and remove downed trees. Also, students from the Golconda Illinois Job Corps Urban Forestry program assisted with cleanup from the ice storm. Without this funding, it was unlikely facilities would have been operational for the tourism season, causing more hardship

to local communities already economically distressed and hit hard by recent manufacturing plant and retail store closings.

After the initial funding was received for the storm damage, a few more projects were also approved. Altogether, LBL has received a total of $6.5 million in ARRA funding for capital improvement and maintenance, two biomass plants for local communities, two campground wastewater treatment plants, trail bridge replacements, and trail reconstruction work. Contractors have already completed work and will continue to work on debris removal, facility repairs, road clearing, and future construction projects providing local economic benefits. So far, 63 jobs have been created ranging from contracted labor to road inspectors.

"The LBL projects selected for funding will keep key public recreation facilities safe and enjoyable, while providing jobs in our local economy," commented Bill Lisowsky, LBL Area Supervisor.

Program Project Name: Invasive Species Treatment

Local Project Name: Non-native Invasive Species Treatment
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Daniel Boone
Ranger District: Cumberland
Nearby City(ies): Stanton, Morehead
Estimated Project Cost: $96,575.00
Congressional District(s): KY05
County(ies): KY: Bath, Menifee, Rowan
Modified Date: 8/10/2010

Story:

Non-native Invasive Species Treatment With Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

During the week of May 3, the Arrowhead Starr Company of Plainview, Arkansas began treatments to control non-native invasive plant species on 975 acres of the Daniel Boone National Forest. The treatments include the use of herbicide and manual removal techniques. Each area treated will receive two treatments, one during the spring and another in the fall.

In 2003, the Cumberland Ranger District received significant ice storm damage, which opened up the forest canopy, particularly near roads. Various non-native invasive plant species quickly moved in and became established. These species have continued to spread across the district. Some areas have small concentrations of these invaders, which can be removed by hand pulling. Other areas have much larger concentrations, which will require the use of herbicides.

Preliminary surveys were conducted to identify the non-native species locations. Monitoring

of the project areas will be conducted after treatments are completed.

The removal of non-native invasive species from national forest lands will restore wildlife habitat, improve forest health and resilience, and provide ecological benefits for native plant and animal species.

Program Project Name: Fuels for Forest Health

Local Project Name: Fuels for Forest Health
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Daniel Boone
Ranger District: Cumberland
Nearby City(ies): Stanton, Morehead
Estimated Project Cost: $1,145,000.00
Congressional District(s): KY04, KY05
County(ies): KY: Bath, Jackson, McCreary, Menifee, Pulaski, Rowan, Wayne, Whitley
Modified Date: 8/17/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Fuels for Forest Health

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

The Arrowhead Starr Company of Plainview, Arkansas recently completed 2,000 acres of midstory treatment in approximately 70 locations in the Daniel Boone National Forest.

The company employed 10 to 15 people from September through November 2009 to conduct fuels treatments on national forest land. Midstory trees less than five inches in diameter and more than 4.5 feet tall were felled by chainsaw in the treatment areas to help promote forest health.

In December, the contractor postponed work with the arrival of winter weather.

The contractor recently returned to Kentucky with eight employees for additional work to meet contract specifications.

The midstory treatments are a measure to improve growing conditions for oak seedlings and other nut-producing tree species that have been limited in growth due to dense midstory vegetation. The midstory has developed over the past several decades due to fire suppression.

In the event of gypsy moths infestation, the oak component will be better maintained if healthy, vigorous populations occur in the understory to grow and fill canopy gaps. By thinning these stands of timber, the growth of oak seedlings is promoted and wildlife habitat is improved.

Healthy forests are more resistant to insect and disease attacks. In addition, the treated stands will be more resistant to damaging wildfire due to decreased leaf litter. The fire regime in the area will be closer to the desired condition.
Some of the midstory trees cut down during treatment will be made available to the local community through firewood permits.

Program Project Name: Fuels for Forest Health

Local Project Name: Contract Inspection for Mid-Story Treatment
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Daniel Boone
Ranger District: Cumberland
Nearby City(ies): Stanton, Morehead
Estimated Project Cost: $44,488.00
Congressional District(s): KY04, KY05
County(ies): KY: Bath, Jackson, McCreary, Menifee, Pulaski, Rowan, Wayne, Whitley
Modified Date: 8/11/2010

Story:

Contract Inspection for Mid-Story Treatment Funded Through Recovery Act

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

Chestnut Ridge Forestry of Cloudcroft, New Mexico recently completed inspections on 2,000 acres of midstory treatments in approximately 70 locations of the Daniel Boone National Forest. The treatments were conducted by another contractor, the Arrowhead Starr Company of Plainview, Arkansas.

The inspections involved the installation of plots to measure vegetation and to determine the quality of work performed by the midstory treatment contractor. The inspectors also collected inventory data to update the Forest Service vegetation databases.
The inspections involved two to three employees working in the Daniel Boone National Forest from December 8, 2009 to February 05, 2010. The inspectors were company employees that were not from the local area.

The inspectors will later return to the Daniel Boone National Forest to re-inspect additional work by the contractor that was needed to meet contract specifications.

Program Project Name: Wranglers Wastewater Plant

Local Project Name: Wranglers Wastewater Plant
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Land Between The Lakes
Nearby City(ies): Hopkinsville

Estimated Project Cost: $1,500,000.00
Congressional District(s): KY01
County(ies): KY: Trigg
Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:
Wranglers Wastewater Plant Replaced With Help From Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

The aging and undependable wastewater treatment system at Wranglers Campground recreation area (located in Trigg County, Kentucky) will be replaced with a new wastewater treatment plant by this project, ensuring clean drinking water and more sanitary conditions.

With 200 camping units and over 100,000 visitors each year, Wranglers is a key component in Land Between The Lakes' legislated mission to stimulate the regional tourism economy. As a year-round campground, it is important that the utilities are dependable at all times.

There are three (special use permitted) businesses dependent on the campground and several annual events that are based from Wranglers Campground. As an equestrian themed campground, the demand for water and wastewater treatment is critical. Wranglers' capacity is currently limited by problems with the existing system; increasing system capacity would allow for improved service.

Construction will begin in the fall this year (2010) on a new wastewater treatment plant in Wranglers Campground.

Kathryn Harper, LBL Public Affairs Officer, stated, "The current wastewater treatment system has been there since Wranglers Campground was built. It's just not adequate for the number of campsites for what has become a premier tourism destination for the area."

Program Project Name: Land Between the Lakes Recreation Facilities and Industry Recovery

Local Project Name: Recreation Facilities and Industry Recovery
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Land Between The Lakes
Nearby City(ies): Hopkinsville
Estimated Project Cost: $2,000,000.00
Congressional District(s): KY01
County(ies): KY: Lyon, Trigg
Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:
Recreation Facilities, Industry Repaired With Help From Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

Land Between The Lakes (LBL) in western Kentucky and Tennessee was hit by a historically severe ice storm in January 2009. Resulting damage closed all facilities in the Kentucky portion at this National Recreation Area managed by the USDA Forest Service.

Re-opening these major recreation facilities was a priority for maintaining the $650 million regional tourism industry. Many local businesses are dependent on LBL operations being open and available to the public and the approximately two million visitors drawn to the area annually.

The project focus was to quickly repair and restore services damaged by the ice storm. Through our existing on-site maintenance contract and in-place agreements with the National Wild Turkey Federation and the LBL Association, over 40 people were hired to remove debris and repair recreation facilities. Without this funding, it is unlikely that facilities would have been operational for the 2009 tourism season, causing more hardship to local communities already economically distressed and hit hard by recent manufacturing plant and retail closings.

LBL Area Supervisor, Bill Lisowsky, stated, “LBL recovery projects kept key public recreation areas safe and accessible, while providing jobs for our local communities.”

Program Project Name: Land Between the Lakes Roads to Recovery

Local Project Name: Roads to Recovery
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Land Between The Lakes
Nearby City(ies): Hopkinsville
Estimated Project Cost: $500,000.00
Congressional District(s): KY01
County(ies): KY: Lyon, Trigg
Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funding Repairs Roads to Recovery

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

The devastating ice storm that hit Kentucky and Tennessee in January 2009 closed hundreds of miles of roads in Lyon and Trigg counties in Land Between The Lakes. Re-opening these key access routes was a vital part of maintaining the local tourism industry, which is a regional economy mainstay.

This project involved clearing roads to campgrounds and recreation sites, opening access

routes to popular lakes, and removing debris from roadways that provide entry to neighboring cemeteries and agricultural fields.

Local logging crews and contractors were hired to quickly open roads that were closed by trees brought down during the ice storm.

Without funding from the Recovery Act, the widespread damage to roadways throughout the region would have made it unlikely to complete repairs in time to open access to recreation facilities for the current tourism season, causing additional hardship for local economies.

LBL Area Supervisor, Bill Lisowsky, stated, “LBL recovery projects kept key public recreation areas safe and accessible, while providing jobs for our local communities.”

Justin Sutton, Sutton Logging, stated, “A job like this has been a life saver for us. We could work [as loggers], but our quota is so slim that we might as well stay home. Working for LBL has really helped us out.”

Program Project Name: Fuels for Community Health Facilities Demonstration Project

Local Project Name: Fuels for Community Health Facilities
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Land Between The Lakes
Nearby City(ies): Hopkinsville
Estimated Project Cost: $1,000,000.00
Congressional District(s): KY01
County(ies): KY: Trigg
Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds “Wood to Energy” for Community Health Facilities, Schools

(Story posted 8/3/2010)

Land Between The Lakes(LBL) received $2,000,000 from the Recovery Act for “wood-to-energy” demonstration projects that will benefit Lyon County public schools and Trigg County public health facilities through woody biomass technology utilization.

New jobs will be created over the next two years to plan, design, and implement the projects in these two LBL gateway communities.

Wood fuel has several environmental and economic advantages over fossil fuel. The main advantage is that wood is a renewable resource.

Trigg County Judge-Executive Stan Humphries, acknowledging assistance from USDA Forest Service LBL staffers in the grant application, said he anticipates supplementing the

electrical supply to Trigg County Hospital with the wood-to-energy project.

Phase one of the project will include Forest Service, Trigg County, and Lyon County officials collaboration on a plan and timeline over 18 months to kick off the biofuels project.

Kathryn Harper, LBL Public Affairs Officer, said, “The project is envisioned to create a market for small diameter wood and trees typically of low value in traditional timber and lumber markets. At the same time, the wood-to-energy facility would provide a use for wood that currently qualifies only as debris, such as limbs and tree tops that litter most forests in the region as a result of January’s 2009 ice storm.”

Program Project Name: Fuels for Schools Demonstration Project

Local Project Name: Fuels for Schools
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Land Between The Lakes
Nearby City(ies): Hopkinsville
Estimated Project Cost: $1,000,000.00
Congressional District(s): KY01
County(ies): KY: Lyon
Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds “Wood to Energy” for Lyon County Schools

(Story posted 8/3/2010)

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for small diameter wood and trees typically of low value in traditional timber and lumber markets. At the same time, the wood-to-energy facility would provide a use for wood that currently qualifies only as debris, such as limbs and tree tops that litter most forests in the region as a result of January's 2009 ice storm."

LBL Area Supervisor, Bill Lisowsky, stated, "I hope the project will serve as a demonstration of the wood-to-energy technology for other communities."

Program Project Name: Aquatic Monitoring Near Roads and Trails

Local Project Name: Aquatic monitoring/surveys
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Daniel Boone
Ranger District: Cumberland
Nearby City(ies): London, Berea, Winchester, Lexington, Stanton, Morehead
Estimated Project Cost: $240,000.00
Congressional District(s): KY04, KY05, KY06
County(ies): KY: Bath, Clay, Estill, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, Lee, Leslie, McCreary, Menifee, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Powell, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Wayne, Whitley, Wolfe
Modified Date: 8/18/2010

Story:

Daniel Boone National Forest Uses Recovery Act Funds to Monitor Fish Passage

(Story posted 8/17/2010)

This aquatic monitoring project is linked to the Kentucky Road Maintenance Recovery Act-funded project that will replace nearly 150 small culverts and three large culverts impeding the passage of small fish species, including the federally threatened black-side dace (Phoxinus cumberlandensis).

Culverts in streams can act as aquatic barriers, which inhibit fish from reaching their traditional spawning areas or colonizing habitats upstream. Barriers can cause fish mortality due to exhaustion as they attempt to swim upstream through a culvert with high velocity flow or jump the vertical drop of a culvert.

While the Forest Service has replaced culverts for years, more post-installation field testing is needed to determine effectiveness. A simple "mark and recapture" method was used to determine if fish are successfully passing through the crossings. To accomplish this, eight recent college graduates and current students are monitoring 20 culverts across the forest through electro-fishing, fin-clipping and antenna/pit-tagging.

As a result of this project, the Daniel Boone National Forest will:
• have an indicator of current stream issues
• set a baseline for future monitoring activities

• determine management needs for threatened and endangered aquatic species

Program Project Name: Trail Maintenance

Local Project Name: Trail condition surveys and maintenance
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Daniel Boone
Ranger District: Stearns
Nearby City(ies): London, Richmond, Lexington
Estimated Project Cost: $200,000.00
Congressional District(s): KY05
County(ies): KY: McCreary, Pulaski, Wayne, Whitley
Modified Date: 8/18/2010

Story:

Daniel Boone National Forest Improves Trails Using Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 8/17/2010)

This project on the Daniel Boone National Forest involved trail maintenance for nearly 100 miles of trail. Work included grading; brushing; ditching; culvert cleaning and replacement; hazard tree removal; and relocating hiking, motorized and equestrian trails to avoid sensitive areas and steep slopes.

The project met forest management goals to restore watersheds and improve water quality (due to less sediment from properly maintained and constructed trails) and to improve habitat for sensitive plants and animals.

Accomplishment:
• 97.6 Miles of system trail maintained to standard

Program Project Name: Kentucky Dump Site Clean-up

Local Project Name: Dumpsite cleanups
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Daniel Boone
Ranger District: Somerset
Nearby City(ies): Somerset, London, Lexington
Estimated Project Cost: $500,000.00
Congressional District(s): KY04, KY05, KY06
County(ies): KY: Bath, Clay, Estill, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, Lee, Leslie, McCreary, Menifee, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Powell, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Wayne, Whitley, Wolfe
Modified Date: 8/18/2010

Story:
Forest Works to Clean Up Illegal Dumpsites

(Story posted 8/17/2010)

The Daniel Boone National Forest has hundreds of illegal garbage dumpsites scattered across the forest--along pull-offs, near rivers, and at the ends of roads. This effort successfully addressed multiple health and safety related issues, improved visitor experience, and cleaned up the forest.

Workers were hired with Recovery Act funding to cleanup and haul away trash and debris from over 40 dumpsites.

The Daniel Boone National Forest will continue to work with Kentucky Personal Responsibility in a Desirable Environment (PRIDE) and local county governments to clean up illegal dumpsites and restore these impacted areas.

Accomplishment:
• 60 acres of water or soil resources protected, maintained, or improved to achieve desired watershed conditions.

Program Project Name: Fitchburg Furnace Project Preserves World's Largest Double Furnace

Local Project Name: Significant historic site restoration
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Daniel Boone
Ranger District: Cumberland
Nearby City(ies): Morehead, Stanton, Lexington
Estimated Project Cost: $250,000.00
Congressional District(s): KY05
County(ies): KY: Estill
Modified Date: 8/18/2010

Story:
Recovery Act Supports Kentucky History Restoration

(Story posted 8/17/2010)

Background concerning a significant piece of Kentucky history --
The Fitchburg Furnace is a 19th century charcoal-fired blast furnace that once turned Kentucky ore into pig iron used for rails, railroad car wheels, and other products that were distributed across the country. Designed by Frank Fitch, the furnace went into operation in 1868, contributing to our nation’s economic development during the Industrial Revolution. It was the last charcoal iron smelting furnace built in Kentucky.

The structure, a monumental example of dry-stone masonry architecture, measures 80 feet wide by 60 feet high and is the largest double furnace in the world.

For several years, Fitchburg was a busy little city that centered on the furnace operations. The community had a school, church, post office, mills, shops, and roads. More than 100 families lived at Fitchburg.

In April 2008, the descendants of Frank Fitch formally donated his field notebooks to the University of Kentucky Libraries. The notebooks, largely generated between 1867 and 1873, include drawings, operational notes, accounts and expenses, labor records, inventories, and more.

The lack of rail transportation leading to the furnace, along with the Panic of 1873, ultimately doomed the furnace operation.

The late popular historian Thomas D. Clark considered Fitchburg Furnace one of Kentucky’s greatest treasures. In 2006, the furnace was featured in Kentucky Education Television's "A Kentucky Life Special, Dr. Clark's Kentucky Treasures."

Restoration – Phase 1 --
The Friends of the Furnace, including local county officials, were concerned about the deterioration of this historic structure. The group secured funding to begin restoration of the structure through a congressional earmark under Senator Jim Bunning (R-KY). Phase 1 of the project began in 2005.

During this phase, a protective roof was installed on top of the furnace to prevent further water damage; temporary arch supports were installed to prevent further deterioration where stones had been removed or fallen; research and analysis, including an archaeological assessment, were completed; and buttresses were also installed to stabilize the foundation until stone could be replaced.

Cooperators in the initial stabilization work included the Friends of the Furnace, Daniel Boone National Forest, Estill County, Aldersgate Camp and Retreat, and Kentucky Historic Preservation Office.

Restoration - Phase 2 --
With funding provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the restoration of Fitchburg Furnace is near completion. This phase of the project will complete stabilization; support the arches; and improve water drainage.

During this phase, missing stone work was replaced with rock from the same quarry that provided stone during the structure’s original development. A drainage system was installed behind the furnace to further protect the foundation.

Additional archaeological excavations were conducted, which uncovered many items of

historic interest. These items are providing clues as to how the furnace functioned and operated.

The Friends of the Furnace were instrumental in maintaining the grounds, providing security, and interpreting the history of Fitchburg Furnace for tourists and Aldersgate camp visitors.

More than 15 workers have been employed at Fitchburg Furnace for the past five to seven months, including three archaeologists; four stone quarry excavators/truck drivers/heavy equipment operators doing underground storm drainage work; four stone cutters/skilled dry stone masons; three project managers for the main contractor; two subcontractors; and two design engineers.

Spectrum Contracting, based in Nicholasville, Kentucky, was the subcontractor for excavation and masonry stonework at Fitchburg Furnace. Spectrum is known for conducting historical renovation projects.

BFMJ, based in Lexington, Ky., was the subcontractor that conducted the structural engineering design work for the project.

Recovery Act employment perspective --
Many of the recent workers at Fitchburg Furnace indicated that they were previously unemployed or about to be laid off from work.

Billy Potter from Garrard County, Kentucky, drove nearly 60 miles to work on the Fitchburg Furnace in Estill County. Potter had been laid off for several months and was having a hard time finding a general contracting job that wouldn't require him to travel out of state and leave his family. He was beginning to consider applying for a job at a local fast food restaurant when he was asked to be the general contractor overseeing the restoration of Fitchburg Furnace.

“I am grateful that this economic stimulus project allowed me to catch up on my bills and feed my family for the past five months,” said Potter. “Thanks to the contacts that I was able to make doing this work, I already have another contracting job lined up when this job ends.”

Potter spoke of another man who had been laid off from work for an extended period of time. The man, a construction worker in Estill County (whose wife is disabled and unable to work), was also provided worked at Fitchburg Furnace.

Prior to Recovery Act project work at the Fitchburg Furnace, the two subcontracting companies were laying off workers due to the economy. The Recovery Act project at Fitchburg Furnace prevented these companies from terminating any additional employees.

Future plans --
The Daniel Boone National Forest plans to continue its partnership with the Friends of the Furnace to develop an interpretive plan for the historic Fitchburg Furnace. This plan will

identify interpretive needs on-the-ground, such as trails and signage, as well as future tourism interests.

By preserving Fitchburg Furnace, a significant piece of Kentucky's history will remain for future generations to enjoy. This structure will provide a place for students, historians, and tourists to learn about Kentucky's rich heritage and its contribution to America's industrial growth.

Program Project Name: Kentucky Road Maintenance

Local Project Name: Road maintenance
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Daniel Boone
Ranger District: Somerset
Nearby City(ies): Somerset, Stearns, London, Lexington
Estimated Project Cost: $910,000.00
Congressional District(s): KY05, KY06
County(ies): KY: Bath, Clay, Estill, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, Lee, Leslie, McCreary, Menifee, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Powell, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Wayne, Whitley, Wolfe
Modified Date: 8/18/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Improve Road Safety and Aquatic Habitat

(Story posted 8/17/2010)

On the Daniel Boone National Forest, Recovery Act project work includes multiple smaller maintenance projects aimed at improving road safety and aquatic habitat.

Approximately 150 small culverts (18-24 inches) will be replaced that are no longer serviceable, which will decrease sediment runoff into nearby streams.

Three large culverts will be replaced to allow passage for fish and other aquatic species, including threatened and endangered species.

Roads used by passenger cars and in need of surfacing material will receive new gravel, which will improve safety and make for a smoother ride.

At Bee Rock, a recreational camping/picnic area, a road slide was repaired and the impacted pavement was replaced to address safety issues.

Work will be accomplished through the employment of a variety of local road construction contractors and laborers. All of these projects will address a backlog of deferred maintenance, improve affected watersheds, and develop better public access to the forest.

Accomplishments:
Approximately 168 miles of high-clearance vehicle and passenger car National Forest System roads are receiving maintenance.

Maryland

Program Project Name: Creating Jobs to Turn Baltimore's Infrastructure and Natural Resources Green

Local Project Name: Twenty-two Hired for Baltimore "Green Up, Clean Up" Teams using ARRA Funds

Region: Northeastern Research Station

Nearby City(ies): Baltimore, MD

Estimated Project Cost: $1,077,000.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 17.5

Congressional District(s): MD02, MD03, MD07

County(ies): MD: Baltimore

Modified Date: 12/17/2010

Story:

Parks and People Foundation Programs Benefit from Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 12/10/2010)

Twenty-two people were hired in January 2010 for “Green Up, Clean Up” teams in Baltimore using Recovery Act funds. The Parks and People Foundation was able to expand its job training and skill development programs (Green Career Ladder and BRANCHES), thanks to this $1.077 million agreement that builds on existing partnerships with the USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station.

Six team leaders and 16 crew members were trained for community forestry work and to accomplish tree planting, park trail maintenance, retrofitting storm drains to reduce pollution reaching the Chesapeake Bay, and other ecosystem restoration work in targeted Baltimore neighborhoods and watersheds. Their work will have the duel benefits of reducing the storm water pollution while enhancing the quality of life in Baltimore neighborhoods.

“We were overwhelmed by the number of eager men and women who stood in long lines at all four recruitment events held in January. Move than 600 people applied for the 22 (or 20 for USFS only) positions we have available now. Many of the people we interviewed had some work experience, but these stimulus jobs will give each person hired a sounder background, work experience, and training that will aid them in their future. They are eager to work and to do the type of work that will help natural resources in their neighborhoods. Our challenge going forward will be to create additional work opportunities so more can be accomplished and all areas of the city can benefit. In preparation, Parks & People Foundation will be relocating their operations in the next few weeks to better serve the new USFS-funded crews and to prepare for future workforce development opportunities,” said Jacqueline Carrera, president and CEO of the Parks and People Foundation.

The project is scheduled to run for the next 18 months.

Michigan

Program Project Name: Region-wide Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects/Readiness
Local Project Name: Firefighters
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Chippewa
Nearby City(ies): Cass Lake, Blackduck, Walker, Deer River
Estimated Project Cost: $111,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 10
Congressional District(s): IL11, IN04, IN08, IN09, MI01, MN08, OH06, OH07, OH18
County(ies): MI: Genesee; MN: Beltrami, Cass, Itasca
Modified Date: 6/23/2010

Story:

Tribal Firefighter Crew at the Intersection of Good Things

(Story posted 4/13/2010)

Among the Recovery Act-funded projects proposed on the Chippewa National Forest was the opportunity to work with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, whose reservation lands overlie the Chippewa National Forest. To participate in managing lands of tribal interest, the Leech Lake Band recognized the need to build their capacity and take on forest work by increasing skills and exposing interested Band members to local job opportunities. At the same time, the national forest foresaw a future need for trained wildland fire-fighters in a changing workforce.

Thanks to the Recovery Act, ten members of the Leech Lake Band were recruited and provided training as beginning firefighters. Five individuals were employed as a crew focused on fuels reduction work on the national forest, and available for other fire assignments with other agencies and organizations.

Last year, the Chippewa National Forest and the Leech Lake Band had cooperatively gained a grant through the Forest Service's Hazardous Fuels-Federal Assistance program. The grant provided a skid steer machine and two operators for a fuels reduction project near the tribal community of Ball Club, surrounded by national forest system lands. These assets were also available to assist the Leech Lake Firefighter crew towards their 150 acre goal.

"Being able to connect Band members with jobs, equipment with needed projects, and help develop careers is just an intersection of good things," noted Carl Crawford, zone fuels planner and Forest Service contact for this Recovery Act project.

In addition to completing fuels reduction work, the crew also earned acres toward their goal by assisting at a large wet meadow landscape prescribed burn, jointly conducted by 5 cooperating agencies. The opportunity to use their skills, and coordinate and learn from

other skilled firefighters opened more new possibilities.

“I was impressed,” said Walker District Ranger Carolyn Upton, “by their professional attitude and how hard they work on their assignments.”
Hard work has paid off and additional Recovery Act funds are able to extend their employment beyond the Minnesota fire season. To further enhance their skills, the crew is likely to be temporarily assigned to other geographic locations to experience other kinds of fire behavior. They may join a Type II Initial Attack crew for instance, or learn from an advanced Hot Shot crew to help expand their contacts and opportunities.

“As a Forest Service employee, I find this really satisfying,” said Carl Crawford, who is also a member of a recognized tribe, “so I can imagine how good it must feel for the crew to look ahead to their future.”

Program Project Name: Region-wide Water/Waste-Water Recreation Facility Deferred Maintenance

Local Project Name: ARRA Provides Needed Funding for a Popular Campground

Region: Eastern Region

Forest: Ottawa

Nearby City(ies): Iron River

Congressional District(s): MI01, MI02, MI04

County(ies): MI: Alcona, Alger, Baraga, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Crawford, Delta, Gogebic, Houghton, Iosco, Iron, Lake, Mackinac, Manistee, Marquette, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ogemaw, Ontonagon, Oscoda, Schoolcraft, Wexford

Modified Date: 6/22/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Rehabilitate Popular Campground on the Ottawa National Forest

(Story posted 12/12/2009)

One of the most used campgrounds on the Ottawa National Forest in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan has been in need of a new water system.

Lake Ottawa is a 32-site campground with an associated day-use area situated within the Iron Ranger District of the forest approximately five miles outside of the Town of Iron River. One of the more popular camping spots in the area, its primary visitors are Iron River residents.

The campground is one of the forest's more developed recreation areas, with a pressurized water system and self-contained sewage facility on site.

Like a lot of our recreation facilities, it has been a number of years since it has received a good dose of tender loving care. One maintenance item that continued to plague operation of

the facility was the water system.

Both forest recreation and engineering staff have long recognized the problem and designed a repair project in preparation of a funding opportunity. Other significant deferred maintenance issues, such as the boat landing, day-use facility, and a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) pavilion associated with this particular recreation area had repair plans associated with them, but no funding.

It has been said that success is found at the intersection of preparation and opportunity. Enter the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). As money became available through the Recovery Act, the Forest Service was asked to provide some infrastructure projects that were ready for implementation but had no funding.

The Ottawa National Forest, having a number of shelf-ready projects available, was able to take advantage of this opportunity and submit several projects. As a result, the forest is now in the process of implementing improvements to address problem areas on the Forest as mentioned above.

Program Project Name: Restoring Native Plants on Grand Island National Recreation Area

Local Project Name: Grand Island NRA Native Plant Restoration Recovery Act Project
Region: Northeastern Research Station
Forest: Hiawatha
Nearby City(ies): Marquette
Congressional District(s): MI01
County(ies): MI: Alger
Modified Date: 6/24/2010

Story:

Grand Island National Recreation Area Native Plant Restoration Recovery Act Project Underway

(Story posted 3/28/2010)

This multi-partnership ARRA project puts focus on native plant restoration on Grand Island NRA, employs 10-11 individuals, and will re-introduce 25,000 native wildflowers and 1,000 native grasses.

The Grand Island National Recreation Area (NRA) plant restoration project, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, is underway. This is a rather unique project due to multiple Forest Service partners--Northern Research Station, Hiawatha National Forest (upper Michigan), and Huron Manistee National Forest (Michigan), and key partner Superior Watershed Partnership (SWP).

All restoration work is taking place on one of the Great Lakes Islands. While some phases of the project have been completed, there is more work to be done. Scientific monitoring stations will be created in order to monitor non-native invasive plants (NNIP) and successful native plant restoration. Non-native plant removal will occur by hand removing NNIP from the island's shorelines and sand beaches. Fire will be used to help reduce NNIP at the main planting site (an old farm field).

The first phase of this project began in December 2009, after the project agreement was formalized between SWP, the Northern Research Station from Burlington, Vermont, and the Hiawatha National Forest (HNF). Due to the size and complexity of the project, preparation began early.

Volunteers who have been vital to the HNF greenhouse over the past few years prepared the seed needed for the propagation of more than 25,000 native plants, including seed stratification and packaging.

In January 2010, SWP hired nine unemployed people from Marquette, Michigan, who had volunteered at the HNF greenhouse for a number of years. The SWP crew worked with HNF contractor Sue Rabitaille and West Unit Plant Ecologist Deb Le Blanc organizing and cleaning seed, completing additional stratification methods, lining more than 12,000 plant cells with paper and getting the soil mixture ready for the cells. The HNF greenhouse staff makes the soil mixture using composted soil, lime, sand, and pro-mix sterilizing potting soil.

Also in January Anne Avery from the Huron Manistee National Forest joined the project as the procurement person. She is responsible for purchasing the supplies needed for this project such as more than 20,000 planting cells and 20 bales of pro-mix soil.

By February 11, 12,000 cells with soil were ready. That day, HNF hosted its first large volunteer event in support of this project. Eight volunteers from the community of Marquette, four Northern Michigan University students, the SWP crew, and Forest Service staff from the West Unit helped seed the cells. All 12,000 cells were seeded and work began that was originally planned for the second planting in mid-March.

On February 19, a Smooth Aster seed planted by veteran volunteer Linda Thomasma and the Munising District Ranger was germinated. It was the greenhouse's first germination of 2010! The second seed to germinate was from a Black-eyed Susan plant.

Between February 11 and March 11, the HNF plant program hosted two more volunteer events in which the SWP staff filled an additional 11,000 cells with the soil mixture. The March 11 event had nine new volunteers, along with three returning volunteers, and one new NMU student who chose the project for his internship. Shortly after 2 p.m. that day, all cells were seeded with a mixture of native wildflower seed. Also, approximately 1,000 cells were seeded with native beach grasses.

In just four short weeks, the goal of raising at least 25,000 native wildflowers and 1,000 native dune grasses is near completion. In addition to the native wildflowers for this Recovery

Act project, the HNF greenhouse will raise approximately 10,000 more plants. Those plants are slated for restoration work on the Forest including 5,000 plugs for the Life of Lake Superior project on Grand Island. This could not have been achieved without the support from key partner SWP, Anne Avery, and the HNF native plant program volunteers.

Program Project Name: MIne Shaft Closures to Protect the Public and Bats - Phase 2

Local Project Name: Closure of abandoned mines in the Norwich area of the Ottawa National Forest

Region: Eastern Region

Forest: Ottawa

Ranger District: Ontonagon

Nearby City(ies): Bergland, Michigan

Congressional District(s): MI01

County(ies): MI: Ontonagon

Modified Date: 12/29/2010

Story:

Ottawa National Forest Uses Recovery Act Funds to Close Abandoned Mines

(Story posted 11/30/2010)

Over 100 years after the last echo of the miners' pick was heard and the last pack mule had climbed the steep rocky trails, the sound of human activity once again reverberated off the rock cliffs in the Norwich area of the Ottawa National Forest. This time, however, it was not the sounds of sinking new shafts, but rather those of closing the century-old mine shafts with iron grates. And the noise now heard was not that of mining corporations looking for a fortune in copper, but that of a Michigan construction company weathering the sluggish economy through a contract funded with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) money.

When the Ottawa National Forest acquired tens of thousands of acres of forests, water, and wildlife in the 1930s, it also became the owner of dozens of old mine shafts and adits that remained as the miners had left them many decades earlier. All of these mine openings posed safety risks; and many were downright dangerous with depths of several hundred feet or more. In addition to the safety factor these deep shafts posed, a recently detected disease was beginning to decimate bat populations throughout the eastern United States, particularly in hibernating areas such as caves and mines.

Closing shafts that vehicles can easily reach can be costly enough, but when the shafts occur in steep, rocky, and remote country without roads, the cost can easily exceed available funds. The Forest was receiving modest funding through annual appropriations, but much more money was needed to make all of the abandoned mines safe. An unexpected source of funding in the form of the Recovery Act proved to be the answer.

To take advantage of this funding meant promptly conducting a NEPA analysis, preparing contract specifications, arranging a pre-bid field review, and ultimately awarding a contract. Prep work was completed during the fall of 2009, and in November a pre-bid field trip was held. Scheduling a field trip in Michigan's Upper Peninsula in November is a gamble with weather, and the odds are seldom in favor of those doing the scheduling. Never-the-less the weather was accommodating, and ten people representing seven contractors spent the day visiting the project site.

Thomas Moyle Construction from Houghton, Michigan, was the successful bidder on the contract, and they were excited to begin work. All the Forest needed now was someone to oversee the contract. Geologist Tim Buxton agreed to be the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), but because Tim resides in New Hampshire, he needed someone to provide the day-to-day oversight. Once more the Recovery Act came to the rescue. Using the authority to hire retired annuitants granted by the Recovery Act, the Forest was able to coax Robert Wagner out of retirement to serve as the on-the-ground inspector.

Work began with the moving of equipment and materials to the project site. It was well known that access to the site would be as great a challenge as fabricating the closures. The rugged, unroaded terrain required a combination of snowmobiles, ATVs, hand-carrying, and even a team of mules to move tons of iron and equipment to the mine shafts.

Delivering materials and equipment to the project site was only half the battle. The other half of the fight was to devise a safe way to construct an iron grate over the mine opening. This is where Steve Smith came in. The contractor hired Steve, a bat researcher, spelunker, and mine safety expert from the local area to secure a safe working area and to teach the contractor's employees how to properly harness and work from a safety line.

Phase 2 has accomplished closure of an additional 21 mine openings.

The Recovery Act funds the Ottawa received will not only provide work to two Michigan construction companies, but will also have the multiplier effect of supporting local businesses and communities. With these funds the Forest will be able to remediate the unsafe condition posed by the abandoned mines in a matter of months and not the years it may have taken. For the Norwich area, closing these mines is the first step in developing an interpretive site planned to highlight the mining history of the area.

Program Project Name: MIne Shaft Closures to Protect the Public and Bats - Phase 1

Local Project Name: Closure of abandoned mines in the Norwich area of the Ottawa National Forest

Region: Eastern Region

Forest: Ottawa

Ranger District: Ontonagon

Nearby City(ies): Bergland, Michigan

Congressional District(s): MI01

County(ies): MI: Ontonagon
Modified Date: 12/29/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Help Close Abandoned Mines

(Story posted 11/30/2010)

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Delivering materials and equipment to the project site was only half the battle. The other half of the fight was to devise a safe way to construct an iron grate over the mine opening. This is where Steve Smith came in. The contractor hired Steve, a bat researcher, spelunker, and mine safety expert from the local area to secure a safe working area and to teach the contractor's employees how to properly harness and work from a safety line.

The contractor started constructing the closures in the middle of May, and even though frequent rain caused delays, by early July, the Phase 1 contract was completed and nine mine openings had been successfully and safely closed. Phase 2 was subsequently awarded, and the closure of an additional 21 mine openings began in late July.

The Recovery Act funds the Ottawa received will not only provide work to two Michigan construction companies, but will also have the multiplier effect of supporting local businesses and communities. With these funds the Forest will be able to remediate the unsafe condition posed by the abandoned mines in a matter of months and not the years it may have taken. For the Norwich area, closing these mines is the first step in developing an interpretive site planned to highlight the mining history of the area.

Program Project Name: Phase 1- Trail Bridge Maintenance and Re-construction

Local Project Name: Trail Bridge Maintenance and Re-construction

Region: Eastern Region

Forest: Huron Manistee

Nearby City(ies): Pine Creek is located near Wellston, Michigan. Henne Creek is located near Twin Lake, MI. Wakely Boardwalk is located near Grayling, MI. Luzerne Trail is located near Luzerne, MI. South Branch is located near South Branch, MI.

Congressional District(s): MI01, MI02

County(ies): MI: Crawford, Iosco, Manistee, Muskegon, Oscoda

Modified Date: 12/28/2010

Story:

Michigan National Forest Uses Recovery Act Funds to Supports Recreation Improvements

(Story posted 12/1/2010)

The trail system on the Huron-Manistee National Forests provides recreational opportunities to all different types of users. Whether a visitor is looking to enjoy the forest by foot, horse, bike, or motorized vehicle, the Huron-Manistee has a trail to meet the recreational experience

they are looking for. Maintaining the Forests' trail system to ensure public safety and address environmental concerns is an ongoing challenge and priority for engineering and recreation staff.

The Recovery Act funded a project that allowed the Forest to address five of the most critical trail bridges and boardwalks. The Henna Creek snowmobile trail bridge was in such disrepair the entire structure was removed and replaced with a new bridge. Pine Creek snowmobile trail bridge was upgraded to increase the structural capacity to allow access for the snowmobile groomer. This was accomplished by installing lateral bracing and bearing stiffeners throughout the bridge frame. These changes now provide a bridge that meets current standards and will easily support the weight of the groomer.

Several deck boards on the Luzerne Shore-to-Shore Trail boardwalk were found to be structurally inadequate and a potential safety hazard to visitors so these were removed and replaced to bring the structure up to standard. The Wakely Lake boardwalk was very narrow and sinking in several areas. This entire boardwalk was removed and replaced. Work on the South Branch River trail bridge involved the stabilization of the approach roadway and the banks of the stream underneath the existing snowmobile bridge in order to not only stabilize the existing structure, but also to eliminate erosional sediment discharge into the stream.

This project allowed the Forest to address critical deferred maintenance and safety concerns and to enhance visitors experience on trails with the Huron-Manistee National Forest.

Program Project Name: Hiawatha, Huron-Manistee, and Ottawa National Forests – Jobs for Michigan, Roads Critical Deferred Maintenance Reduction Projects

Local Project Name: Road reconstruction and Deferred Maintenance Reduction

Region: Eastern Region

Nearby City(ies): Hiawatha NF Supervisor's Office at Escanaba, Michigan

Congressional District(s): MI01, MI02, MI04

County(ies): MI: Alcona, Alger, Baraga, Chippewa, Crawford, Gogebic, Houghton, Iosco, Iron, Lake, Mackinac, Manistee, Marquette, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ogemaw, Ontonagon, Oscoda, Schoolcraft, Wexford

Modified Date: 12/17/2010

Story:

Road Reconstruction Projects Benefit Three Michigan National Forests

(Story posted 12/1/2010)

A project to maintain roads in the Hiawatha, Huron-Manistee, and Ottawa national forests in Michigan and provide high-paying, private sector jobs in severely economically depressed counties using Recovery Act funds is complete. These roads provide access to the forests as well as connections between small communities and to major recreation sites and boat launches.

The project accomplished many important goals, such as improving water quality through sediment reduction; reducing critical deferred road maintenance; and increasing safety for road users.

Work included striping, paving, and signing forest highways; removing encroaching brush to improve traffic sight lines; and grading forest roads. The project also strengthened partner relationships with counties who share Forest Service roads, as well as with local residents who use these roads in their daily commutes.

Several contracts and agreements were executed to accomplish this project: two agreements for $2 million and four contracts valued at over $600,000. All of the work was completed by the second weekend of November 2010 in time for the opening of gun season for hunting deer, which is considered an unofficial holiday in Michigan.

More than 500 miles of road were maintained by the four maintenance contracts, and the work kept crews busy through the entire 2010 construction season (May - October).

The two road agreements were accomplished in partnership with county governments. Each agreement reconstructed three miles of paved road, for a total of six miles. One of these projects accomplished deferred maintenance to a concrete bridge over a wild and scenic river, requiring coordination between the county, state, and Forest Service.

Under the Alger County agreement, the county road crew accomplished the earth work and grading, starting last fall for two months and completing this spring prior to the 4th of July. Most of the road crew are hired for clearing snow in the winter, and the county executive told the Regional Forester that this project enabled the county to keep the whole crew employed over the summer instead of laying them off. The paving for both of these projects was contracted and only took a few weeks to accomplish.

Minnesota

Program Project Name: Region-wide Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects/Readiness
Local Project Name: Firefighters
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Chippewa
Nearby City(ies): Cass Lake, Blackduck, Walker, Deer River
Estimated Project Cost: $111,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 10
Congressional District(s): IL11, IN04, IN08, IN09, MI01, MN08, OH06, OH07, OH18
County(ies): MI: Genesee; MN: Beltrami, Cass, Itasca
Modified Date: 6/23/2010

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Tribal Firefighter Crew at the Intersection of Good Things

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“As a Forest Service employee, I find this really satisfying,” said Carl Crawford, who is also a member of a recognized tribe, “so I can imagine how good it must feel for the crew to look ahead to their future.”

Program Project Name: Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects/Readiness less than or equal to 120 days

Local Project Name: Recovery Act Funds Help in Battle Against Exotic Plants
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Superior
Nearby City(ies): None listed
Congressional District(s): MN08
County(ies): MN: Cook, Lake, Saint Louis
Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Help in Battle Against Exotic Plants

(Story posted 4/4/2010)

As part of a multi-year project funded under the Recovery Act, various locations across the Superior National Forest are being treated to keep exotic (non-native invasive) plants under control

In 2009, as part of a multi-year project funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, 164 acres at various locations across the Superior National Forest (Minnesota) were treated to keep non-native invasive plants from spreading across the landscape.

The Superior National Forest is in a unique position because non-native invasive plants are not broadly established on the forest; therefore control efforts can still be effective. This project will supplement the ongoing program to control non-native invasive species that threaten natural communities across the Forest.

Treatments will occur both inside and outside of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW). Herbicide spot applications are being used to treat weed infestations

across the Forest outside of the BWCAW. Hand-pulling of plants is being used at known weed infestations in the eastern part of the BWCAW. The work is being accomplished by both contractors and temporary employees.

Outside of the BWCAW, treatments are focused on roadsides, off-highway vehicle trails, and recently completed vegetation management projects. These are high risk areas for non-native plants to spread because of the volume of traffic moving in and out.

Similar work is planned in 2010 on approximately 50 acres that will involve a cooperative agreement with the Student Conservation Association, as well as contracting and hiring temporary employees.

In 2009, the Obama Administration invested nearly 13 million dollars in Northeast Minnesota's economy as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The money will fund 23 projects on the Superior National Forest through 2012, helping put people to work, accomplishing needed work on public lands, and providing long-term benefits such as developing new skills and adding economic value to communities. Projects funded by the Recovery Act have been integrated into our overall program of work where we are creating significant efficiencies by combining similar projects and integrating project planning and preparation. This investment will provide multiple benefits such as clean and abundant water by restoring forest health. Additional information about the USDA Forest Service and how we are involved nationally in implementing the Recovery Act of 2009 is available at: www.fs.fed.us.

Program Project Name: Enhance Recreational Experiences and Minimize Environmental Impacts by Improving Forest Trails in Minnesota

Local Project Name: ARRA Builds Pathways for the Future on the Superior National Forest
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Superior
Nearby City(ies): None Listed
Congressional District(s): MN08
County(ies): MN: Cook, Lake, Saint Louis
Modified Date: 7/15/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Builds Pathways for the Future on the Superior National Forest

(Story posted 2/2/2010)

The Superior National Forest partnered with Conservation Corps Minnesota to complete a Recovery Act-funded trails project in 2009.

The Superior National Forest, in partnership with Conservation Corps Minnesota (previously known as Minnesota Conservation Corps), completed a trail improvement project during the summer of 2009 funded by the Recovery Act. With this project, the U.S. Forest Service was

able to increase the amount of trail maintenance in the Superior National Forest and provide employment and training to 41 young adults.

Recovery Act funds for trail maintenance across the Superior National Forest (SNF) were approved in March 2009. Conservation Corps Minnesota crews began working in June. By the end of the summer they cleared brush from 279 miles of trail; rebuilt 3,811 feet of trail tread; installed 164 water bars; constructed 40 cairns; and removed 2,581 trees. Crews logged in more than 25,000 hours of work on the project.

Beyond the numbers was the significant impact the experience had on the participants. "The challenges have turned into lessons and the lessons have become invaluable to me. Working outdoors can be extremely challenging but that's why it's so rewarding. The more work you put into something the more you're going to get out of it," crew member Ashley Peters commented. "I don't see myself as an isolated individual anymore. I realize how much of an impact I can have on others and their impacts. I've become a shareholder in the future of our public lands."

Another crew member, Mary Hammes, echoed Peters' feelings, "It's encouraged me to think in a more complex way about the relationship between humans and their natural world."

SNF received additional Recovery Act funds to expand its partnership with Conservation Corps Minnesota on trail maintenance work. The funds will allow the forest to nearly double the amount of trail improvements over the next three years. Trail improvements enhance visitor experiences and provide the opportunity for crew members to learn about forest resources, natural resources in general, and natural resource careers.

The Conservation Corps Minnesota's projects are among 23 projects on SNF that will receive approximately $13 million in Recovery Act funds. In addition to completing work on public lands, Recovery Act-funded projects help provide jobs and long-term skill development opportunities, enhance local resources, and add economic value to communities, counties, and partners.

Program Project Name: Enhance Recreational Experiences and Minimize Environmental Impacts by Improving Forest Trails in Minnesota

Local Project Name: ARRA Funds Trail Maintenance and Employs Young Adults on Superior National Forest

Region: Eastern Region

Forest: Superior

Nearby City(ies): None Listed

Congressional District(s): MN08

County(ies): MN: Cook, Lake, Saint Louis

Modified Date: 7/15/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Trail Maintenance and Employs Young Adults on Superior National

Forest
(Story posted 8/8/2009)

With Recovery Act funding and partnering with the Minnesota Conservation Corps, the Forest will accomplish more trail improvements while providing employment for 41 young adults.

With funding authorized under the Recovery Act of 2009 and through a partnership with Minnesota Conservation Corps (MCC), Superior National Forest managers will be able to increase the amount of trails improvement originally planned this year on the Forest's extensive trail system in addition to providing employment and training for 41 young adults.

The Forest received $557,000 to accomplish brushing, tread work, installation of water control structures, boardwalk reconstruction, and trail sign maintenance. Hiking, portage, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, ATV, and interpretive trails across the Forest will benefit. Among many others, specific sites include the Kekekabic Trail, Whiteface Campground Hiking Trail, Big Aspen ATV Trail, and Cascade River Ski Trail.

Seven MCC crews began working on projects in June and will continue throughout the year. By July's end they had already put in almost 1,898 hours clearing brush from nearly 100 miles of trail, building approximately 1,491 feet of trail tread, installing 20 water bars, and removing more than 381 trees that fell on trails during last spring's ice storm in Lake and Cook counties.

"This project exemplifies the objectives of the Recovery Act by providing jobs that will maintain and improve existing trails on the Superior National Forest for years," said Superior National Forest Supervisor Jim Sanders. "Additionally, young adults employed through MCC to work on this project will gain valuable skills and an appreciation for natural resource management."

MCC's AmeriCorps program provides hands-on environmental stewardship and service-learning opportunities to young adults aged 18 to 25 while accomplishing conservation, natural resource management, and emergency response work.

In addition to gaining job skills, MCC crew members receive professional certifications such as wildfire suppression, chain-saw safety, and first aid. The service they provide restores and improves access to natural resources while changing the lives of young people.

"We'll be increasing the number of young adults we employ in conservation work by almost 50 percent," said Tim Johnson-Grass, MCC operations manager. "Our corps members are committed to service and proud of their work - that is why they're in this program. The trails that they maintain and improve in the Superior National Forest will be enjoyed for generations."

Mississippi

Program Project Name: Tombigbee and Holly Springs National Forests Invasive Species (Kudzu)

Local Project Name: Kudzu Control on Tombigbee and Holly Springs Ranger Districts
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF Mississippi
Ranger District: Tombigbee
Nearby City(ies): MS Congressional Districts 1 and 3
Estimated Project Cost: $1,600,000.00
Congressional District(s): MS01, MS03
County(ies): MS: Benton, Choctaw, Lafayette, Marshall, Tippah, Union, Winston, Yalobusha
Modified Date: 12/29/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Kudzu Control on Tombigbee and Holly Springs Ranger Districts

(Story posted 4/2/2010 and updated 12/10/2010)

Kudzu is listed as one of the top 10 invasive weeds in Mississippi. A landscape approach is the only way to treat this species. Kudzu is vigorously spreading across our landscape and will grow at a rate of 70 feet per year. Kudzu is not only a threat to the economy and diversity of our forested lands; it contributes to the intensity of woodland fires.

The National Forests in Mississippi plans to treat approximately 2,800 acres of Kudzu over a span of four years in 2 phases. Each acre will be treated three consecutive years to ensure that the kudzu has been controlled.

Phase 1
Holly Springs Ranger District utilized a pre-existing contract to spray 600 acres at $64,800 in 2009. Recovery Act funds for this contract was awarded July 1, 2009. This contract consisted of the actual means of spraying the herbicide. The district purchased herbicides were at approximately $46,000 through the regional herbicide contract and open market. The herbicide mixtures were provided to the contractor.

This work began on August 17, 2009. Tombigbee Ranger District utilized a purchase order for approximately $22,500 to control approximately 125 acres of kudzu in 2009. This purchase order included herbicide and treatment. The purchase order was awarded July 23, 2009. This work also began in mid-August.

All fiscal year 2009 kudzu control work has been completed. Approximately $145,000 was obligated, which is 9 percent of total funding.

Phase 2

Starting in fiscal year 2010, one all-encompassing contract will be used to accomplish all kudzu control for both districts, which will require the contractor to buy and apply the herbicide across each district. For 2010 and 2011, this contract will be used to treat the aforementioned acreages for two more years while also spraying an additional 2,050 acres for 2010 through 2012. Southern Custom Applicators, LLC, won the all-encompassing three-year contract in 2009.

The amount obligated to this contract is $1,397,488 based on a total of 7,600 total acres to be sprayed over a three-year span at $183.88 per acre. The remaining $58,000 of the Recovery Act funding will be obligated for personnel and supplies in fiscal year 2010.

As of 12/10/10, work is underway on both districts (Holly Springs and Tombigbee). The contractor treated 725 acres in fiscal year 2009 and 2,452 acres in fiscal year 2010. Treatments are planned on approximately 5,000 more acres in fiscal years 11 and 12.

Program Project Name: Reconstruction of Major Developed Recreation Sites

Local Project Name: Beach and Recreation Area Reconstruction
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF Mississippi
Ranger District: Tombigbee
Nearby City(ies): Ackerman
Estimated Project Cost: $76,000.00
Congressional District(s): MS01, MS03
County(ies): MS: Chickasaw, Choctaw
Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:

Beach, Recreation Area Reconstructed Through Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 8/4/2010)

This project helped rehabilitate the Choctaw Beach Recreation Area. The original design for the recreation area included a wall around the beach area. The wall was falling apart and there were safety concerns with the structure. Visitors would often not see the wall in an attempt to run directly into the water and trip.

As part of the Recovery Act funded project, the wall was removed. Contractors contoured the area into a gentle slope that now leads visitors down to a beach area.

Program Project Name: Forest-wide trail bridge maintenance and replacement (Mississippi)

Local Project Name: Forestwide Trail Bridge Maitenance and Inspection
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF Mississippi

Ranger District: Bienville
Nearby City(ies): Forest, Wiggins, Jackson, Hattiesburg, Biloxi
Estimated Project Cost: $220,000.00
Congressional District(s): MS01, MS02, MS03, MS04
County(ies): MS: Adams, Amite, Benton, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Forrest, Franklin, Greene, Harrison, Jackson, Jasper, Jones, Lincoln, Marshall, Newton, Perry, Scott, Sharkey, Smith, Stone, Tippah, Wayne, Winston
Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:
Forest-Wide Bridge Maintenance, Inspection Funded By Recovery Act

(Story posted 8/4/2010)

This is a forest-wide project for trail bridges. The purpose of the project is to provide inspection, maintenance, repairs, and replacement to numerous wooden trail bridges across the National Forests in Mississippi.

The Recovery Act funded bridge inspection. Remaining funds were used for required repairs and other maintenance tasks. Repairs were also done to the bridge approaches.

Program Project Name: Forest-wide mechanical fuels reduction

Local Project Name: Forest Wide Mechanical Furels Reduction
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF Mississippi
Ranger District: Bienville
Nearby City(ies): Forest, Wiggins
Estimated Project Cost: $1,288,000.00
Congressional District(s): MS03, MS04
County(ies): MS: Adams, Amite, Benton, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Forrest, Franklin, Greene, Harrison, Jackson, Jasper, Jones, Lincoln, Marshall, Newton, Perry, Scott, Sharkey, Smith, Stone, Tippah, Wayne, Winston
Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:
Forest-Wide Mechanical Fuels Reduction Funded By Recovery Act

(Story posted 8/6/2010)

The National Forests in Mississippi currently have two mechanical fuels reduction projects.

On the Bienville District (mid-state) we have a midstory and understory fuel reduction project to chip and mulch small to medium size trees and brush. This will also open up the forest and improve habitat for the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker.

On the DeSoto District (Southern portion of the state) we have a midstory and understory fuel reduction project to spray herbicide to kill undesirable species of small trees and brush. This will also open up the forest and improve habitat for the threatened Gopher Tortoise.

The Bienville project has targeted areas where the hazardous fuels have grown up to where the use of prescribed fire to reduce the fuel loadings is difficult to accomplish. This is usually where burning is the most hazardous as along major highways or near towns and communities. Using mulching machines to bring the fuels down to the ground will make the future use of fire to keep the areas open more easily and safely achieved.

The DeSoto project has targeted areas where the mid and understory has impacted Gopher Tortoise habitat to such an extent that the use of prescribed fire alone to open up the area has been difficult to achieve. The use of herbicides to reduce the undesirable species will open up the areas and allow a grass understory to thrive and prosper.

The project has currently planned for approximately 2900 acres on the Bienville District and 4200 acres on the DeSoto District.

Both projects will improve threatened and endangered species habitats and reduce hazardous fuels. While we widely use prescribed fire to achieve these conditions we are using this project to get control of areas where fire alone is either not achieving the objectives quickly enough or in areas where it is difficult to use fire alone in a safe manner. On the Bienville District the Red-cockaded Woodpecker prefers open pine forests. Mulching the mid and understory will open up the forest floor and we will be able to keep it open with the judicious use of prescribed fire. On the DeSoto District the Gopher Tortoise also prefers open pine forests with a grass ground cover. Herbicide treatment of the understory will allow grass to thrive and be easily maintained with the use of prescribed fire.

Both projects are receiving treatment. The Bienville District has competed approximately 700 of the planned 2900 acres. Two of the three contractors are currently active with the third to begin toward the middle of this month. The DeSoto District has completed approximately 650 acres of the planned 4200 acres.

Program Project Name: Eradication of Invasive Species in Mississippi

Local Project Name: Mississippi Invasive Plant Control Program (MIPCP)
Region: Southern Region
Nearby City(ies): Jackson, Biloxi
Estimated Project Cost: $1,167,000.00
Congressional District(s): MS01, MS02, MS03, MS04

County(ies): MS: Adams, Alcorn, Amite, Attala, Benton, Bolivar, Calhoun, Carroll, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Claiborne, Clarke, Clay, Coahoma, Copiah, Covington, DeSoto, Forrest, Franklin, George, Greene, Grenada, Hancock, Harrison, Hinds, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Itawamba, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Jones, Kemper, Lafayette, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Leake, Lee, Leflore, Lincoln, Lowndes, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Monroe, Montgomery, Neshoba, Newton, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Panola, Pearl River, Perry, Pike, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Quitman, Rankin, Scott, Sharkey, Simpson, Smith, Stone, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tippah, Tishomingo, Tunica, Union, Walthall, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Webster, Wilkinson, Winston, Yalobusha, Yazoo

Modified Date: 8/13/2010

Story:

Mississippi Invasive Plant Control Program Gets Much Needed Funding Thanks To Recovery Act

(Story posted 8/9/2010)

Cogongrass is an invasive, non-native grass, which occurs in the southeastern United States. A pest in 73 countries and considered to be one to the "Top 10 Worst Weeds in the World". Cogongrass affects pine productivity, wildlife habitat, recreation, native plants, fire behavior, land management costs and native ecosystem survival.

This perennial grass from Southeast Asia was introduced into the United States in 1911 through the port of Mobile, Alabama. It came in as packing material in Satsuma Orange shipments. Cogongrass was later tried as a forage crop and soil erosion stabilizer during the 1920's. It was found to be unsuitable for forage and its ability to rapidly spread and displace desirable vegetation outweighed any erosion control considerations.

Cogongrass continues to spread throughout Mississippi and the southeastern states, threatening forests, rangelands, natural areas, roadsides and residential areas. Cogongrass is currently documented in 62 of Mississippi's 82 counties.

Benny Graves, director of Plant Pest Programs, said "The Mississippi Bureau of Plant Industry recognizes the value of the Recovery Act MS Invasive Plant Control Program the MS Forestry Commission is executing this year. We need more programs such as this to tackle the huge invasive weed issues facing Mississippi. We are pleased to see your program being handled efficiently and assisting landowners with invasive weed treatments in a sound professionally organized manner. Additional funding to expand programs such as the Recovery Act Invasive Plant Program is sorely needed."

The mandate of this Recovery Act Project is to suppress invasive plant species through specific strategies in targeted areas of Mississippi, while allowing for the creation and retention of employment opportunities. Presently, the Mississippi forest industry, along with the rest of the nation, is suffering due to the current national economic downturn. Many mills have closed, and forestry employment opportunities are vastly reduced. Foresters, Forest Technicians and Timberland Contractors are pressed by an increasingly limited demand for their services, while the cost of living continues to increase.

To address both issues, the Mississippi Invasive Plant Control Program has been established. It will aid in suppressing the spread of Cogongrass by applying herbicide applications to affected areas. The personnel required for this will be hired thereby creating jobs! The program will be free to eligible landowners and will progress in phases starting with “leading edge” infestation counties, then move south into more severely infested areas. This approach dovetails with similar Cogongrass Recovery Act projects in Alabama and Georgia.

As of July 13, 2010, two foresters and two forest technicians have been hired. There have been 18 public presentations to various groups or organizations. A PR campaign have been launched successfully including ID brochures, radio and print ads, five radio interviews, three television interviews and four newsprint articles.

The program coverage area has increased from the original six counties to 15 counties which include: Attala, Choctaw, Clarke, Clay, Kemper, Lauderdale, Leake, Lowndes, Neshoba, Newton, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Scott, Webster and Winston Counties.

Other achievements since July, 2010 are: 400 landowner have received applications for herbicide treatment; 300 acres of Cogongrass mapped, ranging in size from less than 1/10th of an acre to 30 acres; 1,900+ gallons of herbicide bid, accepted, and are under contract; two herbicide application companies bid, accepted, and are under contract, for three crews of two employees each; herbicide application treatments began June 14, 2010 and approximately 30 acres treated with herbicide as of July 13, 2010.

“The Mississippi Forestry Commission was awarded the $1,167,000 grant by the USFS and challenged to use it in a way not only create jobs for the area, but control the march of invasive plants across our State. I believe we have met that challenge and we are just beginning to fight!” said Charlie Morgan-State Forester, Mississippi Forestry Commission. He continued, “I believe when this project is completed, it will be a model for other Recovery Act projects and a great success story to tell Congress and the taxpayers of how to spend tax money wisely and efficiently.”

All operations are continuing in accordance with the planned program.

Program Project Name: Comprehensive Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Project for Mississippi

Local Project Name: SPB Project
Region: Southern Region
Nearby City(ies): Biloxi, Jackson,
Estimated Project Cost: $897,000.00
Congressional District(s): MS01, MS02, MS03, MS04

County(ies): MS: Adams, Alcorn, Amite, Attala, Benton, Bolivar, Calhoun, Carroll, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Claiborne, Clarke, Clay, Coahoma, Copiah, Covington, DeSoto, Forrest, Franklin, George, Greene, Grenada, Hancock, Harrison, Hinds, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Itawamba, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Jones, Kemper, Lafayette, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Leake, Lee, Leflore, Lincoln, Lowndes, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Monroe, Montgomery, Neshoba, Newton, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Panola, Pearl River, Perry, Pike, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Quitman, Rankin, Scott, Sharkey, Simpson, Smith, Stone, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tippah, Tishomingo, Tunica, Union, Walthall, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Webster, Wilkinson, Winston, Yalobusha, Yazoo

Modified Date: 8/18/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Keep People Employed, Help with Southern Pine Beetle Threat

(Story posted 8/17/2010)

The Recovery Act Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program in Mississippi is playing a key role keeping the loggers, foresters, and supporting industries in business across the state while reducing the threat of the southern pine beetle. In recent years, diesel prices have risen, and delivered timber prices have dropped, thereby reducing loggers' and foresters' profitability in this area. Recovery Act funds have allowed loggers and foresters to keep their highly-trained employees on the payroll in light of mill load quotas, fluctuating timber prices, and mill closings. To date, the project has helped retain 116 jobs and created another 11 statewide.

Kevin Harrison, of Harrison Logging in Grenada, Mississippi, said, “It’s a grim day in the forestry community. With mills closing and people losing their jobs, it makes each day a new challenge.” However, Harrison Logging has been able to take advantage of some of these Recovery Act funds, which has helped him to stay just ahead of the curve. “When things get bad like they are now, every little bit helps.”

The company recently put a new crew together, hiring some of the people that have been out of work to handle Recovery Act-funded hazardous fuels reduction work. “These funds are allowing me to keep my current crews working, as well as hire an additional crew. These funds are also helping me reduce debt. They’ve been a godsend for my company,” Harrison said.

Program Project Name: National Forests in Mississippi-Replace 18 Deficient Bridges

Local Project Name: Replace 18 Deficient Bridges (Mississippi)

Region: Southern Region

Forest: NF Mississippi

Nearby City(ies): Multiple locations across Mississippi

Estimated Project Cost: $4,800,000.00
Congressional District(s): MS01, MS02, MS03, MS04
County(ies): MS: Choctaw, Copiah, Franklin, George, Jackson, Jasper, Lincoln, Perry, Smith, Wayne, Wilkinson, Winston
Modified Date: 12/28/2010

Story:

State-wide Bridge Replacement Benefits Many

(Story posted 12/10/2010)

In Mississippi, bridges located on the National Forests in Mississippi currently in use but are aging and in need of maintenance and reconstruction to improve function and maintain safety for the future are being replaced using Recovery Act funds.

These bridges are part of the general transportation system and are used by recreation visitors, nearby residents, school buses, fire trucks, and daily commuters, as well as by the Forest Service for general administration and firefighting. Some of these bridges are weight-limited due to age and construction and require re-routing of fire trucks and equipment needed to respond to wildfires. This project is expected to involve multiple design/build contracts with engineering contractors and bridge construction companies plus local purchase of pre-cast components and supplies. Completion of these improvements will significantly lower future maintenance costs and provide a safer, more useful transportation system in the years to come.

Instead of the original 18 identified, a total of 21 bridges are now a part of this project. As of December 10, 2010, ten bridges have been replaced; three bridges are under construction; plans have been completed on six bridges awaiting construction; and plans are being prepared for two bridges.

Missouri

Program Project Name: Enhance Public Safety and Recreational Experiences in Missouri

Local Project Name: Missouri Companies Awarded Economic Recovery Fund Contracts
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Mark Twain
Nearby City(ies): None Listed
Congressional District(s): MO03, MO04, MO07, MO08
County(ies): MO: Oregon, Ripley, Wayne
Modified Date: 7/15/2010

Story:

Missouri Companies Awarded Economic Recovery Fund Contracts

(Story posted 4/4/2009)

Mark Twain National Forest awards $2,300,000 in Recovery Act contracts.

Mark Twain National Forest awarded $2,300,000 in Recovery Act contracts March 2009 to improve forest roads and recreation sites.

Eight Missouri construction companies were awarded bids March 23, 2009, totaling $1,535,000 to provide gravel to Forest Service roads damaged by extreme weather over the last few years.

Jack Willman, Shell Knob, who was awarded a $344,000 aggregate contract, said the contract will keep his family-owned business open.

"This has been a blessing for us," Willman said. "This will put me back to work and another gentleman."

Joyce Gabel, Willow Springs, said their $75,000 aggregate contract will help them add two new trucks and hire a couple more people full-time.

Four other Missouri companies will get $169,000 to blade damaged forest roads.

Another $493,903 will provide installation of 25 low-maintenance toilet buildings at Forest Service campgrounds in 11 counties. New picnic tables, lamp posts and fire rings totaling $165,000 will also be installed in forest campgrounds, while another $25,000 will provide new signs.

"This will maintain jobs," according to KD Crushing, Mineral Point, who was awarded a $285,000 contract for gravel. "Right now a lot of little businesses are closed or closing. This will help keep our doors open."

"We're looking forward to working with these contractors to maintain and improve our forest roads and recreation facilities," said Mark Twain Forest Supervisor David Whittekiend.

Program Project Name: Enhance Safety and Condition of Forest Roads in Missouri

Local Project Name: Enhance Safety and Condition of Forest Roads in Missouri

Region: Eastern Region

Forest: Mark Twain

Nearby City(ies): Supervisor's Office in Rolla, Missouri

Congressional District(s): MO03, MO04, MO07, MO08

County(ies): MO: Adair, Andrew, Atchison, Audrain, Barry, Barton, Bates, Benton, Bollinger, Boone, Buchanan, Butler, Caldwell, Callaway, Camden, Cape Girardeau, Carroll, Carter, Cass, Cedar, Chariton, Christian, Clark, Clay, Clinton, Cole, Cooper, Crawford, Dade, Dallas, Daviess, DeKalb, Dent, Douglas, Dunklin, Franklin, Gasconade, Gentry, Greene, Grundy, Harrison, Henry, Hickory, Holt, Howard, Howell, Iron, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, Laclede, Lafayette, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Linn, Livingston, McDonald, Macon, Madison, Maries, Marion, Mercer, Miller, Mississippi, Moniteau, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, New Madrid, Newton, Nodaway, Oregon, Osage, Ozark, Pemiscot, Perry, Pettis, Phelps, Pike, Platte, Polk, Pulaski, Putnam, Ralls, Randolph, Ray, Reynolds, Ripley, Saint Charles, Saint Clair, Sainte Genevieve, Saint Francois, Saint Louis, Saline, Schuyler, Scotland, Scott, Shannon, Shelby, Stoddard, Stone, Sullivan, Taney, Texas, Vernon, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Webster, Worth, Wright, Saint Louis City

Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:

Early Recovery Act-funded Work Jump Starts Local Economies

(Story posted 12/1/2010)

The Mark Twain National Forest awarded $2.3 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) contracts in March 2009 to improve forest roads and recreation sites.

Eight Missouri construction companies were awarded bids March 23, 2009 totaling $1,535,000 to provide gravel to National Forest System roads damaged by extreme weather over the last few years.

Jack Willman, Shell Knob, who was awarded a $344,000 aggregate contract, said the contract would keep his family-owned business open.

"This has been a blessing for us," Willman said. "This will put me back to work and another gentleman."

Joyce Gabel, Willow Springs, said their $75,000 aggregate contract would help them add two new trucks and hire a couple more people full-time.

Four other Missouri companies got $169,000 to blade damaged forest roads.

"This will maintain jobs," according to KD Crushing, Mineral Point, who was awarded a $285,000 contract for gravel. "Right now a lot of little businesses are closed or closing. This will help keep our doors open."

"We're looking forward to working with these contractors to maintain and improve our forest roads and recreation facilities," said Mark Twain Forest Supervisor David Whittekiend in March 2009.

Montana

Program Project Name: Shields River Road & Bridges Reconstruction
Local Project Name: Shields River Road Reconstructions
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Gallatin
Ranger District: Hebgen Lake
Nearby City(ies): Livingston
Estimated Project Cost: $220,000.00
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Park
Modified Date: 7/8/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Work Provides Jobs, Enhance Fish Passage

(Story posted 3/19/2010)

The Smith Creek Culverts project will replace four existing culverts in the Smith Creek Road (FS Road #991) located in the Shields River watershed. The current culverts are not adequate to meet fish passage standards during high-flow events and do not meet the needs of other aquatic species. The Smith Creek drainage provides habitat for Yellowstone Cutthroat trout, and this project will eliminate trout spawning movement barriers.

The Shields River Road and Bridge Reconstruction project is located in the Shields River drainage north of Livingston, Montana, and will address erosion and safe-use issues. This project will reconstruct and upgrade 5.6 miles of the Shields River Road (FS Road #844) from the end of the Park County Road #45 to the Deep Creek Bridge. It will extend the asphalt double-lane paved road for the first 1.5 miles to the Smith Creek Road junction. It will also reconstruct and resurface the remaining portion of the road to double-lane, widen existing bridges, and replace existing culverts. Finally, a parking area on National Forest System land will be constructed near the Sunlight Road.

The Hyalite Guardrail–Municipal Watershed Protection project is located just south of Bozeman, Montana. The Hyalite drainage is one of the most heavily used recreation areas in Montana and is the municipal watershed for the city of Bozeman. This project will install guardrail on portions of about four miles of the Hyalite Road between the city of Bozeman's municipal water intake structure to the Moser Road to address safety and municipal water supply issues. The project will also reduce the risk of hazardous spills into Hyalite Creek from vehicles leaving the road.

"We are excited at the opportunity to help put people to work while accomplishing these resource priorities," said Gallatin and Custer National Forest Supervisor Mary Erickson. "The Forests look forward to quickly implementing these projects and doing our part to create jobs

in our nation's rural areas."

Program Project Name: Flathead County Road Projects 1

Local Project Name: Flathead National Forest in Montana Working on ARRA Recreation Projects
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Flathead
Nearby City(ies): None Listed
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Flathead
Modified Date: 7/27/2010

Story:

Flathead National Forest in Montana Working on Recovery Act Recreation Projects

Posted 11/11/2009

Seven contracts awarded with more to come

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

The forest received approximately $13 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.

Additional funding 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 trash receptacles for public use at approximately 135 camping sites.

Recovery Act projects awarded to date include the following:

* 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 Recovery Act 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 restrooms. 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, Inc. 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 Recovery Act projects fow which to solicit, award, and implement.

Program Project Name: Lincoln County Roads Projects 1 (partially funded by 10%)

Local Project Name: ARRA Funding Replaces Aging Wooden Bridges in Northern Montana
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Kootenai
Nearby City(ies): None Listed
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Lincoln
Modified Date: 7/27/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funding Replaces Northern Montana Aging Wooden Bridges

Posted 11/11/2009

This Recovery Act project, awarded to a local contractor, called for the replacement of two aging bridges on the Libby District of the Kootenai National Forest. The Little Wolf Creek bridge and the Jackson Creek bridge were replaced with 142"x91" corrugated metal arch pipes and culverts were repaired to improve acquatic resources.

The Little Wolf bridge, originally built in 1950, was replaced earlier this month.

The Jackson Creek bridge was originally built in 1949 using creosote treated timbers for abutments stringers and decking. Workers dammed Jackson Creek and diverted it through a temporary culvert around the project site. The new arch pipe was set two feet into the streambed to provide a natural stream bottom and improve passage for aquatic organisms, including Westslope cutthroat and redband rainbow trout.

Additional work improved the creek channel including placement of four rock vanes that protrude into the water to direct the creek flow away from stream banks and to improve bank stabilization.

Jackson Creek Road was also widened and realigned slightly to improve access of logging trucks and semis with lowboy trailers. Work on the Jackson Creek culvert was completed on October 23, 2009.

This Recovery Act project was awarded to P&S Contracting, Inc of Libby, Montana.

Program Project Name: Montana Roads Restoration Project 1

Local Project Name: Popular Recreation Road Repaired through ARRA funding
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Gallatin
Nearby City(ies): Bozeman, Livingston
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Carbon, Gallatin, Park, Ravalli
Modified Date: 7/13/2010

Story:

Popular Recreation Roads Repaired And Improved Through Recovery Act funding

(Story posted 10/10/2009)

Visitors to the Gallatin National Forest experienced some delays in certain parts of the Forest while construction started in July. Specifically, people using the Shields River and Smith Creek Roads in the Crazy Mountains, the Mill Creek Road in the Paradise Valley, Hyalite Canyon Road south of Bozeman, and the Taylor Fork Road in the Gallatin Canyon saw construction crews working to install culverts for resource protection and guardrails for increased safety to traveling residents and visitors in the area. The projects were funded

primarily through the Recovery Act.

The Hyalite Canyon drainage received new guardrails in the lower portion of the watershed. Crews also installed a traffic light to regulate vehicles. The guardrail work is expected to be complete by September 30.

Other construction work occurring in the Hyalite drainage includes the construction of a pavilion at the Blackmore parking area, in conjunction with Montana State University and the renovation of Hood Creek Campground. Hood Creek Campground was closed from about the end of July thru the end of October to accomplish the upgrades. Langhor and Chisolm campgrounds are both open.

Crews began graveling and installing drainage on the upper Taylor Fork and Cache Creek Roads (about 7.8 miles) on July 6th and finished in mid September. The Cache Creek Road was improved in mid July. Cache Creek Road was in need of a great deal of work because it is very erosive, easily rutted, and has substantial use and safety issues when wet.

In the Shields River drainage, north of Livingston, Montana reconstruction work on the Smith Creek and Shields River Road included replacing four existing culverts in the Smith Creek Road to ensure adequate fish passage during high flow. This project will ultimately reconstruct and upgrade 5.6 miles of the Shields River Road from the end of the park County Road to the Deep Creek Bridge and install a parking area near the Sunlight Road junction to address erosion and safety issues. Visitors and homeowners using the Shields River Road did experience some delays in travel but the improvements to safety and the natural surfacing of the road was well worth it.

On the Mill Creek Road, crews replaced the Anderson Creek and Main Mill Creek bridges, replaced the Colley Creek Culvert, resurfaced the road from the Upper Bridge to Colley Trailhead, and installed armored drainage dips.

These safety and resource protection projects were sorely needed in these popular areas and made possible through the additional ARRA funding received in early 2009.

Program Project Name: Northwest Montana Counties Trail Maintenance & Reconstruction 1

Local Project Name: ARRA Funded Trail Crew Doing Triple the Work
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Lolo
Ranger District: Plains/Thompson
Nearby City(ies): None Listed
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Flathead, Lincoln, Sanders
Modified Date: 7/27/2010

Story:

Locally Hired Trail Crew Expedites Trail Maintenance and Improvements in the High Country

(Story posted 10/10/2009)

A group of six young men - all of them from Sanders County - have for the last three weeks been working ten to twelve hour days with chainsaws, brush-cutters, shovels and other hand tools in the backcountry along the Goat Lakes trail, clearing downed trees, widening narrow sections of trails, moving rocks and installing water bars to improve a remote six miles of trail about five air miles northeast of Thompson Falls.

The six are members of a trail crew funded through the Recovery Act program. During the last remaining days of summer they have taken on the physically demanding job of clearing and improving the trail - which often has meant clearing fallen trees, moving large rocks and placing them where they can help prevent trail erosion, and digging trenches to place water bars that will channel water off the trail when the rain and snow finally come.

For each trail on the district, recreation specialists maintain a file that contains data on the trail condition, when it was last surveyed and needed work. The trails program also maintains and improves trails according to a national standard - for example, trails that allow horses should provide a corridor about eight feet wide and ten feet high to prevent riders from having to squeeze through tight spaces.

That type of clearing work is a part of what the crew at Goat Lakes has been working on. They are expected to finish up the Goat Lakes Trail in another week and then move on to other projects on the Plains/Thompson Falls Ranger District, continuing to work until the cold and rain of fall stops them.

The six-person team not only works all day together, but also shares responsibility for preparing meals and other duties in their backcountry camp near the trails they are working on.

The Recovery Act funded work has allowed the Plains/Thompson Falls Ranger District to expedite their trail maintenance and improvement program by leaps and bounds - and also hire local youth. This year's six person crew is three-times the usual summer trail crew size, and next spring and summer the district plans to double that with two six-person crews - also with Recovery Act funding.

The district is typically able to clear - or "log out" - the high use trails on its 300 mile trail system in the average year with the two-person crew. Significant trail improvement work like the installation of water bars and trail tread repairs is often limited. But the recent funding has allowed district recreation program specialists like Mark Smith to take on larger improvements, such as the Goat Lakes trail. The project will also include trailhead widening to allow horse trailers to turn around.

Other projects include the Wilkes Creek trail, where this year's crew will soon begin to

replace and repair old wooden walkways - or puncheons - in wet and swampy sections of that trail. Some of those wooden structures, Smith noted, have been in place for more than 25 years.

"It's (Recovery Act funding) been a big help to our trail program because it is allowing us to hire larger trail crews and take on work that we would normally not be able to accomplish with the regular program," Smith said.

He noted that the district has to prioritize which projects to implement each year and some of the work now planned for next summer might have taken as long as 15 years to accomplish without the Recovery Act funding.

For trail crew members like Joey Ogburn the work has meant the opportunity to work closely as part of a team and see every day the result and the benefit to the public.

"It's fun, but it's hard," said Ogburn, who is from Noxon. "We all have something that we bring to the table and we all learn something from each other. And it feels good seeing the progress and just making that trail look perfect. It makes you feel good seeing the result...there were five kids who made it all the way to the lake on this trail today and that makes you feel good."

Firefighter and trail crew member Joel Thomas said the new project work has meant staying on with the district after the end of the fire season. Thomas, from Camas Prairie, was discharged from the Marine Corps in 2006 and has been a firefighter with the Plains/Thompson Falls district for the last two seasons.

"Last year I was laid off at this time, so it's nice to have this work," Thomas said. He echoed the importance of working as a member of a team, with everyone sharing the responsibility to help each other and keep each other safe. "You live and die by the team," he said.

The additional trail projects have also benefitted the local economy. Smith said the district has spent thousands of dollars at local businesses to purchase food for the trail crew, lumber for trail improvements, needed tools, and other supplies.

Program Project Name: Northwest Montana Counties Trail Maintenance & Reconstruction 1

Local Project Name: Restoration Work on 14-Mile Trail Underway
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Lolo
Ranger District: Thompson Falls
Nearby City(ies): St. Regis, Montana; Plains, Montana
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 7
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Flathead, Lincoln
Modified Date: 7/27/2010

Story:
Restoration Work on Fourteen Mile Trail Underway

(Posted 5/10/2010)

A seven-person trail crew on the Plains/Thompson Falls Ranger District wasted little time recently in getting a start on an ambitious schedule of summer trail work. their first assignment was improving and maintaining a stretch of the Fourteen Mile (#1714) trail between St. Regis and Plains that leads to Patrick's Knob.

The work is funded by the Recovery Act and the crew is one of two Recovery Act funded trail crews that are working through the summer on the district in various locations, taking piece by piece an impressive list of projects outline by the recreation program managers.

The Plains/Thompson Falls District in Sanders County typically operations with one two-person trail crew. The district has a total of 323 miles of trail and all are incorporated into a maintenance program that establishes planned improvements, type of use and maintenance schedule.

The Fourteen Mile Trail work involves a little bit of everything for the crew, who come mostly from western Montana but also from Idaho and Alaska. They are installing water bars and drain dips to mitigate erosion on the trail, reconstructing 1.5 miles of trail head, and installing informational signs. The Fourteen Mile trails is about five miles long, has scenic river views along the way and is popular with hunters in the fall.

The Recovery Act funded work planned for this field season allows the district to expedite their trail maintenance and improvement program by leaps and bounds. Other work planned this summer includes similar trail tread reconstruction, brush removal and drainage structure installation on at least 19 trails across the district.

District Recreation Program Managers note that the district has to annually prioritize which projects to implement based on budgets and some of the work planned for completion this summer might normally have taken as long as 15 years without Recover Act funding.

The additional trail projects also benefit the local economy of St. Regis and Plains. The district will spend thousands of dollars at local businesses to purchase food for the trail crew, lumber for trail improvements, needed tools and other supplies.

Program Project Name: Historic Building Preservation

Local Project Name: ARRA Funds Historic Preservation Work in Montana
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Kootenai
Nearby City(ies): None Listed
Congressional District(s): MT00

County(ies): MT: Lincoln
Modified Date: 6/16/2010

Story:
Montana Conservation Corps Repairs and maintains Significant Historical and Cultural Resources

(Story posted 10/10/2009)

This Recovery Act project was awarded to the Kootenai National Forest for Historic Preservation work. The painting portion of this work was awarded to the Montana Conservation Corps (MCC). The work covers painting of three historic buildings. These buildings are significant cultural resources that have been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

* Stahl Peak Lookout, a D6 cupola ground building, constructed in 1926 on the Fortine Ranger District.

* Ant Flat Ranger Station Office, a framed building, constructed in 1922 on the Fortine Ranger District.

* Sylvanite Ranger Station House, a framed building, constructed in 1912

on the Three Rivers Ranger District.

The work consists of repainting the exterior of the buildings, including cleaning and preparing surfaces, minor siding repair, and painting all previously painted exterior siding and trim including doors, soffits and fascia.

As of September 29, 2009, the Ant Flat office has been completed. MCC is currently working on the Sylvanite house and is expected to have that project completed by October 13, 2009. Weather constraints will push the painting of Stahl Peak Lookout to the summer of 2010.

Program Project Name: Lolo and Kootenai National Forests- Sanders County Roads Projects 1

Local Project Name: Lolo NF Replaces Culverts in the East Fork of Johnson Creek
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Lolo
Ranger District: Superior
Nearby City(ies): Superior
Estimated Project Cost: $28,337.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 2
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Sanders
Modified Date: 7/23/2010

Story:
Lolo National Forest Replaces Culverts using Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 5/10/2010)

This culvert replacement on Johnson Creek Road (road #540) on the Superior Ranger District approximately four miles northeast of Superior was completed October 26, 2009. The larger culvert will provide important fish and aquatic organism habitat improvement by allowing for passage, which did not exist with the previous under-sized culvert.

The replacement structure is significantly larger and simulates a natural stream bed and native stream structure inside the culvert. Workers also placed rock weirs inside the culvert to provide grade control and form step pools for fish passage--another important element in replicating natural stream bed conditions.

The new culvert opens nearly a mile of additional fish habitat in the East Fork of Johnson Creek. A local contractor from Superior, Montana, completed the work that provided approximately a week of new work for two full-time company employees.

Program Project Name: Lincoln County Roads Projects 1 (partially funded by 10%)
Local Project Name: ARRA Funds Replacement of Aging Wooden Bridges in Montana
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Kootenai
Ranger District: Libby
Nearby City(ies): Libby
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Lincoln
Modified Date: 6/4/2010

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Replacement of Aging Wooden Bridges in Montana

Posted 10/10/2009

A Recovery Act project to replace two aging bridges on the Kootenai National Forest was awarded to P&S Contracting, Inc. of Libby. One bridge over Little Wolf Creek and one on Jackson Creek on the Libby District will be replaced with 142"x91" corrugated metal arch pipes.

The Little Wolf Bridge was originally built in 1950 using Larch log sills with creosote treated log stringers. Forest managers closed the Little Wolf Bridge to traffic on September 15, 2009 because the bridge deck was collapsing under the weight of loaded gravel trucks. Work on the Little Wolf creek bridge replacement began on October 5. Little Wolf Creek was rerouted

using dewatering pumps while the bridge structure was removed and the arch pipe installed. Work on the Little Wolf Creek culvert was completed on October 9, 2009, creating a safe, sturdy bridge and reducing sediment in the stream from failing culverts.

The Jackson Creek Bridge, originally built in 1949 utilizing a similar design, will be replaced during the 2010 construction season due to early winter conditions.

Program Project Name: Lolo Facilities Painting and Energy Efficiencies

Local Project Name: Lolo NF Energy Efficiency Projects and Exterior Painting
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Lolo
Nearby City(ies): St. Regis, Superior, Plains, Seeley Lake, Missoula
Estimated Project Cost: $225,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 11
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Sanders
Modified Date: 7/27/2010

Story:

Lolo National Forest Recovery Act Funds Support Energy Efficiency Projects and Exterior Painting

Story posted 6/4/2010)

These Recovery Act projects enhanced the safety and energy efficiency of administrative sites on the Lolo National Forest. Included upgrades are replacement of oil- or propane-fired forced air heating furnaces that have reached or exceeded their service life. These replacements also provided an opportunity to install efficient, state-of-the-art equipment for reduction of the Lolo's carbon footprint and reduced operating costs.

Replacement furnaces installed are rated at 95 percent plus efficiency compared to the old oil burning furnaces that were 65 percent efficient at best. The new furnaces are also quieter and better controlled for employee and visitor comfort and safety.

Most installations are at small Forest Service buildings such as housing and small administrative sites common to ranger stations. Sites improved were the Savenac Tree Nursery, the St. Regis Work Center, and the Superior, Plains, Seeley Lake and the Historic Ninemile Ranger Stations.

Field installation was completed April 20, 2010. Local are contractors included J&M Electric, J1 Heating and Cooling, Advanced Environmental and Northwestern Energy/Energy Partners.

Program Project Name: Swift Creek Thinning

Local Project Name: Swift Creek Restoration Project
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Bitterroot N.F.
Ranger District: Sula
Nearby City(ies): Sula
Estimated Project Cost: $1,720,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 15
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Ravalli
Modified Date: 7/23/2010

Story:

Swift Creek Renovation Project Proves Beneficial

(Story posted 7/21/2010)

This innovative Recovery Act project created an estimated 15 to 17 jobs; improved the environment through forest and soils treatments; and laid the ground work for future restoration projects on 13,000 acres. The treatments are improving forest resiliency to bark beetles and wildfire; improving elk habitat; and recovering biomass and restoring terraced-compacted soils. Scoping for the project resulted in overwhelming public support.

Local small-wood loggers and forest restoration service providers have toured the project and expressed great interest in performing the work and recovering the biomass in various product forms. The project work is being accomplished through a Partnership with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation using a Stewardship Agreement that allows for the value to the wood products to offset a portion of restoration work costs.

Enhanced Forest Management, Inc. is performing the work with custom-made restoration equipment that allows for mastication of wood and de-compacting of soil in one pass. A Resource Advisory Committee grant, Forest Health-appropriated funds and Recovery Act monies are contributing to project implementation. The University of Idaho is using the project to explore the efficacy of biochar to improve forest soil productivity.

Program Project Name: Scotchman Mine Waste Cleanup

Local Project Name: Scotchman Mine Abandoned Mine Cleanup
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Kootenai
Ranger District: Cabinet
Nearby City(ies): Trout Creek
Estimated Project Cost: $450,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 5

Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Sanders
Modified Date: 7/27/2010

Story:
Scotchman Mine Abandoned Mine Cleanup Through Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 7/23/2010)

Cleanup work at the Scotchman Mine north of Heron is complete and the area is now open to the public. Funded by the Recovery Act, about 2800 cubic yards of mine waste has been moved from the edge of Blue Creek to a dry stable location nearby.

Work began in May and the project is now finished with the exception of some additional grass seeding to be done in the fall. A road was reconstructed to the waste dump and a temporary creek crossing was built to access the mine waste. The new waste repository has drainage structures and a waterproof cap to insure that the contaminated material does not enter the groundwater. Part of the new access road was converted into a trail and work was done to stabilize the creek channel near the mine site. Trees from the repository site have been sold and will be removed soon.

In 2008, the Forest Service partnered with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Green Mountain Conservation District to evaluate the site and develop a work plan. The Conservation District obtained a grant under the Reclamation and Development Grants Program administered by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation for initial planning of the cleanup. Last year, the Kootenai National Forest received Recovery Act funding to complete the work. With funding in place, a contract was issued to Envirocon, a Missoula company, to develop a work plan and to do the actual cleanup of the site.

Program Project Name: Lincoln County Roads Projects 1 (partially funded by 10%)

Local Project Name: McKillop Creek Road Improvement
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Kootenai
Ranger District: Libby
Nearby City(ies): Libby, Montana
Estimated Project Cost: $107,800.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 23
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Lincoln
Modified Date: 8/13/2010

Story:
Safety On McKillop Creek Road Improves Thanks To Recovery Act

(Story posted 8/11/2010)

McKillop Creek Road (Forest Road #535) was recently overlaid with hot-mix asphalt with funding from the Recovery Act. This road was originally constructed in 1961 as a logging road for harvest activities by the Forest Service, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and private timber land owners.

After the Libby Dam was constructed in 1972, McKillop Creek Road became popular with forest visitors as a short-cut from U.S. Highway 2 to the newly developed Koocanusa Reservoir. In recent years, the existing chip sealed surface deteriorated badly with severe ruts and cracks in the surface. Since public traffic continues to increase, the forest recognized that safety was becoming a greater concern and a hot-mix asphalt overlay was needed.

On July 16-23, 2010, prime contractor URECO Inc.and paving sub-contractor Knife River applied the new surfacing on McKillop Road. 23 people worked on the project for both companies. Approximately 8,200 tons of asphalt was used over the entire length of the road, almost eight miles. With this Recovery Act funded project, the improved safety standards for McKillop Road should last for many years.

Program Project Name: Northwest Montana Counties Trail Maintenance & Reconstruction

Local Project Name: Mission Valley Backcountry Horseman Complete ARRA Trails Work
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Lolo
Ranger District: Superior
Nearby City(ies): Superior
Estimated Project Cost: $22,300.00
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli
Modified Date: 8/18/2010

Story:

Lolo National Forest Completes Horse Trail Maintenance Projects

(Story posted 8/11/2010)

Over four weekends in April, May and June, the Mission Valley Backcountry Horsemen completed Recovery Act-funded maintenance projects on three horse trails on the Superior Ranger District.

The projects were implemented with a Challenge Cost Share Agreement using Recovery Act funds designated for trail improvments on the Lolo National Forest.

Fifteen members of the Backcountry Horsemen cleared downed trees, improved drainage,

removed hazard trees, and cut brush on over 25 miles of trail. Their 18 horses and mules were an integral part of the operation to improve the trails, including the popular River Trail that runs along the Clark Fork River. Hikers, trail runners, mountain bikers, and fisherman all heavily use the River Trail in the spring. In the fall, hunters heavily use all of the trails.

The most challenging portion of the project was hauling and placing gravel on about 150 feet of trail that crosses a rocky, talus slope near Beaver Rock. Placing filter cloth and gravel on a talus slope stabilizes the loose rock and provides safe footing for horses and hikers. An entire truckload of gravel was loaded by hand into specially designed saddle bags that the horses and mules hauled to the talus section of the trail. The gravel was spread and leveled, which created a stable trail surface. The gravel operation was completed in two days.

Nebraska

Program Project Name: Nebraska National Forest Recreation Sites Improvements and Deferred Maintenance Reduction

Local Project Name: Nebraska National Forest Trails & Roads Repair
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Nebraska
Ranger District: Bessey
Nearby City(ies): Halsey and Thedford, Nebraska
Estimated Project Cost: $87,500.00
Congressional District(s): NE03
County(ies): NE: Cherry, Hooker, Thomas
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Trail Repairs on Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands

(Story posted 1/21/2011)

The Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands received funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to repair two trails on the Bessey Ranger District, located near Halsey, Nebraska. Repair work included installing drainage structures, reconstructing two stairways, trail relocation, trail hardening, and installation of geotechnical materials to stabilize and control erosion in the sandy soils.

The Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands received Forest Service Recovery Act funding to be put toward completing all deferred maintenance needs on the National Forest and Grasslands units in Nebraska. Most of these sites were built in the 1960s, with few improvements made since then. Upgrades were necessary to bring them into compliance with Forest Service standards and meet accessibility needs. Safety concerns were also addressed.

Program Project Name: Nebraska National Forest Recreation Sites Improvements and Deferred Maintenance Reduction

Local Project Name: Bessey Complex Recreational Site Improvements
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Nebraska
Ranger District: Bessey
Nearby City(ies): Halsey and Thedford, Nebraska
Estimated Project Cost: $332,694.66
Congressional District(s): NE03
County(ies): NE: Cherry, Hooker, Thomas
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:
Bessey Ranger District Improves Recreational Site to Enhance Visitors' Experiences

(Story posted 1/21/2011)

The Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands received funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to complete recreational site improvements on the Bessey Ranger District.

Work completed reduced deferred maintenance deficiencies and will enhance recreational experiences for all visitors. Improvements included reconstructing campsites to accommodate today's larger recreational vehicles, completing new camping opportunities, and completing a new, completely accessible shower house and toilet building in the primary complex. Workers also constructed new sidewalks. In addition, heavy maintenance was completed to allow the historic Scott Tower Fire Lookout to re-open to the public.

The Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands received Forest Service Recovery Act funds to be put toward completing all deferred maintenance needs on the National Forest and Grasslands units in Nebraska. Most of these sites were built in the 1960s, with few improvements made since then. Upgrades were necessary to bring them into compliance with Forest Service standards and meet accessibility needs. Safety concerns were also addressed.

Program Project Name: Nebraska National Forest Recreation Sites Improvements and Deferred Maintenance Reduction

Local Project Name: Natick Campground Road Improvements
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Nebraska
Ranger District: Bessey
Nearby City(ies): Halsey and Thedford
Estimated Project Cost: $201,520.00
Congressional District(s): NE03
County(ies): NE: Cherry, Hooker, Thomas
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:
New Campsites Added at Natick Campground to Accommodate RVs

(Story posted 1/24/2011)

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds made it possible for workers to make improvements to Natick Campground on the Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands. The funds were allocated toward completing recreational site improvements on the Bessey Ranger District.

Improvements included reconstruction and adding campsites to accommodate today's larger recreational vehicles and improved access to Natick Campground. The completed work reduced deferred maintenance deficiencies and will enhance recreational experiences for visitors.

The Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands received Forest Service Recovery Act funds to be put toward completing all deferred maintenance needs on the National Forest and Grasslands units in Nebraska. Most of these sites were built in the 1960s, with few improvements made since then. Upgrades were necessary to bring them into compliance with Forest Service standards and meet accessibility needs. Safety concerns were also addressed.

Nevada

Program Project Name: Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest - Nevada

Local Project Name: Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project Completed in Washoe Valley Thanks to Recovery Act Funds

Region: Intermountain Region

Forest: Humboldt & Toiy

Ranger District: Carson

Nearby City(ies): West Washoe Valley

Estimated Project Cost: $27,604.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 30

Congressional District(s): NV02

County(ies): NV: Washoe

Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:

Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project Completed in Washoe Valley Thanks to Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 3/8/2010)

In May 2009, the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (Nevada) received Recovery Act funds to reduce fuels on the east slope of the Carson Range above the West Washoe Valley community. Hazardous fuels reduction projects involve the removal of small trees and brush that increase the risk of wildfire near communities.

In August 2009, Summit Forestry was contracted to thin out small trees and brush on 67 acres of National Forest System land. The $28,000 project employed 30 people. The resulting piles of trees and brush were burned by Forest Service personnel in January and February 2010 using non-Recovery Act funds.

West Washoe Valley--located between Reno and Carson City, Nevada--was previously identified as a high-risk community for wildfires. Fires along the east slope of the Sierra Nevada mountain range are fueled by strong down slope winds that "drive" the fires into communities at the base of the range. In 2004, the Waterfall Fire burned on the southern end of the West Washoe Valley community destroying 17 houses.

Program Project Name: Carson River Streambank & Stabilzation

Local Project Name: Recovery Act Funded Carson River Stream Bank Restoration and Stabilization Project

Region: Intermountain Region

Nearby City(ies): Carson City

Estimated Project Cost: $627,660.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 7.74
Congressional District(s): NV02
County(ies): NV: Churchill, Lyon, Carson City
Modified Date: 7/13/2010

Story:

Recovery Act To Fund Treatment Of Hazardous Fuels And Ecosystem Restoration Along The Carson River

(Story posted 5/12/2010)

The Carson River has been invaded with noxious weeds that pose a fire risk to neighborhoods and Cottonwood gallery forests. The Recovery Act will fund treatment of Hazardous Fuels and Ecosystem Restoration along the Carson River.

Between May and December of 2009, approximately $183,000 has been spent on the Recovery Act Carson River Program. The project has employed 25 people.

The Carson River, like many other rivers in the West, battles the invasion of noxious weeds. Noxious weeds are plants that have been identified by the State of Nevada as difficult to control, and cause harm by invading agricultural lands, areas along waterways and natural areas. Among the biggest invaders of the Carson River Watershed are perennial pepperweed (tall white top), Russian knapweed, and salt cedar or Tamarisk. These invasive weeds are non-native plants that are prolific and highly competitive. They invade and take over an area. One of the biggest threats to the Carson River is the tendency to invade riparian areas. This results in a decline of stream bank stability and an increase of soil erosion and stream sedimentation resulting in a decline in the rivers water quality and an increase in fire danger.

The Carson River Project focused on four areas along the river - Carson Valley (Davis County), Carson City, Dayton Valley (Lyon County), and Lahontan Valley (Churchill County). With the help of four crews, 527 acres were treated.

The Carson Valley (Douglas County) crew treated over 101 acres of noxious weeds. The Carson Valley Conservation District (CVCD) worked with local landowners, the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, and The Nature Conservancy. The CVCD also worked with Douglas County and the Town of Minden to clear and treat an abandoned property located at the gateway to the town of Minden that had become infested with weeds and was a fire hazard to the community.

The Carson City crews focused on clearing and treating noxious weeds on multiple properties throughout Carson City. Crews mapped and treated noxious weeds and removed dead/decadent materials on the properties, thus reducing the fire danger.

The Dayton Valley (Lyon County) crew cleared and treated over 200 acres of invasive weeds (perennial pepperwood) on the old Rolling A Ranch, which is adjacent to the Carson River.

The Dayton Valley Conservation District (DVCD) worked with River Wranglers (a non-profit organization) to organize and plant willows along the river. The Lyon County Fire Department also assisted with burning some of the dead weeds.

The Lahontan Valley (Churchill County) crew worked with the Nevada Department of State Parks to treat 47 acres of perennial pepperweed, hoary cress, cocklebur and Tamarisk infestations on the lake bed at Lake Lahontan outside of Fallon, Nevada. Record low lake levels enabled the crews to work on multiple sites along and within the lake such as Fallon overlook, Blackbird pint, Six Mile Beach and Beaches 1-11.

Reducing the invasive weeds is lowering the fire risk to the Cottonwood gallery forest that are a critical wildlife habitat for this dry state.

Agreement amount: $627,660

Program Project Name: Lincoln County Multidisciplinary Hazardous Fuels/Ecosystem Restoration on State and Private Forestry Lands Project

Local Project Name: Recovery Act Funded Multi-Disciplinary Hazardous Fuels/Ecosystem Restoration on State and Private Lands
Region: Intermountain Region
Nearby City(ies): Panaca
Estimated Project Cost: $1,314,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 37
Congressional District(s): NV02
County(ies): NV: Lincoln
Modified Date: 6/16/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Multi-Disciplinary Hazardous Fuels/Ecosystem Restoration on State and Private Lands

Work completed in southern Nevada protects endemic Ponderosa Pine trees and removes invasive plants.

(Story posted 12/22/2009

Beaver Dam State Park encompasses 6,000 acres in eastern Lincoln County, Nevada. The recent ecosystem restoration project that took place in the Park was funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and was designed to protect endemic Ponderosa Pine stands and remove and treat invasive species.

"We are combining forest health aspects and fuels reduction (in this project)," Chris Faehling, Nevada Division of Forestry Fire Protection Officer, said. "One of the main goals of this project is to protect endemic Ponderosa Pine stands." (Endemic species are species native

to a particular area.)

In an effort to protect the Ponderosa Pine tree, 350 acres of infected juniper trees have been removed. The work was completed by contractor hand crews and Nevada Division of Forestry Conservation Camp hand crews, creating around 18 jobs on this portion of the project. Once the junipers were cut, three cords of firewood were donated to local senior citizens and the remainder was chipped on site as groundcover for nutrient cycling and to prevent erosion and weed growth.

Camp crews removed and applied herbicide to a total of 58 acres of Tamarisk. Tamarisk, also known as Salt Cedar, is a fast spreading shrub that typically grows along waterways. Tamarisk is a serious threat to native plants and is causing significant problems with water resources in Nevada.

Crews also cut and sprayed over ten acres of an invasive plant called Tree of Heaven, also known as Chinese Sumac.

"Basically we are making a healthier ecosystem by treating this area, by removing competition and treating for disease," Faehling said.

The work at Beaver Dam State Park is part of a larger project called the Lincoln County Multi-Disciplinary Project funded through the Recovery Act at $1,314,000. The purpose of the project was to provide jobs in Lincoln County, Nevada, while reducing hazardous fuel loads, increasing forest health, creating more natural ecosystems, and creating biomass for utilization as green energy. The U.S. Forest Service worked with Nevada State agencies to negotiate proposals for these projects.

The Nevada Division of Forestry anticipated treatment of 1,680 acres and creation of 24 jobs. Since the start of the Lincoln County project 37 positions have been funded to complete this project.

Program Project Name: Lincoln County Multidisciplinary Hazardous Fuels/Ecosystem Restoration on State and Private Forestry Lands Project

Local Project Name: Lincoln County Hazardous Fuels/Ecosystem Restoration WIth Recovery Act Funds

Region: Intermountain Region

Nearby City(ies): Panaca, Pioche, Nevada

Estimated Project Cost: $1,314,000.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 37

Congressional District(s): NV02

County(ies): NV: Lincoln

Modified Date: 6/16/2010

Story:

Lincoln County Funds Hazardous Fuels/Ecosystem Restoration with Recovery Act Funds

Right-of-Way fuels reduction along southeasten Nevada highway provides more safe travel and jobs.

(Story posted 12/22/2009)

The Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) Right-of-Way (ROW) Fuels Reduction project included fire threat reduction and increased safety along two highways that run through Lincoln County. Work on the "ROW" project is part of a larger project called the Lincoln County Multi-Disciplinary Project funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act at $1,314,100. The purpose of the project is to provide jobs in Lincoln County, Nevada, while reducing hazardous fuel loads, increasing forest health, creating more natural ecosystems, and creating biomass for utilization as green energy.

Contractors and Nevada Division of Forestry Conservation Camp hand crews removed pinyon and juniper trees that have been encroaching on Highway 93 and State Route 319 through the Cedars, Caliente Summit and Panaca, Nevada areas.

The project work was implemented first on the Cedars section with hand crews cutting and chipping the pinyon and juniper trees on nearly 440 acres.

Contractors and camp crews cut, chipped and hauled the materials from this project. A total of 16 new and three retained part time jobs were created by the private contracting companies in the ROW project.

Material chipped (estimating 2700 yards, 356 green tons) was hauled from the project area to the Northern Nevada Correctional Center's cogeneration facility in Carson City, Nevada as part of a wood-to-energy aspect in the project. The Correctional Center uses the cogeneration facility to generate energy to heat and cool the facility. The chips satisfied eight full days of plant operations and saved the prison $20,000 in electricity and natural gas costs. More than 15 tons of pinyon/ juniper chips were also donated to the Desert Research Institute (DRI) for BTU value studies; BTU is a measurement term used to describe energy content of fuels.

"There's quite a few partners involved in this project," Pete Anderson, Nevada State Forester said. "Nevada Department of Transportation, Nevada State Parks, Lincoln County, United States Forest Service, of course, is a foundational partner in the effort, and, of course, a lot of the public and private citizens in each of the communities."

Another 1,465 yards of cut material was chipped on site to add nutrients to the soil and control erosion. A donation of 85 cords of wood was given to local senior citizens who are either financially unable to purchase firewood or are physically unable to cut and haul it themselves.

Another 250 acres of pinyon/juniper were cut and chipped on the Caliente Summit for nutrient replenishing and erosion and weed control.

The final portion of the ROW project was the Panaca summit area. Due to a high density of historic and prehistoric sites in this area, the Nevada Division of Forestry is working with the State Historic Preservation Office to flag and avoid all areas that may be culturally sensitive. This portion is expected to see work begin in spring 2010.

The Nevada Division of Forestry anticipated treatment of 1,680 acres and creation of 24 jobs. Since the start of the Lincoln County project 37 positions have been funded to complete this project.

Program Project Name: Lincoln County Multidisciplinary Hazardous Fuels/Ecosystem Restoration on State and Private Forestry Lands Project

Local Project Name: Two Nevada State Parks Receive ARRA Funding to Improve Conditions
Region: Intermountain Region
Nearby City(ies): Pioche
Congressional District(s): NV02
County(ies): NV: Lincoln
Modified Date: 6/16/2010

Story:

Two Nevada State Parks Receive Recovery Act Funding to Improve Conditions

Recovery Act funds provide reduced hazardous fuels and campground improvement in two Nevada State Parks

(Story posted 12/22/2009)

Spring Valley and Echo Canyon State Parks in southeastern Nevada received funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to do essential work to improve conditions.

Work that took place included shade tree development, erosion control, fuel reduction, and the continuation of an herbicide spraying program. The projects included campground tree plantings, re-seeding of acquired property, and reducing hazardous fuels. Spraying the invasive weeds and removing overgrown brush and trees will create a healthy ecosystem for native plants while reducing the risk of wildfire.

Nevada Division of Forestry Conservation Camp hand crews, State Parks personnel and private contractors removed 145 diseased, dead and overgrown Russian Olive trees from a campground area within the park. Over 55 acres were replanted with Ponderosa Pine, Austrian Pine, and Rocky Mountain Juniper seedlings. The Nevada Division of Forestry's State Tree Nursery in Las Vegas is currently planting 150 deciduous seedlings and growing shrubs and plants that will be planted in the spring and fall of 2010 in the two State Parks.

A portion of work remains that includes seeding of native species on a newly traded property

anticipated for the fall of 2010. The seeding will aid in erosion control and establish a native vegetative ground cover. A controlled burn planned for this winter 2009/2010, will be conducted on the new property prior to seeding.

The work in the two State Parks is part of a larger project called the Lincoln County Multi-Disciplinary Project funded through the Recovery Act at $1,314,100. The purpose of the project is to provide jobs in Lincoln County, Nevada, while reducing hazardous fuel loads, increasing forest health, creating more natural ecosystems, and creating biomass for utilization as green energy. The U.S. Forest Service worked with Nevada State agencies to negotiate proposals for these projects.

The Nevada Division of Forestry anticipated treatment of 1,680 acres and creation of 24 jobs. Since the start of the Lincoln County project 37 positions have been funded to complete this project.

Program Project Name: Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest - Nevada

Local Project Name: Upper Washoe Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Humboldt & Toiy
Ranger District: Carson
Nearby City(ies): Washoe County
Estimated Project Cost: $142,800.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 6
Congressional District(s): NV02
County(ies): NV: Washoe
Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Reduce Fire Risk on 85 Acres in West Washoe Valley, Nevada

(Story posted 4/2/2010)

The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest received Recovery Act funds to cut, pile, and remove small trees on 85 acres above the West Washoe Valley Community, Nevada. West Washoe Valley is located between Reno and Carson City. About $143,000 in Recovery Act funds were allocated toward the project, and a total of four new jobs were created and two jobs retained with this project. The contract is currently in progress and will be completed this year.

A hand crew is currently cutting and piling the trees and slash. Because this area has no roads and is very steep, a helicopter is beginning work to remove the piles from the project area. Once removed from the project area, the trees will be chipped and utilized at local co-generation plants to produce energy. Approximately 65 acres have been cut and piled.

West Washoe Valley was identified in as a “high hazard wildfire community” in past assessments. West Washoe Valley has a history of wildfires in the area with the 2004 Waterfall Fire that burned on the southern end of the West Washoe Valley Community and destroyed 17 houses. Fires along the east slope of the Sierra Nevada’s experience strong down slope winds. These winds drive the fires into communities at the base of the slopes of mountains.

Program Project Name: Non-Motor/Non-Wilderness Trails

Local Project Name: Stanislaus National Forest: Calaveras District: San Domingo Trail’s construction project is financed by ARRA funds.
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Stanislaus
Ranger District: Calaveras
Nearby City(ies): Calaveras, Hathaway Pines,
Congressional District(s): CA03, CA19, NV02
County(ies): CA: Calaveras, Tuolumne; NV: Douglas
Modified Date: 7/2/2010

Story:

San Domingo Trail Construction Project Underway

(Story posted 6/16/2010)

On the Stanislaus National Forest, a Recovery Act-funded project to construct 8.1 miles of trails and rehabilitate 1.2 miles of existing trails on the Calaveras Ranger District in San Domingo Canyon is underway. The project will add three more miles to the Arnold Rim Trail, connecting Hathaway Pines to White Pines Lake.

These trails will be non-motorized multiple use trails for walkers, hikers, bicyclists, and horseback riders. A 14-member California Conservation Corps (CCC) crew is building stream crossings, drainage structures, and other trail stabilizing features to protect trail tread. The project also corrects existing and potential resource damage from erosion and sedimentation on existing trails.

Javonnta (Tank) Murphy cuts trees and brush while Troy Dorgeloh clears debris along with the rest of the 14-member crew. This is not an alternative for criminal punishment. The CCC organization provides an opportunity for young people in tough situations to break free and gain significant workplace skills, making them better able to compete in today’s job market.

The crewmembers, including two women, were hired with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act project funds and live in camp for eight days on and six days off. They sleep in tents and use a trailer facility for shower and restrooms. They prepare food from their chuck wagon in an outdoor kitchen and eat around the campfire. They share chores in organized rotation, giving them all a chance to cook, clean, and perform tool maintenance.

While being interviewed, the crew speaks highly of the food, each other and the work they are doing.

The CCC crew is mostly inner city young people, with hard living and disadvantaged background stories that contrast with their current work circumstances. Troy, a previous resident of San Luis Obispo, said, “I was unemployed and had moved back in with my mom. I wanted to try something different. This is my second summer working for CCC.”

Javonnta, a previous Los Angeles resident said, “I was into a lot of things I shouldn’t have been. I’m lovin’ the work here; it’s awesome. I came from a bad city to awesomeness. I’m gaining. I’ve gotten a Chainsaw Certificate, First Aid training and plan to study and become a seasonal wild-land firefighter or work for the Forest Service.”

This is a reoccurring theme as the rest of the crew speak of, and exhibit, upbeat ambitions to become foresters, rangers and fire fighters. More than trails are being built.

Program Project Name: Region 4 State and Private Forestry Tribal Initiative

Local Project Name: Six Native American Tribes in Three States Received Funding to Treat Hazardous Fuels & Invasive Species Thanks to the Recovery Act

Region: Intermountain Region

Nearby City(ies): Don't know yet.

Estimated Project Cost: $479,438.00

Congressional District(s): ID02, NV02, UT02

County(ies): ID: Bannock, Bingham, Caribou, Owyhee, Power; NV: Churchill, Elko, Lyon, Mineral, Washoe, White Pine; UT: Duchesne, Juab, Uintah

Modified Date: 7/23/2010

Story:

Six American Indian Tribes in Three States Received Funding to Treat Hazardous Fuels and Invasive Species Thanks to the Recovery Act

(Story posted 7/16/2010)

This recently awarded American Recovery and Reinvestment Act project will ease unemployment and under-employment trends in three rural, western states while accomplishing critical hazardous fuel reduction and invasive species treatments on nearly 18,000 acres of Tribal lands managed by nine American Indian Tribes in southern Idaho, Nevada and Utah.

The resulting forests and rangelands will be more fire resistant, healthier and more resilient to noxious weed, insects and diseases infestations. Furthermore, with funding provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, individual families and Tribal communities are economically healthier and more resilient as well.

Shoshone-Paiute Fire Chief Brent Hunter said, “The work is benefiting the communities to reduce the hazardous fuels, helping to improve the economy and the crews are also educating the community members about continuing to improve the defensible space around their homes.”

“This is a great opportunity to work with Tribal partners while reducing the risk from catastrophic wildfire and providing local jobs,” said Mike Dudley, Region 1- 4 Forest Service State and Private Forestry director.

Program Project Name: National Forests in California Storm Proofing / Reconstruction Roads

Local Project Name: INF - Esmeralda Road Rehab
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Inyo
Ranger District: White Mountain
Nearby City(ies): Dyer, NV
Estimated Project Cost: $95,201.00
Congressional District(s): NV01, NV02, NV03
County(ies): NV: Esmeralda
Modified Date: 12/22/2010

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Road Repairs Benefit Forest Visitors, Wildlife

(Story posted 9/9/2010 and updated 12/9/2010)

A project to improve approximately 6.5 miles of National Forest System Roads (Forest Roads 2N07 and 1S61) located in Esmeralda County, Nevada, will provide access to a trailhead (vehicle parking area) for entrance to the Boundary Peak Wilderness Area.

Forest Road 2N07 also provides access to a former mine water supply impoundment that is stocked with fish by the State of Nevada Department of Wildlife. The pond is a favorite destination of Esmeralda County residents as it provides one of the only opportunities to fish within a short driving distance.

Recently, a new Wilderness area (yet to be named) has been designated in the White Mountains. This area extends southward from the Boundary Peak Wilderness Area to the Inyo County, California, line. It is anticipated that this new Wilderness Area will attract more visitors to the Boundary Peak Wilderness.

This contract was awarded to Central Nevada Supply, a local company located in Dyer, Nevada, for the amount of $95,201 to improve accessibility to the trailhead and the fish pond for passenger-type vehicles. Improvements and repairs included restoring the native-material road surface; constructing rolling dips; maintaining drainage ditches and other drainage

structures; maintaining related road directional and traffic signs; and installing new drainage structures, such as culverts. The work was completed in November 2010.

Program Project Name: Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest - Nevada

Local Project Name: Jones Creek Fuels Maintenance
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Humboldt & Toiy
Ranger District: Carson
Nearby City(ies): Reno
Estimated Project Cost: $20,440.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 7
Congressional District(s): NV02
County(ies): NV: Washoe
Modified Date: 1/12/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Hazardous Fuels Reduction Work

(Story posted 12/6/2010)

The Jones Creek Fuels Project is located on the Carson Ranger District Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in Washoe County, Nevada within the city of Reno off of State route 431 (Mount Rose Highway). The entire project area encompasses approximately 150 acres of a shrub/conifer mix with a majority of the treed area being a plantation. The project area has an overstory of mixed conifer mostly dominated by Jeffrey pine with patches of antelope bitterbrush, mountain mahogany and green leaf manzanita. Other understory species in the project area include some sagebrush, grasses, and forbs.

This phase of the project maintained an existing fuel break on approximately 140 acres that has been completed. Work started in September of 2010 and was completed within 2 weeks. A contract crew (Summitt Forests, Inc.) funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act used brush cutters to cut manzanita and ceanothus, maintaining the existing fuel break. This project helped to reduce the hazardous fuels in the area, improve general forest health, and will also result in improved wildlife habitat.

Accomplishment of this phase of the project adds to past treatments of approximately 150 acres completed by the contract crews in past years. Other treatments in the nearby area are planned. When completed the projects will help modify potential fire behavior, enhance fire suppression capabilities in the wildland urban interface, and reduce the chance of a catastrophic fire. Thinning and other fuel reduction activities helps to maintain healthy ecosystems and can reduce the likelihood of future large, more damaging fires.

Program Project Name: Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest - Nevada

Local Project Name: Clear/Davis Cut and Pile
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Humboldt & Toiy
Ranger District: Carson
Nearby City(ies): Reno, Carson City
Estimated Project Cost: $63,546.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 30
Congressional District(s): NV02
County(ies): NV: Washoe
Modified Date: 1/12/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Hazardous Fuels Reduction Work

(Story posted 12/6/2010)

The Clear/Davis Cut and Pile Recovery Act Project is located on the Carson Ranger District, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in Washoe County, Nevada within the city of Reno off of State route 431 (Mount Rose Highway) and US 395 in Washoe Valley.

The project also extended south into Douglas County along Interstate 50 towards Lake Tahoe. The entire project area encompassed approximately 259 acres of a shrub/ conifer mix. The project area has an overstory of mixed conifer mostly dominated by Jeffrey pine with patches of antelope bitterbrush, mountain mahogany, and green leaf manzanita. Other understory species in the project area include some sagebrush, grasses, and forbs.

This phase of the project created fuel breaks on approximately 259 acres that has been completed. Work started in August of 2010 and was completed by September of 2010. A contract crew (Summitt Forests, Inc.) funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act used brush cutters and chainsaws to cut brush and small diameter trees and then pile the material cut creating fuelbreaks and maintaining older fuelbreaks. The piles created will be burned at a later date and accomplished by Forest Service crews.

This project helped to reduce the hazardous fuels in the area, improving general forest health, and will also result in improved wildlife habitat. Accomplishment of this phase of the project adds to past treatments within the two project areas.

Other treatments in the nearby area are planned. When completed the projects will help modify potential fire behavior, enhance fire suppression capabilities in the wildland urban interface, and reduce the chance of a catastrophic fire. Thinning and other fuel reduction activities helps to maintain healthy ecosystems, and can reduce the likelihood of future large, more damaging fires.

Program Project Name: Non-Motor/Non-Wilderness Trails

Local Project Name: LTBMU - Daggett Summit Trail, Kingsbury Grade near Stateline, NV (East Shore, Lake Tahoe)
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Lake Tahoe Basin
Ranger District: LTBMU/Tahoe
Nearby City(ies): Stateline, NV
Estimated Project Cost: $330,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 8
Congressional District(s): CA04, NV02
County(ies): CA: El Dorado; NV: Douglas
Modified Date: 1/4/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Tahoe Rim Trail Project Complete

(Story posted 12/8/2010)

A $330,000 project to improve the safety, continuity, and visitor experience for the Daggett Summit portion of the Tahoe Rim Trail on the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit near Stateline, Nevada, is now complete.

Richard May Construction built all of the most difficult sections of the 13-mile project under a Recovery Act-funded contract. This project employed six to eight workers, in addition to the contractor, starting in early June. All eight segments have been completed.

Program Project Name: Non-Motor/Non-Wilderness Trails

Local Project Name: INF - Lake Mary Bike Trail
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Inyo
Ranger District: Mammoth
Nearby City(ies): Mammoth Lakes, CA
Estimated Project Cost: $3,336,080.00
Congressional District(s): CA01, CA02, CA03, CA04, CA19, CA21, CA22, CA25, NV02
County(ies): CA: Butte, Calaveras, Del Norte, El Dorado, Humboldt, Kern, Lassen, Mono, Plumas, Sierra, Siskiyou, Trinity, Tuolumne, Yuba; NV: Douglas
Modified Date: 12/23/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Lake Mary Bike Trail Completion

(Story posted 12/9/2010)

A Recovery Act-funded project completes the Lake Mary Bike Trail Project by finishing the construction of approximately three miles of Class 1 Trail from the Twin Lakes Bridge to Horseshoe Lake. The Lake Mary Bike Trail is located in Mono County, California, and will

connect the Town of Mammoth Lakes urban core with the adjacent Mammoth Lakes Basin area. The Lakes Basin is a concentrated recreation area on the Inyo National Forest containing three major wilderness trailheads, five high occupancy campgrounds, six resort complexes, and other recreation amenities.

Approximately 7,000 to 8,000 vehicles access the Mammoth Lakes Basin on a typical summer day. Completion of the Class 1 Bike Path from Twin Lakes Bridge to Horseshoe Lake, in combination with public transit, will reduce vehicle trips to the Lakes Basin and provide for multi-modal transportation throughout the Basin.

This project is in conjunction with the Town of Mammoth Lakes, who have been designing and developing portions of this trail for several years. This partnership will make the final construction of the trail possible. A construction contract and two challenge cost-share agreements will be used to complete this project.

Phase 1 of this project was an agreement with the Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML) was for $450,000 and has been completed. This phase extended the ongoing construction during the summer/fall of 2009 to a logical terminus. After phase 1 was completed, phase 2 began.

Phase 2 of this project is a construction contract awarded to Spiess Construction, Inc. from Santa Maria, California. The contract includes the construction of 3,500 feet of bike trail, retaining walls, a box culvert tunnel, a bridge, several bus shelters and pullouts, and parking space at the end of the trail. The construction portion of this project began in September 2010. The culvert tunnel was successfully installed before the winter weather caused the project to be shut down until the spring.

This second phase is being implemented through a partnership between the Forest Service and the Town of Mammoth Lakes. While the Forest Service is administering the contract, the Town is providing contract oversight and engineering support to ensure the project's success.

Program Project Name: Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest - Nevada

Local Project Name: Lowry hazardous fuel reduction
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Humboldt & Toiy
Ranger District: Ely
Nearby City(ies): Ely, NV.
Estimated Project Cost: $193,756.64
Congressional District(s): NV02
County(ies): NV: White Pine
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Treats Acres to Reduce Fire Risk

(Story posted 1/11/2011)

On the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, workers treated acres, rehabilitated trails and improved roads as part of a project funded with Forest Service Recovery Act dollars. The project also included mastication of smaller diameter PJ trees within a total area of 706 acres. The treated areas were comprised of two units of 302 acres and 404 acres.

As a result of the project, several roads within and leading to the project area were brushed to provide improved access to equipment and forest users. Several decommissioned roads within the project area were further rehabilitated by allowing woody debris to accumulate.

This project occurred directly adjacent to moderate density woodlands urban interface area just outside the city limits of Ely, Nevada in White Pine County. The project's outcome has significantly altered fire behavior within the treatment area, changing fire behavior within this stand from potential high-severity crown fire to low-intensity creeping ground fire. The alteration in stand density has provided fire protection to a rural community at risk from wildfire encroachment.

This project adjoins and bolsters some existing mechanical treatments that had been performed in the past by the Ely Bureau of Land Management Field Office. This improved swath of treated area will also act as a firebreak or buffer for fire activity occurring higher in elevation or within the proximity or the Blue Diamond development.

Fire suppression resources within the response zone will also appreciate the use of the altered vegetation area as a potential safety zone for personnel and equipment.

Other benefits include regeneration of early successional native grasses and forbs to the ecosystem, increased penetration of precipitation into the groundwater supply, and an improved viewshed. These projects have been very well received throughout the county.

Work was accomplished through a contract with Swaggert Enterprises out of Oregon. Ely Ranger District utilized contractors for mastication of PJ less than eight inches in diameter and dispersal of woody debris.

About six full-time jobs were created, and the local community benefitted by providing goods and services to the contractor's personnel and equipment.

Equipment began work in September 2010 and was completed in early December 2010.

New Hampshire

Program Project Name: Enhance Recreational Experiences and Minimize Environmental Impacts by Improving Forest Trails in New Hampshire
Local Project Name: Boulder Loop ARRA Project
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: White Mountain
Nearby City(ies): None Listed
Congressional District(s): NH02
County(ies): NH: Carroll, Coos, Grafton
Modified Date: 7/14/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Boulder Loop Trail Enhancement

(Story posted 8/8/2009)

The White Mountain National Forest is able to address resource damage on a popular hiking trail with funding under the Recovery Act.

In March 2008, Forest Supervisor Tom Wagner announced the White Mountain National Forest had received funding under the Recovery Act for cooperative trail maintenance. Economic recovery funding is being used for a $100,000 trail maintenance project to address resource damage resulting from erosion and sedimentation at several sites on the White Mountain National Forest, including the popular Boulder Loop hiking trail.

Boulder Loop National Recreation Trail is an easy to moderate 3.1 hiking trail, located off the renowned Kancamagus Scenic Byway, and offers outstanding views of the White Mountain National Forest. A quick thousand feet of elevation gain awards breathtaking views of Mt. Passaconaway, Mt. Chocorua, Blue Mountain and more. Boulder Loop sees thousands of visitors throughout the year including hikers, snowshoers, dog-walkers and rock & ice climbers.

High volumes of traffic, heavy annual rainfall, coupled with steep trail design, create a recipe for major soil erosion. The combination of these impacts has required hundreds of rock steps and dozens of drainage structures including rock water bars and rock cribbing to stabilize heavily eroded banks.

A Forest Service trail crew began much needed trail work in 2006. In 2007, the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) installed rock steps, water bars, and cribbing, through a Challenge Cost-Share Agreement. AMC's professional trail crew is well known for their outstanding trail skills. AMC's work on Boulder Loop is continuing in 2009 through Recovery Act funding. This Challenge Cost Share agreement created additional AMC Trail Crew jobs and completed much needed trail stabilization for the White Mountain National Forest.

After 1000 hours of work put in by AMC's Trail Crew, they installed a total of 88 rock steps, 301 scree rocks/586 square feet of scree (which reinforce the rock steps and keep hikers on the trail), and 10 rock water bars. All materials were quarried on-site, mostly with hand tools. The quality of this work is top notch and will outlast generations of future trail crews. A truly successful cooperative effort on US Forest Service lands!

New Mexico

Program Project Name: Maintenance of Forest Administrative facilities in Taos Co.

Local Project Name: Camino Real Ranger Station Rehabilitation
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Carson
Ranger District: Camino Real
Nearby City(ies): Penasco, New Mexico
Estimated Project Cost: $950,000.00
Congressional District(s): NM03
County(ies): NM: Taos
Modified Date: 6/23/2010

Story:

Camino Real Ranger Station Rehabilitation

(Story posted 4/13/2010)

Job Corps program students from across the nation will participate in a Recovery Act-funded $1 million project to demolish and rebuild the Carson National Forest Camino Real Ranger Station in New Mexico. Construction crews from Curlew, Washington, are now on site, the first of nearly all 28 National Forest-managed centers nationwide whose crews will rotate in and out every 10 days until the project is finished.

Job Corps students will benefit by utilizing their vocational skills in work-based learning and obtaining career guidance from agency professionals. Debris from the demolished building will either be recycled or offered to community building projects such as Habitat for Humanity.

Program Project Name: Identify, locate and interpret the Camino Real and Old Spanish National Historic Trails

Local Project Name: Old Spanish Trail Archival and Historic Research
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Carson
Nearby City(ies): Taos, NM
Estimated Project Cost: $100,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 3
Congressional District(s): NM03
County(ies): NM: Taos
Modified Date: 6/23/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Old Spanish Trail Archival and Historic Research

(Story posted 4/20/2010)

The project consists of compiling archival and historic research that identifies not only trail segments of the Old Spanish Trail/Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trails—-the where, but who, when, why and what traversed this historic western trail system during the period of trail significance from 1829 to 1848. The forest will then endeavor to ground truth significant portions of this trail network.

Secondarily will be the documented connections between the various routes of the Trail and the concurrent Fur Trade Era/Santa Fe Trail development in present day northern New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Arizona. The data provided by this undertaking will allow for the creation of interpretive materials (brochures, roadside kiosks, etc.) from which visitors to various segments of the Trail will understand the significance of the Trail within the landscape and its role in the social, economic and cultural histories of New Mexico and the American West.

The Carson National Forest is in the process of collecting archival/historic research on the Old Spanish National Historic Trail (Trail) segments that began in Santa Fe (using the Camino Real Trail) and continued north into present day Colorado. Pioneered by Mexican trader Antonio Armijo in 1829, the Trail was a horse and mule/burro pack route that connected Santa Fe, New Mexico and Los Angeles, California.

Over the years, multiple, parallel, and intertwined routes developed as travelers sought adequate water, grazing areas, shorter distances and smoother terrain. Three main routes of the Trail have been documented as originating in New Mexico--the Main Route, originating in part during the Spanish Colonial Period; the Armijo Route and the Northern Route.

The “North Branch” of the Trail is identified as variants of the Northern Route (which includes the Main Route) that had been used extensively by fur trappers working out of Taos to reach the Green River country since the early 1820s. The North Branch consisted of two, nearly parallel, separate segments. One, the “East Fork,” ran along the eastern edge of the Taos and San Luis valleys (also known variously as the Kiowa or Trappers Trail and part of the “contraband” route of the Santa Fe Trail). The other, the “West Fork,” passed from Santa Fe to Ojo Caliente then headed north following the ancient trace of the Cañada de los Comanches to its headwaters along the eastern front of the Tusas Mountains. It then skirted the foothills between Tres Piedras and the Rio San Antonio on the west side of San Antonio Mountain continuing on the western edges of the valleys, both converging near Saguache, Colorado.

The Northern Branch continued from the San Luis Valley to the Gunnison River and the Grand Junction country of Colorado and joining the Main Branch at Green River in eastern Utah. All routes ostensibly began in Santa Fe or Abiquiu, but Ojo Caliente and Taos also were important staging and destination areas for caravans. The Armijo Route ran along the northern New Mexico border and followed the length of the contemporary northern boundary of Arizona and Utah then dipping down into southern Nevada and into California, ending in San Gabriel.

The Northern Route departed Santa Fe, in point of fact Abiquiu, Ojo Caliente and Taos, and proceeded up into and then through present day Colorado and crossed over into central Utah and then ran down through the southern tip of Nevada and ended in Los Angeles. It is significant to note that virtually all of the trail segments that came into use after the arrival of Europeans in the Southwest were already ancient Native American travel routes.

Specific sources of information to be drawn from include, but are not limited to:
• documents in historic records;
• participants' personal journals of the time;
• merchants' ledgers;
• correspondences between participants in the trade and their families;
• official Mexican documents related to the trade and or tariffs;
• official correspondences, either Mexican or American, regarding the trade routes and the nature of trade goods;
• newspaper accounts of departures or arrivals of caravans, obviously seasonally dependent, but when; etc.

This information will help to identify and provide for the interpretation of the following research questions:
• where were the documented segments and possible camp/water locations or trade forts on the various routes,
• who were the merchants/entrepreneurs that provided financial/material support and goods for the caravans,
• what were the items of trade and their value during the period in both New Mexico and California,
• who were the caravan leaders, packers and handlers (los arrieros), and how were they paid for their work,
• what was the composition of caravans relative to the number of animals, men, families,
• how were the trips described by caravan participants,
• what was the time frame for a one-way trip, and how did this vary between routes,
• what was the turnaround time, did men and or families remain in California,
• how were trade goods dispersed/handled at either end of the trips,
• what were the Trail's economic significance or consequences for New Mexico and California,
• of the trade coming from California, how much continued on to America via the Santa Fe Trail.

The research portion of the project began in February of 2010 and is to be completed by February 2011.

In association with this project, a series of Passport in Time Projects are scheduled for the next three summers starting in May 2010 to complete metal detector surveys in areas of high probability trail segments, water sources and campsites within the Carson National Forest.

Program Project Name: Maintenance of Forest Administrative facilities in Taos Co.
Local Project Name: Camino Real Ranger Station Reconstruction
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Carson
Ranger District: Camino Real
Nearby City(ies): Penasco, NM
Estimated Project Cost: $0.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 333
Congressional District(s): NM03
County(ies): NM: Taos
Modified Date: 6/23/2010

Story:

Camino Real Ranger Station Reconstruction Underway

(Story posted 4/21/2010)

This project consists of demolishing the existing Camino Real Ranger District office building (approximately 4500 SF) and construction of a new office building (approximately 6700 SF) utilizing the Job Corps program as the labor source to accomplish this work. The office is located in Penasco, New Mexico, approximately 75 miles north of Santa Fe, NM.

This project came to fruition because Region 3 was interested in initiating a project with the Job Corp Centers since the region was acquiring the Treasure Lake Job Corps Center as of January 2010. There was great interest to further the partnership with the Job Corps Centers and provide a tremendous learning opportunity to the students on a real-life project. This project was also to determine how well the mobile Job Corps concept could work on a project of this size and complexity. This project will most likely use a large majority of the 28 Job Corps Centers managed by the Forest Service. The estimated completion date is approximately the end of August 2010.

This project started on March 22, 2010 beginning with the demolition of the existing office building. The Pine Ridge JCCC (Chadron, NE) with 11 students and Curlew JCC C(Curlew, WA) with 10 students participated in the demolition of the building and completed all work within their two-week tour.

The Blackwell JCCC (Laona, WI) with 10 students arrived on site March 28 and began work on the foundations for the new building. They completed a portion of the foundations during their two-week tour.

The Treasure Lake JCCC (Indiahoma, OK) with 10 students arrived on April 5 and completed some carpentry work. They are now building concrete forms for the building foundation for the first time. They have just poured concrete, which was a skill that was new to them as well. They will continue to work on the concrete forms and pour concrete until they depart on April 16.

This project has provided students with a valuable opportunity to utilize the skills they have learned at the centers and apply them practically. They are also learning new skills and receiving some cross training in areas that are quite different than what they might learn at their respective centers.

Besides utilizing one of the local hotels in Taos for lodging and meals for the Job Corps students and staff, this project has utilized many of the small businesses within the town of Taos. Businesses such as the three local hardware stores have been used to buy materials, equipment, and supplies for the project. Local businesses such as rental equipment stores, a laundry mat, gas stations, water store, local moving company, local wood provider, local equipment operator, local tree service have all been utilized.

Many non–local businesses have also seen the benefit of this project. Businesses providing storage containers, scaffolding, security fencing, wood chips, etc. have all been used to this date. There are several large contracts for materials, supplies, and construction that have yet to be awarded to the successful bidder. Local and non-local vendors have an equal opportunity to acquire these contracts.

Program Project Name: Old Shuree Log Cabin Restoration

Local Project Name: Old Shuree Cabin Restoration
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Carson
Ranger District: Camino Real
Nearby City(ies): Cimarron, NM
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 5
Congressional District(s): NM03
County(ies): NM: Colfax
Modified Date: 6/23/2010

Story:

Old Shuree Cabin Restoration Benefits History, Economy

(Story posted 4/20/2010)

The Forest Service is not only responsible for the protection, development, and improvement of National Forest System lands through ecosystem management, but also accountable for the protection, preservation, and improvements to historic properties. The Forest Service is committed to the enhancement of heritage resources that includes restoration for interpretation, educational benefits, and public awareness of the role our prehistoric and historic cultural properties play in understanding America’s varied and multicultural past.

The Old Shuree Cabin is an important historic property of the Carson National Forest on lands originally part of the enormous Mexican Maxwell Land Grant. Built shortly after the turn

of the 20th century at an elevation of 9,640 feet above mean sea level, the dogtrot style log cabin was part of the Bartlett Ranch, but later provided a hunting base camp for a variety of Hollywood and national celebrities who were members of the exclusive Vermejo Club founded in 1926. Members included such notables as Cecil B. deMille, Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbank, Herbert Hoover, Andrew Mellon, Max Fleischman, Harvey Firestone, Thomas W. Warner and other famous contemporaries. The Old Shuree Cabin was but one of the simpler “facilities that existed in this wilderness playground.”

The club disbanded during the depression as it members were unable to sustain it and the Old Shuree Cabin served for many years afterward as a cow camp. Numerous inscribed brands from the various ranches and historic names and dates from the earlier visitors that used the building comprise a significant part of the historic graffiti on some of the logs that will be retained as part of this project.

The cabin began to deteriorate after it was no longer used as a cow camp after about 1970. In 2008, plans were created to initiate the restoration in the coming years. In August of 2009, a vandal-set fire destroyed the east crib of the dogtrot cabin just when Recovery Act funding became available for the support of the restoration project.

At that time, the Carson National Forest approached the Veterans Green Jobs Alliance (VGJA) to partner in developing a participating agreement to use the restoration project as a training and employment opportunity for locally unemployed vets. This chance will provide these veterans viable and useful skills from which to find future employment within the historic preservation and conservation movement in the region as well as the log construction trade generally.

VGJA provides green jobs, education and career development opportunities for military veterans; VGJA empowers and supports these vets to lead America’s transition to energy independence, ecological and historical restoration, community renewal, and economic prosperity. VGJA collaborates with a wide array of partner organizations in the private, public and nonprofit sectors and ensures that their training programs offer the best possible education, leadership and career development opportunities to military veterans.

This project will provide for the restoration of a significant Carson National Forest historic property while simultaneously providing knowledge of log-building conservation skills to the VGJA veterans. These same skill sets can then be utilized to build contemporary log structures within a broader context of potential job opportunities for the program participants.

The tasks for this project will include the dismantling of the west crib of the dogtrot cabin, which is badly deteriorated. The east gable wall and doorway of this crib will be left intact and the other three walls reconstructed to fit the preserved wall section (this wall contains the oldest of the remaining historic graffiti, which dates to the mid-1920s and includes an inscription from a visitor from Hollywood, CA).

A few of the more solid logs from the north and south walls, containing additional historic graffiti, will be preserved for interpretive purposes within the reconstructed cabin. The

dogtrot and east crib (both destroyed by fire on August 6, 2009) will be reconstructed to replicate the original portions of the cabin. All sill logs will be placed on dry-laid stone piers utilizing the on-site stone. Some minor excavation to level the piers will be required.

The U.S. Forest Service will, as accurately as possible, match the historic fabric and character of the original logs, timbers and rough-cut lumber, and will provide all necessary material through the ARRA funding. The task will include not only the reconstruction of the entire cabin, with the placement of three windows and three doors, but will include the floors in the two cribs and the replacement of the corrugated steel roof. Historic photos taken during the 1920s and 1930s as well as site documentation photographs from the 1990s through 2009 will aid in the replication of architectural details. Members of the Forest's heritage team and VGJA staff will provide technical oversight throughout the process.

The project is slated to begin in late July or early August of 2010, and will be completed within six weeks of initiation. "Stay tuned for the rest of the story."

Program Project Name: 145 Miles of Trail Maintenance

Local Project Name: 145 Miles Trail Maintenance
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Gila
Ranger District: Silver City
Nearby City(ies): Silver City, Truth of Consequences, Reserve, Glenwood, NM
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 14
Congressional District(s): NM02
County(ies): NM: Catron, Grant, Sierra
Modified Date: 6/24/2010

Story:

Youth Perform Trail Maintenance on the Gila National Forest

(Story posted 4/21/2010)

Three Recovery Act-funded trail maintenance projects totaling 369 miles of trail are underway on the Gila National Forest.

The work is being accomplished in coordination with The Wellness Coalition Youth Corps and the Southwest Conservation Corps. Many of the trails included in these projects contain substantial deferred maintenance tasks, including clearing logs and brush from the trail; repairing and replacing drainage structures; and constructing route markers such as rock cairns.

The work began in October 2009 and is scheduled for completion by December 2010.

The projects offer numerous benefits to the community:

o Youth employment in a community with limited employment opportunities.
o Youth development through formal training and mentoring. Training includes First Aid and CPR; hand and power tool use; and workforce training skills such as showing up on time and being prepared for a full day's work.
o Youth projects cultivate a connection to the outdoors and public lands. The projects help area youth to develop self-confidence, teamwork skills, leadership skills, and pride in their work.
o Enhancement of community partnerships and collaboration through joint problem solving and integration of interests.
o Trail work improves outdoor recreation opportunities for forest visitors.
o Projects substantially contribute to local economies. The Wellness Coalition has currently staffed up to 80 percent of its workforce with local employees.
o Partnerships with youth corps help the Forest Service maintain positive community involvement that enhances agency credibility.

Wellness Coalition Conservation Corps Coordinator Terrence Ruane said of the Recovery Act trail projects, "Because of the low population in southwest New Mexico and the disadvantaged youth, this is probably one of the best employment opportunities the local youth will have, considering the closure of the copper mines that served as the largest employer in the area. It is a great opportunity for the youth to get connected with their local lands and expose them to a new career path that they may not have known about in the past."

The program has given Coordinator Ruane the opportunity to teach his field skills and provide good concrete working skills. "It is important to keep funds like this going to provide learning opportunities for the kids…this is great," added Ruane. He has so far received 120 applications from youth.

Ruane and his crew members have learned to value and appreciate the high desert mountains and the health of the forest.

The Wellness Coalition and the Southwest Conservation Corps are both members of the Mountain Alliance of Conservation Corps (MACC). The MACC is comprised of youth corps from throughout New Mexico, Arizona, and Colorado whose mission is to benefit participants of each corps by providing opportunities for job training, personal development, conservation service, and natural resource appreciation while at the same time accomplishing work that contributes to and benefits public lands.

Program Project Name: Silver City Fuel Breaks

Local Project Name: Hazardous Fuel Reduction 10HF & 45HF - Little Walnut, Pinos Altos, Poverty Flat

Region: Southwest Region

Forest: Gila

Nearby City(ies): Silver City, Pinos Altos, Kingston

Congressional District(s): NM02

County(ies): NM: Grant
Modified Date: 7/13/2010

Story:

Fire Hazards Reduced and Jobs Created Due to Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 4/19/2010)

1000 acres of National Forest land in and around Wildland Urban Interface are being treated on the Silver City Ranger District, Gila NF, with Recovery Act funds. The 1000 acres are being accomplished through 2 separate contracts. The project is currently underway with an anticipated completion date of 4/30/10.

The first contract, for 700 acres in the Sawmill Canyon area of the Big Burro Mountains, was awarded to Cutting Edge Forestry out of Talent, Oregon. This project is to treat primarily pinon and juniper fuel types in areas directly adjacent to the Oak Grove Subdivision. The subdivision is approximately 300 acres in size and is home to over 100 people. This project was completed in March, 2010. Future treatment of the area will include fuelwood harvesting and prescribed burning.

The second contract, for 300 acres in the Little Walnut and Pinos Altos areas, was awarded to Gila Tree Thinners, a Grant County New Mexico based forest restoration business, owned and operated by Glenn Griffin. This contract is primarily to treat re-sprouting oak in areas that were initially treated in 2001. This contract is in the Wildland Urban Interface, and will directly benefit the community of Pinos Altos, and the Wagonwheel subdivision in the Little Walnut area.

Key benefits to the community include: reduced risk of property damage caused by wildfires and employment opportunities for forestry based businesses. When asked how this Recovery Act project has impacted his business, Glenn Griffin, owner of Gila Tree Thinners, said “It’s helped keep the business going by funding 1.85 FTEs that would have disappeared otherwise. This project has also benefitted the local community by creating down-stream jobs such as welding and hydraulic repair to continue building our thinning/logging infrastructure. My employees are happy to have the work, and I’m hearing the words ‘thank you’ a lot more than I used to.”

Griffin also added, “There is a sense of pride in our company because we competed for this contract on a national level. I have been able to accomplish things that I once thought only a large corporation could bid on.”

Jeff Nelson, president of Cutting Edge Forestry, Inc. said “At least 50 percent of the work our company has been doing this year is funded by the Recovery Act. This has really helped our business in the short term by providing ongoing work for crews. The future, however, is still uncertain.”

Program Project Name: 185 Miles of Trail Maintenance

Local Project Name: 185 Miles Trail Maintenance
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Gila
Ranger District: Black Range
Nearby City(ies): Mimbres, Truth or Consequences, NM
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 14
Congressional District(s): NM02
County(ies): NM: Catron, Grant, Sierra
Modified Date: 7/27/2010

Story:

Youth Perform Trail Maintenance on the Gila National Forest

(Story posted 4/21/2010)

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Ruane and his crew members have learned to value and appreciate the high desert mountains and the health of the forest.

The Wellness Coalition and the Southwest Conservation Corps are both members of the Mountain Alliance of Conservation Corps (MACC). The MACC is comprised of youth corps from throughout New Mexico, Arizona, and Colorado whose mission is to benefit participants of each corps by providing opportunities for job training, personal development, conservation service, and natural resource appreciation while at the same time accomplishing work that contributes to and benefits public lands. and benefits public lands.

Program Project Name: 39 miles of Trail Maintenance

Local Project Name: 39 Miles Trail Maintenance
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Gila
Ranger District: Glenwood
Nearby City(ies): Glenwood & Reserve, NM
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 12
Congressional District(s): NM02
County(ies): NM: Catron
Modified Date: 7/27/2010

Story:

Youth Perform Trail Maintenance on the Gila National Forest

(Story posted 4/21/2010)

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Program Project Name: Mexican Canyon Trestle Overlook, Interpretation and Trail Planning and Design

Local Project Name: A Bridge to History: Stabilizing and Celebrating the Mexican Canyon Railroad Trestle

Region: Southwest Region

Forest: Lincoln

Nearby City(ies): Cloudcroft

Congressional District(s): NM02

County(ies): NM: Otero
Modified Date: 7/27/2010

Story:

Historic Railroad Structure Work in Southeastern New Mexico Continues

(Story posted 2/2/2010)

Using Recovery Act dollars, stabilization work and interpretive design on a historic railroad trestle on the Lincoln National Forest in New Mexico continue.

In 1899, the Alamogordo and Sacramento Mountain Railroad built the Mexican Canyon Trestle in order to access forest timber. Located in southern New Mexico just west of Cloudcroft, a small mountain community on US Highway 82, this icon has welcomed visitors and residents to the area for 111 years. Abandoned in 1947, the trestle has stood-frozen in time--with few changes and no maintenance.

About 15 years ago, the Lincoln National Forest and New Mexico Rails-to-Trails members began expressing concern about the trestle's condition. This treasured tourist draw had suffered the effects of weather and time. To ensure the slowly deteriorating structure would not be lost to the history books, community members and interest groups came together to create a stabilization plan and procure funding so that future generations could share in this glimpse of railroad history.

Initial funds to reconstruct the trestle were procured through a partnership that included the State of New Mexico, Village of Cloudcroft, New Mexico Rails-to-Trails, and the Forest Service. In 2008, a contract was awarded to Osmose Railroad Service, a company specializing in railroad bridge rehabilitation.

An additional $2.5 million in funding became available in 2009, through the Recovery Act, the New Mexico State Highway Department, and the Forest Service. Dan Miles, Osmose project manager, said approximately five to ten full-time jobs are expected to be created from Recovery Act dollars for this project. Many of the men working on this project have traveled from Wisconsin and other states. The workers appreciate the economic stability this work provides, as well as extended time they get to spend in the Cloudcroft and surrounding communities.

Interest in the trestle's past and future is evident in the myriad of volunteer hours supporting its preservation and celebration. Groups such as the Alamogordo Civil Air Patrol, Boy Scout Troop 147, Holloman Air Force Base First Sergeant's Association, and the El Paso Ridge Walkers have helped remove vegetation around the work site. Additionally, two public workshops were held to solicit ideas for design of a highway pullout, interpretive plan, and possible trail connections. The response received demonstrates a shared vision for a safer, more attractive, and informative trestle experience.

A common thought expressed when people visit the trestle is, "It's like taking a step back into

time." Wesley Lane, a local resident who sits on the board of directors for the Sacramento Mountains Historical Museum and Pioneer Village, said, "For over 50 years I have watched the Mexican Canyon Trestle deteriorate. It is good to see it restored and made more accessible for the public to continue to view. It's so good to see so many people involved in this effort, and the trestle is a great tourist draw for the Cloudcroft community."

The final phase of the construction work will be the trestle's scenic overlook scheduled to be completed in 2011.

Program Project Name: 16 Springs Tribal Forest Protection Act Stewardship Project (Hazardous Fuels Reduction)

Local Project Name: New Mexico ARRA Projects Benefit Tribes, Forest Health, and Woody Biomass Utilization

Region: Southwest Region

Forest: Lincoln

Nearby City(ies): Ruidoso, 16 Springs

Congressional District(s): NM02

County(ies): NM: Otero

Modified Date: 6/23/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funding Makes Three Significant Projects Involving the Mescalero Apache Tribe Happen

(Story posted 9/9/2009)

Three significant projects involving the Mescalero Apache Tribe in Lincoln and Otero counties on the Lincoln National Forest in New Mexico are made possible through Recovery Act funding. The three projects create jobs, develop workforce skills, provide workforce training, and support new infrastructure and business in the area (a wood pellet mill, a power generation facility, and a re-engineered mill).

The projects will create or protect 100 jobs over the next two years. Partners for the projects include the tribe, the USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the State of New Mexico.

One project continues work that was started under Tribal Forest Protection Act (TPFA) authorities. It improves forest health while reducing hazardous fuels and associated fire risk to tribal lands, the community of 16 Springs, and the Village of Ruidoso; rated the most at-risk community in New Mexico and number two on the list of most at-risk communities in the nation.

The project provides specialized employment in harvesting, transporting, and processing commercial saw logs and small diameter biomass. Currently, the commercial saw logs provide jobs at small local sawmills and a pallet mill in El Paso, Texas. The project is generating small diameter biomass that will provide raw material for a new wood pellet mill,

currently under construction.

In the future, the biomass will provide the Mescalero Apache Tribe material to operate a six mega-watt power generation facility. The project, which is expected to create 44 jobs, has a cascading effect on maintaining and creating jobs within local tribal communities and area municipalities.

The Mescalero Apache Forest Products sawmill, closed since January 2009, is the last remaining large scale infrastructure to process woody biomass in southern New Mexico. Funds will be used to re-engineer the mill to process smaller diameter material, develop and improve business management systems and capabilities through training and improving workforce skills, and improve worker safety through modernization. The project will help the mill become more economically stable and return laid-off workers to meaningful, family-wage employment.

Another project will develop a wood pellet production plant and a six mega-watt power generation facility in conjunction with the Mescalero Apache Tribe's sawmill to enhance the tribe's ability to fully utilize biomass material from both Tribal and National Forest System lands. The project will create new jobs within local tribal and non-tribal communities and municipalities.

Program Project Name: Dry Canyon Trailhead/Crossings

Local Project Name: Dry Canyon
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Lincoln
Nearby City(ies): Alamogordo, New Mexico
Estimated Project Cost: $45,000.00
Congressional District(s): NM02
County(ies): NM: Otero
Modified Date: 12/22/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Improve Dry Canyon Area

(Story posted 12/10/2010)

Southwest Landscape, a local Alamogordo contractor, completed the redesign and revitalization of the Dry Canyon area adjacent to and visible from US Highway 82. This $45,000 Recovery Act project provided local jobs, enhanced user safety, improved recreation opportunities, reduced resource damage, and removed litter from the area while improving access to a corral.

Over the years, the Dry Canyon area has been used for a variety of purposes such as recreational shooting, picnicking, camping, hang gliding, livestock grazing and gathering, and

off-road vehicle activities. It also provides access to Forest Service Trailhead 5574 and Forest Road 9334.

The area has experienced resource damage from overuse by unmanaged motorized traffic and the accumulation of large amounts of trash. Target practice shooting has been a long-time favorite in the canyon. Traces of discarded objects used for target practice over the years include televisions, computer equipment, cardboard shooting targets, broken glass bottles, and numerous shell casings.

Trailheads, roads, and parking areas were delineated to contain motorized traffic, thus reducing resource damage in the surrounding area. Forest Road 5574 was reconditioned, more parking areas established, and a new gate and signs were installed.

Recreational shooting is now separated from other recreation activities, glass is prohibited in the area, and a local organization has “adopted” the area for general clean-up, improving the recreation experience for all visitors.

Program Project Name: Aldo Leopold Vista Improvements

Local Project Name: Aldo Lepold Vista Recreation Facilities Improvement
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Gila
Ranger District: Glenwood
Nearby City(ies): Glenwood,New Mexico and Silver City, New Mexico
Estimated Project Cost: $120,000.00
Congressional District(s): NM02
County(ies): NM: Grant
Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:

Gila National Forest Uses Recovery Act Funds to Improve Popular Vista

(Story posted 12/13/2010)

Reconstruction and modernization of Aldo Leopold Vista included replacement of an existing vault restroom building, addition of a new restroom building to increase capacity and installation of one new pavilion. Site facilities were reconstructed to reduce long-term maintenance costs and to improve accessibility. Existing pavilions were roofed with metal shingles; two concrete sidewalks were widened and one additional sidewalk was installed; wooden benches were replaced with more durable concrete; and the interpretive sign was reconstructed to improve accessibility.

Tipe Construction LLC performed the work on the Aldo Leopold Vista improvements. The notice to proceed for work was signed on April 05, 2010, and final inspection and acceptance of the project was signed on August 13, 2010. Glenwood District Ranger Pat Morrison was

quoted as saying, “Tipe Construction did an excellent job in record time and with no damage to surrounding areas. I would highly recommend them for any future projects.” Overall coordination and working relationship with Tipe went well for the duration of the project.

Based on observations, via USDA site inspections, Tipe had as many as seven employees on site as needed to perform work. Work was likely temporary for this project, but all were locally hired and gained income as well as expanded job experience.

Key benefits (environmental and socio-economic) to the community is an easily accessible rest/picnic area with facilities immediately off U.S. Highway 180 that is the main travel route between Silver City and the northern part of the Forest and provides another route to Grants and Albuquerque. The vista provides an exceptional aesthetic experience with a panoramic view of the western part of the Gila Wilderness and an opportunity to enhance wilderness appreciation and open space and contributes to the local economy in Catron County by the road travelers passing through this route.

Program Project Name: Cibola National Forest Trail Maintenance and Construction

Local Project Name: Cibola National Forest Trail Maintenance and Construction
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Cibola
Nearby City(ies): Albuquerque
Congressional District(s): NM01, NM02, NM03
County(ies): NM: Bernalillo, Cibola, McKinley, Socorro
Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:

Youth Recovery Act-funded Trail Maintenance Projects Benefit Many

(Story posted 12/14/2010)

The Cibola National Forest and the Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) joined together for a forest-wide trail maintenance program funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (Recovery Act). This project included both trail maintenance and construction throughout the Cibola National Forest. Trail maintenance was conducted on hiking and equestrian use trails in the Sandia Mountains, San Mateo Mountains, Magdalena Mountains, and Apache Kid Wilderness.

Trail construction of a trail reroute approved in the Sandia Ranger District Travel Management decision was completed. Also included was trail maintenance on trails managed for motorcycle and mountain bike use in the Cedro area in Bernalillo County that were identified as priorities through the travel management process. This work will provide quality recreation trails for forest visitors and will benefit the nearby communities who use

these trails.

The Southwest Conservation Corps, founded as a non-profit agency in 1998, provides young women and men with structured, safe, and challenging work and educational opportunities through employment projects that promote personal growth, the development of social skills, and an ethic of natural resource stewardship. The SCC program model, built upon the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s, incorporates guiding principles of experiential learning, respect, openness and willingness, commitment, responsibility, pride, excellence, health and safety, and fun. Partnership with the Cibola National Forest meets the forest's objectives for a quality trail program and will build a foundation for the individuals who participate in this employment program.

The SCC began the forest-wide trail maintenance program March 2010 and completed the trail projects October 2010. Seven trail crews consisting of eight to nine people (62 total employees) accomplished 38 miles of trail maintenance and five miles of new trail construction over the eight-month period. The Cibola National Forest is extremely satisfied with the quality of work and the administrative relationship that has been created with the SCC. Their exceptional business practices are a benefit to the public lands and the recreationists who use them. By partnering with the Southwest Conservation Corps, through the funding provided by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, our public lands received essential benefits that will provide quality trail opportunities for generations to come.

Program Project Name: Cedro Trailhead Construction

Local Project Name: Cibola National Forest Cedro Trailhead Construction
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Cibola
Ranger District: Sandia
Nearby City(ies): Albuquerque
Congressional District(s): NM01
County(ies): NM: Bernalillo
Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:

Cibola National Forest Uses Recovery Act Funds to Support Recreation Site Development

(Story posted 12/14/2010)

As part of the Travel Management Analysis for the Cibola National Forest Sandia Ranger District, the need for a new parking area and trailhead designed to accommodate off-highway vehicles, equestrian activities, and mountain bikers was identified.

Recovery Act funding was approved in the fall of 2009 for the design and construction of the Cedro Trailhead Project located off of Forest Road 462 in an area heavily used by multiple trail users. Design was completed in-house by Cibola engineering staff.

The project included clearing and grubbing of the site, grading the site to accommodate drainage and access requirements, rip-rap for erosion control, construction of a 19-space graveled parking lot, colored concrete paths, installation of a precast concrete restroom building, block retaining walls, picnic tables, metal group shelters, fire grills, and bear-proof trash receptacles.

The project was awarded to Victor Corporation based on best value proposals received from HUB Zone certified contractors. Subcontractors for Victor Corporation included Hilltop Landscaping, Altor Construction, and Scotts Fencing. During construction, the need for additional retaining wall around the restroom building was identified. A second contract named Cedro Trailhead Improvements was awarded to Maxtek, an 8A contractor.

The Sandia Mountains are located close to Albuquerque, New Mexico's largest city, which results in a high demand for recreation activities. Construction of the Cedro Trailhead will provide a quality recreation facility and improved access to the area's extensive trail system for a variety of users.

Given the number of contractors, subcontractors, and indirect impact of materials purchased directly from suppliers, it is difficult to calculate the numbers of jobs created/retained as part of this project. However, based on Forest Service observations, it is estimated that at least 25 employees were directly affected by the project.

Program Project Name: Jemez Falls Restroom Facility Installation

Local Project Name: Jemez Falls Campground Toilet Installation
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Santa Fe
Ranger District: Jemez
Nearby City(ies): Santa Fe
Congressional District(s): NM03
County(ies): NM: Sandoval
Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:

Jemez Falls Campground Gets Upgrades

(Story posted 12/14/2010)

On the Santa Fe National Forest at the Jemez Falls Campground, Recovery Act funds supported the removal of six existing wood vault-style restrooms constructed in the mid-1960s and replacement with eight pre-cast concrete restrooms, manufactured by CXT, Inc. The new restrooms meet accessibility requirements and have a much lower maintenance cost than the previous restrooms. In addition, the waste storage volume of the new restrooms is larger than for the older restrooms, thereby reducing operational costs by

requiring fewer trips.

The project also included construction of asphalt pathways leading up to and around the restrooms. The existing restrooms had to be evaluated for hazardous lead and asbestos containing materials before the demolition and disposal of these buildings could take place.

Planning and design work for this project was completed in the summer and fall of 2009. Sites were located for the new restrooms, and new sites for the replacement restrooms that were deemed necessary due to New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) requirements.

The contract package included drawings and specifications. In the winter of 2009/10 the Hazmat Evaluation and Demolition and Disposal contract was advertised; bids were received and evaluated; a contractor was selected; and the contract awarded.

Also, during the winter of 2009/10, the Restroom Installation contract was awarded to CXT based in Spokane, Washington. The two contractors began and completed the projects during the summer of 2010.

Program Project Name: D2 Golondrino Landlines & Right of Ways – Wildland Urban Interface

Local Project Name: D2 Golondrino Landlines and Rights of Way
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Santa Fe
Nearby City(ies): Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Cuba
Congressional District(s): NM03
County(ies): NM: Sandoval
Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:

Santa Fe National Forest Uses Recovery Act Funds for Survey Work

(Story posted 12/14/2010)

This American Recovery and Reinvestment Act(Recovery Act) project was designated as Golondrino Landlines and Right of Ways on the Santa Fe National Forest. This project primarily involved property boundary surveying and marking in support of the Golondrino Wildlife Management Prescribed Fire Project/Southwest Jemez Mountains Landscape Restoration Project, a wildland-urban interface project designed to address forest restoration and hazardous fuels reduction needs to minimize human health and safety risks of local communities and private land owners. The identification of the boundary lines on the ground between private and Forest Service Lands is crucial for the protection of private lands and ensures proper management of National Forest System lands. The project began in March 2010 and was finished in September 2011.

Beneficial aspects of this project follow:
• Provided a significant amount of work to private surveying firm(s).
• Assisted local communities in identifying property boundaries.
• Helped the Santa Fe National Forest accomplish goals associated with its Land Boundary Management Program.

The contractors used for the projects were Goff Engineering and Surveying from Durango, Colorado, and a local Santa Fe firm, Surveying Services. Surveying Services hired four new people, and the project also allowed their business to continue working at a time when work was slow.

Most of the land surveyed was originally homesteaded land.

Program Project Name: Wilderness District Recreation Improvements

Local Project Name: Wilderness District Rec Improvements
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Gila
Ranger District: Wilderness
Nearby City(ies): Silver City
Congressional District(s): NM02
County(ies): NM: Grant
Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:

Gila National Forest Enhances Recreation Facilities Using Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 12/14/2010)

On the Gila National Forest, several improvements to recreation facilities are complete thanks to Recovery Act funds.

Recovery Act-funded work included installation of a new restroom building and sidewalks outside of the Wilderness Ranger Station. In addition, workers installed fire rings, pedestal grills, picnic tables, and a low-water crossing at Upper End Campground. The Purgatory Chasm picnic area and accessible picnic sites at both Upper and Lower Scorpion campgrounds also received new grills.

Work was completed through a contract awarded to TIPE Construction, LLC, a local business located in Silver City, New Mexico. The project manager from TIPE reports that the company hired seven new laborers for the duration of this project and utilized four existing staff members.

Program Project Name: Mexican Canyon Trestle Restoration Phase I

Local Project Name: Mexican Canyon Trestle Restoration and Overlook
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Lincoln
Ranger District: Sacramento
Nearby City(ies): Cloudcroft, New Mexico and Alamogordo, New Mexico
Estimated Project Cost: $2,940,000.00
Congressional District(s): NM02
County(ies): NM: Otero
Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:

Mexican Canyon Trestle Project Brings Smiles to Many

(Story posted 12/14/2010)

For more than 20 years, people in Cloudcroft, New Mexico, have watched a beloved local icon, the Mexican Canyon Trestle, slowly deteriorate on the outskirts of town. The Forest Service, the community, and many visitors wanted to save the last of 58 trestles on the 26-mile Alamogordo and Sacramento Mountain Railroad.

Everyone wanted a first-class scenic overlook with interpretive signs that would share their proud railroad logging history with visitors and locals alike, instead of the highway shoulder and guardrail where people stopped for views of the Trestle to the east and the Tularosa Basin to the west. Volunteers were recruited, funds requested, and grant applications submitted, but the turning point came when Recovery Act funds were designated for the project.

During the summer of 2009, about half of the 112-year-old structure was stabilized, much of it with Recovery Act funds. Contractors took apart a bent, or segment, of the trestle, replaced rotted timbers with strong new ones, and then put the bent, or segment, back in place in the trestle. Six men from Wisconsin, Michigan, Kentucky, and Texas spent over two months restoring the first 11 of 22 bents. Rotted timbers in the remaining 11 bents were replaced during the summer of 2010. This bridge from our past to our future should stand for many years to come.

Dan Miles, project manager, commented, “You’d be surprised at how much money we’ve spent in the local area.” Thousands of dollars were infused into the local economy through road building, transportation and disposal of unusable material, equipment rental, purchase of supplies, equipment maintenance, hotels, restaurants, bars, and leisure activities for the six-man crew over the nine-week construction period. Local pistachios were a popular purchase for the crew during their time here.”

Over the winter of 2009-10, planning and design of a highway pullout, interpretive exhibits, and potential trail connections began. Community members contributed ideas as the contractors pulled them together and added their own. The highway will be moved, making space for safe parking by the trestle. Interpretive displays will educate and inform visitors.

Benches will allow visitors to enjoy the mountain air. Trails will allow for closer inspection of the trestle structure. A steam whistle may once again echo through the canyons, reminiscent of train arrivals over 60 years ago. Planning and design of this project was completed in the spring of 2010, and construction will begin once trestle stabilization is finalized.

Program Project Name: Restroom Building Replacement at Forest Campgrounds and Picnic Grounds

Local Project Name: Restroom Replacement at Las Huertas PG and McGaffy CG

Region: Southwest Region

Forest: Cibola

Nearby City(ies): Albuquerque

Congressional District(s): NM01, NM02

County(ies): NM: Bernalillo, Catron, Cibola, McKinley, Sandoval, Sierra, Socorro, Torrance, Valencia

Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:

Cibola National Forest Makes Recovery Act-funded Recreation Site Improvements

(Story posted 12/14/2010)

Two recreation sites on the Cibola National Forest are safer and will offer more pleasant recreation experiences for visitors following Recovery Act-funded work to improve facilities.

The Las Huertas Picnic Area is a highly used day-use facility in the Sandia Mountains due to its proximity to the Albuquerque metropolitan area. Unfortunately, this site is prone to vandalism because of its remoteness from the other district recreation facilities and lack of consistent Forest Service presence on site and in the area. The three restrooms have been repeatedly vandalized, and the two flush units consistently need repairs or servicing, putting a heavy maintenance burden on the district.

The original proposal was to replace the two flush restrooms with vault units that would be essentially vandal proof and require minimal maintenance. To accommodate the existing site constraints, contractors installed site-built Romtec vault facilities. The third "lower restroom" was also replaced when it became evident that adequate funding was available and to keep with the new landscape architecture for the recreation site.

The McGaffey Campground complex is located 16 miles southeast of Gallup, New Mexico in the Zuni Mountains. In the last five years the existing water source has not been able to meet the demand of the flush restrooms, requiring portable units to be rented to keep the very popular group picnic sites open. The remainder of the complex has had very little use compared with years past because of the lack of restrooms. The size and location of the site allowed for precast concrete vault restrooms to be selected; the six multi-seat restroom buildings were replaced with twelve double-seat vault buildings from CXT.

The existing buildings with associated septic tanks and leach fields were removed and disposed. Four of the six existing building sites were suitable for the new CXT units while the remaining two sites were inappropriate locations and were therefore reshaped to match surrounding terrain. The remaining eight new units were placed as appropriate throughout the complex to accommodate visitor usage. Care was taken to place all buildings in locations that were accessible and would allow for the "sweet smelling technology" to function to its fullest.

Program Project Name: Forest-wide Trail Maintenance

Local Project Name: Forest Wide Trail Maintenance
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Santa Fe
Nearby City(ies): Espanola, Santa Fe, NM
Congressional District(s): NM03
County(ies): NM: Rio Arriba
Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Help Re-open Fire-damaged Trail

(Story posted 12/15/2010)

Ten years after it was damaged by the Cerro Grande fire, the Vallecitos de los Caballos Trail (Trail 277) has been re-opened. The work was completed in July 2010 by a Student Conservation Association (SCA) crew through a Forest Service agreement funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act).

It was an ambitious project for a group of five college-age students. Along with the 4.5 miles of trail restoration work, there were too many fallen trees to clear in their 10-day shift. Additional help came from Myles Cartelli and Joe Lloyd of the Black Feather Trail Preservation Alliance. This off-road motorcycle organization routinely volunteers time to clear deadfall on many miles of trail in the Los Alamos area through volunteer agreement with the Forest Service.

The Vallecitos Trail is remote, requiring a 4.5 mile hike just to the trail head located in Guaje Canyon (282). From there is an additional 4.5 miles up the trail to Caballo Mountain. Now hikers can do a loop up the Vallecitos Trail (277) and down the shorter, steeper Caballo Mountain Trail to the Guaje Canyon trail (282) above the historic Guaje Reservoir.

The trail has always been hard to find from the top of Caballo Mountain due to its grassy meadows and remote location. Now the top part of the trail is marked with cairns and flagging while the lower section of trail is well established.

The SCA crew collectively put in about 320 hours of trail work while the Black Feather Trail Preservation Alliance put in an additional 32 hours of volunteer chain saw work.

The group had to abandon the project a day early because of an encounter with a habituated bear. Hikers and campers should exercise caution in this area, which is well established bear habitat.

The crew spent their final day working on the Water Canyon Trail. Los Alamos County's Youth Conservation Corp (YCC) led by Craig Martin will complete the Water Canyon trail work under another volunteer agreement with the Forest Service.

The crew assigned to Vallecitos Trail is one of two SCA crews that worked throughout the Santa Fe National Forest in summer 2010 on various trail projects under the Recovery Act-funded agreement.

Program Project Name: Lincoln National Forest Trail Maintenance Backlog

Local Project Name: Forest Wide Trails
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Lincoln
Ranger District: Guadalupe
Nearby City(ies): Carlsabad, NM
Estimated Project Cost: $350,000.00
Congressional District(s): NM02
County(ies): NM: Chaves, Eddy, Lincoln, Otero
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Conservation Corps Volunteers Maintain Trails at Lincoln National Forest

(Story posted 1/10/2011)

The Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) received a significant amount of funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and the funds allowed for the creation of about 600 seasonal jobs.

The funding allowed the SCC to send a team of eight individuals, ages 18-25, to the Guadalupe Ranger District in Carlsbad, New Mexico, from Colorado Springs, Colorado, to carry out conservation work, such as fixing trails and replacing signs for hikers' use on the Lincoln National Forest. The eight positions funded through Forest Service Recovery Act dollars contributed positively to the local economies in southeastern New Mexico.

Genevieve Tucker, a female worker, enjoyed her conservation corps work, especially in the Southwest. She worked on trail maintenance for three months, earning $275 a week, which

was earmarked toward her AmeriCorps stipend.

“It would be nice to be paid more, but for me, it’s more important to want to get up in the morning. This job has helped me find my calling. I would love to take it to the next level and help educate people about conservation, so these lands will be around for years to come,” Tucker said.

Josh Burt, a field coordinator for the Southwest Conservation Corps, said Tucker's attitude represents a big part of what the program can do for those wanting to experience the great outdoors.

“One of the things that we are doing in this line of work is we’re creating people to care about conservation in the future; we’re creating the world’s future conservation leaders,” Tucker said.

The Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) is a 12-year-old nonprofit program that puts young people to work maintaining public lands on national forests and parks. The Lincoln National Forest received American Recovery and Reinvestment Act dollars to conduct trails maintenance and improve signage throughout the forest.

The Lincoln National Forest has 466 miles of motorized and non-motorized trails open to a variety of recreational uses ranging from hiking and horseback riding to motorcycling and all-terrain vehicle use. This project will allow the forest to maintain 50-70 miles (10-15 percent of the total) of trails and install new or improved trail signs on all three ranger districts. Implementation of the Travel Management Rule, including the Lincoln Travel Analysis Process and subsequent public involvement, has identified the highest priority trails needing improvements.

The work will result in significant improvement to recreation user safety and enjoyment, and the management investment will ensure higher level trail conditions into the future.

North Carolina

Program Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and Fuels Management

Local Project Name: Alabama – Longleaf Restoration Initiative

Region: Southern Region

Nearby City(ies): Alabama

Estimated Project Cost: $0.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 13.5

Congressional District(s): FL01, FL02, FL03, FL04, FL05, FL06, FL07, FL08, FL09, FL10, FL11, FL12, FL13, FL14, FL15, FL16, FL17, FL18, FL19, FL20, FL21, FL22, FL23, FL24, FL25, GA01, GA02, GA03, GA04, GA05, GA06, GA07, GA08, GA09, GA10, GA11, GA12, GA13, NC01, NC02, NC03, NC04, NC05, NC06, NC07, NC08, NC09, NC10, NC11, NC12, NC13, SC01, SC02, SC03, SC04, SC05, SC06

County(ies): AL: 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; FL: Brevard, Broward, 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; GA: 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; NC: 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; SC: 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

Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project in Alabama

(Story posted 4/13/2010)

The longleaf pine forests that once covered over 90 million acres in southeastern United States has been reduced by 97 percent to 3.4 million acres – only three percent remains. To address these concerns, representatives from over 20 federal, state, and non-government

organizations came together and helped develop the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine, which was released in March 2009. The plan calls for an unprecedented collaborative effort – on all lands – to increase longleaf pine acreage to 8 million acres and improve 1.5 million acres of existing longleaf over the next 15 years.

One of the first efforts to go from the range-wide plan to implementation was the awarding of $8.975 million in Recovery Act funds for the Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project. The funds were awarded through grants to state forestry agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. The Alabama Forestry Commission received $1.757 million.

AFC has contracted with the Longleaf Alliance to administer the project. Anne Rilling, with the Alliance, was hired to coordinate this effort. Other agencies involved include the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The work is being implemented through multiple private contracts.

As of March 15, 2010, there have been many accomplishments: Longleaf establishment on 230 acres on the Geneva State Forest and 650 acres on the Barbour Wildlife Management Area; 800+ acres of mid-story treatments to improve existing longleaf pine and improve cone collection areas on the Geneva State Forest and Little River State Forest; around 298,000 longleaf pine seedlings were purchased and provided to supplement the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Landowner Incentive Program to establishing longleaf on an estimated 596 acres (80% complete) of private land; and tuition provided for 47 professionals to attend the Longleaf Academy for formal training.

Program Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and Fuels Management

Local Project Name: Florida Longleaf Restoration Initiative

Region: Southern Region

Forest: Test Forest R8

Nearby City(ies): throughout Florida

Estimated Project Cost: $0.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 0.7

Congressional District(s): FL01, FL02, FL03, FL04, FL05, FL06, FL07, FL08, FL09, FL10, FL11, FL12, FL13, FL14, FL15, FL16, FL17, FL18, FL19, FL20, FL21, FL22, FL23, FL24, FL25

County(ies): AL: 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; FL: 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; GA: 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; NC: 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; SC: 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

Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project in Florida

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

The longleaf pine forests that once covered over 90 million acres in southeastern United States has been reduced by 97% to 3.4 million acres – only 3% remains. To address these concerns, representatives from over 20 federal, state, and non-government organizations

came together and helped develop the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine, which was released in March 2009. The plan calls for an unprecedented collaborative effort – on all lands – to increase longleaf pine acreage to 8 million acres and improve 1.5 million acres of existing longleaf over the next 15 years.

One of the first efforts to go from the range-wide plan to implementation was the awarding of $8.975 million in Recovery Act funds for the Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project. The funds were awarded through grants to state forestry agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

As of March 2010, there have been many accomplishments: a total of 200 acres of longleaf establishment has been completed on the Indian Lakes State Forest, while 13 state forests are involved in accomplishing prescribed burning, mid-story/understory treatments, and seed collection; currently, a little over 300 acres of longleaf establishment has been completed on through Florida's longleaf pine private lands incentive program (out of 2,000 acres); at Andrews State Nursery work is underway to increase the longleaf seedling capacity by 2.2 million, while planned to be completed by April 2010; and inventory work for gopher tortoise, Indigo snake, and RCW is continuing on public lands.

Program Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and Fuels Management

Local Project Name: Georgia Longleaf Pine Initiative

Region: Southern Region

Nearby City(ies): Throughout Georgia

Estimated Project Cost: $0.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 7

Congressional District(s): GA01, GA02, GA03, GA04, GA05, GA06, GA07, GA08, GA09, GA10, GA11, GA12, GA13

County(ies): AL: 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; FL: 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; GA: 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; NC: 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; SC: 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

Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project in Georgia

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

The longleaf pine forests that once covered over 90 million acres in southeastern United States has been reduced by 97 percent to 3.4 million acres – only three percent remains. To address these concerns, representatives from over 20 federal, state, and non-government

organizations came together and helped develop the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine, which was released in March 2009. The plan calls for an unprecedented collaborative effort – on all lands – to increase longleaf pine acreage to 8 million acres and improve 1.5 million acres of existing longleaf over the next 15 years.

One of the first efforts to go from the range-wide plan to implementation was the awarding of $8.975 million in Recovery Act funds for the Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project. The funds were awarded through grants to state forestry agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

As of March 2010, there have been many accomplishments: Longleaf establishment is complete on 115 acres on the Paulding Forest; wiregrass planting is complete on the Broxton Rocks Legacy Forest – 36 acres; field fumigated in order to expand longleaf bare root capacity by 2 million seedlings; GFC hired John Lathem to administer the Recovery Act longleaf grant; and the GFC has 4,572 acres of longleaf signed up through Georgia's Private Lands Longleaf Restoration Incentive Payment Program. It is estimated that approximately 750 acres will be planted by the end of March. Most of the work this year will be site preparation with majority of planting to occur during the winter of 2010/11.

Program Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and Fuels Management

Local Project Name: North Carolina Longleaf Pine Restoration

Region: Southern Region

Nearby City(ies): Throughout North Carolina

Estimated Project Cost: $0.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 1.5

Congressional District(s): NC01, NC02, NC03, NC04, NC05, NC06, NC07, NC08, NC09, NC10, NC11, NC12, NC13

County(ies): AL: 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; FL: 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; GA: 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; NC: 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; SC: 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

Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project in North Carolina

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

The longleaf pine forests that once covered over 90 million acres in southeastern United States has been reduced by 97 percent to 3.4 million acres – only three percent remains. To address these concerns, representatives from over 20 federal, state, and non-government

organizations came together and helped develop the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine, which was released in March 2009. The plan calls for an unprecedented collaborative effort – on all lands – to increase longleaf pine acreage to 8 million acres and improve 1.5 million acres of existing longleaf over the next 15 years.

One of the first efforts to go from the range-wide plan to implementation was the awarding of $8.975 million in Recovery Act funds for the Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project. The funds were awarded through grants to state forestry agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

As of March 2010, there have been many accomplishments: establishing 431 acres of longleaf pine and 80 acres of wiregrass on Bladen Lakes State Forest; completing 2,464 acres of prescribed burning; improving 430 acres of longleaf pine through mechanical treatments of mid-story and understory; collecting and processing 4,600 pounds of longleaf seed, 14 pounds of wiregrass, and four pounds of other native understory plant species; and the Division of Forestry hired five temporary forestry technicians at Bladen Lakes to help implement the longleaf restoration program.

Program Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and Fuels Management

Local Project Name: South Caroline Longleaf Restoration
Region: Southern Region
Nearby City(ies): throughout South Carolina
Estimated Project Cost: $0.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 10.7
Congressional District(s): SC01, SC02, SC03, SC04, SC05, SC06

County(ies): AL: 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; FL: 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; GA: 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; NC: 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; SC: 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

Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project in South Carolina

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

The longleaf pine forests that once covered over 90 million acres in southeastern United States has been reduced by 97 percent to 3.4 million acres – only three percent remains. To address these concerns, representatives from over 20 federal, state, and non-government

organizations came together and helped develop the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine, which was released in March 2009. The plan calls for an unprecedented collaborative effort – on all lands – to increase longleaf pine acreage to 8 million acres and improve 1.5 million acres of existing longleaf over the next 15 years.

One of the first efforts to go from the range-wide plan to implementation was the awarding of $8.975 million in Recovery Act funds for the Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project. The funds were awarded through grants to state forestry agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

As of March 2010, there have been many accomplishments: establishment of longleaf pine on 625 acres on state lands; 1,150 acres of mid-story/stand improvement treatments have been completed; approximately 4,000 acres of prescribed burning has been completed; work on private lands has been accomplished (reported through first of March) with the Longleaf Restoration Program (landowner incentive program) – 180 acres of longleaf establishment, 183 acres of prescribed burning, and 103 acres of mid-story treatments ;the capacity to produce containerized longleaf pine has been increased at Taylor State Nursery by 750,000 seedlings through contract construction of new raised tables; a private consulting forester has been contracted to inventory state parks lands for longleaf pine; and the SCFC has sent 45 professionals to the Longleaf Academy in Alabama for formal training.

Program Project Name: SRS HQ Energy Enhancement and Modernization, LEED For Existing Buildings Certification

Local Project Name: SRS HQ Upgrades
Region: Southern Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Asheville, NC
Estimated Project Cost: $1,200,000.00
Congressional District(s): NC11
County(ies): NC: Buncombe
Modified Date: 7/13/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Gives The Southern Research Station An Efficiency Makeover

(Story posted 4/16/2009)

The contract award is pending and expected by April 30, 2010. This project will help train local construction contractors on green construction techniques.

Some of those techniques to be constructed are: a new accessible entrance to the facility; over 300 inefficient light fixtures will be replaced with new energy efficient fixtures; new cooling equipment will be installed to complement the direct digital control system; an HSPD-12 compliant access control system will be installed; and the deteriorated driveway and parking lot will be repaired.

Energy efficiency will be increased by an estimated 30 percent, which equates to 284 fewer tons of annual carbon dioxide emissions for this facility. Water consumption will be reduced by at least 30 percent by renovation of restrooms with low flow plumbing fixtures.

Construction is expected to begin in May 2010 and be completed by September 2010.

Program Project Name: Create a Cooperative Marketing Network in Western North Carolina

Local Project Name: Cooperative Forest Product Marketing Network in Western North Carolina
Region: Southern Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Asheville, NC
Estimated Project Cost: $1,974,000.00
Congressional District(s): NC11
County(ies): NC: Buncombe
Modified Date: 7/9/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Supports Cooperative Forest Product Marketing Network in Western North Carolina

(Story posted 4/16/2010)

The USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station, based in Asheville, North Carolina, is providing nearly $2 million in American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funds for the economic stimulus effort being administered by the non-profit Land-of-Sky Regional Council (LOSRC). Signed into law on Feb. 17, 2009, the Recovery Act provides millions of dollars to jumpstart the economy, create or save millions of jobs, and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so the nation can thrive in the 21st century. The Southern Research Station awarded the Recovery Act grant to LOSRC in a competitive selection process.

“Across the country, the Forest Service is using Recovery Act funds to put Americans back to work and to help restore the economy,” said Jim Reaves, Southern Research Station director. “Here in western North Carolina, our goal is to generate jobs by helping forest producers to improve their enterprises. We are delighted to be working with Land-of-Sky Regional Council on this important project that we believe will help stimulate the region’s economy.”

According to the LOSRC plan for administering the stimulus funds, groups of forest workers will work together to improve their competitiveness while sales are down. The goal is to help businesses to be more profitable as demand for forest products returns and the economy recovers. LOSRC seeks to help underemployed or unemployed forest workers with creative ideas about improving their businesses. The project could employ close to 100 forest producers to explore alternate approaches to production or marketing.

For example, a group of loggers in the region may want to find ways to connect their products with green builders. Woodland herb producers may want to share drying equipment and introduce their own line of value-added products. LOSRC is cooperating with a number of organizations to implement the plan including the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project, the NC Division of Forest Resources, the NCSU Mountain Horticulture Crops Research and Extension Center, and the Southern Forest Network.

Approved projects will be announced in late spring 2010.

Program Project Name: Restore Civilian Conservation Corps Shelters and Towers

Local Project Name: CCC structures
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Croatan
Nearby City(ies): New Bern
Estimated Project Cost: $734,000.00
Congressional District(s): NC03, NC08, NC11
County(ies): NC: Carteret, Cherokee, Graham, Haywood, Macon, Madison, Yancey
Modified Date: 7/15/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Local Contractor Through Shelter Restoration

(Story posted 5/18/2010)

The Croatan National Forest will replace the picnic shelter at Pine Cliff Picnic Area. The Civilian Conservation Corps shelter was demolished by a storm that washed away several hundred yards of shoreline in the early 1990s. “We armored the shoreline after the storms about 8 years ago with large boulders to decrease the risk of another storm taking out more of the Pinecliff Picnic Area,” stated Lee Thornhill, District Ranger. A new structure will be built to resemble the CCC original. Thornhill added, “The shelter reconstruction has been on our wish list for some time now and with the Recovery monies we were fortunate to be able to get it built and put folks to work.”

The CCC shelter project was awarded to DOT Construction for more than $47,000. Three workers have broken ground at the site providing them with work in otherwise hard times. Ronnie Rudd, a self-employed construction worker stated he was unemployed for the first time in his 38 year career and was glad for the work with the Charlotte-based company. Rudd’s family has lived in the area since the 1890s. His coworker Venny Robinson, also a North Carolina native, stated “85% of the work in the area is residential, not commercial, but the economy determines that and the demand hasn’t been there.”

He added, “There is no other industry when the residential construction dries up. We rely on

government contracts with the Forest Service and nearby Camp LeJeune and Cherry Point Marine Corps bases."

Program Project Name: Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) Prevention Thinning on the Croatan and Uwharrie National Forests and Restoration from SPB on the Croatan National Forest

Local Project Name: SPB Prevention
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Uwharrie
Nearby City(ies): New Bern, Charlotte
Estimated Project Cost: $181,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 5
Congressional District(s): NC03, NC08
County(ies): NC: Craven, Montgomery
Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds SPB Prevention

(Story posted 5/18/2010)

The Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) is the most destructive insect pest in southern forests. Though native to these forests, SPB can reach epidemic levels if the number of trees is too dense or the trees are otherwise damaged or weak.

The project will decrease the density of trees, decreasing the likelihood of a southern pine beetle infestation. It will also thin 800 acres of pine forest on the Croatan and Uwharrie National Forests and plant 100 acres of native Longleaf pines on the Croatan N.F. "Longleaf pines are less susceptible to the southern pine beetle because they grow in less dense stands than the existing Loblolly pine, allowing for healthier trees which can 'pitch out' the beetle better than other species", stated Forest Silviculturist John Blanton.

The Forest Service will award nine contracts, primarily in Montgomery, Carteret and Jones Counties spreading over $150,000 into these distressed communities.

Program Project Name: Three Roof Replacements on Historic Structures

Local Project Name: Cradle roofs
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Pisgah
Nearby City(ies): Asheville
Estimated Project Cost: $86,843.00
Congressional District(s): NC11

County(ies): NC: Transylvania
Modified Date: 7/15/2010

Story:
Three Roof Replacements on Historic Structures

(Story posted 5/18/2009)

This project will replace old, rotting Cedar shake roofs on historic structures in accordance with historic preservation specifications at the NC Cradle of Forestry visitor's center. Roofs will be replaced on the Commissary, Dr. Schenks Office and the Blacksmiths shop. The new Cedar shake roofs will preserve the integrity of these historic buildings at this very popular tourist destination.

Award went to Transylvania Builders, a local construction company and will be completed by July 2010.

Program Project Name: Mills River Facility and Treatment Plant Replacement

Local Project Name: Mills River Bath House and Treatment Plant
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Pisgah
Nearby City(ies): Asheville
Estimated Project Cost: $750,000.00
Congressional District(s): NC11
County(ies): NC: Henderson
Modified Date: 7/15/2010

Story:
Mills River Bath House, Treatment Plant Accessible to All Through Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 6/21/2010)

This project will abstract entirely the two increasingly unmanageable and inoperable vault toilets located in the North Mills Recreation area as well as the existing water treatment plant. Both facilities no longer meet current accessible standards and are to be replaced. A four unit flush toilet near the picnic area as well as a four unit bath house at the family campground will replace the existing units.

These facilities will be built in their same locations and hooked up to existing pipelines and electrical systems. They will be served by a new wastewater treatment plant currently being constituted, which is creating a second group of jobs by means of a contractor. All of the facilities are accessible for the disabled via concrete access routes.

Program Project Name: Mills River Facility and Treatment Plant Replacement

Local Project Name: Mills River
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Pisgah
Nearby City(ies): Asheville
Estimated Project Cost: $750,000.00
Congressional District(s): NC11
County(ies): NC: Henderson
Modified Date: 7/30/2010

Story:

Recreation Area Gets Upgraded Facilities

(Story posted 7/16/2010)

This project will remove two increasingly unmanageable and inoperable restrooms located in the North Mills Recreation area as well as the existing water treatment plant. Both facilities no longer meet current accessible standards and are to be replaced.

Restroom facilities will be replaced near the picnic area as well as near the four- unit bath house at the family campground. These facilities will be built in their same locations and hooked up to existing pipelines and electrical systems. They will be served by a new wastewater treatment plant currently being constituted, which is creating a second group of jobs by means of a contractor.

All of the facilities are accessible via concrete access routes.

Program Project Name: Pisgah National Forest, Linville Area Wildfire Paulownia Control

Local Project Name: Linville Paulownia
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Pisgah
Nearby City(ies): Asheville
Estimated Project Cost: $510,213.00
Congressional District(s): NC10, NC11
County(ies): NC: Caldwell
Modified Date: 7/19/2010

Story:

Forest to Use Recovery Act Funds to Support Invasive Species Control

(Story posted 7/16/2010)

The goal of this project is to control prevent further overgrowth of invasive species, most specifically the Princess Tree (Paulownia tomentosa), in the Linville Gorge area on the Pisgah National Forest.

Three local contractors have been awarded contracts: the first, for $74,308 to a contract biologist coordinator/inspector, includes treatment of 175 acres within the Dobson Knob area. The second contract, costing $28,000, will provide funding for a botanist to survey the wilderness and coordinate herbicide application efforts, as well as inspect and monitor treatment effectiveness from 2010-2014. The third contract, awarded for $59,500, provides for a botonist to survey 2,500 acres for invasive species.

Two sgreements totaling nearly $250,000 have also been established, the first with North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources to utilize a crew and the second with a Job Corps vocational forestry program. In-depth invasive species identification and treatment training and experience will greatly enhance students' chances of full-time Forest Service employment at the end of the project.

Program Project Name: Croatan National Forest Hazardous Fuels Reduction

Local Project Name: Croatan RX Burning
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Croatan
Nearby City(ies): New Bern
Congressional District(s): NC03
County(ies): NC: Craven, Jones
Modified Date: 8/18/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Treat Fuels on Croatan National Forest

(Story posted 7/16/2010

On the National Forests in North Carolina, hazardous fuels treatment and controlled burns are helping retain local jobs and increase public and firefighter safety.

By treating fuels along the boundary of federal and private lands and along potential fire breaks, the likelihood of suppressing a wildfire will be increased, reducing resource and property damage. Removing hazardous fuels (in the form of tightly placed trees and shrubs and excessive grass and other vegetation on the forest floor) lessens fire intensity and suppression resistance.

The Forest Service awarded five contracts to local community businesses, including contract inspectors; helicopter aircrew; bombardier rental and crew; planting of longleaf pine to restore habitat; and midstory treatment. Contracts spread a combined total of over $180,000 critically needed dollars to Craven and Carteret counties.

Program Project Name: Three Roof Replacements on Historic Structures

Local Project Name: Cradle Roofs Replacement
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Pisgah
Nearby City(ies): Asheville
Estimated Project Cost: $86,843.00
Congressional District(s): NC11
County(ies): NC: Transylvania
Modified Date: 8/2/2010

Story:

National Forests of North Carolina Use Recovery Act for Historic Preservation

(Story posted 7/16/2010)

This Recovery Act project will replace old, rotting cedar shake roofs on historic structures in accordance with historic preservation specifications at the North Carolina Cradle of Forestry visitor center.

Replacement roofs are planned for the commissary, Dr. Schenk's Office, and the blacksmith shop. The new cedar shake roofs will preserve the integrity of these historic buildings at this very popular tourist destination.

The award went to Transylvania Builders, a local construction company, and work will be completed by late July 2010.

Program Project Name: Restore Civilian Conservation Corps Shelters and Towers

Local Project Name: Civilian Conservation Corps Structures
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Croatan
Nearby City(ies): New Bern
Estimated Project Cost: $734,000.00
Congressional District(s): NC03, NC08, NC11
County(ies): NC: Carteret, Cherokee, Graham, Haywood, Macon, Madison, Yancey
Modified Date: 7/23/2010

Story:
Civilian Conservation Corps Structures to be Replaced

(Story posted 7/16/2010)

The Croatan National Forest will use Recovery Act funds to replace the picnic shelter at Pine Cliff Picnic Area. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) shelter was demolished by a storm that washed away several hundred yards of shoreline in the early 1990s.

“We armored the shoreline after the storms about eight years ago with large boulders to decrease the risk of another storm taking out more of the Pinecliff Picnic Area,” stated Lee Thornhill, district ranger. A new structure will be built to resemble the CCC original. Thornhill added, “The shelter reconstruction has been on our wish list for some time now and with the Recovery Act monies we were fortunate to be able to get it built and put folks to work.”

The CCC shelter project was awarded to DOT Construction for more than $47,000. Three workers have broken ground at the site, providing them with work in otherwise hard times. Ronnie Rudd, a self-employed construction worker stated he was unemployed for the first time in his 38-year career and was glad for the work with the Charlotte-based company. Rudd’s family has lived in the area since the 1890s.

His co-worker Venny Robinson, also a North Carolina native, said, “Eight-five percent of the work in the area is residential, not commercial, but the economy determines that and the demand hasn’t been there.” He added, “There is no other industry when the residential construction dries up. We rely on government contracts with the Forest Service and nearby Camp LeJeune and Cherry Point Marine Corps bases.”

Program Project Name: Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) Prevention Thinning on the Croatan and Uwharrie National Forests and Restoration from SPB on the Croatan National Forest

Local Project Name: Southern Pine Beetle Prevention
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Uwharrie
Nearby City(ies): Charlotte
Estimated Project Cost: $181,000.00
Congressional District(s): NC03, NC08
County(ies): NC: Craven, Montgomery
Modified Date: 7/23/2010

Story:
Recovery Act Funds to Help Forest Tackle Southern Pine beetle Prevention

(Story posted 7/16/2010)

The Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) is the most destructive insect pest in southern forests. Though native to these forests, SPB can reach epidemic levels if the number of trees is too dense or the trees are otherwise damaged or weak.

The project will decrease tree density, reducing the likelihood of a southern pine beetle infestation. The project will thin 800 acres of pine forest on the Croatan and Uwharrie National Forests and plant 100 acres of native Longleaf pines on the Croatan National Forest. “Longleaf pines are less susceptible to the southern pine beetle because they grow in less dense stands than the existing Loblolly pine, allowing for healthier trees that can ‘pitch out’ the beetle better than other species,” said Forest Silviculturist John Blanton.

The Forest Service will award nine contracts, primarily in Montgomery, Carteret, and Jones counties spreading over $150,000 into these distressed communities.

Program Project Name: Control of Invasive Species Which Are Affecting Two Federally Listed Species Along Nine Miles of the Cheoah River

Local Project Name: : Cheoah Non-Native Invasive Species
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Cheoah
Nearby City(ies): Asheville
Estimated Project Cost: $261,000.00
Congressional District(s): NC11
County(ies): NC: Graham
Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Enable Invasive Species Control Work

(Story posted 7/16/2010)

This invasive species control project is being accomplished through agreements with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and the Western North Carolina Alliance. The 10 project crew members are from the Snowbird, North Carolina and Cherokee, North Carolina Tribal communities. The two crew leaders are new employees of the Western North Carolina Alliance.

The project will provide 25 weeks of work overall. The two crews, each with five crew members and a crew leader, will return to re-treat the areas over the next three years, a necessity for these persistent invasive species.

“The training and experience the crew gains during this project can transfer to jobs on similar projects on Cherokee Tribal lands," said Tommy Cabe, forest resources specialist for the

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Invasive species are being treated along the Cheoah River to enhance habitat for two federally listed species, the threatened Virginia spiraea shrub and the endangered Appalachian Elktoe mussel.

Program Project Name: Grandfather Ranger District Hazardous Fuels Reduction

Local Project Name: Pisgah Hazardous Fuels
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Pisgah
Nearby City(ies): Asheville
Estimated Project Cost: $661,000.00
Congressional District(s): NC10, NC11
County(ies): NC: Burke, Caldwell, McDowell
Modified Date: 7/23/2010

Story:

Pisgah Recovery Act-funded Hazardous Fuels Reduction Work to Protect Firefighters, Public

(Story posted 7/16/2010)

The goal of this project on the Pisgah National Forest was to create or retain jobs and to increase public and firefighter safety through hazardous fuels treatment.

By treating fuels along the boundary of federal and private lands and along potential fire breaks, the likelihood of suppressing a wildfire has been increased, reducing resource and property damage. The project took place along approximately 12 miles of the USDA Forest Service boundary with the area treated calculating to approximately 25 acres.

The benefits are more than just operational. This work offered valuable job training for Civilian Conservation Corps Job Corps program students; North Carolina BRIDGE-Young Offenders Forest Conservation Program members; and Forest Service leaders in the field of fuels management. According to the North Carolina Division of Forest Resources (NCDFR), DFR jobs were saved as a result of Recovery Act Funds for this project. In Addition, two Job Corps program students have accepted permanent private sector positions as a result of the experience and training gained working on this project.

Program Project Name: Ferebee Boat Launch Improvements Support Local Economy

Local Project Name: Ferebee Put-in/Take-out
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Nantahala
Nearby City(ies): Murphy
Estimated Project Cost: $243,000.00

Congressional District(s): NC11
County(ies): NC: Swain
Modified Date: 7/23/2010

Story:

Boat Ramp Reconstruction Benefits Local Economy

(Story posted 7/16/2010)

The Nantahala Ranger District on the National Forests in North Carolina recently hired a local contractor to reconstruct the Put-In/Take-Out boat ramp at the Ferebee Memorial park along the Nantahala River.

This project utilized the HUBZone (Historically Underutilized Business Zone) program to award locally a $199,943.96 contract. Project consisted of demolition of the existing facility and construction of new retaining walls, sidewalks, river access, rock facades, and plantings.

All concrete was purchased through a local-based vendor, further spreading Recovery Act dollars to a financially strained region. The project also provides full accessibility for handicapped visitors.

Construction began in March 2010 and will be completed and open to the public in summer 2010.

Program Project Name: Nantahala National Forest-Replace Sub-Standard bridges

Local Project Name: Replace Substandard Bridges
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Pisgah
Nearby City(ies): Brevard, Robinsville
Estimated Project Cost: $1,500,000.00
Congressional District(s): NC10, NC11
County(ies): NC: Caldwell
Modified Date: 8/11/2010

Story:

Replace Substandard Bridges

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

This project will rehabilitate the historically significant English Chapel Bridge, design for future construction the NFSR_116 Mortimer Bridge and Courthouse Creek Bridge on the Pisgah Ranger District.

The project will also replace a low water ford with a two lane bridge at Connelly Creek on the Nantahala Ranger District. English Chapel is 90' long and 11' wide and supported by concrete abutments.

Currently, the bridge is closed to vehicular traffic due to its poor condition and inability to safely carry a vehicle load. Work on this bridge will include replacing deteriorated timber curbs, install anchor bolts at each bearing to connect the truss to the abutments, replace deteriorated structural plates at connections, repair structural elements that are substantially deteriorated and to clean and paint the entire structure.

The Connelly Creek project will install a cored slab bridge over the existing creek crossing; currently vehicles are forced to drive through the creek. Projects have been awarded to three firms with contracts totaling $1.3 million.

Program Project Name: North Carolina National Forests Trail Bridges Safety Maintenance

Local Project Name: Replace Substandard Bridges
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Nantahala
Nearby City(ies): Robbinsville, Brevard
Estimated Project Cost: $1,500,000.00
Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC06, NC08, NC10, NC11
County(ies): NC: Macon, Swain
Modified Date: 8/11/2010

Story:

Replace Substandard Bridges

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

This project will rehabilitate the historically significant English Chapel Bridge, design for future construction the NFSR_116 Mortimer Bridge and Courthouse Creek Bridge on the Pisgah Ranger District.

The project will also replace a low water ford with a two lane bridge at Connelly creek on the Nantahala ranger district. English Chapel is 90' long and 11' wide and is supported by concrete abutments. Bridge is closed to vehicular traffic due to its poor condition and inability to safely carry a vehicle load.

Work on this bridge will include replacing deteriorated timber curbs, install anchor bolts at each bearing to connect the truss to the abutments, replace deteriorated structural plates at connections, repair structural elements that are substantially deteriorated and to clean and paint the entire structure.

The Connelly Creek project will install a cored slab bridge over the existing creek crossing; currently vehicles are forced to drive through the creek. Projects have been awarded to three firms with contracts totaling $1.3 million.

Program Project Name: Roan Mountain Grassy Bald Restoration

Local Project Name: Roan Mountain Grassy Bald Restoration
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Appalachian
Nearby City(ies): Burnsville
Estimated Project Cost: $230,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 13
Congressional District(s): NC10
County(ies): NC: Mitchell
Modified Date: 8/11/2010

Story:

Roan Mountain Grassy Bald Restoration Funded By Recovery Act

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

This project consists of chainsaw cutting, swamping (moving), and brushcutting three areas of Grassy Balds at Roan Mountain, Appalachian District of the Pisgah National Forest. These include Grassy Ridge,Bradley Gap, and Big Hump Mountain. Additionally, portions of Big Hump Mountain will be mowed using a bush hog and rubber-tracked skid steer mower.

This work will be accomplished during the growing seasons of 2010-2012. Across the three balds the objective is to cut and remove woody vegetation from 125 acres and then follow up with two repeated cuttings on the same area to create a more long-lasting impact.

The goal of the project is to restore and maintain grassy bald habitat that has been encroached upon by woody vegetation. Prior to contracting the restoration field work, a contract Biologist was hired initially to assist in mapping and identifying priority restoration/maintenance areas within the Roan Mountain Highlands. Subsequently, a biologist was hired through Object Module to coordinate and inspect the work of the selected contractor for the duration of the project.

Program Project Name: National Forests in North Carolina Trail and Bridge Maintenance for Safety and Resource Protection

Local Project Name: Trail Package #1
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Pisgah
Nearby City(ies): Brevard

Estimated Project Cost: $33,000.00
Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC06, NC08, NC10, NC11
County(ies): NC: Carteret, Cherokee, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Montgomery, Swain, Transylvania, Yancey
Modified Date: 8/11/2010

Story:

Pisgah Trail Rehabilitation With Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

This project will rehabilitate the highly used Black Mountain and Sycamore Cove grassy loop mountain biking trails on the Pisgah Ranger District. One Contract was awarded for $33,000 to Trail Design Specialists from Danielsville Ga. A total of 6.9 miles of trails will be rehabilitated to bring trails up to current Forest Service standards, work includes installing dips, improving drainage, armoring creek crossings, repairing culverts and clearing brush. This maintenance work will improve visitor safety and access to the forest and reduce erosion by restoring drainage and stabilizing trails. Work began July 5th and the projected completion date is November 5th.

Program Project Name: North Carolina National Forests Trail Bridges Safety Maintenance

Local Project Name: Trail bridges
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Nantahala
Nearby City(ies): Slick Rock/Snowbird , Robbinsville. Black Mountain, Bakersville. Dickey Bell,Badin.
Estimated Project Cost: $570,000.00
Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC06, NC08, NC10, NC11
County(ies): NC: Macon, Swain
Modified Date: 8/11/2010

Story:

Trail Bridges Funded With Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

This project will replace four dilapidated trail bridges in three NC Forests: Slick Rock and Big Snowbird Trail Bridges in the Nanatahala, Black Mountain Trail Bridge in the Pisgah, and Dickey Bell Trail Bridge in the Uwharrie.

The Dickey Bell contract was awarded to Street Legal Industries, a small, woman owned, HUBZone certified company based in Tennessee.

The Big Snowbird contract was awarded to Williams Construction, LLC, a small local contracting firm based in Brevard.

The Black Mountain Trail Bridge contract was awarded to Davko Services, a disabled veteran owned HUBZone certified small business based in Georgia.

The Slick Rock contract was awarded to Bullseye construction, a North Carolina based site development contracting company.

Program Project Name: Roan Mountain Facility Replacement

Local Project Name: Roan mountain restroom and road
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Appalachian
Nearby City(ies): Bakersville
Estimated Project Cost: $430,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 19
Congressional District(s): NC11
County(ies): NC: Mitchell
Modified Date: 8/11/2010

Story:

Roan Mountain Restroom, Road Upgraded Through Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

This project will demolish the old restroom at the Cloudland's parking area on Roan Mountain and construct a new accessible unit.

National Forest system road #130 leading to Roan Mountain is a very popular route for forest visitors, this asphalt road serves as the corridor to the many recreation opportunities at Roan Mountain. The access road and the Cloudland parking area will be repaved to improve visitor comfort and safety.

Project was awarded to Perry Bartsch Jr. Construction Company from Asheville for $436,000. Project will subcontract electricians, plumbers, graders and concrete specialists from the local area.

Program Project Name: Pisgah National Forest - Roan Mountain Road Resurfacing

Local Project Name: Roan Mountain Resurfacing
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Appalachian

Nearby City(ies): Bakersville
Estimated Project Cost: $205,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 19
Congressional District(s): NC10
County(ies): NC: Mitchell
Modified Date: 8/11/2010

Story:
Roan Mountain Resurfacing

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

National Forest system road #130 leading to Roan Mountain is a very popular route for forest visitors, this asphalt road serves as the corridor to the many recreation opportunities at Roan Mountain. The access road and the Cloudland parking area will be repaved to improve visitor comfort and safety.

Project was awarded to Perry Bartsch Jr. Construction Company from Asheville for $436,000. Project will subcontract electricians, plumbers, graders and concrete specialists from the local area.

Program Project Name: Improving Accessibility on the Forest Discovery Trail at the Cradle of Forestry

Local Project Name: Cradle trails
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Pisgah
Nearby City(ies): Brevard
Estimated Project Cost: $315,000.00
Congressional District(s): NC11
County(ies): NC: Transylvania
Modified Date: 8/11/2010

Story:
Cradle Trails Regraded With Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

This project includes paving and regarding more than one mile of the Discovery Trail located at the Cradle of Forestry on the Pisgah Ranger District.

The existing trail is gravel and exceeds acceptable grades for accessibility rendering the trail inaccessible for its entire length. Regrading and paving the trail, constructing resting places and improving drainage and trail gradient, where possible, will improve accessibility.

This contract was awarded to Fletcher Grading, a local small business for $315,000.

Program Project Name: Flanners Beach Treatment Plant Replacement

Local Project Name: Flanners Treatment Plant
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Croatan
Nearby City(ies): New Bern
Estimated Project Cost: $330,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 50
Congressional District(s): NC03
County(ies): NC: Craven
Modified Date: 8/11/2010

Story:

Flanners Treatment Plant Replaced Through Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

This project will replace the existing sewage treatment plant and spray field at the Flanners Beach recreation area.

The area is located on the Neuse River and consists of a campground, picnic area and beach. The existing treatment plant will be replaced with a septic tank and lift station to pump effluent to several nitrification lines within the proposed drain field area. The existing spray irrigation field will be dismantled and disposed of off National Forest lands.

The contract was awarded to DOT construction based in Beaufort, NC for $252,000.

Program Project Name: National Forests in North Carolina Trail and Bridge Maintenance for Safety and Resource Protection

Local Project Name: Croatan Trails Trail Package 11
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Croatan
Nearby City(ies): New Bern
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 12
Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC06, NC08, NC10, NC11
County(ies): NC: Carteret, Cherokee, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Montgomery, Swain, Transylvania, Yancey
Modified Date: 8/11/2010

Story:
Croatan Trails Rehabilitation With Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

Maintenance and construction (feature/surface replacement) is to be performed on 19.3 miles of existing hiking, and biking trails to bring them up to current USDA Forest Service trail standards on Flanners Beach, Neusiok, Tidelands and Tidelands Connector Trails.

Work will include, but may not be limited to removing broken pavement and re-surfacing paved portions of trail, tread restoration and maintenance, drainage structure maintenance/installation, corridor clearing, hazard tree removal, repairing/replacing/installing boardwalks, repairing/replacing/installing puncheon, restoring/installing turnpike, and culvert installation.

Program Project Name: Jackrabbit Campground Wastewater Collection System and Treatment Plant Replacement

Local Project Name: Jackrabbit Wastewater
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Nantahala
Nearby City(ies): Hiawassee, GA
Estimated Project Cost: $1,318,000.00
Congressional District(s): NC11
County(ies): NC: Clay
Modified Date: 8/11/2010

Story:
Jackrabbit Wastewater Plant Replaced With Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

This project will replace the existing outdated treatment plant, lift stations, collection lines, water lines and wells serving the Jackrabbit campground on the Tusquitee Ranger District.

Connection to municipal systems for water and sewer has been approved by the city of Hiawassee GA via a utility contract for water service and to Clay county NC for sewer service.

Both Hiawassee and Clay County will plan, design, construct, own and operate the systems.

Program Project Name: Uhwarrie/Croatan National Forests Facilities Repairs for Health, Safety and Energy Efficiency

Local Project Name: Forest-wide Deferred Maintenance, Croatan-Uwharrie
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Croatan
Nearby City(ies): New Bern,
Estimated Project Cost: $200,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 11
Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC08
County(ies): NC: Montgomery
Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:

Forest-Wide Deferred Maintenance With Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

The Uwharrie has two projects that would be completed. The first project is to replace the existing vault toilet at Badin Lake Group Campground, which has collapsed, with a new two unit flush toilet. The building will be connected to the recently constructed shower building at this site. The second project is to replace a single vault toilet at Woodrun Trail Head with a single SST unit in the same location.

The proposed Croatan project includes replacing the existing restroom with a new four flush unit. The existing facility is beyond repair.

Program Project Name: Tellico Off Highway Vehicle Area Restoration - Aquatic Resource Monitoring

Local Project Name: Tellico Aquatic Monitoring
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Nantahala
Nearby City(ies): Franklin
Estimated Project Cost: $460,000.00
Congressional District(s): NC11
County(ies): NC: Cherokee
Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Tellico Aquatic Monitoring

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

The purpose of this project is to determine whether closure of the Tellico OHV trails will reduce in-stream sediment levels and determine if the expected reduction in sedimentation

and improvement to spawning habitats will result in an increase to Brook Trout density.

The monitoring will focus on a number of streams of similar stream order. Specifically, six streams well distributed across the watershed would be surveyed using the Basin wide Visual Estimation Technique (BVET). Habitat data for each stream surveyed (pebble counts, pH, and water temperature) will also be collected.

Program Project Name: Control of Invasive Species Which Are Affecting Two Federally Listed Species Along Nine Miles of the Cheoah River

Local Project Name: Cheoah Invasive Project
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Cheoah
Nearby City(ies): Asheville
Estimated Project Cost: $120,000.00
Congressional District(s): NC11
County(ies): NC: Graham
Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Help Threatened Species Reclaim Cheoah River

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

Twelve new jobs have been created by a U.S. Forest Service Recovery Act project on the Cheoah River in Graham County, North Carolina.

This invasive species control project is being accomplished through agreements with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Western North Carolina Alliance, and the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

There are 12 non-native invasive species on the Cheoah River banks or in the river impacting two federally listed species: Virginia Spiraea (a federally threatened shrub) and the Appalachian Elktoe (a federally endangered mussel).

Crew members cut invasive plants along the project area covering six miles of the Cheoah River and then treat the cut stem with an herbicide.

The crews are currently working on the project and will return to re-treat the areas over the next four years, a necessity for these persistent invasive species.

The project will continue through 2013 and provide 25 weeks of work overall.

Bob Gale, ecologist for the Western N.C. Alliance, stated, “the WNC Alliance is excited to be a part of this win, win, win project employing Cherokee Indians, protecting federally listed

species, and restoring native habitat”

“The training and experience the crew gains during this project can transfer to jobs on similar projects on Cherokee tribal lands”, stated Tommy Cabe, forest resources specialist for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

Program Project Name: Croatan Prescribed Burning and Hazardous Fuels Reduction

Local Project Name: Croatan RX burning
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Croatan
Nearby City(ies): New Bern
Estimated Project Cost: $413,000.00
Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03
County(ies): NC: Carteret, Craven
Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:

Increasing Firefighter, Public Safety Through RX Burning With Help From Recovery Act

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

The goal of this project is to create or retain jobs and to increase public and firefighter safety through hazardous fuels treatment and controlled burns.

Accomplishment of this project will increase firefighter and public safety in the event of a wildfire in the project areas. By treating fuels along the boundary of federal and private lands and along potential fire breaks, the likelihood of suppressing a wildfire would be increased, reducing resource and property damage. The reduction of these fuels decreases fuel loading which lessens fire intensity and resistance to suppression.

Project awarded five contracts to the local community including contract inspectors, helicopter aircrew, bombardier rental and crew, planting of long leaf pine to restore habitat, and midstory treatment. Contracts spread a combined total of over 180,000 critically needed dollars to Craven and Carteret counties.

Program Project Name: National Forests in North Carolina Trail and Bridge Maintenance for Safety and Resource Protection

Local Project Name: Trail Package #6.
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Pisgah
Nearby City(ies): Nebo
Estimated Project Cost: $4,925,000.00

Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC06, NC08, NC10, NC11
County(ies): NC: Carteret, Cherokee, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Montgomery, Swain, Transylvania, Yancey
Modified Date: 8/11/2010

Story:
Grandfather Ranger District Trails Rehabilitation With Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

This project will rehabilitate the Kitsuma Peak, Youngs Ridge, Woods Mountain, and Harris Creek Horse and Bike trails on the Grandfather Ranger District. A total of 17 miles of trails will be rehabilitated to bring trails up to current Forest Service standards, work includes installing dips, improving drainage, armoring creek crossings, repairing culverts and clearing brush. This maintenance work will improve visitor safety and access to the forest and reduce erosion by restoring drainage and stabilizing trails.

Program Project Name: National Forests in North Carolina Trail and Bridge Maintenance for Safety and Resource Protection

Local Project Name: Trail Package #4
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Pisgah
Nearby City(ies): Brevard
Estimated Project Cost: $66,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 2
Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC06, NC08, NC10, NC11
County(ies): NC: Carteret, Cherokee, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Montgomery, Swain, Transylvania, Yancey
Modified Date: 8/11/2010

Story:
Looking Glass Trail Rehabilitation With Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

This project will rehabilitate the highly used Looking Glass hiking trail as well as the Hard Times Connector/Deerlake Lodge Horse and Bike trails on the Pisgah Ranger District. One contract was awarded for $66,000 to Trail Design Specialists. A total of five miles of trails will be rehabilitated to bring trails up to current Forest Service standards, work includes installing dips, improving drainage, armoring creek crossings, repairing culverts and clearing brush. This maintenance work will improve visitor safety and access to the forest and reduce erosion by restoring drainage and stabilizing trails.

Program Project Name: National Forests in North Carolina Trail and Bridge Maintenance for Safety and Resource Protection

Local Project Name: Trail Package #3

Region: Southern Region

Forest: NF N. Carolina

Ranger District: Pisgah

Nearby City(ies): Brevard

Estimated Project Cost: $4,925,000.00

Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC06, NC08, NC10, NC11

County(ies): NC: Carteret, Cherokee, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Montgomery, Swain, Transylvania, Yancey

Modified Date: 8/11/2010

Story:

Big Butt Trail, Buncombe Trail Rehabilitation With Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

This project will rehabilitate the Big Butt Hiking trail and the Buncombe Horse Trail on the Appalachian ranger district. A total of 24 miles of trails will be rehabilitated to bring trails up to current Forest Service standards, work includes installing dips, improving drainage, armoring creek crossings, repairing culverts and clearing brush. This maintenance work will improve visitor safety and access to the forest and reduce erosion by restoring drainage and stabilizing trails.

Program Project Name: National Forests in North Carolina Trail and Bridge Maintenance for Safety and Resource Protection

Local Project Name: Trail Package #7

Region: Southern Region

Forest: NF N. Carolina

Ranger District: Pisgah

Nearby City(ies): Nebo

Estimated Project Cost: $180,000.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 4

Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC06, NC08, NC10, NC11

County(ies): NC: Carteret, Cherokee, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Montgomery, Swain, Transylvania, Yancey

Modified Date: 8/11/2010

Story:

OHV Trails Rehabilitated With Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

This project will rehabilitate the Brown Mountain OHV trails on the Grandfather Ranger

District. A total of 11 miles of trails will be rehabilitated to bring trails up to current Forest Service standards.

Work includes installing dips, improving drainage, armoring creek crossings, repairing culverts and clearing brush. This maintenance work will improve visitor safety and access to the forest and reduce erosion by restoring drainage and stabilizing trails.

Program Project Name: National Forests in North Carolina Trail and Bridge Maintenance for Safety and Resource Protection

Local Project Name: Trail Package #8
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Pisgah
Nearby City(ies): Brevard
Estimated Project Cost: $176,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 2
Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC06, NC08, NC10, NC11
County(ies): NC: Carteret, Cherokee, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Montgomery, Swain, Transylvania, Yancey
Modified Date: 8/11/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Rehabilitation of Multiple Pisgah Ranger District Trails

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

This project will rehabilitate four popular trails on the Pisgah Ranger District. A total of 13 miles of trails will be rehabilitated to bring trails up to current Forest Service standards.

Work includes installing dips, improving drainage, armoring creek crossings, repairing culverts and clearing brush. This maintenance work will improve visitor safety and access to the forest and reduce erosion by restoring drainage and stabilizing trails.

Program Project Name: National Forests in North Carolina Trail and Bridge Maintenance for Safety and Resource Protection

Local Project Name: Trail Package #9
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Nantahala
Nearby City(ies): Brevard
Estimated Project Cost: $4,925,000.00
Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC06, NC08, NC10, NC11
County(ies): NC: Carteret, Cherokee, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Montgomery, Swain, Transylvania, Yancey

Modified Date: 8/11/2010

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Rehabilitation of Great Wall, Devils Elbow Trails

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

This project will rehabilitate the Great Wall and Devils Elbow hiking trails on the Nantahala Ranger District. A total of four miles of trails will be rehabilitated to bring trails up to current Forest Service standards.

Work includes installing dips, improving drainage, armoring creek crossings, repairing culverts and clearing brush. This maintenance work will improve visitor safety and access to the forest and reduce erosion by restoring drainage and stabilizing trails.

Program Project Name: National Forests in North Carolina Trail and Bridge Maintenance for Safety and Resource Protection

Local Project Name: Trail Package #12
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Nantahala
Nearby City(ies): Robbinsville
Estimated Project Cost: $4,925,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 12
Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC06, NC08, NC10, NC11
County(ies): NC: Carteret, Cherokee, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Montgomery, Swain, Transylvania, Yancey
Modified Date: 8/11/2010

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Rehabilitation of Trails by Conservation Crews

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

This project will rehabilitate the Glen Falls hiking trails on the Nantahala Ranger District. A total of two miles of trails will be rehabilitated to bring trails up to current Forest Service standards.

Work includes installing dips, improving drainage, armoring creek crossings, repairing culverts and clearing brush. This maintenance work will improve visitor safety and access to the forest and reduce erosion by restoring drainage and stabilizing trails.

This project will include Conservation Corps Program crews working in two.

The first crew, comprised of one SCA staff member or trail leader and five crew members,

will be based in Robbinsville, NC. Trail maintenance will include work on 20 miles of pedestrian-only trails that meet class one and class two designations within or near the Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness Area, which is situated approximately seven miles west of Robbinsville.

A second crew, comprised of one SCA staff member or trail leader and five crew members, will be based in Burnsville, NC, and will include 20 miles of pedestrian-only trails in the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests. Efforts will be made to reduce the commuting distance required for trail maintenance projects, although occasional over-night stays near the work site may be required for the Burnsville Crew. Trails for maintenance will be designated as class one, two or three, in accordance with US Forest Service Trail Handbook requirements.

Program Project Name: National Forests in North Carolina Trail and Bridge Maintenance for Safety and Resource Protection

Local Project Name: Fires Creek
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Nantahala
Nearby City(ies): Robinsville
Estimated Project Cost: $4,923,000.00
Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC06, NC08, NC10, NC11
County(ies): NC: Carteret, Cherokee, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Montgomery, Swain, Transylvania, Yancey
Modified Date: 8/11/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Improve Accessibility

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

This project will improve accessibility to handicapped patrons by repaving the trail and portions of the parking lot. Contractor will also reposition a vault toilet improving accessibility. One contract was awarded for $55,000 to Ledford and Parker Inc. based in Hayesville NC.

Program Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and Fuels Management

Local Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative
Region: Southern Region
Nearby City(ies): Atlanta, Columbia, Asheville, Tallahassee, Montgomery
Estimated Project Cost: $0.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 85

Congressional District(s): AL01, AL02, AL03, AL04, AL05, AL06, AL07, FL01, FL02, FL03, FL04, FL05, FL06, FL07, FL08, FL09, FL10, FL11, FL12, FL13, FL14, FL15, FL16, FL17, FL18, FL19, FL20, FL21, FL22, FL23, FL24, FL25, GA01, GA02, GA03, GA04, GA05, GA06, GA07, GA08, GA09, GA10, GA11, GA12, GA13, NC01, NC02, NC03, NC04, NC05, NC06, NC07, NC08, NC09, NC10, NC11, NC12, NC13, SC01, SC02, SC03, SC04, SC05, SC06

County(ies): AL: 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; FL: 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; GA: 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; NC: 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; SC: 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

Modified Date: 8/13/2010

Story:

Longleaf Pine Restoration Funded Through Recovery Act

(Story posted 8/11/2010)

A total of $8.975 million Recovery Act funding, through USDA Forest Service - State & Private Forestry, was awarded through five separate grants to state forestry agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina during the summer of 2009. As of June 30, 2010, approximately 43.6 percent ($3.75 million) of the grant funding has been reimbursed to the states for work accomplished. The grants have been in effect almost one year.

Based on the original grant program narratives from each state, the estimated total jobs created/saved were projected to be 85 FTEs (does not include estimate from Alabama). Since the initial planned projections, more uniform guidance for calculating jobs (FTEs)is being employed by each state (based on hours worked). As of June 30, 2009, an estimated 85 FTEs have been generated from this program across all five states. It appears the accomplished FTEs will exceed the estimates provided by the states in the original project narratives.

A total 8,397 acres of longleaf establishment has been reported completed by the five states on both private and state lands. This represents around 62 percent completed of the total 13,619 acres planned. The accomplishments signify areas in which all site preparation and tree planting has been completed. Site preparation work is continuing during the summer and fall seasons of 2010 to prepare areas for planting during the winter 2010-11.

A total of 3,630 acres of the planned 7,344 acres for longleaf establishment has been completed on state lands (i.e. state forests, DNR lands). A total of 4,767 acres of the planned 6,275 acres for longleaf establishment has been completed on four private non-industrial land ownerships. The Recovery Act landowner incentives programs for South Carolina, Florida, and Georgia have proven to be very successful in reaching landowners interested in establishing longleaf pine or improving existing longleaf pine.

A total 23,772 acres of existing longleaf pine improvement has been reported completed by the five states on both private and state lands. This represents around 75 percent of the total planned 31,488 acres of longleaf establishment completed. Work activities include native understory plant establishment, prescribed burning, midstory/stand improvement treatments, and nonnative, invasive plant species treatments.

Work accomplishments for existing longleaf improved on state lands has exceeded the planned goals, with 21,538 acres reported accomplished. Work accomplishments on private lands are reported at 2,234 acres.

An overall goal of the grants is for state nurseries in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina to improved facilities in order to increase longleaf seedling production capacity by 7.6 million seedlings. To date, the states have reported increased completed capacity at the nurseries of 6.95 million seedlings. Another goal was to increase longleaf seed collected/processed by 8,350 pounds. The states exceeded this goal by collecting/processing over 11,000 pounds of longleaf seed. To date there has been 1,743 acres of improvements reported in longleaf cone collection areas to improve access for cone

collection.

The overall goal of the grants is to increase the number of native understory plants produced at state nurseries by 600,000 plant sets. To date 200,000 plant sets were reported produced. Additional planning and work is underway to improve understory plant seed collection areas (135 acre goal) and to increase native plant seed collected/processed (1,300 pound goal). Most of the remaining work is scheduled for completion in Florida.

As of June 30, 2010, 125 professionals have been trained at the Longleaf Academies administered by the Longleaf Alliance. The five states are planning 36 training sessions o reach 1,200 private landowners related to restoring and management of longleaf pine. Work is underway to draft a brochure for private landowners that address the economics for managing longleaf pine.

Program Project Name: Roan Mountain Trails Safety Rehabilitation

Local Project Name: Roan Mountain Trails Rehab
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Appalachian
Nearby City(ies): Asheville
Estimated Project Cost: $315,182.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 18
Congressional District(s): NC10
County(ies): NC: Mitchell
Modified Date: 8/18/2010

Story:

Roan Mountain Trail Rehabilitation Underway

(Story posted 8/17/2010)

On the National Forests in North Carolina, workers will use Recovery Act funds to rehabilitate and repave the existing trail from the upper parking lot near the visitor center to the elevated platform or observation deck, increasing the trail's safety and accessibility while reducing erosion and sedimentation. The existing observation deck that has reached the end of its service life and is beginning to pose some safety issues will be replaced.

This project work was awarded to AGRR Corporation, a small North Carolina construction and engineering company located in Brevard. AGRR will provide both technical education and field experience to their employees in order to supply an advanced management and oversight system. Contracts include inspection services, project reserves, CAD technicians, and landscape architect services. The contractor estimates 18 temporary jobs will be created or retained on this project.

Program Project Name: Nantahala National Forest Facility Repairs for Health, Safety and Energy Efficiency

Local Project Name: Jackrabbit Campground Bathhouse Repairs
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Tusquitee
Nearby City(ies): Asheville
Estimated Project Cost: $230,000.00
Congressional District(s): NC11
County(ies): NC: Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon
Modified Date: 8/18/2010

Story:

Jackrabbit Campground Repairs Underway

(Story posted 8/17/2010)

On the National Forests in North Carolina, a Recovery Act project will demolish and rebuild the bathhouse at the Jackrabbit Campground on the Tusquitee District. The current bathhouse was built in 1974; the foundation is settling; all fixtures need to be replaced; and the building is not accessible. The new structure will mitigate these problems. A $108,000 contract was awarded to Payne and Stalcup, Inc., a local company. Other facilities in the campground are also scheduled for rehabilitation in the near future.

Ohio

Program Project Name: Expanded Use of Green Energy by Installing Solar Panel Systems, leading by example
Local Project Name: Wayne National Forest - Now Greener Than Ever
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Wayne
Nearby City(ies): Nelsonville
Congressional District(s): OH06
County(ies): OH: Athens
Modified Date: 7/14/2010

Story:

Wayne National Forest, Now Greener Than Ever With Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 8/8/2009)

Hundreds of new solar panels now adorn the roof of the Supervisor's Office in Nelsonville thanks to Recovery Act funding.

Thanks to funding from the Recovery Act, the Wayne National Forest has reached a new milestone with its three year old solar energy program. On August 3, 2009, construction crews finished installing 252 new solar panels on the roof of the Forest's headquarters building near Nelsonville, Ohio - a direct result of federal stimulus money.

The expanded system with a total of 302 solar panels is expected to generate about 30 to 34 percent of the building's electricity during peak production months. An estimated 15 to 20 percent of the facilities energy needs will be provided by the sun annually.

In March of this year, the Wayne National Forest Solar Energy Program received funding from Recovery Act for expanding its existing solar energy system. In turn, the U.S. Forest Service awarded a contract for $398,000 to Ohio-based D. J. Group, Inc. of Beverly, Ohio. The general contractor for the solar project, D. J. Group is a Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business. The company sub-contracted with another Ohio-based business, Third Sun Solar & Wind Power, Ltd., of Athens, to do the actual installation of the 59,000-watt, solar panel system.

(To view the digital images on our Forest photostream, visit: http://www.flickr.com/photos/waynenf/sets/72157621405651225/).

The solar project not only improved the headquarters building, but also provided employment, which was a boost to the local economy. "In addition to our regular crew, we were able to pull some people off the unemployment lines to help with this job," said Rob Phillips, project manager with Third Sun. He mentioned that at least three electricians plus office staff were hired.

In addition to the dollars-and-cents side of solar energy, Phillips also sees the personal benefits. "The older I get, the more I think about the environment and the impact humans are having upon it," he said. "My wife and I own a small farm, have horses and I like to hunt and fish. Whatever I can do to help the environment and pass along those same outdoor opportunities I've had to my kids and grandkids, I want to be involved with it."

Solar power is nothing new to the Wayne. It began its solar energy program in 2007 with the installation of a 20-panel solar energy system, at a cost of $33,000. In 2008, it added 30 more solar panels at a cost of $35,000. This 50-panel system generated about seven percent of the headquarters building's energy needs during peak production months.

"In the past, we've spent about $31,000 annually on electricity for our headquarters building," said Steve Marchi, Wayne National Forest engineer. "That figure is now predicted to drop to approximately $24,000 to $26,000 at 2007 energy cost of 9.4 cents/kWh."

And, there are other environmental advantages to solar energy. It's estimated that the additional solar panels installed at the Forest's headquarters building will reduce 144,745 pounds, or 72 tons of carbon dioxide, eliminating approximately 28 tons of coal that would have been burned to generate an equivalent amount of electricity.

The new solar energy system may generate enough electricity to sell some back to the electric company. In August, the Forest signed a contract with American Electric Power (AEP), designating the Forest as a small energy producer. During peak periods of production, the electric meter could actually spin backwards, feeding solar energy back to the electric grid.

As the Forest looks into the future for even more cost saving measures, planners are looking inside and out at existing features that could be upgraded to reduce the headquarters need for electricity.

The headquarters' heating and cooling system is on a list of potential upgrades as funding becomes available. The system, now nine years old, consumes a lot of electricity. Other plans include converting some low power lighting to light-emitting diode, or better known as LED.

The new solar panels will not only help offset the building's energy costs, but will also be used as a teaching tool to educate others about the advantages of solar-powered technology. Public tours of the new solar energy system are currently being offered. The tour includes a look at the electronic kiosk in the headquarters' lobby providing up-to-the-minute readouts to visitors of how much electricity is being generated by the three-foot by five-foot solar panels. In October, the facility will be a destination for the public to tour as the Buckeye state kicks off its annual Solar Tour.

As of August 2009, the Forest had received $7.2 million of Recovery Act funds for Forest

projects. The projects, which range from repairs of earthen dams to replacement of road signage, have created many private-sector jobs.

Ohio's only national forest, the Wayne encompasses more than 240,000 acres in the southeastern part of the state. Woodland wildlife abounds in the mainly oak-hickory habitat, including such animals as white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, forest songbirds, birds of prey, and reptiles and amphibians.

For more information about the Wayne's solar energy program or to schedule a tour of the headquarters building, visit the Forest's web site at: www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne. If you would like to speak to someone directly, contact Gary C. Chancey, Public Affairs Officer, at (740) 753-0862 or gchancey@fs.fed.us.

Program Project Name: Expanded Use of Green Energy by Installing Solar Panel Systems, leading by example

Local Project Name: Economic Recovery funds allow Wayne National Forest to increase solar energy production to 50% of requirements for main office building!

Region: Eastern Region

Forest: Wayne

Nearby City(ies): None Listed

Congressional District(s): OH06

County(ies): OH: Athens

Modified Date: 7/14/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Allow Wayne National Forest To Increase Solar Energy Production

(Story posted 3/3/2009)

Economic Recovery funds allow Wayne National Forest to increase solar energy production to 50 percent of requirements for main office building!

The Wayne National Forest was already setting an example in southeastern Ohio with its solar panels, but now the office's solar energy program will be expanded thanks to funding from the Recovery Act of 2009.

The Wayne began its Solar Energy Program in 2007, by installing a 20-panel solar system. Last year, the Forest added 30 more panels to bring the total to 50. The current system is generating seven percent of the facilities energy needs. According to Forest Engineer Steve Marchi, once the new expansion is completed later this summer, up to fifty-percent of the Wayne National Forest headquarters building will be powered by the sun during the summer months. This is an increase of over 40 percent and further reduces our carbon footprint.

The Wayne awarded a $398,000 contract to the Ohio-based D.J. Group from Beverly, Ohio. The contractor, a Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business is being hired to

purchase and install 250 additional solar panels to the roof top of the Wayne National Forest Headquarters building, bringing the total to 300 solar panels. The federal government estimates four jobs will be created by the Wayne National Forest six-month project that gives business to Ohio's growing solar industry.

Marchi is proud of the Forest's willingness to take the extra steps to increase their energy efficiency. He notes that with the onset of the Wayne's solar energy program, it has become part of the state's solar revolution and was included in the Ohio Solar Tour, where the Forest launched the 2008 event for southeastern Ohio.

Oregon

Program Project Name: Oregon Youth Employment Initiative

Local Project Name: In their own words

Region: Pacific Northwest Region

Nearby City(ies): all over

Congressional District(s): OR01, OR02, OR03, OR04, OR05

County(ies): OR: Baker, Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Coos, Crook, Curry, Deschutes, Douglas, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine, Klamath, Lake, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Malheur, Marion, Morrow, Multnomah, Polk, Sherman, Tillamook, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco, Washington, Wheeler, Yamhill

Modified Date: 7/13/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Young Adult Conservation Projects

(Story posted 4/8/2010)

The Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (OYCC) provides education, training and employment opportunities based on conservation projects to disadvantaged and at-risk youth.

The Forest Service has granted major funding under the Recovery Act to the State of Oregon, through the OYCC program in the Department of Community Colleges and the Workforce Development, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding to the Oregon Youth Employment Initiative (OYEI) project.

$9.25 million of the total $9.5 million was granted, directly to the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps, which further “subgranted” the money to County level organizations that hire crews and accomplish work.

The federal funds will fund conservation projects operated by local programs and partners.

The purpose of this initiative is to create employment opportunities for youth and supporting adults. Youth ages 15-24 are eligible to apply. Grant funds are awarded to providers at the local level. OYCC funds crews in every county and additional crews in counties that have the highest unemployment rate.

Examples of the types of projects that are funded include but are not limited to bridge and trail maintenance and decommissioning, watershed restoration, ecosystem enhancement, facilities improvement, maintenance and renovation, hazardous fuels reduction, forest health protection, rehabilitation and hazard mitigation, invasive species removal, plantings, water guzzler construction and maintenance, fencing, enclosures, water quality improvement, and community park and greenspace stewardship.

An OYEI Advisory and Oversight Committee have been formed that includes representatives from the Forest Service, OYCC, Governor's Office, Association of Oregon Counties, and the Department of Education and Business Education Compact.

For details some stories and pictures about projects by students documenting the work, see www.odccwd.state.or.us/oyei . The website takes you to a clickable map that further takes you to stories and photos by some of the students. Click on for more!

Program Project Name: Research on Restoring Critical Habitat for Listed Pacific Salmon

Local Project Name: Research on restoring critical habitat for listed Pacific salmon - project summary
Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Corvallis OR, Seattle WA; Mt. Shasta CA; Wenatchee WA
Estimated Project Cost: $2,259,535.00
Congressional District(s): CA02, OR04, WA04
County(ies): CA: Siskiyou; OR: Benton; WA: Chelan, King
Modified Date: 6/23/2010

Story:

Research Underway on Restoring Critical Habitat for Listed Pacific Salmon

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

Salmon are critical to Pacific Northwest States economically, culturally, and ecologically. Concerns are acute for the future of these highly visible species because several populations of Pacific salmon and trout are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The Pacific Northwest Research Station (PNW) has studied habitat for these fish for four decades and recently initiated work to help land managers, public utility districts, and others at the federal, state, and county levels make decisions on restoring native salmon and trout habitat, and provide clean water that anticipate effects of wildland fire and climate change.

This project will create jobs that support the work of leading scientists and natural resource professionals from the Forest Service and their partners at University of Washington, Oregon State University, Bureau of Land Management, and others.

Successful completion of this work will be based on the scientific expertise and cooperative relationships that are already established among the participating agencies and research institutions. The work is being accomplished via several Joint Venture Agreements between the PNW Station and various research institutions; most of these agreements were finalized at the end of 2009, and as of April 2010 hiring processes are either recently completed or ongoing, so most work is in the early stages.

Project work will bring together interrelated factors that have been identified as strongly

affecting the habitat for these threatened fish species. Analyses will be performed on National Forests and the lands surrounding them in WA, OR and CA, at landscape scales to identify and map areas with high potential for restoring fish habitat. This work will examine salmon habitat in high rainfall areas in coastal Alaska and west of the Cascades as well as lands in the Columbia Basin subject to wildland fire and drought typical of the dry interior West.

These analyses will be made available for use by land and fisheries managers for planning and monitoring habitat protection and restoration efforts. To investigate the effectiveness of alternative forest management practices on fish habitat, work in collaboration with BLM will examine effects of variable density thinning experiments on riparian forests. To help states and the forest industry assess effects of forest management on water quality, long-term water quality data collected at Forest Service Experimental Forests will be made available for public use on the Internet.

A collaborative effort with University of Washington will expand upon work to develop decision support models for forest planners to assess potential effects of climate change on fish habitat in the Northwest. This work will bring the results of global climate models down to the scale of river basins help land and fisheries managers better understand what basin and salmon stocks are most at risk from climate change effects over the next several decades.

The results of this effort will be reported in peer-reviewed journal articles and in decision support models that make the outcomes more accessible for use by land and fisheries managers and policy makers. The information yielded by this project opens the door to future jobs related to fish habitat and riparian restoration, forest and fisheries management, forest fuel reduction and recreation in the affected counties.

Program Project Name: Research on Restoring Critical Habitat for Listed Pacific Salmon

Local Project Name: Stream Chemistry Network #1
Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Corvallis, OR
Estimated Project Cost: $295,500.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 2
Congressional District(s): OR04
County(ies): OR: Benton
Modified Date: 6/23/2010

Story:

Stream Chemistry Network Project Underway

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

Dr. Sherri Johnson of the Pacific Northwest Research Station's (PNW) Ecological Process

and Function Program is leading this project. A collaborative effort between U.S. Forest Service Research and Development, universities, and the forest industry, this project is compiling and evaluating long-term water quality data from the Forest Service Experimental Forest and Range Network across the country.

These long-term data from reference and managed forests are being used to inform the development of EPA's water quality criteria across states, as well as to evaluate the effects of natural and anthropogenic forest disturbances on exports from river basins. A web-based interactive program will be created to make the data easily available to researchers and public. Other partners include the National Science Foundation's Long-term Ecological Research (LTER) Network, and the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement (NCASI), a research institute that focuses on environmental topics of interest to the forest products industry.

As of April 2010, two full-time positions have been established: one PhD level database manager and coordinator and a postdoctoral researcher who will begin work this summer. A third position - a student trainee programmer - will be hired in the fall of 2010.

Program Project Name: Oregon Sand Dunes Restoration

Local Project Name: Youth Help Plover in Siuslaw National Forest Restoration Project
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Siuslaw
Nearby City(ies): Reedsport, OR
Congressional District(s): OR01, OR04, OR05
County(ies): OR: Lane
Modified Date: 7/15/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Snowy Plover Habitat Restoration on the Siuslaw National Forest

(Story posted 4/9/2010)

Thanks to funding authorized under the Recovery Act of 2009 and through a partnership with Northwest Youth Corps (NYC), western snowy plovers (a threatened species) on the Central Oregon Coast will have more room for nesting this year.

The Siuslaw National Forest was one of only three Forests in the Pacific Northwest Region to receive Related Ecosystem Watershed Enhancement project dollars. As part of a larger restoration project proposal, the Snowy Plover Habitat Restoration was one of the first to make it though the grants and agreement process getting $7,680 into the hands of Oregon youth.

Introduced to the west coast around 1898, European beachgrass (Ammophila arenaria) was used to stabilize dunes and protect roads and jetties. Since then it has spread up and down

the coast and is one of the most significant causes of habitat loss for coastal snowy plovers and other dune loving plants and animals. The dense grass has also provided excellent habitat for plover predators. In late September a crew from the Northwest Youth Corps spent a week pulling this nonnative plant from the Oregon Dunes.

“Though it rained for part of the project, the youth did enjoy the work; it was a nice change from working in the mountains,” explained Cole Southworth, Northwest Youth Corps Field Director. “There was one youth that had never seen the Pacific Ocean before and many hadn’t been to the beach for years.”

The crew was greeted by Cindy Burns, a Wildlife Biologist from the Siuslaw National Forest, who provided background information on why it is important to protect the Plovers and also why hand pulling beach grass is better than using machines. “Hand pulling lets us be more specific about what we are removing from the dunes, lets us leave native plant species in place and causes far fewer disruptions for the wildlife” noted Burns. “In areas that have previously been mechanically treated the beachgrass sprouts can be easily pulled and effects can last for 2 to 3 years. Dozers (the machine option) disturb everything in their path while removing the beachgrass.“

According to the Northwest Youth Corps projects that come in the late season like this one help keep their program fully funded. “What happens when we aren’t able to find paid work for a week or two is that Northwest Youth Corps absorbs the loss,” explained Southworth. “This cuts into our recruitment budget, which directly supplies scholarships to participants to come into our program. So without this project, we wouldn’t be able to serve as many youth during the 2010 year.”

The Northwest Youth Corps Crew succeeded in removing over eight acres of European beachgrass and learned a bit about a little bird that lives on the dunes. “This session I’ve learned about endangered species habitat preservation. I’ve also learned patience and how beautiful, and sometimes wet fall session can be,” said Northwest Youth Corps crew member Araya Jensen.

Cindy Burns agreed. “It was nice to see the youth involved with caring for our natural resources. They took ownership in the project,” continued Burns. “It was pretty cool.”

For more information contact the Siuslaw National Forest at (541) 750-7000 or visit our website at www.fs.fed.us/r6/siuslaw or twitter.com/SiuslawNF.

Program Project Name: Research on Restoring Critical Habitat for Listed Pacific Salmon

Local Project Name: Spatial Patterns of Habitats and Salmonids #1
Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Corvallis, OR
Estimated Project Cost: $329,975.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 1

Congressional District(s): OR04
County(ies): OR: Benton
Modified Date: 6/23/2010

Story:
Spatial Patterns of Habitats and Salmonids Recovery Act Research Underway

(Story posted 4/12/2010)

Dr. Kelly Burnett of the USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station's (PNW) Land and Watershed Management Program is leading this recovery Act project that is being accomplished through a Joint Venture Agreement with the Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society in Oregon State University's College of Forestry.

The university will use Economic Recovery funds to hire a post-doctoral researcher and a graduate student to develop and employ models to characterize and explore spatial patterns of habitat and salmon within river networks of the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. Results will yield metrics that describe spatial patterns of fish and habitat, and advance spatial statistical modeling approaches. These new tools will provide understanding about the distribution and abundance of salmon needed to help sustain healthy populations and recover at-risk populations.

Program Project Name: Research on Restoring Critical Habitat for Listed Pacific Salmon

Local Project Name: Assessing Climate Change Impacts on Water and Fish Habitat in WA and OR
Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Corvallis, OR
Estimated Project Cost: $435,904.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 3
Congressional District(s): OR04
County(ies): OR: Benton
Modified Date: 6/23/2010

Story:
Recovery Act Research Project Assesses Climate Change Impacts on Water and Fish Habitat in Washington and Oregon

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

Dr. Gordon Reeves of the Pacific Northwest Research Station's (PNW) Land and Watershed Management Program, is leading this Recoery Act project under a Joint Venture Agreement with the Department of Fish and Wildlife in Oregon State University's (OSU) College of Agricultural Sciences.

As of April 2010, the university is using the Economic Recovery funds to hire two full-time researchers and employ a faculty member part-time. The project is a collaborative effort with OSU and the University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group (CIG) to expand upon existing efforts to develop a decision support tool that forest planners can use to assess the potential effects of climate change on fish habitat in the Northwest. This work will bring the results of global climate models down to the scale of river basins, and will help land and fisheries managers better understand which basins and salmon stocks are most at risk from climate change effects over the next several decades.

The potential effects on climate change on water and aquatic ecosystems are of major concern to federal land managers in the Pacific Northwest and elsewhere, and there is an increasing interest to develop policies and practices to address these effects. Initial climate change projections were of a coarse nature, often covering large geographic areas and failing to resolve features that will influence the expression on climate change on small scales, such as the coastal mountains or smaller mountain ranges like the Cascades or Olympics. Consequently, features such as east-west temperature and precipitation gradients in the Pacific Northwest cannot be appropriately simulated in coarser models. Attempts to use raw data from these models will produce highly erroneous results when considered at finer scales.

The objective of this study is to develop tools to understand the potential impacts of climate change on water and selected native fish and their habitat at the scale of a national forest. The initial phase of the study will focus on pilot projects in four National Forests, the Olympic (including the Olympic National Park), Wenatchee-Okanogan, Willamette and Deschutes, and a yet to be identified forest(s) in Eastern Oregon. These forests represent a range of geologies and climates and thus will respond differently to climate change.

The CIG will develop and provide detailed reports summarizing downscaled historic hydroclimate data and simulations along with future hydrologic change scenarios for these areas. A model called NetMap will be used to identify selected watershed features, such as valley configuration and channel orientation, which will influence the extent of change in aquatic ecosystems resulting from climate change.

Program Project Name: T2, Inc.

Local Project Name: Equipment to Increase Efficiency of Biomass Processing and Utilization from National Forest Lands
Region: Forest Products Laboratory
Nearby City(ies): Sweet Home
Estimated Project Cost: $250,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 1
Congressional District(s): OR04
County(ies): OR: Linn
Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:
Equipment to Increase Efficiency of Biomass Processing and Utilization from National Forest Lands

(Story posted 5/3/2010)

Grant funding was received by T2 Inc on September 22nd 2009. The equipment, a new 2008 Hyundai R210LC-7A High Chassis Log Loader equipped with a 34 ft boom and Jewell F-H80BT brush grapple, was picked up by T2, Inc. from Oregon Tractor in Portland, OR. Operator training for the equipment began on September 24, 2009 through the first week of October 2009. Utilization of the equipment started in October 2009, on the Head Stewardship project on the Deschutes National Forest. The new equipment was teamed with a Diamond Z horizontal grinder on tracks and a support excavator. Production time increases were observed based upon the number of minutes to fill a 48ft chip trailer. Previously, the fastest fill time was approximately 30 minutes with an average time between 30 and 40 minutes per chip trailer. The fastest time observed in October with the new equipment was 15 minutes with average times near 25 to 30 minutes. Increased production rates met or exceeded projected goals. Due to limited operating periods since receiving the equipment, this report (November 30, 2009) is too early to compare increases in tonnages and acres treated to comparable periods last year.

Equipment acquisition costs were slightly higher than initially proposed, but equipment pickup and personnel costs were lower. Training was more efficient due to similar equipment owned and operated by T2. Overall project is on budget.

Program Project Name: Research on Restoring Critical Habitat for Listed Pacific Salmon

Local Project Name: Density Management and Riparian Buffer Studies #1
Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Corvallis, Oregon
Estimated Project Cost: $329,975.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 3
Congressional District(s): OR04
County(ies): OR: Benton
Modified Date: 6/23/2010

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Density Management and Riparian Buffer Studies

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

Dr. Deanna Olson of the Pacific Northwest Research Station's (PNW) Land and Watershed Management Program is leading this Recovery Act project under a Joint Venture agreement with the Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society in Oregon State University's College

of Forestry.

The university's lead scientist for the project, Dr. Klaus Puettmann, is using the Economic Recovery funds to employ a forestry technician, a post-doctoral forestry researcher, and a Ph.D student to help investigate the effects and interactions of climate patterns and alternative forest management practices on forest, riparian and stream habitat conditions in headwater drainages. As of April 2010, the forestry technician position has been filled, and the other two are in the process of application review.

This project is part of a larger long-term collaborative research initiative, the Density Management and Riparian Buffer Studies of Western Oregon, of the PNW Research Station, the Pacific Northwest Region of the USFS, the USDI Bureau of Land Management, and Oregon State University. The goal of the initiative is to examine the efficacy of alternative silvicultural manipulations (including different buffer widths and thinning densities) of early-successional forests in accelerating the development of late-successional forest structure. The forest treatments are being tested as useful project-level tools to achieve larger forest ecosystem management goals.

The individuals employed under this Economic Recovery Joint Venture Agreement will help integrate the research (especially the riparian vegetation and vertebrate faunal components) and expand the scope of work being conducted to include climatic variation. The studies are entering a new round of thinning treatments, which is an optimum time to synthesize and integrate discrete study segments and develop new directions from interim findings and changing conditions that potentially affect the study and its representative forest landscape. Inclusion of climate metrics and assessment of climate variation as variables potentially affecting both upland and riparian vegetation growth and aquatic-riparian habitat conditions for fauna is an important new direction for this set of studies.

Program Project Name: Prioritize Fuel Treatments by Estimating Restoration Potential and Understanding Their Effects

Local Project Name: Integrated Fuels Prioritization Summary #1
Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Corvallis and Portland, Oregon
Estimated Project Cost: $5,940,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 34
Congressional District(s): NM01, OR03, OR04
County(ies): OR: Lane, Multnomah
Modified Date: 6/23/2010

Story:

Integrated Fuels Prioritization Supports Land Management Decisions

(Story posted 4/19/2010)

This Economic Recovery project, led by Dr. Miles Hemstrom of the Pacific Northwest

Research Station's (PNW) Focused Science Delivery Program and Dr. David L. Peterson of the Station's Threat Characterization and Management Program, is a collaborative effort between the Station and the Institute for Natural Resources of Oregon State University's College of Forestry, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, the University of Washington, Ecosystems Management, Inc., Sonoma Technology, Inc., ESSA Technologies, the University of New Mexico, and the Conservation Biology Institute. Under a series of agreements and contracts, Economic Recovery funds are being utilized to create about fifty jobs in the Pacific Northwest and elsewhere. As of April 2010, about 34 people have been hired or retained using this project's Economic Recovery funds.

When land managers make forest fuels decisions, they affect other forestry priorities. The Integrated Fuels Prioritization project gives managers, planners, and policymakers tools to help them make decisions that concurrently reduce fuels, improve habitat, benefit rural communities, promote water quality, and mitigate the effects of climate change. The jobs created under this project will help land managers prioritize areas for fuel treatment in Arizona, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington.

Planners and land managers may use these unique prioritization tools for restoration, forest plan revisions, and statewide assessments. To create the tools, the project brings together scientists, analysts, managers, planners, and support staff from universities, conservation organizations, and state and federal natural resource agencies. The project creates reports, maps, models, and an online decision support system for managers.

The project will rely on land managers to give ideas and feedback to make the tools relevant and useful. "We want to find out which of these management categories are most important to land managers and which are less so," said Hemstrom. "That way we can weight the priorities to reflect actual management goals."

Program Project Name: Prioritize Fuel Treatments by Estimating Restoration Potential and Understanding Their Effects

Local Project Name: Josh Halofsky sorts out fuels management priorities and saves a job
Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Portland, OR
Congressional District(s): NM01, OR03, OR04
County(ies): OR: Lane, Multnomah
Modified Date: 6/23/2010

Story:

Josh Halofsky Sorts Out Fuels Management Priorities and Saves a Job

(Story posted 4/15/2010)

When Josh Halofsky was hired for an Economic Recovery Act project in Portland, through a Joint Venture Agreement between the PNW Research Station and Washington State Department of Natural Resources he didn't save his job—he saved a colleague's. The state

agency where he worked had suffered several rounds of cuts, with Halofsky's and the colleague's jobs perennially on the chopping block. When Halofsky accepted his current position as a Landscape Ecologist for the Recovery Act project, his former salary allowed the colleague to keep his own job.

Fast forward to spring 2010. Halofsky can now be found coordinating people and information for the Integrated Fuels Prioritization project, a four-state, multi-agency effort that models the influences of forest management decisions on wildlife habitat, natural disturbances, forest fuels, and rural economics. Halofsky's modeling work will create standardized data across Arizona, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington, but in the long run, Halofsky believes it will help landscape modelers nationwide: "Potentially," he said, "We can provide examples of how this research can be applied across other states."

Halofsky also believes his experience with this project will benefit his future employers. "I'll have publications and an increased skill set," he explained, "I will have made a lot of great contacts and I'll have more experience running a team."

Program Project Name: Prioritize Fuel Treatments by Estimating Restoration Potential and Understanding Their Effects

Local Project Name: Lisa Ekman: Communicating about fire-hazard reduction
Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Portland, OR
Congressional District(s): OR03, OR04
County(ies): OR: Multnomah
Modified Date: 6/23/2010

Story:

Lisa Ekman: Communicating about Fire-Hazard Reduction

(Story posted 4/19/2010)

Fire-hazard reduction treatments are a crucial component of forest management in the western U.S., where the build-up of dense understories heightens the risk of uncharacteristically severe wildfire on millions of acres. A Pacific Northwest (PNW)Research Station-sponsored Economic Recovery research project is producing maps and information that will help local land managers prioritize where to implement treatments. However, producing this information is only the first step. For it to be useful, land managers must be aware of it. This is why project lead Dr. Miles Hemstrom hired Lisa Ekman to help with communication. Ekman, a Master's degree candidate in writing at Portland State University, was brought on as a science writer in September 2009, enabling the project team to focus on their research rather than outreach.

As of April 2010, Ekman has already produced a mix of communication products, including general technical reports and fact sheets. Currently, she is working with a wildlife biologist to produce a poster. “A lot of interesting science is being produced with this project,” said Ekman. “But it still needs to get out to the users.” She has found that she enjoys bridging this communication gap between research and management, and definitely plans to continue this line of work as a career. “This job has been great practice, and has already improved my writing skills,” she added.

Program Project Name: Malheur National Forest- Road Paving/ Chip Seals

Local Project Name: Knox Stewardship Economic Recovery Project Puts People To Work
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Malheur
Nearby City(ies): None Listed
Congressional District(s): OR02
County(ies): OR: Harney
Modified Date: 6/23/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Stewardship Project Reduces Hazardous Fuels

(Story posted 4/4/2010)

The Knox Stewardship Project is using stewardship contracting authorities to reduce hazardous fuels on the Malheur National Forest in eastern Oregon.

The Malheur National Forest (Oregon) has begun a Recovery Act-funded stewardship contract project that involves the reduction of hazardous fuels on the Tamarack Creek Sub-watershed.

Stewardship contracting is a means for federal agencies to contribute to the development of sustainable rural communities; restore and maintain healthy forest ecosystems; and provide a continuing source of local income and employment. Hazardous fuels projects involve the removal of small trees and brush that increase the risk of wildfire near communities.

The scope of the project includes commercial/noncommercial thinning, natural and project generated fuel treatment, biomass removal, and prescribed burning on over 6,500 acres. Other goals of this project are to provide work for local contractors; generate 695 loads of saw timber and 255 loads of biomass for mills and cogeneration plants; reduce hazardous fuels; improve forest health; and fund other projects.

The estimated volume from the project is expected to be approximately 26,360 tons of non-saw and saw material (merchantable woody biomass). Raw material generated from this project is going to local sawmills, cogeneration facilities, fuels for schools projects, and the new pellet plant located in Grant County, OR.

This project has provided jobs for equipment operators, thinning crews, log truck drivers, and mill workers whose industry is currently facing extremely difficult times.

The current stewardship authority in northeastern Oregon uses the receipts from the selling of logs and biomass to fund additional work on the Forest.

The project is scheduled to be completed by August 31, 2010.

Program Project Name: Forest Fisheries Restoration

Local Project Name: ARRA Williams Creek Bridge Project Benefits Fish Species
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Umpqua
Nearby City(ies): Roseburg
Congressional District(s): OR04
County(ies): OR: Douglas
Modified Date: 6/23/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Williams Creek Bridge Project Benefits Fish Species

(Story posted 1/1/2010)

Nearly $2 million of ARRA funds build a new bridge benefiting fish passage between Williams Creek and North Umpqua River in Oregon on the Umpqua National Forest.

In 2006, the Umpqua National Forest (UNF)targeted the Williams Creek culvert under Highway 138 East as the Forest's most pressing barrier to fish passage.

But funding the culvert replacement became an obstacle for the UNF much like the concrete box's tall channel was during low flows for coho salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout. Nothing short of a bottomless arch or bridge for the highway was suggested to be built in its place.

For three years, design work on the project and environmental analysis proceeded without an identified source of funding for bridge construction. Then in early 2009, Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which included funding for fisheries restoration projects. The Forest applied for ARRA funding and was awarded nearly $2 million for a new highway bridge over Williams Creek.

"If it weren't for that bill, we wouldn't have the money to build the thing," said Gordon Hanek, project engineer for the Umpqua.

The UNF worked with the Oregon Department of Transportation on the project, who had

already designed a bridge to complement the adjacent North Umpqua Rivr, a designated Wild and Scenic River.

Williams Creek drains into the North Umpqua River about 37 miles east of Roseburg, Ore. Identified as a corridor to some of the best fish habitat on the Umpqua forest, Williams Creek provides more than four miles of spawning grounds and cover to adult fish and juveniles.

But in late summer, when many streams are trickling, Williams Creek flows through the 10-foot wide highway culvert with just enough spring water to wet the concrete and trickle over the culvert's edge to the stream's mouth below. Three species of adult fish attempt to access Williams Creek during this time period,and are confronted with a small but challenging manmade wall. However, juvenile fish are affected the most, especially juvenile steelhead.

Juvenile steelhead spend up to two years in streams and creeks before migrating to the ocean. When they pass downstream through the Williams Creek culvert during low flows, they get stranded from their prime habitat for weeks at a time.

According to Elizabeth Stacey, the Department of Transportation's southwest regional project leader, a highway culvert replacement a couple of years ago for a very similar creek that empties into the North Umpqua River about 12 miles downstream had immediate success for fish passage.

The Department of Transportation had also designed the new bridge on Highway 138 East for Honey Creek, which drains on Bureau of Land Management land. Within one rainy season Honey Creek went from being devoid of fish to a spawning ground for salmon and steelhead.

At a cost of approximately $1.9 million, the Williams Creek project will include boulder- and log-placement upstream for additional habitat enhancement for fish. Stacey said the Department of Transportation also has designed the bridge with colored concrete and weathered guard railings so it will blend into its surroundings and not be noticeable to highway travelers and river users.

Construction on the Williams Creek bridge could begin in spring 2010; the project will go to bid this January. Construction is expected to be completed by fall 2010.

Over the past several years the Forest Service has completed about a dozen major culverts on the Umpqua for fish passage improvements, Gordon Hanek said, "but this is the biggest one in terms of the bridge."

By Adam Pearson, freelance writer residing in Roseburg, Oregon

Program Project Name: Reducing threat of wildfires in central and southwest Oregon

Local Project Name: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funding Making a Difference in South Deschutes County, Oregon

Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Deschutes
Nearby City(ies): La Pine
Congressional District(s): OR02, OR04
County(ies): OR: Coos, Crook, Curry, Deschutes, Douglas, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine
Modified Date: 6/23/2010

Story:

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funding Making a Difference in South Deschutes County, Oregon

(Story posted 7/7/2009)

Steps to economic recovery in South Deschutes County, Oregon

Heading out each day, Victor Sanchez prepares for a long, hard day of work. As an employee of Quicksilver, Victor has been working in Central Oregon for almost a decade. Over the past several weeks he and his crew have been working on the Cone Thinning Project for the Deschutes National Forest in Oregon. The project is funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and involves thinning lodgepole pine that has grown up in the area since the Cone Timber Sale was originally completed.

He arrives at the work site early - too early to get coffee since the stand in La Pine isn't open yet. Victor lines out his sawyers for the day. With everyone heading out to start cutting, Victor stops to chat a bit about what jobs like this mean for the community of La Pine and other parts of Central Oregon. He leans on the truck purchased by Quicksilver when the contract was awarded. Nearby is a small propane stove that the crew will use to heat up their lunches several hours later.

"Our guys shop all over the area," says Victor, "for their families and for the job site. We buy our supplies at stores in La Pine like Bi-mart."

With one third of the crew coming up from Chemult and the rest of the guys living in Bend, their paychecks are spread over a large area. They support local businesses by purchasing supplies needed every day for the job site like gas, gloves, boots, and hardhats.

They spend the major portion of their paychecks for rent, groceries, and other support for their families. All of the employees - and John Williams, owner of Quicksilver - value the work they do and appreciate their ability to give back to local businesses during tough economic times.

They will continue to work as long as they can, putting their paychecks back into the community. When asked about "extras" he might enjoy now that he has a paycheck through the end of summer, Victor smiles and says, "Maybe things like coffee on the drive home at night, and on the weekends - fishing!"

Program Project Name: Eight County Hazardous Fuels Reduction (partially funded under 10%)

Local Project Name: Stimulus Dollars at Work on Tiller Ranger District, Umpqua National Forest

Region: Pacific Northwest Region

Forest: Umpqua

Ranger District: Tiller

Nearby City(ies): None Listed

Congressional District(s): OR02, OR04

County(ies): OR: Coos, Crook, Curry, Deschutes, Douglas, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine

Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Stimulus Dollars At Work On Tiller Ranger District, Umpqua National Forest

(Story posted 3/3/2009)

Five contracts and agreements were awarded to contractors and agencies from the Umpqua National Forest as the first phase of U.S. Forest Service economic stimulus funds, totaling nearly $2 million.

A month after President Obama signed the Recovery Act, workers are clearing out hazardous fuels on the Tiller Ranger District of the Umpqua National Forest.

With $919,280 of stimulus funding through an existing agreement with Oregon Department of Forestry, the Douglas Forest Protective Association (DFPA) started a 12-person crew on the first of 1,400 acres. DFPA anticipates hiring another crew in the next week.

Douglas County was identified as one of six counties in Oregon meeting several indicators of extreme unemployment. The Forest Service sent a total of $1,997,000 of stimulus funding to Douglas County as a way to put people back to work.

The pre-commercial thinning work is tackling a big backlog of crowded forest stands on the Tiller District. Bob Danskin, a silviculturist with the Forest Service, explained that in addition to providing jobs, the thinning work will give the remaining trees plenty of room to grow while reducing the risk of fire in areas near private property.

The forest thinning work near Tiller is one of several similar projects scattered across the Forest. Contractors from Grayback Forestry and DL Reforestation companies indicate they will bring back crews earlier than usual and hire new employees to meet the workload on the North Umpqua and Diamond Lake Ranger Districts.

The Forest Service anticipates advertising and awarding additional projects with the next phase of economic stimulus funds expected in the next several weeks.

Program Project Name: Reducing threat of wildfires in central and southwest Oregon
Local Project Name: Thirteen is a lucky number... in LaPine, Oregon
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Deschutes
Nearby City(ies): La Pine
Congressional District(s): OR02, OR04
County(ies): OR: Coos, Crook, Curry, Deschutes, Douglas, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine
Modified Date: 6/23/2010

Story:

Central Oregon Recovery Act project boosts employment, gear purchases as sawyers thin forested land

(Story posted 7/7/2009)

Thirteen is a Lucky Number in La Pine, Oregon

For thirteen sawyers working east of La Pine, the past several weeks have been more like fulfilling the slogan of the U.S. Postal Service than working on a contract for the U.S. Forest Service. The crew reaches the jobsite at 5:30 in the morning ready to work in spite of wind, rain, hail, sleet, torrential downpours and thunderstorms.

As long-term employees of Quicksilver Contracting Company, these workers were used to being laid off in the winter. When conditions made it too hard to reach job sites, they searched for work in warmer areas like the southern Oregon Coast or as far away as Arizona. As soon as conditions warm up, they look forward to coming back to Quicksilver jobs and Central Oregon. This year those jobs were sparked by economic stimulus dollars made available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Quicksilver, with a satellite office in La Pine, Oregon, was awarded a Forest Service contract for a 3,000-acre thinning project in the southern part of Deschutes County. Originally thinned over a decade ago, the remaining open ponderosa pine stand filled in with lodgepole pine and needed to be thinned again.

In addition to providing work for Quicksilver Contracting employees, the paycheck that comes from working provides the means to support families. Many of these families live from Bend south to Chemult. They shop in local grocery stores and buy supplies like gloves and boots for their field work from local businesses.

Walking out to the project site, you see the workers, swinging their saws rapidly from tree to tree, making quick work of thousands of small, scraggly lodgepole pines that grow in the midst of the ponderosa pines. The sawyers attempt to maintain a complex matrix of spacing for a healthy forest. It is rewarding forest work with the added benefit of paychecks earned

and spent to support families and the local community.

Program Project Name: Reducing threat of wildfires in central and southwest Oregon

Local Project Name: Already Putting More People to Work in Central Oregon's Crooked River National Grassland

Region: Pacific Northwest Region

Forest: Deschutes

Nearby City(ies): Madras

Congressional District(s): OR02, OR04

County(ies): OR: Coos, Crook, Curry, Deschutes, Douglas, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine

Modified Date: 7/13/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Creates Jobs; Protects Homes in Central Oregon

(Story posted 4/4/2009)

PatRick Environmental, a national fire suppression crew contractor out of Redmond, OR, is adding months of work onto the "shoulder season," employing crew members earlier than usual this year. Since the crew operates on a "call when needed" basis, members generally don't start working until mid-June or July, depending on fire season activity.

Thanks to a Recovery Act "first round" award made to the Deschutes and Ochoco national forests, PatRick crews were contracted to start in late March. And although the project they are currently working on the Crooked River National Grassland is only one of many ARRA projects being implemented in Central Oregon, it makes a difference to the individuals it employs, their families and the local communities who are impacted by some of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation.

Equipment purchases are being made locally for the needed chainsaws, saw parts, gasoline and protective equipment. The purchases are roughly estimated to total approximately $10,000. These purchases are helping to circulate revenue back into the nearby communities.

On the Grassland project, twenty-six crew members who reside in Madras, Prineville, Redmond, Bend and Sisters have been busy thinning and piling at three different locations east and west of Madras in Jefferson County. When their work is complete, a total of 1,939 acres of overcrowded stands of juniper trees will have been treated for hazardous fuels reduction.

The "Round Butte" portion of the Grassland project includes treatment of 916 acres of hazardous fuel reduction adjacent to the Round Butte Subdivision, providing protection against future wildfires for the nearby homes.

The work will also serve to protect a Portland General Electric switch station and nearby Oregon State Parks recreational facilities. The project complements a nearby 800-acre block that was treated for hazardous fuels reduction in 2008. The area previously treated was accomplished with grants from the National Fire Plan.

The Jefferson County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (NOV 2005), which was developed cooperatively between federal, state and local governments, has made it possible to receive these grants and awards for the purposes of hazardous fuels reduction and protection for private property and communities. With Recovery Act funding added to the mix, it's about providing jobs for our neighbors, too.

Program Project Name: Reducing threat of wildfires in central and southwest Oregon

Local Project Name: ARRA and the Forest Service in Central Oregon: Contract Crews Are Reducing Hazardous Fuels

Region: Pacific Northwest Region

Forest: Deschutes

Nearby City(ies): Bend

Congressional District(s): OR02, OR04

County(ies): OR: Coos, Crook, Curry, Deschutes, Douglas, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine

Modified Date: 7/13/2010

Story:

Recovery Act and the Forest Service Contract Crews Reduce Hazardous Fuels

(Story posted 4/4/2009)

People are back at work thinning and hand piling small trees, mowing and removing some biomass.

Just two weeks after economic stimulus work in the woods began, crews of four contractors have treated 1,044 acres of hazardous fuels on the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in Oregon. Crews are hard at work thinning and hand piling small trees, mowing and removing some biomass.

Quicksilver Contracting of Bend knocked back 529 acres on the Bend Fort Rock Ranger District south of Bend.

Melcher Logging of Sweet Home crews thinned, piled and mowed another 150 acres as part of the Head Thin Project on the Sisters Ranger District.

PatRick Contracting of Redmond treated 309 acres of the Crooked River National Grassland on the Ochoco National Forest.

GFP of Sisters crews thinned and piled 56 acres in the wild land urban interface near Sisters, Oregon as part of the Sisters Area Fuels Reduction Project.

Chain saws were buzzing in the woods, and crewpersons were glad to be back at work.

A session was held this week at Deschutes National Forest headquarters in Bend for additional persons interested in contracting with the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests. The "Central Oregon Restoration Project" will seek to develop a pool of contract resources that can be tapped into over the next year. Over one hundred people showed up to learn about contracting opportunities for the near future.

The Oregon Government Contract Assistance Program (GCAP) of Springfield, Oregon has also been conducting sessions about government contracting in multiple locations around the state. GCAP will host a session in Bend on April 14th.

Program Project Name: Reducing threat of wildfires in central and southwest Oregon

Local Project Name: ARRA and the Forest Service - People go to Work Reducing Wildfire Hazards
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Deschutes
Nearby City(ies): Sisters, Bend, and LaPine
Congressional District(s): OR02, OR04
County(ies): OR: Coos, Crook, Curry, Deschutes, Douglas, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine
Modified Date: 7/13/2010

Story:

Recovery Act and the Forest Service - People Go To Work Reducing Wildfire Hazards

(Story posted 4/4/2009)

March 17, 2009, marked one month since President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act(ARRA)and the award of two contracts by the Deschutes National Forest to put forty people to work reducing hazardous fuels in Central Oregon. Six days later, the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests awarded two more contracts to hire another one hundred people.

These crews will work on the Crooked River National Grassland in Jefferson County, and near Sisters, Bend, and LaPine in Deschutes County to reduce the hazardous fuels of wildfires. The work awarded so far amounts to approximately three million dollars worth of contracted work on the land.

Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook Counties in Central Oregon are three of the six counties with the highest increases in unemployment rates recorded recently in the state of Oregon. When the first ten million dollars of economic stimulus funds were allocated to the Forest Service in Oregon, close to five million dollars were designated to put people to work in Central Oregon. The Forest Service is to award approximately $1,997,000 in contracted work in Deschutes County; $1,997,000 in Jefferson County; and $970,000 in Crook County.

Crews are already beginning to work for Melcher Logging Incorporated of Sweet Home, Oregon on thinning and biomass removal work at the Head Thin Project in Jefferson County on the Sisters Ranger District of the Deschutes National Forest. This contract was a $ 1,471,740 award putting approximately twenty people to work across 3,200 acres.

The week of March 23 another 20 people, employed by the Quicksilver Contracting Company of Bend, Oregon, began lower elevation thinning work across 3,630 acres in the Bend Fort Rock Ranger District of the Deschutes National Forest in Deschutes County. This contract award was for $402,582.

On March 23, two more contracts were awarded for approximately one hundred people to thin and hand pile hazardous fuels in Jefferson and Deschutes Counties. PatRick Contracting of Redmond, Oregon will hire approximately sixty people to thin and pile juniper on the Crooked River Grassland in Jefferson County across 1,939 acres. This award was for $421,960.

Another award for $412,322 was made to GFP Contracting of Sisters, Oregon for work on the Sisters Area Fuels Reduction (SAFR) Project. Work begins on 502 acres of the Deschutes National Forest near homes that have been evacuated during large wildfires in recent years. GFP will hire approximately forty persons to do the work. Approximately two million dollars more will be awarded to contractors in coming weeks as project areas become free of snow.

Program Project Name: Umatilla National Forest and the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest – Elkhorn Dr. Scenic Byway (73 Road) Road Paving and NF John Day Bridge

Local Project Name: Elkhorn Drive Scenic Byway road maintenance
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Wallowa-Whitman
Ranger District: Baker
Nearby City(ies): Baker City
Congressional District(s): OR02
County(ies): OR: Baker
Modified Date: 7/15/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Elkhorn Drive Road Reconstruction Project

(Story posted 7/6/2010)

The Baker Valley Overlook along the Elkhorn Drive Scenic Byway was an ideal place to celebrate the most recent project in a series of improvements along the 106 mile byway. Two years ago, a Federal Highways project upgraded a lower section of the road and the overlook was completed in 2008 as part of a series of interpretive signs along the byway.

With shovel in hand, Steve Ellis, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Supervisor, was joined by Betty Mathews, Deputy Forest Supervisor, Jen Fitzpatrick, acting Whitman District Ranger, Bill Junnila, Anthony Lakes Ski Resort manager, Bruce Nash, Project superintendent from High Desert Aggregate and Paving Inc and, Alice Trindle from the Eastern Oregon Visitors Association to give the project an official start. After several words from Ellis and others about how this project will benefit Eastern Oregon, shovels were placed in the ground to mark the start of the project.

The $2 million reconstruction project will require restructuring and resurfacing most of the 10 mile stretch of road that will be worked on. High Desert will also remove hazardous rocks from the slopes above the road. These rocks will be used to expand and improve the snow park parking lot just above the ski resort. This Parking lot is used most when the snow is fresh and there is an abundance of skiers, snowboarders and snowmobilers.

The Elkhorn Drive Scenic Byway serves many travelers in both the summer and winter. In winter the road brings access to the Anthony Lakes Ski resort for skiers and snowboarders. Cross country skiers can access trails around Anthony Lake and snowmobilers can have access to trails designated for their use. In the summer hikers and mountain bikers can access many trails around Anthony Lake and the ever popular Elkhorn Crest trail that spans 23 miles atop the ridge with breathtaking views.

By the end of this project skiers, snowboarders, hikers, boaters and other outdoor recreational users will be able to enjoy a safer and smoother drive to their destination whether it be summer or winter.

Program Project Name: Reducing threat of wildfires in central and southwest Oregon

Local Project Name: Counties are Put to Work Thinning a Backlog of Forest Service Inventory in Areas Where Unemployment Is High

Region: Pacific Northwest Region

Forest: Umpqua

Ranger District: Tiller

Nearby City(ies): Tiller (20 miles)

Congressional District(s): OR02, OR04

County(ies): OR: Coos, Crook, Curry, Deschutes, Douglas, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine

Modified Date: 8/5/2010

Story:

Umpqua National Forest Uses Recovery Act Funds for Fuels Reduction Project

(Story posted 7/19/2010)

When Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act with the intent of creating jobs immediately, the Umpqua National Forest had a few shovel-ready projects on tap.

“There was a call asking who had projects that could get up and running that fast,” said Bob Danskin, a forestry technician in silviculture with the Umpqua’s Tiller Ranger District in Tiller, Oregon, who knew of several fuels-reduction projects already vetted under guidelines set forth by the National Environmental Policy Act. “We didn’t have to go through the planning process.”

While they waited for summer to heat up and fire season to start last year, about 60 firefighters with the Douglas Forest Protective Association (DFPA) in Douglas County, Oregon worked for weeks while clearing brush and undergrowth when they might otherwise had been idle.

“It kind of underscores the stimulus bill,” Danskin said of the workers’ free-hand thinning of the forest to make it less susceptible to catastrophic fire. “And they’re still working on that group of units.”

Indeed, just this past June about two dozen DFPA firefighters were thinning a patch of forest east of Tiller by cutting down excess small-diameter trees with chain saws and hand-piling slash to be burned later. An unusually cool and wet spring was the beginning recipe for a potentially tame fire season, and the workers were glad to be part of the Eight County Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project, a stimulus-centric undertaking for eight counties in Oregon affected by high unemployment rates.

Danskin said about 375 acres of the Tiller Ranger District project were thinned in 2009, with the U.S. Forest Service taking care of a tremendous backlog of forest inventory with about $900,000 in stimulus money set aside for the overall project.
The $900,000 is only the first of two agreements. They leave this work during the summer to go to their regular fire duties and come back to the precommercial thinning and treating slash in the fall. Additional ground is identified for more thinning work in 2011.

“It kept 15 guys employed all winter,” said Scott Hall, a Foreman for the DFPA who expected the thinning work to continue through the beginning of July when firefighters have to be on standby for wildfire.

However, some of Hall’s young crew members were split on the opinion of whether the reliable thinning work was better than the adrenaline-pumping work of fighting forest fires.

“Fire season’s much better,” said T.J. Ramos, 23, of Myrtle Creek, Oregon, who pined for the fast-paced action of swooping across the Northwest landscape in helicopters and chasing wildfire across state lines as he hand-piled slash on a cool sunny morning. “There’s a little more to it than throwing sticks on a pile.”

But Andrew Denton, 23, of Canyonville, Oregon, didn’t mind the tedium of forest thinning compared to his part-time job at a convenience store in Corvallis, where he works while attending Oregon State University.

“Wages are better, and it’s not full time there,” Denton said.

Nearby, Kenny Swope, 25, of Days Creek, Oregon, worked a chain saw alongside a couple of other guys to make space in the wildland-urban-interface (WUI), the so-called zone on the outskirts of public forest lands that bump up against private property, housing, and timberland. Part of the crew's focus was to create spacing in the WUI while also creating space alongside nearby roads by pruning trees that were within 50 feet of the road.

A skilled logger, Swope said if it weren't for thinning work with the DFPA he would have been able to find some logging through friends and family in Douglas County. But he couldn't be guaranteed 40 hours a week.

"This is constant," Swope said of the project, adding that a regular paycheck is also beneficial compared to the excitement that comes with fighting wildfire. "Sometimes during fire season we have down times."

Program Project Name: McKenzie Ranger Station Remodel Incorporating Energy Efficiencies - Reconstruction

Local Project Name: McKenzie River Ranger Station Remodel
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Willamette
Ranger District: McKenzie River
Nearby City(ies): McKenzie Bridge
Congressional District(s): OR02
County(ies): OR: Lane
Modified Date: 7/23/2010

Story:

Economic Stimulus to Turn McKenzie River Ranger Office Green

(Story posted 2/19/2010)

More than $3 million of recovery Act funds will go to work soon turning the McKenzie River Ranger District office environmentally green.

The office, home to administrators of the McKenzie River Ranger District, is located in the Willamette National Forest. In 2001, a new "portal" visitor center entrance for scenic byways was constructed and the exterior of the old office resided and reroofed to match. Over 25,000 visitors annually come through the doors of this impressive structure and enjoy the state-of-the-art interpretative information center that lies within.

However, due to limited funding in 2001, the new portal is attached to a severely deteriorating facility that is at the end of its serviceable life. The administrative offices will be remodeled beginning this month meeting state-of-the-art environmental or "LEED Silver" standards. LEED stands for "Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design." This new

facility will be sustainable and efficient to operate and maintain.

“This is an exciting use of economic stimulus,” McKenzie River District Ranger Mary Allison said. “We will be putting people to work and building a sustainable, energy-efficient building, two worthy goals.”

Construction contractor Lan Pacific will be placing temporary modular buildings near the warehouse that will serve as office space for employees beginning in March. The older modulars will be torn down and a large percentage of the material will be taken to a recycling center.

This project is funded with approximately $3 million of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. The funds are part of the forest facilities and trails projects announced by Secretary Tom Vilsack last summer. The project construction is expected to bring additional money into the community and surrounding areas.

Little disruption is expected to front office visitor services. Normal business hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Parking will be limited during construction and hikers are encouraged to use nearby trailhead parking. Call the front office at 541.822.3381 with questions.

Program Project Name: Mt Hood and Willamette Road Maintenance and Decommissioning

Local Project Name: Forest Highway 46 Reconstruction Project
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Willamette
Ranger District: Detroit
Nearby City(ies): Detroit,OR and Estacada,OR
Congressional District(s): OR02, OR03, OR04, OR05
County(ies): OR: Clackamas, Hood River, Lane, Linn
Modified Date: 8/13/2010

Story:

Forest Highway Project Is Nearly Complete Thanks To Recovery Act

(Story posted 9/17/2009)

Reconstruction of Forest Highway 46, a popular scenic route that runs between the Willamette and Mount Hood National Forests, is nearly complete. Workers have been grinding away old pavement, laying new asphalt, installing new safety signs and managing traffic flow since July. The $1.5 million project was funded by the Recovery Act.

“We’re pleased to have the opportunity to employ some of Oregon’s finest,” said Steve Sappington, Lead Engineer for the Detroit Ranger District. “This has been a great project to be a part of in improving such a popular route within our Forest infrastructure.”

“Recovery Act is a new and very important program, but the idea of putting rural America to work has long been a part of what the Forest Service does, I’m proud to play even a small role in that tradition,” adds Steve.

Local contractors and their employees have worked hard over the past several months to improve the highway for public access.

“This project has put a lot of people to work who may have otherwise been sitting at home,” said Al Thomas, Contractor’s Representative for the project. “It just pays for everyone to work together. People should get out and take a drive to enjoy the road.”

Those interested in bidding on Recovery Act work must be registered to work as a federal contractor (see GCAP.org for assistance). Contracts are listed on the website fedbizopps.gov.

Please contact Judy McHugh, Public Affairs Officer, at (541)915-5372 for more information about this project and other Recovery Act-funded projects on the Willamette National Forest or visit http://fs.usda.gov/recovery.

Program Project Name: Temporary Employment Living Quarters

Local Project Name: Bunkhouse remodels on the McKenzie and Middle Fork Ranger Districts
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Willamette
Ranger District: Middle Fork
Nearby City(ies): Westfir, OR and McKenzie Bridge, OR
Congressional District(s): OR04
County(ies): OR: Lane
Modified Date: 7/23/2010

Story:

Willamette National Forest Economic Recovery Projects Getting Started

(Story posted 8/12/2009)

Acting Forest Supervisor Scott Fitzwilliams will be awarding 6.1 million in building construction projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The funds are part of the forest facilities and trails projects announced by Secretary Tom Vilsack on July 21, 2009.

The building construction projects on the Willamette National Forest will occur in the communities of Westfir and McKenzie Bridge, Oregon. In addition to the new buildings, $1.4 million in repairs to Highway 46 (connects Detroit and Estacada, Oregon) using Recovery Act funds will begin next week.

Locally, workers will construct two new bunkhouses for temporary employees: one in Westfir and one in McKenzie Bridge. Additionally, an existing historic structure on the Forest Service compound will be converted for single-family use. These projects will allow the Forest Service to provide onsite, energy-efficient housing; the shortage of which currently restrains effective retention of employees.

In addition to the bunkhouses, construction workers will upgrade the McKenzie River Ranger Station to meet current standards and energy-efficiency codes. The existing front of the ranger station serves as a state-of-the-art interpretative center, but behind that entrance is an older building that is severely deteriorating.

Workers will construct and maintain facilities so that they contribute to safe, high-quality outdoor experiences for all. Once work is completed these buildings will be more energy efficient; use less water; have a smaller environmental footprint; and save taxpayer money.

Program Project Name: Blue Mountain Fuels and Timber Stewardship

Local Project Name: Knox Stewardship
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Malheur
Ranger District: Prairie City
Nearby City(ies): Prairie City, John Day
Congressional District(s): OR02
County(ies): OR: Grant, Harney
Modified Date: 8/13/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funding Provides Jobs, Reduces Hazardous Fuels

(Story posted 7/23/2010)

The Knox Stewardship Project is using stewardship contracting authorities to reduce hazardous fuels in the Tamarack Creek Subwatershed, located on the Malheur National Forest in Eastern Oregon.

The stewardship project is providing jobs for equipment operators, thinning crews, log truck drivers, and mill workers during extremely difficult times in this industry.

Grant County logger Charlie O'Rorke, sees the Knox stewardship project as a prime example of what the Recovery Act was meant to do.

"With this contract I am able to have a crew of ten, and also provide enough material for six log haulers." stated O'Rorke. "Without this contract we were looking at just two months of work this season."

Mr. O'Rorke also said, "This year is better than 2009, not like in the past, but this contract will help me to keep the experienced guys around." He added, "Without the work, guys would be looking at other areas to find jobs."

The scope of the project includes commercial/noncommercial thinning, natural and project generated fuel treatment, biomass removal, and prescribed burning on over 6,500 acres.

Estimated volume from Knox stewardship Recovery Act project is expected to be approximately 26,360 tons of non-saw and saw material (merchantable woody biomass).

Raw material generated from this project is going to local sawmills, cogeneration facilities, and the new pellet plant being built in Grant County, OR.

The project is scheduled to be completed by August 31, 2010.

Program Project Name: Coho Salmon Habitat Improvement

Local Project Name: Siuslaw Watershed Instream Helicopter Wood Placement
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Siuslaw
Ranger District: Central Coast Ranger District
Nearby City(ies): Mapleton, OR
Estimated Project Cost: $182,000.00
Congressional District(s): OR04, OR05
County(ies): OR: Lane
Modified Date: 7/30/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Watershed Habitat Improvements on the Siuslaw National Forest

(Story posted 7/26/2010)

The Siuslaw National Forest was one of only three Forests in the Pacific Northwest Region to receive Related Ecosystem Watershed Enhancement project dollars through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Working through a partnership with Siuslaw Watershed Council, these funds are finding their way into the local communities and creating healthy habitat for Coho and Chinook salmon.

For this Recovery Act project, large trees are placed in high priority streams to restore the watershed processes to improve habitat for Endangered Species Act-listed Coho salmon and other aquatic species including Chinook and lamprey. The trees will provide cover for aquatic species, sort gravel for spawning, increase pools and provide additional insect habitat.

The Siuslaw National Forest and the Siuslaw Watershed Council have a strong, shared history of working together to accomplish award-winning work in watershed restoration. This relationship allowed for the $500,000 in Recovery Act funding to hire local workers who started on the project during late summer and fall 2009. According to Liz Vollmer-Buhl, Siuslaw Watershed Coordinator/Executive Director, 30% of the project was completed during the 2009 field season with completion expected by October 2010.

“The Recovery funding enables us to implement important habitat restoration and to contract with local people, keeping them working,” noted Vollmer-Buhl. “For us, that is a win-win situation.”

The Siuslaw Watershed Council is using a variety of methods to accomplish this in-stream restoration work. Through a project initially funded by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, a two-person displaced fisher crew has been working for the council for the last few years on various riparian restoration projects and were selected to help with this one. The fisher crew consists of local fishers displaced by reduced ocean fisheries. Without this Recovery Act project, they would have been temporarily laid off by the council between projects.

William Morrison, one of the displaced fishers working on the project, has really enjoyed the work so far. “I feel like I am making a difference in returning habitat to what it should be—-this is the most rewarding work I have ever done," he said.

For this in-stream wood placement project six contracted local timber fallers and a contracted helicopter with crew were also brought in. The helicopter contract includes two pilots, six mechanics, and a fuel truck. Columbia Helicopter has extensive experience working safely and professionally with the Forest Service and watershed councils on large wood placement projects. They are based in the Portland, Oregon area (approximately 160 miles from the local area).

During the 2009 field season, they stayed in Lincoln City and Florence, bringing business to local hotels, restaurants, grocery stores, gas stations, and other businesses as they purchased supplies and had equipment repaired in Lane and Lincoln Counties. The timber fallers and displaced fishers are local workers impacted by declining jobs in their industries.

Following an early summer visit to the site of the 2009 large wood placement, Siuslaw Watershed Coordinator Liz Vollmer-Buhl commented on how well the log structures are already working.

“We saw juvenile Coho swimming in the pools and darting in and out of the cover created by the trees, insects buzzing around and a build up of desirable gravels--in all a healthy stream to support healthy fish,” said Vollmer-Buhl.

Program Project Name: Oregon Sand Dunes Restoration

Local Project Name: Western Snowy Plover Restoration

Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Siuslaw
Ranger District: Central Coast Ranger District
Nearby City(ies): Florence, 7 miles
Estimated Project Cost: $7,680.96
Congressional District(s): OR01, OR04, OR05
County(ies): OR: Lane
Modified Date: 8/13/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Restoration of Western Snowy Plover With Help From Local Youth

(Story posted 7/26/2010)

Thanks to funding authorized under the Recovery Act and through a partnership with Northwest Youth Corps (NYC), western snowy plovers (a threatened species) on the Central Oregon Coast will have more room for nesting this year.

The Siuslaw National Forest was one of only three Forests in the Pacific Northwest Region to receive Related Ecosystem Watershed Enhancement project dollars. As part of a larger restoration project proposal, the Snowy Plover Habitat Restoration was one of the first to make it though the grants and agreement process getting $7,680 into the hands of Oregon youth.

Introduced to the west coast around 1898, European beachgrass (Ammophila arenaria) was used to stabilize dunes and protect roads and jetties. Since then it has spread up and down the coast and is one of the most significant causes of habitat loss for coastal snowy plovers and other dune loving plants and animals. The dense grass has also provided excellent habitat for plover predators. In late September, a crew from the Northwest Youth Corps spent a week pulling this nonnative plant from the Oregon Dunes.

“Though it rained for part of the project, the youth did enjoy the work; it was a nice change from working in the mountains,” explained Cole Southworth, Northwest Youth Corps Field Director. “There was one youth that had never seen the Pacific Ocean before and many hadn’t been to the beach for years.”

The crew was greeted by Cindy Burns, a Wildlife Biologist from the Siuslaw National Forest, who provided background information on why it is important to protect the Plovers and also why hand pulling beach grass is better than using machines.

“Hand pulling lets us be more specific about what we are removing from the dunes, lets us leave native plant species in place and causes far fewer disruptions for the wildlife” noted Burns. “In areas that have previously been mechanically treated the beachgrass sprouts can be easily pulled and effects can last for two to three years. Dozers (the machine option) disturb everything in their path while removing the beachgrass. “

According to the Northwest Youth Corps projects that come in the late season like this one help keep their program fully funded.

“What happens when we aren’t able to find paid work for a week or two is that Northwest Youth Corps absorbs the loss,” explained Southworth. “This cuts into our recruitment budget, which directly supplies scholarships to participants to come into our program. So without this project, we wouldn’t be able to serve as many youth during the 2010 year.”

The Northwest Youth Corps Crew succeeded in removing over eight acres of European beachgrass and learned a bit about a little bird that lives on the dunes.

“This session I’ve learned about endangered species habitat preservation. I’ve also learned patience and how beautiful, and sometimes wet fall session can be,” said Northwest Youth Corps crew member Araya Jensen.

Cindy Burns agreed. “It was nice to see the youth involved with caring for our natural resources. They took ownership in the project,” continued Burns. “It was pretty cool.”

Program Project Name: Oregon Sand Dunes Restoration

Local Project Name: CCRD Silversport Habitat Restoration
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Siuslaw
Ranger District: Central Coast Ranger District
Nearby City(ies): Yachats, OR, 10 miles
Estimated Project Cost: $26,000.00
Congressional District(s): OR01, OR04, OR05
County(ies): OR: Lane
Modified Date: 7/30/2010

Story:

A Recovery Act-funded Project for Butterfly Habitat Keeps Local Firefighters at Work

(Story posted 7/27/2010)

Thanks to funding authorized under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the Oregon silverspot butterfly will have more meadows to call home and seasonal firefighters will have more hours on the clock.

The Siuslaw National Forest was one of only three national forests in the Pacific Northwest Region to receive funding for ecosystem watershed enhancement projects. A portion of the funds are being used to restore declining habitat for the threatened butterfly. Currently, there are only six known sites where the butterfly exists, three of which are on the Siuslaw National Forest.

“Oregon silverspot butterfly caterpillars feed almost exclusively on early blue violets (Viola adunca) while adult butterflies require abundant nectar sources,” said Melissa Shelly, Silverspot Project Manager for the Central Coast Ranger District. “Nectar plants commonly used by adults are found predominantly in open meadow and grassland areas.”

In order to restore Coast Ranger meadows, which historically remained open due to frequent fires, first the encroaching trees must be removed. To do this, seasonal fire crews are cutting swathes from the dense, overgrown spruce stands to create additional meadow habitat and flight corridors for the butterfly. These corridors are essential to the butterfly, as it gives them the ability to move between meadows, allowing them greater access to critical habitat.

This project has also benefited seasonal firefighters, most of whom are local to the Central Coast, by adding six extra weeks to their normal work term.

“It’s definitely been nice staying on,” said James Stover, a seasonal firefighter from Alsea. “I don’t know what I’d be doing.”

“I don’t like to think about that,” chuckled Josh Ayers, from Corvallis. “I’d be looking for whatever job I could get.”

After the meadows are opened and corridors established, the firefighters will burn the slash piles, eliminating the excess material and enriching the soil. Later, native grasses, forbs, and other vegetation required by the silverspot butterfly will be planted.

Program Project Name: Coastal Facilities and Infrastructure Restoration

Local Project Name: Wastewater System Upgrades at Sutton and Carter Lake Campgrounds
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Siuslaw
Ranger District: Central Coast Ranger District
Nearby City(ies): Florence, 15 miles
Congressional District(s): OR04, OR05
County(ies): OR: Douglas
Modified Date: 9/29/2010

Story:

Siuslaw National Forest to Upgrade Facilities

(Story posted 7/27/2010)

This summer, the Siuslaw National Forest in Oregon is working with local contractors to upgrade recreation facilities and deteriorating infrastructure such as visitor centers, campgrounds, trails, and boating facilities at Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, Cape Perpetua Scenic Area, and Sand Lake off-highway vehicle riding area.

Leisure Excavating, a local contractor, is upgrading restrooms at several campgrounds, replacing wastewater systems installed nearly 40 years ago and nearing the end of their life span.

The work is also benefiting local stores and laborers. Leisure Excavating bought their supplies from a Eugene outlet store, and Willamette Graystone with offices in Willamette Valley built and delivered septic tanks. A tree cutter from the city of Florence was sub-contracted to remove a tree.

The safer, more pleasant facilities will also boost the local tourism economy.

Program Project Name: Oregon Youth Employment Initiative - Phase II

Local Project Name: Oregon Youth Conservation Corps. BBQ
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Wallowa-Whitman
Ranger District: Baker
Nearby City(ies): Baker City
Congressional District(s): OR01, OR02, OR03, OR04, OR05
County(ies): OR: Baker
Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Create Opportunities To Teach Youth Responsibilities, Communication, Hard Work Through Trail Work And Maintenance

(Story posted 7/26/2010)

The smell of hamburgers was in the air Thursday the 8th of July at the South Shore Campground. The three OYCC Crews from Halfway, Unity and Baker gathered here to share lunch and talk about their accomplishments over the first four weeks of the summer. Tom Smit, leader for all of the OYCC crews explained why he likes the kids to present what they are working on.

About 10 years back he realized during interviews, that high school kids were lacking communication skills. He came up with “the presentation” to give the kids some experience communicating with others. In presentations, Tom expects the kids to tell the audience what projects they have been working on, the objective of the project whether it is trail work or other maintenance, why they are doing the work, the legal location of the project, safety aspects and any other educational information. Tom said that “for the legal location, I think that everyone should be able to read a map in case of an emergency when dispatch needs to be called and a location is needed”. Tom also said that although safety is already ingrained into them it doesn’t hurt to review once more when Personal Protective Equipment should be used.

From listening to presentations, it is clear the OYCC crews have done a lot in just four short weeks. The Unity crew has been working mainly on trails, clearing woody debris and moving rocks. The Baker crew has hiked nearly 60 miles so far this summer clearing much of the trail around Phillips Lake, the twin lakes and black lake trail. The Halfway crew has also on cleared trails and had several experiences cutting trees that have fallen across trails. Halfway crew leader Troy Tubbs said that the team is up for doing anything. “They were really anxious to get to use a cross saw, until about ten minutes into cutting a tree that took them three days to clear from the trail”.

After watching and listening to the presentations it is clear that the OYCC is a great program. For some of the crew this is their first job and it is teaching them responsibility, how to work with others and to work safely. Along with earning money the kids are having a great time getting to know the people on their crew and being in the outdoors.

Program Project Name: Lower Snake River Watershed Restoration

Local Project Name: Upper Grande Ronde Mine Tailings
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Wallowa-Whitman
Ranger District: La Grande
Nearby City(ies): La Grande, Oregon
Congressional District(s): OR02
County(ies): OR: Baker
Modified Date: 7/30/2010

Story:

Forest Uses Recovery Act Funds to Rehabilitate Salmon Spawning Habitat

(Story posted 7/29/2010)

In mid-July, workers began removing mine tailings left from 1940s dredge mining along the Grande Ronde River in Oregon. The dredge turned the flood plain over and created tailing piles that in many cases cross the valley floor and extend from slope to slope. The tailing piles have constricted the river channel and disconnected the river from its natural floodplain.

Workers have also rerouted the stream bed to improve Chinook salmon passage into spawning habitat. The crews placed new log structures in the stream to add protection for the fish and create shade to cool the river temperature.

Over the past few weeks crews have removed nearly 50,000 yards of mine tailings along 2.5 miles of the river on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

In addition to improved fish habitat, recreation users now have improved access to a healthier river and a chance to observe Chinook salmon in their natural habitat.

Program Project Name: Fuels Reduction Work

Local Project Name: Hazardous Fuels Reduction, Floodwater Flats
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Wallowa-Whitman
Ranger District: Baker
Nearby City(ies): Baker City, Oregon
Congressional District(s): OR02
County(ies): OR: Wallowa
Modified Date: 7/30/2010

Story:

Recreation Residence Area Sees Hazardous Fules Reduction Work

(Story posted 7/29/2010)

On the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in Oregon, crews are using Recovery Act funds to thin trees at Floodwater Flats just off of Highway 73 in a recreation residence area. The hazardous fuel reduction work began last week within areas populated with many cabins.

It is a hot day to be working up at Anthony Lakes. Engine 613 and Crew 1-3 have been busy the last week thinning trees near homes that are privately owned sitting on land that is part of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. The program began in the mid-1930s and sought to expand recreational opportunities, and offer small lots, via a solicitation process, to families and individuals who would build small cabins. The structures and use are authorized by a special use permit, and permittees are charged an annual fee. Today the program consists of three tracts, two on the La Grande Ranger District and one on the Whitman District totaling 43 privately owned cabins.

This work is a part of the hazardous fuels reduction work the Forest Service will be doing over the summer. After taking a break for lunch, crews began the afternoon with a job hazard analysis. The crew talked about what personal protective equipment (PPE) needed to be worn, what tools they were going to be using and what they would do in case of an emergency. Gary Shermer of Crew 13 talked about the new tool they would be using to cut carrots, which are little trees that are hard to cut with the chainsaw. He stressed to the crews to stay back from the person operating the machine because it has an open blade.

Ernie Rodriguez, the veteran of the crew, talked about what personal protection equipment was to be used. He also stressed to drinking lots of water on a hot afternoon.

After the tailgate safety talk the crews headed off in pairs to thin the trees. The crews cut trees to make 20 foot spacing’s between the existing trees. Once trees are down, crews cut the branches off and buck the logs.

The first crew is cutting tress and bucking logs, and other workers will hand pile the downed trees and branches later. When the work is finished, the new 20-foot spacing between trees will considerably reduce wildfire risk for homeowners and other recreationists.

Program Project Name: Reducing threat of wildfires in central and southwest Oregon

Local Project Name: Hope Mountain Stewardship
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Rogue River-Siskiyou
Ranger District: Wild Rivers
Nearby City(ies): Grants Pass, OR ~ 40 miles
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 130
Congressional District(s): OR04
County(ies): OR: Josephine
Modified Date: 7/30/2010

Story:

Forest Restoration Work Underway

(Story posted 7/29/2010)

This project accomplishes fuels reduction and forest restoration on approximately 1,300 acres through a stewardship agreement between the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and two local partnership organizations: Lomakatsi Restoration Project and Siskiyou Project.

Emphasis of the collaboration will be to build local workforce and contractor capacity through on-site training on cutting trees and brush and removing biomass and small diameter materials that pose a potential wildfire risk to communities and enhancing structural and species diversity in plantations located within Late Successional Reserves.

The agreement for Hope Mountain Stewardship was signed by the three parties on March 23, 2009, with $1,298,240 budgeted. Work began April 1, 2009. The project area includes six subunits: the Snow Park, Longwood, Camp Elk, Powerline, Westfork, and Pepperbuck areas.

To view the 2009 accomplishment report on this project prepared by Lomakatsi Restoration Project and Siskiyou Project go to: http://siskiyou.org/c-far/MSAAR2010.pdf

Snow Park
The thinning, pruning, and handpiling work in this project area was 50 percent complete in June 2010. After the piles cure workers will return to burn the piles(scheduled for fall 2010).

Program Project Name: Region-wide Road Deferred Maintenance

Local Project Name: Upper Chetco Culvert Replacement

Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Rogue River-Siskiyou
Nearby City(ies): Brookings, OR ~ 20 miles
Estimated Project Cost: $357,761.00
Congressional District(s): OR04
County(ies): OR: Curry
Modified Date: 8/4/2010

Story:
Forest Awards Recovery Act-funded Culvert Replacement Contract

(Story posted 3/31/2010)

On the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest in Oregon, a $358,000 Recovery Act-funded contract has been awarded to the Agness Company to replace a series of culverts on Forest Service roads on the Gold Beach Ranger District. This project consists of culvert replacement and road maintenance activities in the Chetco River watershed, creating a safer transportation system and reducing the sedimentation risk in important anadromous fish habitat. The project involves replacing worn and deteriorated culverts along several high-priority National Forest System roads that provide access to developed recreation sites, trailheads into the Kalmiopsis Wilderness, and private lands.

Program Project Name: Umatilla National Forest Trails Maintenance

Local Project Name: Youth Crews Clear the Way!
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Umatilla
Nearby City(ies): Pomeroy, Walla Walla, Pendleton, Ukiah, Heppner
Congressional District(s): OR02, WA05
County(ies): OR: Grant, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa; WA: Asotin, Columbia, Garfield
Modified Date: 8/13/2010

Story:
Youth Crews Clear The Way With Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 7/30/2010)

Trail maintenance is tough, vigorous work! Just ask any youth crew member currently brushing, logging out and restoring trails on the Umatilla National Forest this summer. Thanks to funding provided through the Recovery Act, the Forest has teamed up with Student Conservation Association (SCA), Northwest Youth Corp (NYC) and the Oregon Youth Employment Initiative (OYEI) to complete a laundry list of backlog trail reconstruction and miscellaneous campground maintenance work over the next two summers.

Youth programs like these provide teens an opportunity to get work experience in an outdoor

setting while helping them develop good work ethics, interpersonal skills and connections to their natural environment. Being on a youth crew and learning team dynamics can be key experiences for those entering the workforce.

By the numbers: A total of nine youth crews are working across the Forest on a variety of recreation improvement projects. Crews vary in size as do the length of their tour and the rotation of crews and crew members. SCA crews consist of five members, including their crew leader, and work a ten day “hitch” with four days off in between hitches. OYEI crews have six members including the crew leader and work a five-day, 40 hour week tour. NYC crews are made up of ten members plus a crew leader and also work a five-day, 40 hour week for ten weeks throughout this summer.

In addition to partner youth crews, we’ve beefed up seasonal employee numbers in our own trail crew program. In a typical summer, the forest employs three trail crews, but in 2010, the forest was able to double that horsepower with the help of additional recovery funds. The forest is also utilizing a crew of five from the La Grande Ranger District to focus on campsite and trail accessibility on the North Fork John Day Ranger District.

Though crews are busy laboring on both motorized and non-motorized trail systems this summer, a good portion of the work is located in the backcountry, primarily in the North Fork John Day, North Fork Umatilla and Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness areas where the use of motorized and mechanized equipment is prohibited. To maintain the intent of wilderness values and comply with wilderness regulations, trail work is completed using hand tools such as shovels, spades, axes and cross-cut saws.

Many hands make light work?? Well, maybe not light work but definitely visible progress! These projects require physical strength and stamina and the crews are obviously in great shape. "It's really phenomenal to have them here on the Forest. They're a big contributor to the legacy we're building with Recovery Act funding. Maybe they will return some day with kids of their own to show off their work and reminisce about that amazing summer of 2010," said Larry Randall, Recreation Program Manager.

Program Project Name: Umatilla National Forest Trails Maintenance

Local Project Name: OHV Campground Receives Makeover Thanks to Recovery Dollars
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Umatilla
Ranger District: N Fork John Day
Nearby City(ies): 17 miles east of Ukian, OR
Congressional District(s): OR02, WA05
County(ies): OR: Grant, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa; WA: Asotin, Columbia, Garfield
Modified Date: 8/13/2010

Story:

OHV Campground Receives Makeover Thanks to Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 7/30/2010)

Frazier Campground , located off State Highway 244 about 17 miles east of Ukiah, OR, is receiving a much need face lift thanks to funding provided by the Recovery Act. Janel Lacey, District Recreation Manager on the Umatilla National Forest is excited to have the funding to make these improvements a reality. "I've had these pictures in my head of things I wanted to complete at this campground and they're all happening this year!" said Lacey.

A popular spot for ATV enthusiasts, Frazier Campground is the largest of four recreation sites accessing the 150-mile motorized trail system in the Winom-Frazier Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Complex. However, existing campsites and facilities, built in mid 1960s, do not easily accommodate today's longer, taller RVs or vehicles pulling long trailers.

Some of the improvements at the campground include the addition of three news sites, bringing the total of campsites available to 20. Eight sites now provide pull through traffic to prevent the need for backing up long vehicles. Several pull-in site parking pads were elongated to fit longer vehicles. Five sites are designed for group camping and have room for up to five RVs. Three sites, including one of the group sites, will provide accessible features such as picnic tables, fire ring and compacted gravel to accommodate wheelchairs and other mobility devices. And, these accessible sites are located near accessible restroom facilities.

In fact, most of the campsites at Frazier Campground, as well as other campgrounds across the forest, will receive new accessible picnic tables and fire rings. A new accessible group picnic shelter for day use will be installed later this year or early next summer.

Contractors have delivered and spread 75 dump truck loads of gravel along the interior campground roads and parking pads. Large rocks were strategically placed to discourage ATV travel off the designated roads and trails to prevent resource damage in natural areas within the campground. Trees along the roadside have been pruned 20ft up to prevent branches from scratching taller RVs, and tent pads have been cleared and packed with sand to provide a level spot and easier spike driving for tent camping.

Much of the labor was carried out by youth crews funded through the Recovery Act. Northwest Youth Corps crews, Oregon Youth Initiative crews, and a Wallowa-Whitman National Forest crew specializing in accessible recreation work have been instrumental in completing the improvements. "Their work is quite impressive," beams Lacey.

Program Project Name: SAFR (Sisters Area Fire Reduction) Flymon

Local Project Name: Sisters Area Hazardous Fuels Reduction (SAFR)
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Deschutes
Ranger District: Sisters
Nearby City(ies): Sisters, Oregon

Congressional District(s): OR02
County(ies): OR: Deschutes
Modified Date: 8/18/2010

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Hazardous Fuels Reduction Protects Communities, Provides Jobs

(Story posted 7/30/2010)

The Sisters Area Fuel Reduction (SAFR) Project is a hazardous fuels reduction project focusing on labor-intensive work thinning the forest understory. The project removes hazard trees along roadways; treats forest fuels; and improves wildlife habitat on public land.

The communities of Sisters and Black Butte Ranch in central Oregon are surrounded by ponderosa pine and lodgepole pine forests that have significant fuel loads. Large fires and subsequent mandatory evacuations have significantly affected these communities during the past decade. The following is a summary of large fires that have occurred in this area, driving families, business owners, and retirees from their residences and livelihoods.

Large Fire Year Communities Evacuated Structures Lost
Cache Mtn 2002 Black Butte Ranch 2
Eyerly 2002 Three Rivers Subdivision 18
Link 2002 No evacuations No losses
B&B 2003 Camp Sherman, Suttle & 8 Lake George 2006 No evacuations No losses
Black Crater 2006 Crossroads, Tollgate outlying 1 recreation site
areas west of Sisters
GW 2007 Black Butte Ranch No losses

Because of these wildfire threats, citizens took action in concert with the Deschutes National Forest and created the Sisters Area Fuel Reduction (SAFR) Project. The project came out of the Greater Sisters Area Community Wildfire Protection Plan in cooperation with Deschutes County, the City of Sisters, the Sisters/Camp Sherman Fire Department, and the US Forest Service. Deschutes County is leading a complimentary effort to reduce fuels on private land. The outcome of this private-public work will reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire and associated impacts to communities, families, the economy, and the health of the national forest.

Excerpt from Bend Bulletin article that ran on April 7, 2009:
Larry Lohmann, of Sisters, was out of work for six months. Thanks to federal stimulus funds from the U.S. Forest Service, he’s part of a group of about 40 people from GFP Enterprises who are back to work clearing about 500 acres of brush and branches outside of Sisters as part of a $400,000 project. And it’s allowed Lohmann, 35, to take his wife, Christina, out for dinner, buy her roses and buy his 9-month-old son, Jaden, a new Tickle Me Elmo. “It’s his favorite toy now,” he said. “It’s the little things that can make people happy.”

Context
The first phase of the SAFR project was funded at $412,000 for treatment along the Forest Service/private land boundary. That project was awarded to GFP Contractors of Sisters. The initial award was a part of the Recovery Act Eight-County Hazardous Fuels Treatment Project funded at $10,000,000. Central Oregon received $4,715,800 of that and Deschutes County received $1,897,150. To date 416 acres have been thinned and hand piled in the SAFR project area.

In 2010, the SAFR project benefited again from Recovery Act funding. The project was funded for $2,083,000. The second round of funding will be used in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the Wild Turkey Federation, Portland General Electric, and Quail Unlimited to reduce hazardous fuels and enhance wildlife habitat.

Program Project Name: Recreation Facilities Maintenance

Local Project Name: Forest Focuses on Accessibility: Recreation sites updated with accessible features.

Region: Pacific Northwest Region

Forest: Umatilla

Nearby City(ies): Pomeroy, WA - Walla Walla, WA - Pendleton, OR - Ukiah, OR, Heppner, OR

Congressional District(s): OR02

County(ies): OR: Umatilla

Modified Date: 8/13/2010

Story:

Recreation Sites Updated With Accessible Features Thanks To Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 7/30/2010)

This summer marks the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Forest Service is committed to integrating accessibility into the complete range of recreation opportunities while protecting natural resources and settings so that all people, including people who have disabilities, have the opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. It’s policy!

Projects to improve recreation sites and facilities represent a big chunk of the Recovery Act funding received by the Umatilla National Forest. This summer forest campgrounds, cabin rentals, trails and toilets will get much needed makeovers that include updating our sites for better accessibility for all.

Through recovery funding the forest is able to replace rundown, well-used picnic tables, fire rings and primitive toilets at most developed campgrounds. In all, upgraded features across the forest include: 77 accessible picnic tables, 72 accessible fire rings, 31 accessible sweet smelling vault toilets.

Forest crews and youth conservation crews are busy assembling and painting the picnic tables and installing the new fire rings. Contractors should complete the installation of the new vault toilets next summer.

Bull Prairie Lake Trail, a mile and a half loop trail located at Bull Prairie Lake Campground on the Heppner Ranger District, was recently cleared, leveled and widened by youth crews. The trail is scheduled to be paved this August and will provide access to fishing platforms and a new viewpoint with accessible benches. The campground also offers accessible restrooms and campsites.

Bear Wallow Interpretive Trail, located at Bear Wallow Campground on the North Fork John Day Ranger District offers interpretive signing along the half-mile route highlighting the life cycle of anadromous fish. Stream investigation kits with activities linked to the trail interpretation are available to check out free-of-charge at the district office in Ukiah, OR.

A Wallowa-Whitman National Forest crew who specialize in accessibility work rebuilt two bridges, rerouted trail sections to avoid wet, marshy areas and created two drainage systems to divert spring runoff under the trail and into the creek. Youth crews hauled and spread gravel along the path creating a three to four inch base that will be compacted with sand over the winter to create cement like surface. The campground also offers accessible restrooms and campsites.

Summit Guard Station rental cabin is nested in an open stand of large Ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir on the Walla Walla Ranger District. The deep canyon view from the front door of this ridge-top setting is truly exceptional and not to be missed.

Through Recovery Act funding, this small, rustic cabin is being spruced up and renovated to accommodate people with disabilities. Contractors replaced the roof with molded metal roof and painted both the interior and exterior. The storage shed was removed from the front porch and replaced with a new accessible ramp. The parking pad was compacted and widened to facilitate a wide van with a wheelchair lift and a level path was cleared from the parking pad to the ramp. Both the front and back doors are already 36” wide. Cabin upgrades should be completed in time to rent later this summer.

Program Project Name: Deschutes National Forest Headquarters and Bend Fort Rock Ranger Station Offices

Local Project Name: Deschutes National Forest Supervisor's Office and Bend-Ft. Rock Ranger District

Region: Pacific Northwest Region

Forest: Deschutes

Nearby City(ies): Bend, Oregon

Congressional District(s): OR02

County(ies): OR: Deschutes

Modified Date: 8/18/2010

Story:
Recovery Act Funds to Help Build Deschutes National Forest Supervisor's Office

(Story posted 7/30/2010)

In late June, Deschutes National Forest officials announced that a local construction firm will build the new Deschutes National Forest Supervisor's Office and Bend-Ft. Rock Ranger District in Bend, Oregon. The sources of funding for the construction are a combination of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funds ($5.6 million) and Conveyance funds from the sale of the Bend Pine Nursery Land Conveyance Act ($2.7 million).

Kirby Nagelhout Construction Company is the local contractor that will build the combined Forest Headquarters and Bend-Ft. Rock Ranger District office at the Bend Pine Administrative Site.

“We are going to be able to put about 80 of our people to work. It is going to be a great boost to our local construction trades people, subcontractors, and suppliers,” said Mike Taylor, Kirby Nagelhout general manager.

Taylor continued by saying, "When we heard we got the bid it was just like Mardi Gras in the office. Everyone came out of their offices and celebrated in the hallways."

Nagelhout has made a commitment to use local subcontractors and materials suppliers. The construction trades and suppliers in Bend have been particularly hard hit by the recent economic downturn.

By housing the 200+ employees of both the Forest Headquarters and Ranger District, the new office will provide convenient access to forest personnel and services for the public. In addition, the new building will save the Forest Service $1 million a year in lease costs by eliminating two annual office leases.

Steele and Associates, a Bend Architectural firm, designed the new office to meet the requirements for sustainability under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System, authorized by the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED is an internationally recognized green building certification system. The overall intent of the office, which includes a biomass heating unit, is to meet the Gold LEED standard.

Groundbreaking for the new 46,300-square-foot office building took place on July 15, 2010, and rapid progress on the building is already occuring. Construction is expected to be completed and employees moved in by December 2011.

Program Project Name: Pacific Crest Trail Maintenance - Oregon and Washington

Local Project Name: Deschutes National Forest Gets Support for Volunteers Maintaining the Pacific Crest Trail

Region: Pacific Northwest Region

Forest: Deschutes

Nearby City(ies): Sisters, Bend, and Crescent, Oregon

Congressional District(s): OR02, OR03, OR04, OR05, WA02, WA03, WA04, WA05, WA08

County(ies): OR: Clackamas, Deschutes, Douglas, Hood River, Jackson, Jefferson, Klamath, Lane, Linn, Multnomah, Wasco; WA: Chelan, King, Kittitas, Lewis, Okanogan, Pierce, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Whatcom, Yakima

Modified Date: 8/13/2010

Story:

Deschutes National Forest Gets Support, Recovery Act Funds For Volunteers Maintaining The Pacific Crest Trail

(Story posted 7/30/2010)

Recovery Act funding allowed the Deschutes National Forest to partner with the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) this year to fund an Americorps volunteer who supports trail volunteers on the Pacific Crest Trail.

Kathleen “Kit” Dickey was brought on in January, through the Northwest Service Academy, to serve as the Trail and Wilderness Volunteer Coordinator for the Deschutes National Forest and to be a volunteer coordinator for the Pacific Crest Trail.

In this position, Kit organized and implemented a three-day training event for trail volunteers. The training included first-aid and CPR certification, saw training and certification, and opportunities to learn brushing, drainage, and rock work as well as many other trail maintenance skills.

In addition, Kit has worked with the Deschutes NF and PCTA to develop crew leaders and trail stewards. She also has worked hard to increase the coordination of projects. Because of her coordination, volunteers no longer arrive at a section of trail they were planning to work on to find out that someone else has already done the work or find that they have to clear miles of trail before they reach the section they were planning to get done. As volunteers experiences improve, their overall effectiveness to do trail maintenance that would not get done without them increases.

Deschutes County’s economy relies significantly on tourism and recreation. Providing a great trail experiences for visitors because of the work of local volunteers helps the entire county. No lodge owner or recreational equipment supplier may ever know about Kit’s efforts, but they likely will benefit from them.

Kit has personally benefitted from the funding provided, which has allowed her to support herself and maintain her home. This partnership, developed with the Recovery Act funding, has truly made a difference on the ground.

Program Project Name: Collaborative Restoration Forest Health Support Contracts
Local Project Name: Malheur NF Recovery Crews, Contractors Move Projects Ahead
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Malheur
Nearby City(ies): John Day, Burns, Prairie City, Seneca
Congressional District(s): OR02
County(ies): OR: Grant, Harney
Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:

Malheur NF Recovery Crews, Contractors Move Projects Ahead Thanks To Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

Forest restoration and fuel reduction projects funded by the Recovery Act are making a difference on the Malheur National Forest and surrounding communities.

“We feel this is having a significant economic impact on our local communities,” said Doug Gochnour, Forest Supervisor. “We’ve awarded a lot of contracts and we’ve also hired an extra 52 people, most from Grant and Harney to perform forest restoration and survey work on the Forest.”

Survey work being done includes wildlife, soil, botany, archeological and stream surveys. Marking crews are also out preparing areas for future forest restoration related projects and sales.

Most employees hired with funding have stated that they would not be working at this time if not for the extra jobs provided by the Recovery Act.

Thad Hilman of Burns, “It is terrific to be working; things were not looking good, I love working in the outdoors, and I am gaining knowledge and skills for future employment opportunities. I really have a different perspective of the Forest Service since starting this job, the folks on the Malheur have welcomed me and I feel like part of the family.”

“Words cannot explain what this job means to me, it is a true blessing.” Pat Brewster, Harney County resident.

“I am getting steady work due to this funding. Without it, I would probably only be doing a little private work here and there, this is filling in the gaps.” Grant County contractor Brad Browning

Fellow resident Denis McCormick “Yea, I might be working without this, but who knows

where or doing what."

Local contractor J. D. Majors, "Without this contract, I would be bankrupt and have lost my equipment. I now have enough work for the season."

Paddy Howell of Canyon City, "I would have definitely moved out of the area if I had not been hired on with the Malheur."

"The Recovery Act funding has definitely created more jobs on the Malheur. The proof is in the size of my crew, compared to previous years." stated Mike Bohannon

Recovery Act funding is providing skilled local workers the opportunity to work and is allowing the forest to complete several large scale projects.

Program Project Name: Fuels Reduction Work

Local Project Name: Spears
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Ochoco
Ranger District: Lookout Mountain
Nearby City(ies): Prineville - 25 miles
Congressional District(s): OR02
County(ies): OR: Wallowa
Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:

Hazardous Fuels Reduction On The Ochoco National Forest, Crooked River National Grassland

(Story posted 8/6/2010)

Recovery Act dollars have allowed for the contracting of 9,000 acres of greatly needed hazardous fuels reduction work on the Ochoco National Forest & the Crooked River National Grassland. The work has been done in various locations on the forest and grassland via thinning, hand piling, lopping and grapple piling, by local contractors PatRick, Quicksilver and Grayback Forestry. These companies are also national contractors for wildland fire suppression and they have a proven track record for getting the job done right.

Approximately 70 percent of the hazardous fuels reduction contract work funded by Recovery for the Ochoco National Forest has been completed; PatRick is scheduled to start on a 3300-acre project this fall.

The Recovery Act dollars have also allowed the contractors and their employees to extend their annual summer work season by several months, something which has been greatly appreciated in these tough times. If the crew happens to be called for a fire during the

summer months, they simply stop work on the Recovery Act project, respond to the fire, and return to the project work when they are done with the fire suppression work.

Grayback has employed anywhere from 20-30 local workers who live in the communities of John Day, Mount Vernon and Prairie City to work on hazardous fuels reduction projects funded by Recovery Act. Although most of the crew members live in Grant County, a few people temporarily move north from California to benefit from the summer work offered here. PatRick Corp has employed approximately 20 crew workers from Central Oregon for their project work and Quicksilver has employed approximately the same amount, for a total of 60 workers employed by Recovery funds for projects completed on the Ochoco this year.

Not only does the forest benefit from the work being done by the crews and the crews benefit from the employment; the local communities also see the benefit from workers staying in their hotels, eating at their restaurants, buying groceries and purchasing supplies to get the job done. Grayback workers commented that a good portion of saw parts, gas and oil has been purchased from Pacific Pride Shell; PatRick purchased 15 chainsaws from Floyd A. Boyd's John Deere dealership in Redmond, as well as saw parts from Ochoco Power Equipment in Prineville and fuel at Crossroads Gas Station in Prineville before heading to the woods each day.

Currently, Grayback Forestry out of John Day, Oregon, is working on a 2,000-acre hand piling project on the Lookout Mountain Ranger District. Crews have been working in various locations in the Maury Mountains, Mill Creek, Dutchman Creek and Bear Creek. Grayback has teamed up with PatRick Corp. out of Redmond, Oregon to complete the job. Chris Kennedy, crew superintendent for Grayback, has been with the company since 1994.

"If it wasn't for this contract, most of the crew would have started three months later this year," said Kennedy.

John Day resident Ryan Chapman has been with Grayback since 2002. Ryan enjoys working in the woods; he likes the exercise and thinks he's pretty efficient at his job, too. "It beats the heck out of being stuck in an office all day," said Chapman.

Chapman acknowledged the least favorite aspect of the job is working in bad weather and on snow days. "Snow days out here are the opposite of what they were in school," Chapman added with a grin.

Chapman has, in essence, been enjoying a full-time regular employee status, having only been laid off for a couple of months this year. He emphasized that the extra Recovery dollars have helped make up for a slow fire season last year.

Chapman has visited areas where his crew completed work five years ago and says it looks like a beautiful park. He enjoys pointing out a healthy looking forest to his children.

"Everywhere I drive in the forest now, I think to myself, now that area could use some thinning and clean-up work," he said. "I hope there is more we can do to help the forest;

please keep the work coming."

Program Project Name: Oregon Youth Employment Initiative

Local Project Name: Irrigation Project
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Ochoco
Nearby City(ies): Prineville
Congressional District(s): OR01, OR02, OR03, OR04, OR05
County(ies): OR: Crook
Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Conservative Irrigation System At Ochoco Creek Park

(Story posted 8/6/2010)

A Prineville youth crew has been busy this summer installing a new irrigation system at Ochoco Creek Park in Prineville, Oregon. Ochoco Creek Park is a flagship park for the community. It is the place where thousands of people come annually to pay their respects at the Prineville Wildland Firefighter's Monument, constructed for the fourteen firefighters who tragically lost their lives on the South Canyon Fire in Colorado (1994).

Beyond this very special significance, Ochoco Creek Park is loved by the local residents for its beauty and serenity. It is a natural gathering place located in the center of town where a number of annual events are held, including the Prineville Hotshot Memorial run, 4th of July festivities and "Fin, Fire & Feather" an environmental education event that teaches 700 local school children about the salmon life cycle, stream ecology, wildlife habitat, wildfires, geology, weeds and other aspects of forest ecosystems. It is apparent that the community has a lot of pride for their favorite park, and enjoys it immensely.

Enter five youth currently employed as part of a Youth Conservation Corp crew out of Prineville. These particular youth have been working at Ochoco Creek Park since late June and they are very excited about their work project. Their enthusiasm is tangible; their smiles, energy and laughter instantly convey the appreciation they have for this opportunity to learn something new and different: how to install an irrigation system.

The Prineville YCC crew is one of 23 youth crews that are hosted by the Ochoco & Deschutes National Forests, in cooperation with Heart of Oregon Corps and the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council to complete natural resource work on the Ochoco & Deschutes National Forests. Additional funding was provided for the youth crews this summer through the Oregon Youth Employment Initiative and Recovery Act dollars.

The crew has received great support from Crew Leader Larry Pennington and a number of key individuals in the community. Not only are they learning things like how to install low

voltage electricity and lay conduit, they are also learning how to operate backhoes and bobcat trenchers to dig the trenches and set the sprinklers.

“Once we got used to the equipment, which took us about three days, nobody wanted to dig the trenches with a shovel anymore,” said Wacy McBeth with a smile. The other crew members chuckled when hearing Lacey’s comment, and nodded their heads in agreement.

Jon Luoma from United Pipe & Supply Company out of Bend, Oregon, taught the crew about irrigation systems before they got started, instructing them on basic hydraulics, sizing, placement and welding of PVC, and the choosing and placement of sprinkler heads.

Duane Garner, Park Maintenance Supervisor for Crook County Parks and Recreation District emphasized, “We’ve wanted to start this project for a number of years. The Recovery Act funding is allowing us to fund this youth crew and make it happen.”

When complete, the north side of the park will be watered with an automatic sprinkler system. The south side of the park will still need to be watered by hand, which takes park technicians two hours each day to keep the space green.

“Not only will we be saving a considerable amount of time in labor by automating our watering system, we will also reduce the amount of water used,” pointed out Maureen Crawford, the Director of Crook County Parks and Recreation District.

Under the current irrigation system, the park uses 7 gallons per minute (gpm) or 691,200 gpm/week. Under the new automated system, the park will use 6 gpm, or 461,222 gpm/week. The automatic system allows for watering at night, making the park more available for daytime use.

Now that the crew has been on site for awhile, the neighbor’s cat (named dog) comes for frequent visits to ensure the work is being done properly. The crew feels a strong sense of ownership in the project, and it shows.

“In the future, we’ll be able to tell our families we’ve helped keep this place special…and we know all the park’s neighbors now; they like to bring us tea on hot days,” said Wacey.

The park district hopes to secure additional grant funding to complete the south side of the park next year.

Program Project Name: Oregon Youth Employment Initiative
Local Project Name: Madras Youth Crew Enjoys Working Together Outdoors
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Ochoco
Ranger District: Crooked River
Nearby City(ies): Madras
Congressional District(s): OR01, OR02, OR03, OR04, OR05

County(ies): OR: Jefferson
Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:

Madras Youth Crew Enjoys Working Together Outdoors

(Story posted 8/6/2010)

That's right, it's true….this diverse crew of youth has what it takes to roll up their sleeves and get good work done on the ground. And a lot of that is about having the right attitude. Crew Leader Haley Brownson is very much enjoying her first year with the crew. During the school year, Haley is a first & second grade teacher on the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation located northwest of Madras, Oregon. Brownson says she loves being a crew leader for the summer youth crew and it has been very inspiring for her to work with kids of all ages. Getting an introduction to working with high school-aged kids has been a great learning experience for her, as well.

"It's been amazing watching these young adults transform in the short time we've been working together (approximately five weeks). They are developing good work ethics and taking initiative. It's heartening to see them become comfortable with themselves while doing their jobs," said Brownson.
The Madras crew is one of 21 youth crews that are hosted by the Ochoco & Deschutes National Forests, in cooperation with Heart of Oregon Corps and the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council.

Additional funding was provided for youth crews this summer through the Oregon Youth Employment Initiative and Recovery Act dollars.

Assistant Crew Leader Tao Potter said the crews have recently been working on the Gray Butte Trailhead, completing approximately three miles of trail brushing and installation of water bars to prevent trail erosion. The Gray Butte Trail is the most popular trail on the Crooked River National Grassland, receiving almost year-round use from a diverse group of hikers, mountain bikers, OHV and horseback riders from Central Oregon and beyond.

The crew, whose members live in the nearby communities of Madras and Culver, is busy clearing brush along a fence line near Cyrus Pond. Despite the hot weather, it is evident they enjoy the camaraderie of working together outdoors.

When asked what he likes best about being on the crew, Forest Ortiz said, "I like how open we are with each other. If I come back next year, I'd have to be a crew leader, and I'm up for that."

Larissa Moon, who plans to attend Central Oregon Community College this fall, said if she was not on the crew, she'd be out looking for other jobs.

Isaac Hernandez, said, "The best thing about being on the crew for me is working in the

outdoors; the worst thing is pulling weeds. I'd like to work on the crew next year and then go to Central Oregon Community College to study auto mechanics. I like to work with my hands."

Xavier Borja prefers doing forestry-related work. The crew recently visited the Redmond Smokejumper base, which he enjoyed, and he is currently thinking about going to school.

Nathan Hamlin said he just wants to make a living working outside and trying different jobs for awhile until he figures out what he likes best.

Meh Wish Iqbal, an Assistant Crew Leader, is enjoying her second year. "I like going different places, doing different things and seeing wildlife."

Elena Sierra and Brianna Pineda are first-timers with the crew. Elena stated simply, "It's fun." Brianna said, "Working on this crew makes me feel powerful. I am doing things people thought I couldn't do."
Carson Big Knife also loves being outdoors. He will be a junior at Madras High School next year and hopes to return to the crew next year. Carson plans to study forestry at Montana State University and become a hotshot and fight fires during the summers.

Crooked River National Grassland District Ranger Slater Turner said the Youth Conservation Corps crews, which are partially funded by Recovery Act dollars this year, make a big difference in the district's ability to get work done on the ground. "I don't know what we'd do without them," he said.

Program Project Name: Oregon Youth Employment Initiative - Phase II
Local Project Name: Keeping Special Place Green: Irrigation Project at Ochoco Creek Park
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Ochoco
Nearby City(ies): Prineville
Congressional District(s): OR02
County(ies): OR: Crook
Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:

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Program Project Name: Oregon Youth Employment Initiative - Phase II
Local Project Name: Madras Youth Crew Enjoys Working Together Outdoors
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Ochoco
Ranger District: Crooked River
Nearby City(ies): Madras, Oregon
Congressional District(s): OR02
County(ies): OR: Jefferson
Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:
Madras Youth Crew Enjoys Working Together Outdoors

(Story posted 8/6/2010)

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difference in the district's ability to get work done on the ground. "I don't know what we'd do without them," he said.

Program Project Name: Eight County Hazardous Fuels Reduction (partially funded under 10%)

Local Project Name: Diamond Lake Ranger District Hazardous Fuels Reduction
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Umpqua
Ranger District: Diamond Lake
Nearby City(ies): Roseburg
Estimated Project Cost: $265,000.00
Congressional District(s): OR02, OR04
County(ies): OR: Coos, Crook, Curry, Deschutes, Douglas, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine
Modified Date: 8/18/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Project Chips Away at Unemployment

(Story posted 8/13/2010)

Hazardous fuels near populated areas are always a concern on the forest, especially during summer when temperatures and the visitor count are high. Local unemployment is another issue. Consolidating the two concerns to arrive at a solution came in the form of Forest Service Recovery Act funds to support the Eight Counties Hazard Fuels Reduction Project.

On the Umpqua National Forest Diamond Lake Ranger District, Brian Maier, fuels assistant fire management officer, is heading up this project that contracts out work to locals, work that Forest Service employees performed in previous years. Based in Medford, Oregon, the 3 B's Forestry, Inc. was awarded the project of thinning and chipping hazardous fuels at various sites around the Diamond Lake area.

The work is focused near popular recreation areas--Broken Arrow Campground, Diamond Lake RV Park, and the Diamond Lake Information Center--and near 102 recreation residences dotting the western shore of Diamond Lake. All the work is hand treated, except chipping. Crews are thinning trees with chainsaws on 245 acres to create 25-foot spacing around inhabited areas to slow down fire.

Not only is the Diamond Lake area becoming safer during the fire season but $254,720 is being injected back into the local economy.

Program Project Name: Forest Health Protection and Hazard Mitigation

Local Project Name: Whitman Sundry Hand Piling
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Wallowa-Whitman

Ranger District: Whitman
Nearby City(ies): Baker City
Congressional District(s): OR02
County(ies): OR: Baker
Modified Date: 8/18/2010

Story:

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Undertakes Extensive Hazardous Fuels Reduction Work Using Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 8/16/2010)

Dave Jampolsky's crew has been busy this summer thinning and hand piling close to 3,500 acres of land.

The crew working on the Whitman Sundry contract has been working on a 23-acre unit to reduce hazardous fuels. So far the crew has thinned the 23-acre unit and is currently working on hand piling the slash on the ground.

The crew piles the trees into 6-cubic-foot piles with a 4-square-foot piece of plastic placed towards the top of the pile. The light weight plastic is placed in the piles to keep them dry so they are easier to burn when fire crews come in the fall. The trees within the piles are placed vertically facing down the slope so that when they are burned they do not roll down the hill.

While the crews are working and again when they are finished, Jampolsky inspects the piles to make sure they are done right and placed in the right places. He looks for piles located away from trees with a low lying crown so they will not catch on fire or be damaged. He also makes sure that trees within one-tofour inches in diameter are thinned to give bigger trees room to grow.

The thinning and hand piling crews do very labor intensive work. They start around 5 a.m. and finish in early afternoon to beat some of the hot summer heat.

Hand piling work is labor intensive, and Jampolsky would prefer trees be mechanically piled because it is cheaper and goes a lot faster. But in this project and many others, machines are impractical because the slope is too great. Machines can only be used when the slope is 30 percent or less. Jampolsky said, "A lot of this work would not get done without stimulus money. It's so expensive, but it needs to get done to preserve the health of the forest."

Hand piling does make more jobs available. Santos Reforestation, the contractor for this project, has been able to employ around 15 people this summer. With the amount of slash on this project and the slope it is on, this crew is able to pile three to five acres a day, and it should take them about a week to pile everything.

Other projects can take longer depending on the location; slash amount; number of people available for the project; and number of acres. Although hand piling is hard work, the

Recovery Act money has been able to give some people summer work and helped improve forest health.

Program Project Name: Coyote Creek Gage Stations Reconstruction

Local Project Name: Coyote Creek Stream Gauge Reconstruction
Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Tiller, OR
Estimated Project Cost: $350,000.00
Congressional District(s): OR04
County(ies): OR: Douglas
Modified Date: 1/27/2011

Story:

Research Station, Forest Use Recovery Act Funds to Repair Stream Gauging Stations

(Story posted 8/20/2010 and updated 12/29/2010)

Employing workers and infusing the economy while accomplishing planned work are the hallmarks of the Coyote Creek Gauge Stations Reconstruction project on the South Umpqua Experimental Forest. This infrastructure improvement project is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and is a partnership between the Pacific Northwest Research Station (PNW) and the Umpqua National Forest.

The project dates back to 1963 when four stream gauging stations were built on Coyote Creek in the South Umpqua Experimental Forest, Tiller Ranger District. The stream gauges were placed as part of an effort to conduct research on the effects of different timber harvest and road construction techniques on water quality and flow levels. The region contains high-value salmon habitat, and information about the effects of forest management on year-round stream conditions is critical for maintaining habitat for these culturally and economically valuable fish. Stream flow measurements at the watersheds started a year later.

Pacific Northwest Research Station staff at the Corvallis Forestry Sciences Lab maintained the stations until 1980 when operations ended due to lack of funds. The project was reopened by the Umpqua National Forest in 2001 when a new suite of studies was envisioned that would focus on the effects of contemporary forest treatments to meet current forest health objectives. The new Coyote Creek Experimental Watersheds research has the added bonus of being able to compare results from the old project with the results from the same forest streams, now thirty years later.

The original gauging stations at Coyote Creek wore down quite a bit over time, becoming deteriorated and unsafe. On July 21, 2009, the Umpqua National Forest and the Pacific Northwest Research Station received approval for a pooled $350,000 of economic recovery funding to reconstruct the stations.

All of the work on the new stream gauge houses was contracted out to local workers. The project created about 2.575 FTEs of employment for an estimated 10 individuals.

The crews laid new concrete slabs around the wells and built larger housing structures for gauging equipment to be locked away from the hazards of the environment. In July of 2010, they removed the old stations and old piping. Aside from a delay on stairs planned to be placed for manual measuring at the weirs, the bulk of the reconstruction was completed by the beginning of September 2010.

The Experimental Watersheds Research incites deep interest and passion to those involved like Mikeal Jones, lead hydrologist for the Umpqua National Forest, and Craig Creel, experimental forest facilities manager for the PNW Station's Forest Landscapes and Ecosystems Team. Jones and Creel are adamant about keeping the project running long-term.

"We have learned so much from this research. We have used it hundreds of times for lots of things that we never imagined that we would," said Jones while visiting the project during construction. "Somebody had the foresight to do that. That is our job now, to do that for people 50 years from now."

Creel adds, "We are in it for the long term here at the research station. We've run these stream gauging stations since the 50's and it is my intention to keep that going as long as possible."

With the new gauging stations in place, both the Pacific Northwest Research Station and the Umpqua National Forest should have another 50 plus years in them to continue to provide science for improving the way we manage our forests and streams.

Program Project Name: Pacific Northwest Research Station Road Maintenance

Local Project Name: PNW Road Maintenance
Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Corvallis, Blue River, and LaGrande, OR; Wenatchee and Carson, WA
Estimated Project Cost: $200,000.00
Congressional District(s): OR02, OR04, WA03, WA04
County(ies): OR: Lane, Union; WA: Chelan, Skamania
Modified Date: 12/20/2010

Story:

Research Station Road Repairs Enhance Safety, Ecosystems

(Story posted 8/24/2010 and updated 11/24/2010)

In 2009, Pacific Northwest Research Station (PNW) Engineer Donna Wians determined that road repairs were needed throughout the Pacific Northwest Research Station's network of

research laboratories and experimental forests to ensure safe access for personnel and the public.

Economic Recovery funding allowed several infrastructure and erosion control improvement projects to go forward in fiscal year 2010. Contractors brushed, graded, and resurfaced roads at the Wind River and H.J. Andrews experimental forests; built a new bridge and improved roads at the Starkey Experimental Forest and Range, and and improved access and parking lot facilities at the Wenatchee and Corvallis forestry sciences laboratories. Associated erosion control activities have improved water quality and ecosystem integrity.

By the fall of 2010, the projects had been completed. The Recovery Act funding created approximately 1.065 FTEs of employment during the months of operation, resulting in jobs for between 20 and 30 individuals.

Program Project Name: Watershed Restoration on the Upper Grande Ronde River

Local Project Name: North Fork Catherine Creek Bridge Replacement
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Wallowa-Whitman
Ranger District: La Grande
Nearby City(ies): Union
Congressional District(s): OR02
County(ies): OR: Union
Modified Date: 9/23/2010

Story:

Forest Bridge Replacement Work Underway

(Story posted 8/27/2010)

Wednesday morning, August 25, was busy up the North Fork of Catherine Creek on the Wallowa-Whitman Natinal Forest. Two cranes from Vemco Crane Service out of Enterprise, Oregon, set in place two 76-foot-long 100,000 pound pre-stressed concrete bridge girders that were delivered by two sixteen-axle semi-trucks from Spokane, Washington, where they were made.

A lot of work was needed to set these bridge girders in place. Several Forest Service engineers and the crew from D.L. Edmondson Inc., the contractor from Summerville, Oregon, spent most of Wednesday morning placing the girders into prepoured concrete posts.

One at a time the cranes were attached to the concrete girders and then carefully lifted them to the site. Next the cranes lowered the girders onto the base. During this time the engineers made sure the girders were in the right place and level. It took several tries to get the girders to sit flat on the base. Concrete was then added to secure and make them sit level.

After the crane work was done, there was more work to do. The crew welded steel rods to keep the two girders together; a diaphragm will also be placed on the seam to hold it together. When all of this is finished, a layer of asphalt will be placed on the girders for the road surface. A steel railing will be added for safety. The road leading up to the bridge will be built up to the bridge level. The area around the bridge that has been disturbed by machines will be re-seeded with native seed in the fall when the weather is right.

Although much of the heavy equipment is gone from the site, the bridge is not yet complete. The project completion date is October 31, and the road is expected to open then. When the project is complete, recreational users will be able to access Buck Creek trailhead on a safer and more durable road.

Program Project Name: Malheur National Forest- Road Paving/ Chip Seals

Local Project Name: Malheur National Forest - Road Paving/Chip seals
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Malheur
Nearby City(ies): John Day, Prairie City, Burns
Congressional District(s): OR02
County(ies): OR: Grant, Harney
Modified Date: 9/16/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Help Protect Watersheds

(Story posted 8/31/2010)

This opportunity to provide jobs and maintain roads minimizes sedimentation and protects watersheds on the Malheur National Forest in northeastern Oregon.

Depending on the road and its use, maintenance by chip sealing is done after construction to maintain the road surface, usually by applying thin layers of rock chips and asphalt cement, eight to 15 years after road construction. While some maintenance activities can be deferred for a period of time without immediate or serious consequences, maintenance deferred beyond a critical point can lead to road deterioration beyond standard condition, ultimately requiring costly capital improvements.

This project will provide jobs and reduce long-term road maintenance costs while facilitating removal of bio-mass materials through ten-year stewardship contracts.

Program Project Name: Native Conifer and Non-Conifer Seed Collection and Production for Restoration Projects

Local Project Name: Native Plant Seed Collection
Region: Pacific Northwest Region

Forest: Wallowa-Whitman
Ranger District: La Grande
Nearby City(ies): La Grande
Congressional District(s): OR02
County(ies): OR: Baker, Union
Modified Date: 9/20/2010

Story:

Native Seed Collection Project Protects Landcsape

(Story posted 9/8/2010)

Many Recovery Act projects being done on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest require heavy equipment that removes the natural vegetation and often leaves the project site torn up and muddy. Penny Hall, the La Grande District native seed collection program manager, provides the seed to re-seed those areas.

The native seed collection program began about ten years ago when the forest wanted to switch to using native seed planting. Plants and seed of native species were not readily available commercially and usually did not originate in the area where they were to be planted. The forest wanted to use native seed because there is a potential danger in introducing native plants that are not genetically adapted to local areas. There were also questions about the long-term ability of these plants to survive and reproduce in an environment that might be different from their place of origin. People raised questions about polluting the existing gene pool and plant populations.

Penny Hall, who has been working on the seed program since the beginning, has seen it evolve in many different ways. The program started out with a seasonal employee doing the seed and shrub collection. The project has evolved into mostly seed collection with very little shrub collection.

The seed collection program begins each year when crews collect native seed and other flowering plants in July and August. The crew, who collect the seed by hand, can generally collect fifty to seventy-five pounds of seed each year. However, the amount goes down about one-third when it is cleaned from the stems. Once the seed is hand-cleaned, it is sent off to the processor for additional cleaning and testing for purity, germs, and viability.

When the seed comes back it is stored in cool, dry conditions until it is used on projects or is sent to a propagator to produce more seed. Project location determines what kind of seed is used. Most of the time a mix of grasses is used. In areas that may have more people, a blend with flowers may be used.

Using Recovery Act money, the native plant program was able to send more people out to pick seeds, creating more jobs. More seed being sent to the processor and propagator also created jobs. The native seed program is a great program and has shown much improvement over the years. Recovery Act funds will help replace seed and help the

program keep growing.

Program Project Name: Lower Snake River Watershed Restoration

Local Project Name: Sage Creek Culvert Replacement
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Wallowa-Whitman
Ranger District: Wallowa Valley
Nearby City(ies): Wallowa
Congressional District(s): OR02
County(ies): OR: Baker, Wallowa
Modified Date: 9/20/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Improve Trout Spawning Habitat

(Story posted 9/8/2010)

Every spring and fall thousands of Steelhead and Bull trout travel from the Pacific Ocean to the rivers and streams of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest to spawn. To reach their spawning grounds these fish must travel hundreds of miles through dams, culverts, and other man-made structures. Many of these structures give minimal passage to the fish, making it very difficult to reach those spawning grounds. Sage Creek culvert, which is located on Forest Road 8270, is one man-made structure that was in need of a better fish passage. This particular culvert provides passage to about 1.2 miles of spawning habitat for Bull Trout and Steelhead. Since Bull trout are listed on the threatened species list, it is vital that they be given the chance to swim upstream to spawn. This project gives these fish that chance.

The old culvert was long, placed at a steep slope, and had a perch of about a foot at the end, which made fish passage for Steelhead difficult and for Bull trout impossible. The culvert was replaced with a new bottomless arch that will allow fish passage for all age classes of Bull and Steelhead trout. The new structure will also be placed at a different angle to minimize the length.

This project not only benefits fish habitat but also that of all other aquatic organisms, including stream bank habitat for non-swimming aquatic species like salamanders. The new culvert width will give a more natural feel to the streambed, and the new height and width would now pass a 100-year flow event. The new larger culvert will also need less maintenance because it is in less danger of being plugged than the smaller culvert. The culvert gives travelers access to the Bear Wallow trailhead and Eagle Cap Wilderness without endangering the fish.

It took about a month to remove and install the new culvert at Sage Creek. Henderson Logging, Inc. out of Wallowa, Oregon employed approximately ten people throughout the project's construction.

This project will benefit the fish population of the Wallowa-Whitman's streams and provide a chance for Bull trout to spawn and boost the fish population. Having a better spawning ground gives fish the ability to return and residents in the area a chance to see these fish for many years to come.

Program Project Name: Coastal Facilities and Infrastructure Restoration

Local Project Name: Recycling Roads with Recovery Funds
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Siuslaw
Ranger District: Central Coast Ranger District
Nearby City(ies): Waldport, Oregon
Congressional District(s): OR04, OR05
County(ies): OR: Douglas
Modified Date: 11/10/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Paving Project Provides Jobs, Saves Money, Supports Sustainability

(Story posted 9/29/2010)

The Tillicum Beach Campground Paving project on the Siuslaw National Forest is a unique example of stimulating jobs and saving money. Not only were local contractors hired to repave the entire campground, but they were directed to recycle the old asphalt for the new road.

"This saves us from having to haul away the old asphalt, buy rock, and haul it to the site," said Leslie Boak, road engineer and designer of the Tillicum project. "Using engineering estimates, by figuring in the cost savings in fuel and rock, we saved $50,000."

Normally, old asphalt gets sent to an asphalt production facility, where it is reused in other paving projects. However, many of these facilities are accumulating more old asphalt faster than they can use it. Recycling the old asphalt at Tillicum Beach and using it in the same spot not only saves money but also reduces waste.

The Siuslaw National Forest has tried recycling asphalt before but found it not to be cost effective on small-scale jobs. However, Boak found that on larger scale projects, it saved a good deal of money.

"The machine that pulverizes the asphalt is expensive to bring in," explained Boak. "But it works for larger projects."

At Tillicum, the paved area totaled 11,086 square yards, resulting in an estimated 1,600 tons of recycled asphalt. Sutton Campground, another popular site along the coast, was also large

enough to warrant the pulverizing machine.

Both of these high-use campsites have been in need of repaving, as the old pavement was worn and settling. In the past, the issues were addressed with patching and overlays. Now, with the Recovery funds, the Siuslaw National Forest is able to fully address the needed road maintenance.

Next season, visitors won't be able to notice the difference in road design, but they will definitely notice a smoother ride.

Program Project Name: Recreation Facilities Maintenance

Local Project Name: Forest Focus on Accessibility: Recreation sites updated with accessible features
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Umatilla
Nearby City(ies): Lewistin, Pomeroy, Dayton, Walla Walla, Pendleton, Ukiah, Dale, Heppner
Congressional District(s): OR02, WA05
County(ies): OR: Grant, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wheeler; WA: Asotin, Columbia, Garfield
Modified Date: 11/10/2010

Story:

Facilities Improvements Allow Better Accessibility

(Story posted 10/1/2010)

Summer marked the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act…
The Forest Service is committed to integrating accessibility into the complete range of recreation opportunities while protecting natural resources and settings so that all people, including people who have disabilities, have the opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. It's policy!

Spit, polish, and shine…
Projects to improve recreation sites and facilities represent a big chunk of the economic recovery funding received by the Umatilla National Forest. This summer forest campgrounds, cabin rentals, trails, and restrooms got much needed makeovers that included updating our sites for better accessibility for all.

Out with the old and in with the new and accessible…
Through Recovery Act funding the forest was able to replace rundown, well-used picnic tables, fire rings, and primitive restrooms at most designation campgrounds. In all, upgraded features across the forest include the following:

- 77 accessible picnic tables
- 72 accessible fire rings
- 31 accessible vault restrooms

Forest trail crews and youth conservation crews were busy assembling and painting the picnic tables and installing the new fire rings. Contractors should complete the installation of the new vault restrooms next summer.

Two accessible forest trails saw major improvements this summer…
Youth crews cleared, leveled, and widened Bull Prairie Lake Trail, a 1.5-mile loop trail located at Bull Prairie Lake Campground on the Heppner Ranger District. The trail was paved in August and will provide access to fishing platforms and a new viewpoint with accessible benches. The campground also offers accessible restrooms and campsites.

Program Project Name: Recreation Facilities Maintenance

Local Project Name: History and Heritage: Wilderness Crew Scans the Trail for Cultural Artifacts
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Umatilla
Ranger District: Pomeroy
Nearby City(ies): Pomeroy Washington, Tollgate and Troy Oregon
Congressional District(s): WA05
County(ies): OR: Wallowa; WA: Asotin, Columbia, Garfield
Modified Date: 11/10/2010

Story:

History and Heritage: Wilderness Crew Scans the Trail for Cultural Artifacts

(Story posted 10/1/2010)

Heads down, eyes on the ground. It's not how you'd typically encounter a trail crew in the wilderness, but then, this is not your typical trail crew. While other crews were brushing and treading wilderness trails this past summer, this four-person Recovery Act-funded contract crew from Transect Archaeological was searching for surface evidence of past human use, either Native American or early European, thanks to funding provided through the Recovery Act. Their focus was to search along wilderness trails that were likely built from past transportation trails used by the Native Americans, early pioneers, or big game.

Instead of the usual shovels, rakes, and crosscut saws, this crew was outfitted with Trimble Junos: personal data recorders (PDRs) equipped with GPS and INFRA mobile applications. PDRs are used to collect data in the field, and when connected to the computer back at the office, automatically populate the database. This eliminates the time-consuming task of interpreting field notes and keying in the information by hand.

According to Allen Madril, forest archaeologist, most of the wilderness areas aren't surveyed for cultural resources because we don't typically do projects, other than trail maintenance, in wilderness areas. The information collected through this survey will fill in data gaps, giving us some connectivity and a fuller understanding of how the area was used historically.

The survey began in late August in the Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness. They were looking for artifacts of past human activities, such as primitive tools made of both stone and steel. Once a discovery is made, the true archeology begins. The crew photographs and GPSs the artifact, then documents the type of object found, the surrounding landscape characteristics, and the potential for other buried material. The crew leader, qualified with a master's degree in archeology, made a determination recommendation to the forest on if a finding is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The forest archaeologist would then concur or not concur with that recommendation. This process meets the Section 106 and 110 responsibilities outlined in the National Historic Preservation Act.

"Just because a discovery is deemed not eligible for submission does not mean the information is not valuable," said Madril. "That knowledge is now recorded in the database and will inform us on future project surveys." Madril stressed the importance of collecting this information. "With these types of cultural resources, once they're gone the historic information can never be recreated.

Program Project Name: Restoring Timberline Lodge - 90 Day Ready

Local Project Name: Timberline Lodge: Restoring and Preserving the Jewel of President Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration-90 Day Ready

Region: Pacific Northwest Region

Forest: Mt. Hood

Ranger District: Zigzag

Nearby City(ies): Government Camp, Oregon

Congressional District(s): OR03

County(ies): OR: Clackamas

Modified Date: 11/10/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Restore Timberline Lodge

(Story posted 10/18/2010)

Timberline Lodge, a National Historic Landmark and beloved Oregon icon and jewel, was created in the 1930s during the Great Depression as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration in order to put people to work. In the current economic down-turn, the jewel is again putting people to work with the use of Recovery funds.

Project work includes the following:
- exterior painting of Timberline Lodge
- window replacement of Lodge guest rooms to improve energy efficiency
- completion of engineering study to assess and prioritize future capital investments in the Lodge's infrastructure
- exterior door replacement of day lodge

- day lodge fire alarm improvements
- re-flooring of day lodge
- design of a climber's registration/welcome plaza
- installation of new emergency generator
- asphalt overlay of parking lot, parking lot improvements and repair of road to Silcox Hut

RLK and Company has operated Timberline Lodge under the authority of a special use permit since the 1950s. Since Timberline Lodge is still an active operating hotel, Recovery Act-funded restoration activities had the potential to disrupt day-to-day lodge activities. However, due to the strong partnership and mutual commitment between Mt. Hood National Forest and RLK and Company, the restoration work was scheduled and implemented with minimal impact.

Program Project Name: Restoring Timberline Lodge

Local Project Name: Timberline Lodge: Restoring the Works Progress Administration Jewel-1 Year Ready
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Mt. Hood
Ranger District: Zigzag
Nearby City(ies): Government Camp, Oregon
Congressional District(s): OR03
County(ies): OR: Clackamas
Modified Date: 11/10/2010

Story:

Timberline Lodge Work Restores Oregon Icon

(Story posted 10/15/2010)

Timberline Lodge, a National Historic Landmark and beloved Oregon icon and jewel, was created in the 1930s during the Great Depression as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration in order to put people to work. In the current economic down-turn, the jewel is again putting people to work with the use of Recovery funds.

Restoration actives funded as part of this project include the following:

- Rebuild of the lodge's south chimney to meet seismic code
- Remodel of public restrooms to comply with American and Disabilities Act standards
- Day lodge roof replacement
- Potable water system improvements

Program Project Name: Oregon Youth Employment Initiative - Phase I

Local Project Name: Oregon Youth Employment Initiative Supports Southwest Oregon Youth and Communities

Region: Pacific Northwest Region

Forest: Rogue River-Siskiyou

Ranger District: Gold Beach

Nearby City(ies): Agness, Illahee

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 17

Congressional District(s): OR02, OR04

County(ies): OR: Curry

Modified Date: 11/10/2010

Story:

Oregon Youth Employment Initiative Supports Southwest Oregon Youth and Communities

(Story posted 11/9/2010)

During the summer of 2010, the Gold Beach Ranger District on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest hosted three youth crews that were employed by Curry County. The crews were funded through the Oregon Youth Employment Initiative (OYEI), an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program with the Oregon Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development and the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps.

Over an eight-week period in July and August, 15 young adults and three crew leaders from several small communities along the southern Oregon coast worked on numerous natural resource management projects. Alan Vandiver, Gold Beach district ranger said, “I wish everyone in Curry County could have seen the quality work that these crews performed!“

District program managers identified priority projects for the crews, including manual removal of invasive plants, construction of fire line in preparation for fall prescribed fires, native seed collection and other meadow restoration activities, and public safety projects such as clearing vegetation adjacent to bridges on forest roads.

The crew’s accomplishments exceeded expectations and contributed significantly to the Forest program of work and capacity to provide services to the public. Civil Engineering Technician Lola Hislop was impressed with the crews. She explained the work the crews performed for engineering consisted of cleaning dirt off the bridge decks and clearing brush and limbs around the bridges and rails. Although this type of work is critical to the life of the structures and safety of the users, there is minimal funding available. Hislop said, "If it is to get done, I’m the one that will have to do it. The crews did this maintenance work on 41 bridges in the five days I had them, saving at least 40 days of my time."

Although the OYEI program enhanced forest programs, the foremost benefit was to crew members, their families, and local businesses. According to county estimates, the program resulted in a direct local economic benefit totaling $102,000. Each crew leader earned just over $5,000, and crew members earned approximately $3,300.

To the fullest extent possible, the county purchased materials, personal protective equipment, and other supplies from local businesses and vendors. In a county with the unemployment rate ranging between 11.0 and 15.3 percent over the last two years, the salaries and business income were critical.

The most telling examples of need was described by a crew member on the last day of the summer work tour. The young man, ready to begin his senior year in high school, used his earnings to rent an apartment for his mother and himself. The money he earned over the summer was the only source of income for the family, and they had been homeless before he secured the OYEI crew position. The young man wasn't the only crew member that contributed to family necessities. Many of the youth crew members explained that their earnings would be used to help with family expenses or would be applied toward school clothes, tuition or supplies.

The adult crew leaders were also thankful for the job opportunity. One crew leader was experiencing significant financial hardship when offered the crew leader position. Although the job wasn't permanent, it diminished the severity of circumstances temporarily and provided leadership skills and valuable work experience. With new skills added to his resume, the individual recently applied for a position with a local natural resource oriented organization and is awaiting the call for an interview.

Pat Ayling, Curry County community service coordinator, was asked how the program affected the participants. Ayling reiterated how important the jobs were to individuals and the community and explained there were other positive outcomes. Crew members gained practical field-based experience and a broader perspective of the Forest Service. Previously, many participants had limited understanding of the size of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and the concept of public lands. Many crew members were unfamiliar with the scope of Forest Service management responsibilities and felt the primary role of the agency is to collect fees at campgrounds, rivers, and prairies.

Ayling said, "Within a short timeframe, there was interest in working at different sites on the forest, appreciation of the views and natural beauty, and at least one person said it is good to know there is a lot of work getting done!"

When asked about the challenges the county experienced, Ayling replied, "I remember thinking this is the worst day of my life when I had to tell some of the applicants they didn't get the job. We had about 50 applications for 15 crew member positions. If we'd had 50 openings, we probably would have had more applicants than jobs. There never would be enough work."

Ayling summarized his thoughts about the program: "It renewed my faith that our future will be in good hands. It was the best summer of my adult life. I was overwhelmed with the work they could get done...and they came back every day!"

Program Project Name: Blue Mountain Fuels and Timber Stewardship

Local Project Name: Recovery Projects Putting People to Work
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Malheur
Nearby City(ies): John Day, Prairie City, Burns
Congressional District(s): OR02
County(ies): OR: Grant, Harney
Modified Date: 12/28/2010

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Projects Making a Difference

(Story posted 11/17/2010)

Forest restoration and fuel reduction projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) have already begun to make a difference on the Malheur National Forest and surrounding communities.

“We feel this will have a significant economic impact on our local communities,” said Forest Supervisor Doug Gochnour. “We’ve awarded a lot of contracts and we’ve also hired, along with our normal temporary workforce, an extra 52 people to perform forest restoration and survey work on the Forest--28 from Harney County, and 16 from Grant County.”

Most employees hired with funding have stated that they would not be working at this time if not for the extra jobs provided by the Recovery Act.

Thad Hilman of Burns, who was laid off after 11 years with Monaco Coach, who is collecting stream surveys for Forest projects, said, “It is terrific to be working; things were not looking good.” He added, “I love working in the outdoors, and I am gaining knowledge and skills for future employment opportunities. I really have a different perspective of the Forest Service since starting this job; the folks on the Malheur have welcomed me, and I feel like part of the family.”

“Words can not explain what this job means to me; it is a true blessing,” said Pat Brewster, another Harney County resident, who is working on a wildlife survey crew.

Survey work being done includes wildlife, soil, botany, archaeological, and stream surveys. These surveys will have long-term benefits as the Forest begins implementing projects, not only this year but in future years as well. Marking crews are also out preparing areas for future forest restoration related projects and sales.

“With the addition of the monitoring crew hired with Recovery Act dollars, we are able to do two years worth of monitoring in one field season”, stated Supervisory Wildlife Biologist June

Galloway. “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.”

Recovery Act funding is also giving several local contractors work on the forest conducting several large-scale thinning and piling projects.

“I am getting steady work due to this funding. Without it, I would probably only be doing a little private work here and there,” said Seneca contractor Brad Browning. Fellow Seneca resident Denis McCormick added, “Yeah, I might be working without this, but who knows where or doing what.”

Local contractor J. D. Majors had not had a contract since September of 2009. “Without this contract,” he stated, “I would be bankrupt and have lost my equipment. I now have enough work for the season.”

The Malheur National Forest feels this is a win-win situation for the Forest and the local communities. It is providing skilled local workers the opportunity to help the forest complete several needed large scale projects.

Program Project Name: Pellet Plant in Grant and/or Harney Counties

Local Project Name: Malheur Lumber Biomass Pellet Plant
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Malheur
Ranger District: Emigrant Creek O
Nearby City(ies): John Day, Canyon City
Congressional District(s): OR02
County(ies): OR: Grant
Modified Date: 12/29/2010

Story:

Pellet Plant Grand Opening Celebrates New Industry to Boost Economy

(Story posted 11/17/2010)

On October 20, 2010 some 50-plus Grant County residents and an array of federal, state, and local officials attended an open house celebration at the new pellet plant at Malheur Lumber Company, located in John Day, Oregon. The open house hosted by the company and the Malheur National Forest was held to celebrate the upcoming opening of the plant. The plant was made possible in large part by $5 million in Recovery Act funds received by Malheur National Forest.

Malheur Lumber plans on hiring an additional 15 workers for the new pellet plant, and is looking to add a second shift, which would be used to chip the loads of biomass.

The plant is expected to begin producing pellets and bricks in December.

Program Project Name: Facilities Accessibility Upgrades

Local Project Name: Blue Mount
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Malheur
Nearby City(ies): Prairie City
Congressional District(s): OR02
County(ies): OR: Grant
Modified Date: 12/28/2010

Story:

Work Center Receives Recovery Act-funded Renovations

(Story posted 12/1/2010)

Recovery Act funding is allowing the Blue Mountain Work Center, located on the Blue Mountain Ranger District on the Malheur National Forest, to receive renovations and upgrades. This project is the first major upgrade of the site since being built in 1933.

The project received $850,000 in funding for construction and improvements. Ten contracts were awarded to area companies, providing much needed steady employment for workers.

The work center was originally built by Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the years of 1933 and 1934. The CCC enlisted nearly 3 million single men between the ages of 17 and 25 to work on such projects as this. For their service, enrollees received $30 monthly, $25 of which they were required to send home to their families. Because of his commitment to preserving natural resources, President Franklin D. Roosevelt made the CCC the first recovery and relief bill he submitted to Congress.

It is a bit ironic that the original work center construction was a recovery program, and now Recovery Act 2009 funding is providing dollars for renovation.

Through the years the work center has served as home to fire crews, a recreational rental site, and host to various forest activities.

Project highlights include the following:
The bunk house, added in the 1950s, is being replaced by a new building to house crews. Existing buildings are receiving new roofs, which will reflect the style of roofing of the original construction. Fuel tanks and the delivery system are being replaced. Existing building are getting foundation replacement and repairs. Windows are being renovated for more efficient function. New septic systems are being installed. Current building are receiving exterior

painting.

Darren Lemon, assistant forest engineer, expects work to be completed in time for crews to occupy in the spring of 2011. He said, “There may be a few minor things to finish up, but we fully expect to have the work center operational for crews next spring.”

Program Project Name: Malheur National Forest- Road Paving/ Chip Seals

Local Project Name: Road Work - Malheur NF Roads
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Malheur
Nearby City(ies): Canyon City, John Day, Burns, Prairie City
Congressional District(s): OR02
County(ies): OR: Grant, Harney
Modified Date: 12/28/2010

Story:

Malheur National Forest Surface Restoration Work Provides Meaningful Employment

(Story posted 12/1/2010)

Hot steam...blazing sun...boiling black top...does this sound like something anyone would enjoy? To local paving contractors and their workers, it is the perfect scenario. Recovery funding is providing dollars for several paving and chipseal projects, providing work for contractors and crews.

The Malheur National Forest through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009(Recovery Act) received over $5 million in funding for large-scale road paving and chip seal projects.

Over 60 miles of roads are receiving improvements; 20 miles are being repaved, and 40 miles are getting chipseal. The Starr Sno-park located near Seneca, a popular snowmobile and sledding area, will also be repaved.

“It has been 10 to 15 years since these roads have received improvements of this scale.” stated Ben “Bubba” Lindley, assistant forest engineer. “The Recovery Act funding has given us the dollars to complete these much-needed projects.”

The projects have provided a season worth of work for three contractors and their employees. Tidewater (John Day, Oregon), Harney Rock and Paving (Burns, Oregon) and High Desert Aggregate and Paving (Redmond, Oregon) received contracts to complete projects that were needed to prevent roads from deteriorating to a point of being unsafe and the requirement of major reconstruction.

Highlights

Repave Forest Roads 17, 31, and 47
Chipseal Forest Roads 13 and 21
Magone Lake Recreation Area - Repave Forest Roads 3618 and 3620
Campground Roads Chipseal

Yellow Jacket Campground - Repave Forest Road 3745

The work meant jobs for local contractors and crews.

Over 60 miles of Malheur National Forest roads have been improved for visitors' safety and enjoyment.

Program Project Name: Western States - Forests Adapting To and Mitigating Climate Change Effects

Local Project Name: Forest Inventory in Urban Areas

Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station

Nearby City(ies): various

Estimated Project Cost: $1,780,000.00

Congressional District(s): AK00, CA01, CA02, CA03, CA04, CA05, CA06, CA07, CA08, CA09, CA10, CA11, CA12, CA13, CA14, CA15, CA16, CA17, CA18, CA19, CA20, CA21, CA22, CA23, CA24, CA25, CA26, CA27, CA28, CA29, CA30, CA31, CA32, CA33, CA34, CA35, CA36, CA37, CA38, CA39, CA40, CA41, CA42, CA43, CA44, CA45, CA46, CA47, CA48, CA49, CA50, CA51, CA52, CA53, HI01, HI02, OR01, OR02, OR03, OR04, OR05, WA01, WA02, WA03, WA04, WA05, WA06, WA07, WA08, WA09

County(ies): AK: Bethel Census Area, Bristol Bay Borough, Denali Borough, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Lake and Peninsula Borough, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Nome Census Area, Northwest Arctic Borough, Southeast Fairbanks Census Area, Valdez-Cordova Census Area, Wade Hampton Census Area, Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area; CA: Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yolo, Yuba; HI: Hawaii, Honolulu, Kalawao, Kauai, Maui; OR: Baker, Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Coos, Crook, Curry, Deschutes, Douglas, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine, Klamath, Lake, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Malheur, Marion, Morrow, Multnomah, Polk, Sherman, Tillamook, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco, Washington, Wheeler, Yamhill; WA: Adams, Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Clallam, Clark, Columbia, Cowlitz, Douglas, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lewis, Lincoln, Mason, Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Spokane, Stevens, Thurston, Wahkiakum, Walla Walla, Whatcom, Whitman, Yakima

Modified Date: 2/15/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Urban Forest Project Spanning Five States

(Story posted 1/14/2011)

This project, led by John Mills of the PNW Research Station's Resource Monitoring and Assessment Program, is using $1,795,000 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to employ field crews to gather data on the condition of forests from approximately 1,000 sites in populated areas in five western states: Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington.

The project uses the scientifically-rigorous protocols of the USDA Forest Service's nationwide Forest Inventory and Analysis Program, and will result in a network of permanently located plots in urbanized areas that can be measured again in the future. The Forest Service is conducting the work in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Forestry, California Polytechnic State University, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Hawaii Urban Forestry Council, and Davey Resource Group.

Having Recovery Act funds become available for this project means that workers have the opportunity to collect systematic data on the abundance, extent, and health of trees and other vegetation in urban areas for the first time. To help urban forests adapt and be resilient to a changing climate, the Forest Service needs to know their current health status.

Urban forests will change as the climate changes, with shifts in species composition, growth rates, mortality, and susceptibility to pests all possible. Having a baseline of urban forest conditions will help local resource managers and planners to understand and articulate the contributions of urban forests to ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, water retention, energy savings, and quality of life for residents. Over the long term, monitoring will help to determine if and how urban forests are adapting to changing conditions, and might shed some light on potential mitigations.

Work on the initial plot installation will continue through 2013, with a large amount of data gathering planned for 2011. As of November 2010, this project had expended about 3 percent of its funds, generating direct employment for approximately 15 people, with significant additional jobs expected as the project ramps up.

Pennsylvania

Program Project Name: Allegheny National Forest – Forest-wide Jobs, Critical Deferred Maintenance Reduction

Local Project Name: Economic Recovery Project Improves Access to Wild and Scenic River
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Allegheny
Nearby City(ies): None listed
Congressional District(s): PA03, PA05
County(ies): PA: McKean
Modified Date: 7/14/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Improves Access to Wild and Scenic River

(Story posted 3/3/2010)

Project provides improved access to the Nationally-designated Clarion Wild & Scenic River and benefits local township.

River Road is a much-used road running along the nationally-designated Wild & Scenic Clarion River in Elk County, Pennsylvania (Millstone Township). The Road is also home to approximately 23 popular dispersed camp sites along the river. Thanks to Economic Recovery funding, the Allegheny National Forest was recently able to partner with the local township to accomplish a nearly $450,000 road maintenance project along the Clarion River.

The River Road Project funded the reconstruction and resurfacing of 2.9 miles of Township Route 301. The reconstruction included: drainage improvements, signage and safety improvements, and widening of the road by an average of two feet. The roadway was then re-surfaced with four inches of asphalt.

Construction began July 14, 2009, and was completed on November 10, 2009. This project created four jobs using Economic Recovery calculations, primarily in the categories of Asphalt Construction and Trucking and Transport. In addition to the $357,870.78 in Economic Recovery funds, Millstone Township contributed $71,585.51, for a project total of $427,456.29. To accomplish this work the Forest Service entered into an agreement with Millstone Township.

The improvement to public infrastructure within the Clarion National Wild & Scenic River corridor provides an immediate benefit to both Forest visitors and local residents. Millstone Township will also benefit from reduced annual maintenance costs. Township Supervisor Eric Patton noted, "This project will reduce our annual highway maintenance costs by an average of ten percent over the next ten years. This is a big savings for a rural township like ours."

Program Project Name: Allegheny National Forest – Forest-wide Jobs, Critical Deferred Maintenance Reduction

Local Project Name: Allegheny National Forest Economic Recovery Project Improves Roads & Relationships

Region: Eastern Region

Forest: Allegheny

Nearby City(ies): Howe Township

Congressional District(s): PA03, PA05

County(ies): PA: McKean

Modified Date: 7/14/2010

Story:

Allegheny National Forest Improves Roads, Relationships With Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 3/3/2010)

Economic recovery road project on the Allegheny National Forest connects the public to forest lands and builds relationships with a local rural township and major employer.

Funding provided through the Economic Recovery Program allowed the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) in Pennsylvania to partner with a local township to accomplish a large project that could not have otherwise been completed.

The ANF entered into an agreement with Howe Township in Forest County (PA) to complete work on a section of their Township road system on one of the first Economic Recovery projects completed on the Forest. Included was a road maintenance project that had been too large to include in either the Forest's or the Township's annual maintenance budget. To accomplish the work, the Township awarded a contract to Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc., of State College, PA, in the amount of $437,663. Work on the project was completed in late summer of 2009.

The project replaced the entire surface of a heavily-travelled township road servicing the Cornell Abraxas Foundation and improved drainage. The rehabilitation facility located on this road houses over 260 juvenile residents and employs over 300 local residents. The road is also heavily used by companies drilling for oil and gas and performing logging operations on national forest lands. Additionally, Abraxas Road provides access to several thousand acres of Forest land for hunting, hiking, and recreating.

According to Howe Township Supervisors, "This is the largest project (money-wise) the Township has ever undertaken." Cornell Abraxas is one of the largest employers in the county and this project "has helped improve relations between Abraxas and the Township." A letter recently received by the township from Cornell Abraxas not only thanked them for paving and fixing the road for all the employees and visitors, but also asked if the township would "please consider letting us adopt this piece of highway. Our staff and clients would like

to keep this area clean."

Program Project Name: Grey Towers Roads

Local Project Name: Roads and Parking Improvements
Region: Northeastern Area S&PF
Nearby City(ies): Milford, PA
Congressional District(s): PA10
County(ies): PA: Pike
Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Grey Towers Road Work

(Story posted 12/15/2010)

The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funded the removal and milling of 1980s-era asphalt paving, including approximately 2,200 linear feet of driveway and 15,000 square feet of parking area at historic Grey Towers, former home of first Forest Service Chief Gifford Pinchot. The last time these surfaces were treated was in the 1980s, and the work was needed to address safety, environmental, and aesthetic concerns at the historic landmark.

This Recovery Act-funded roads project included the estate entrance that the U.S. Forest Service created in 1963. As a secondary entry to the historic landmark, it is utilized daily as a service entrance for staff, maintenance vehicles, deliveries, and access to the rear area behind the Grey Towers mansion. This drive separates the service vehicles and activities from the public visitor entrance. The project addressed safety and environmental concerns with the installation of concrete curbing, seven new drainage culverts, expansion of pull-out areas, line striping, traffic control devices, soil erosion control, and the application of crushed stone and re-grading to aid in access to the maintenance complex through the wooded areas of the property instead of through the more visible historic core of the estate.

The project began April 3, 2010 and was substantially completed on April 21, 2010.

Puerto Rico

Program Project Name: El Yunque National Forest Watershed Improvements
Local Project Name: Espiritu Santo Watershed Restoration
Region: Southern Region
Forest: El Yunque
Ranger District: Catalina Field Office
Nearby City(ies): San Juan
Estimated Project Cost: $230,000.00
Congressional District(s): PR00
County(ies): PR: Rio Grande Municipio
Modified Date: 1/7/2011

Story:

Espiritu Santo Watershed Restoration Funded Through Recovery Act

(Story posted 8/3/2010)

The Rio Espiritu Santo is one of the El Yunque National Forest's critical watersheds. Streams flowing through El Yunque's watersheds provide 25 percent of the water consumed by Puerto Rico's San Juan metropolitan area as well as much of the water used by the population of the island's eastern end – maintaining healthy watersheds is vitally important to the island's residents and its visitors.

The El Yunque National Forest, in partnership with Centro Para la Conservacion del Paisaje (CCP) has received funding approval through the Recovery Act to accomplish a number of vital improvements to the Rio Espiritu Santo Watershed. Improvements include: expansion of the existing breeding habitat of the endangered Puerto Rican Parrot (Amazona vittata) through reforestation; clean-up of debris along stream banks and above several river dams to restore appropriate; stream flow, and to enhance the health of fish and other aquatic species in the watershed area; contracting with a local plant nursery to provide native tree and plant materials for use in reforestation activities.

The Forest Service will provide overall supervision of the project. The total cost of the Rio Espiritu Santo Watershed project is pegged at $209,000. The Recovery Act will fund $124,095 to CCP (Reforestation), $43,790 to Fideicomiso de Conservacion (Plant procurement), and $41,115 to a local contractor (Debris clean-up).

Work on the three sub-projects has already begun; the Rio Espiritu Santo Watershed project is planned to be completed by August 2011.

South Carolina

Program Project Name: Forest Health Enrichment through Canopy Restoration & Hazard Mitigation

Local Project Name: Forest Health Enrichment through Canopy Restoration and Hazard Mitigation

Region: Southern Region

Nearby City(ies): Statewide

Estimated Project Cost: $897,000.00

Congressional District(s): SC01, SC02, SC03, SC04, SC05, SC06

County(ies): SC: 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

Modified Date: 8/6/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Forest Health Enrichment through Canopy Restoration and Hazard Mitigation

(Story posted 4/2/2010)

This project will employ commercial arborists, landscape contractors, nurserymen, consulting arborists, and possibly landscape designers and equipment rental contractors to implement the community forestry projects throughout South Carolina.

Projects will be implemented by local government entities in cooperation with local non-profit organizations and with technical assistance from the SC Forestry Commission. This project will implement hazard tree mitigation, site design work, tree planting and hazard tree assessments in the targeted communities.

The targeted communities are those that are considered to be the most economically distressed and that have completed a public tree inventory within the past five years. The projects funded under this initiative will improve community safety, retain or increase community tree canopy, enhance quality of life and provide employment opportunities for the green industry.

Program Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and Fuels Management

Local Project Name: Alabama – Longleaf Restoration Initiative

Region: Southern Region

Nearby City(ies): Alabama

Estimated Project Cost: $0.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 13.5

Congressional District(s): FL01, FL02, FL03, FL04, FL05, FL06, FL07, FL08, FL09, FL10, FL11, FL12, FL13, FL14, FL15, FL16, FL17, FL18, FL19, FL20, FL21, FL22, FL23, FL24, FL25, GA01, GA02, GA03, GA04, GA05, GA06, GA07, GA08, GA09, GA10, GA11, GA12, GA13, NC01, NC02, NC03, NC04, NC05, NC06, NC07, NC08, NC09, NC10, NC11, NC12, NC13, SC01, SC02, SC03, SC04, SC05, SC06

County(ies): AL: 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; FL: Brevard, Broward, 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; GA: 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; NC: 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; SC: 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

Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project in Alabama

(Story posted 4/13/2010)

The longleaf pine forests that once covered over 90 million acres in southeastern United States has been reduced by 97 percent to 3.4 million acres – only three percent remains. To address these concerns, representatives from over 20 federal, state, and non-government organizations came together and helped develop the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine, which was released in March 2009. The plan calls for an unprecedented collaborative effort – on all lands – to increase longleaf pine acreage to 8 million acres and improve 1.5 million acres of existing longleaf over the next 15 years.

One of the first efforts to go from the range-wide plan to implementation was the awarding of $8.975 million in Recovery Act funds for the Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project. The funds were awarded through grants to state forestry agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. The Alabama Forestry Commission received $1.757 million.

AFC has contracted with the Longleaf Alliance to administer the project. Anne Rilling, with the Alliance, was hired to coordinate this effort. Other agencies involved include the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The work is being implemented through multiple private contracts.

As of March 15, 2010, there have been many accomplishments: Longleaf establishment on 230 acres on the Geneva State Forest and 650 acres on the Barbour Wildlife Management Area; 800+ acres of mid-story treatments to improve existing longleaf pine and improve cone collection areas on the Geneva State Forest and Little River State Forest; around 298,000 longleaf pine seedlings were purchased and provided to supplement the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Landowner Incentive Program to establishing longleaf on an estimated 596 acres (80% complete) of private land; and tuition provided for 47 professionals to attend the Longleaf Academy for formal training.

Program Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and Fuels Management

Local Project Name: Florida Longleaf Restoration Initiative

Region: Southern Region

Forest: Test Forest R8

Nearby City(ies): throughout Florida

Estimated Project Cost: $0.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 0.7

Congressional District(s): FL01, FL02, FL03, FL04, FL05, FL06, FL07, FL08, FL09, FL10, FL11, FL12, FL13, FL14, FL15, FL16, FL17, FL18, FL19, FL20, FL21, FL22, FL23, FL24, FL25

County(ies): AL: 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; FL: 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; GA: 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; NC: 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; SC: 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

Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project in Florida

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

The longleaf pine forests that once covered over 90 million acres in southeastern United States has been reduced by 97% to 3.4 million acres – only 3% remains. To address these concerns, representatives from over 20 federal, state, and non-government organizations

came together and helped develop the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine, which was released in March 2009. The plan calls for an unprecedented collaborative effort – on all lands – to increase longleaf pine acreage to 8 million acres and improve 1.5 million acres of existing longleaf over the next 15 years.

One of the first efforts to go from the range-wide plan to implementation was the awarding of $8.975 million in Recovery Act funds for the Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project. The funds were awarded through grants to state forestry agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

As of March 2010, there have been many accomplishments: a total of 200 acres of longleaf establishment has been completed on the Indian Lakes State Forest, while 13 state forests are involved in accomplishing prescribed burning, mid-story/understory treatments, and seed collection; currently, a little over 300 acres of longleaf establishment has been completed on through Florida's longleaf pine private lands incentive program (out of 2,000 acres); at Andrews State Nursery work is underway to increase the longleaf seedling capacity by 2.2 million, while planned to be completed by April 2010; and inventory work for gopher tortoise, Indigo snake, and RCW is continuing on public lands.

Program Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and Fuels Management

Local Project Name: Georgia Longleaf Pine Initiative

Region: Southern Region

Nearby City(ies): Throughout Georgia

Estimated Project Cost: $0.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 7

Congressional District(s): GA01, GA02, GA03, GA04, GA05, GA06, GA07, GA08, GA09, GA10, GA11, GA12, GA13

County(ies): AL: 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; FL: 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; GA: 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; NC: 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; SC: 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

Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project in Georgia

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

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As of March 2010, there have been many accomplishments: Longleaf establishment is complete on 115 acres on the Paulding Forest; wiregrass planting is complete on the Broxton Rocks Legacy Forest – 36 acres; field fumigated in order to expand longleaf bare root capacity by 2 million seedlings; GFC hired John Lathem to administer the Recovery Act longleaf grant; and the GFC has 4,572 acres of longleaf signed up through Georgia's Private Lands Longleaf Restoration Incentive Payment Program. It is estimated that approximately 750 acres will be planted by the end of March. Most of the work this year will be site preparation with majority of planting to occur during the winter of 2010/11.

Program Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and Fuels Management

Local Project Name: North Carolina Longleaf Pine Restoration

Region: Southern Region

Nearby City(ies): Throughout North Carolina

Estimated Project Cost: $0.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 1.5

Congressional District(s): NC01, NC02, NC03, NC04, NC05, NC06, NC07, NC08, NC09, NC10, NC11, NC12, NC13

County(ies): AL: 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; FL: 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; GA: 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; NC: 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; SC: 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

Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project in North Carolina

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

The longleaf pine forests that once covered over 90 million acres in southeastern United States has been reduced by 97 percent to 3.4 million acres – only three percent remains. To address these concerns, representatives from over 20 federal, state, and non-government

organizations came together and helped develop the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine, which was released in March 2009. The plan calls for an unprecedented collaborative effort – on all lands – to increase longleaf pine acreage to 8 million acres and improve 1.5 million acres of existing longleaf over the next 15 years.

One of the first efforts to go from the range-wide plan to implementation was the awarding of $8.975 million in Recovery Act funds for the Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration and Fuels Management Initiative Project. The funds were awarded through grants to state forestry agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

As of March 2010, there have been many accomplishments: establishing 431 acres of longleaf pine and 80 acres of wiregrass on Bladen Lakes State Forest; completing 2,464 acres of prescribed burning; improving 430 acres of longleaf pine through mechanical treatments of mid-story and understory; collecting and processing 4,600 pounds of longleaf seed, 14 pounds of wiregrass, and four pounds of other native understory plant species; and the Division of Forestry hired five temporary forestry technicians at Bladen Lakes to help implement the longleaf restoration program.

Program Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and Fuels Management

Local Project Name: South Caroline Longleaf Restoration
Region: Southern Region
Nearby City(ies): throughout South Carolina
Estimated Project Cost: $0.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 10.7
Congressional District(s): SC01, SC02, SC03, SC04, SC05, SC06

County(ies): AL: 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; FL: 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; GA: 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; NC: 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; SC: 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

Modified Date: 7/12/2010

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As of March 2010, there have been many accomplishments: establishment of longleaf pine on 625 acres on state lands; 1,150 acres of mid-story/stand improvement treatments have been completed; approximately 4,000 acres of prescribed burning has been completed; work on private lands has been accomplished (reported through first of March) with the Longleaf Restoration Program (landowner incentive program) – 180 acres of longleaf establishment, 183 acres of prescribed burning, and 103 acres of mid-story treatments ;the capacity to produce containerized longleaf pine has been increased at Taylor State Nursery by 750,000 seedlings through contract construction of new raised tables; a private consulting forester has been contracted to inventory state parks lands for longleaf pine; and the SCFC has sent 45 professionals to the Longleaf Academy in Alabama for formal training.

Program Project Name: Non-Native Invasive Plant Control

Local Project Name: Non-native Invasive Plant Control
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Francis Marion
Nearby City(ies): Francis Marion and Sumnter National Forest
Estimated Project Cost: $700,000.00
Congressional District(s): SC01, SC03, SC04, SC05, SC06
County(ies): SC: Abbeville, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Saluda, Union
Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Forest Partners Work Together on Control and Treatment of Non-native Invasive Plants

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

Non-native invasive species threaten forest resources, outcompeting native vegetation and cultured crop and rangeland across the nation. The highly fragmented pattern of private and public land ownership in the South makes control of invasive species an important cooperative goal for national forests, private landowners, state agencies, and private organizations in South Carolina.

Since March 2010 there have been many project accomplishments. This project focused on forest-wide treatment and control of non-native plant species such as cogongrass, Japanese

climbing fern, Chinese tallow, Chinese wisteria, kudzu, Chinese privet, trifoliate orange and autumn olive. “Mapping the distribution of invasives is a critical first step towards implementing effective controls,” said Francis Marion and Sumter Botanist and Ecologist Robin Mackie.

Partners such as the National Wild Turkey Federation, Quail Unlimited, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, South Carolina Native Plant Society, South Carolina Exotic Pest Plant Council and Clemson University have all assisted in treatment efforts.

On the Sumter National Forest, contracted crews have surveyed more than 6,400 acres of forest land on the Sumter National Forest and mapped NNIS on a quarter of them.

On the Francis Marion National Forest, nearly 1,300 acres surveyed resulted in 125 infested acres. Japanese climbing fern was found in 213 of 217 polygons mapped. It is a species that spreads rapidly by spores that can travel by wind, water, clothing or fur. It can occupy and threaten forested areas, and has done just that on tens of thousands of acres in Florida.

To date, the four districts on the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests have prepared just over 1,100 acres for two annual invasive species treatments, prioritizing control of non-native invasive plants within areas of special Forest Service interest and concern: floodplain canebrakes; open woodlands; longleaf ecosystems; the wild and scenic river corridors; and contiguous tracks of Forest Service ownership.

Program Project Name: Francis Marion Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Reduction

Local Project Name: Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Fuels Reduction
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Francis Marion
Ranger District: Francis Marion
Nearby City(ies): Charleston
Estimated Project Cost: $835,000.00
Congressional District(s): SC01, SC06
County(ies): SC: Berkeley, Charleston
Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Reduction Helps Restore Wildlife Numbers

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

The Francis Marion National Forest will be reducing midstory vegetation on forest lands in Charleston and Berkeley counties in South Carolina. The midstory vegetation is removed to within 6” of the ground.

This reduction project will create 120ft buffers along property boundaries, major roads and

urban areas and masticate encroaching vegetation within forest stands to reduce fuel loads. The project area is also habitat for the federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW).

“The reduction of midstory vegetation, in addition to reducing hazardous fuel levels, opens the habitat for many species of wildlife the way natural fire would normally on unmanaged lands.” said District Ranger Orlando Sutton. “But it also minimizes the easy access for predators to the tree cavities of the RCW, so it’s a win all around for forest health.” Also, this project will reduce the likelihood of catastrophic wildfire in the WUI and continues successful efforts to restore RCW numbers on the forest since the devastation of many of their colonies during Hurricane Hugo.

Partners in the project include the Department of Energy, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, the National Wild Turkey Federation and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Logging and boundary survey contractors will complete the work.

Program Project Name: Francis Marion Biomass Thinning

Local Project Name: Francis Marion Biomass Thinning
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Francis Marion
Ranger District: Francis Marion
Nearby City(ies): Charleston
Estimated Project Cost: $300,000.00
Congressional District(s): SC01, SC06
County(ies): SC: Berkeley, Charleston
Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Francis Marion Biomass Thinning To Reduce Hazardous Materials

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

The FMS will be thinning dense pine forest stands in its continuing effort to reduce hazardous fuels on the forest, the result of intense re-growth of young pines after Hurricane Hugo flattened about a third of the forest in 1989.

The mechanically harvested materials will be chipped and hauled to a local industrial paper mill for use as fuel for energy production. Approximately 1000 acres will be treated, and forest boundaries that were destroyed by the hurricane will be resurveyed and marked as part of the project.

“Nothing is wasted,” said District Ranger Orlando Sutton. “We started recycling forest debris into energy more than a decade ago when the hurricane left us with such an abundance of it. It’s a great solution that reduces the risk of wildfire, improves wildlife habitat and also

provides benefits off the forest in the promotion of alternative fuels."

South Carolina contractors have completed a portion of the boundary survey. Thinning will begin once the project area is dry enough to protect against resource damage.

Program Project Name: Southern Research Station - Santee Experimental Forest Paving

Local Project Name: Santee Experimental Forest Paving
Region: Southern Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Cordesville, SC
Estimated Project Cost: $101,979.15
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 13
Congressional District(s): SC06
County(ies): SC: Berkeley
Modified Date: 7/8/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Work Supports Santee Experimental Forest Administrative Site Safety Improvements

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

The administrative and laboratory operations for the Center For Forested Wetlands Research, was relocated from Charleston, South Carolina, to the Santee Experimental Forest in Cordesville, South Carolina in 2007. A number of building renovations were completed for the move, but the existing driveway and parking areas for the site were only partially upgraded to accomodate increased traffic and parking needs. This Recovery Act project completed the reconfiguration and paving of the existing driveway and parking areas.

Site security was provided with the addition of a new gate with an electronic access control system.

The site is located on SC Highway 402, a high-traffic 55-mph road used as a main transportation route from Interstate 26 to coastal communities north of Charleston.

Employees have experienced a number of near-misses while trying to enter the driveway. The project reconfigured the entrance radii and provided for increased traffic safety.

Program Project Name: Non-Native Invasive Plant Control

Local Project Name: Give 'Em an Inch and They'll Take a Mile
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Francis Marion
Nearby City(ies): None Listed
Congressional District(s): SC01, SC03, SC04, SC05, SC06

County(ies): SC: Abbeville, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Saluda, Union
Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Lay the Groundwork in a Fight for the Forest Floor

(Story posted 2/2/2010)

Nearly everyone who has visited the Southeast (even briefly) is familiar with kudzu. Not so fondly referred to as 'the vine that ate the South," kudzu was introduced to the United States in the 1800s as an ornamental plant and was later cultivated for erosion control. But in the receptive Southeastern climate, kudzu took off. Capable of growing at the rate of almost a foot per day, the vine swallowed whole forests, depriving them of sunlight.

Kudzu was one of the first plants in the Southeast to supply a ready visual in the minds of a public new to the idea of invasive species.

But it's not alone. Non-native invasive species (NNIS) abound across the nation, many of them innocently introduced for their attractive garden qualities, benefits to wildlife or soil stabilization. Not all non-native plants are invasive, but those that are can escape cultivation and multiply to unmanageable levels, causing ecological or economic damage by dramatically changing the natural landscape. In turn, vegetation that historically sustained local wildlife and native ecosystems disappears -the wildlife and other desirable natural resources soon follow.

Across the nation, invasive plants such as yellow starthistle threaten not only forest resources, but also out compete valuable agricultural crops and rangelands and choke the water sources that supply them.

How did we get to this point? It's certainly important to choose carefully the plants you grow in your own garden, but the success of many aggressive invasive plants is the result of more than just the occasional seed carried by a bird from your backyard.

"Factors such as fragmented land ownership patterns and old home sites contribute to the spread of NNIS," said Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests (FMS) Botanist and Ecologist Robin Mackie. "So mapping their distribution is a critical first step towards implementing more effective controls."

In South Carolina, invasive species and the problems associated with them are growing and spreading vigorously. Now, with dollars supplied to FMS by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), the agency can actively seek out pockets of NNIS and take steps to slow their spread before they further their foothold on coastal and inland forested environments.

Contracted crews have surveyed more than 6,400 acres of forest land on the Sumter

National Forest and mapped NNIS on a quarter of them. NNIS found and mapped included Chinese privet, Autumn olive, Chinese stiltgrass and Japanese honeysuckle, in addition to kudzu, Chinese wisteria, Chinaberry, mimosa, tree-of-heaven, multiflora rose, tirfoliate orange, sericea lespedeza, periwinkle and English ivy.

On the Francis Marion National Forest, nearly 1,300 acres surveyed resulted in 125 infested acres. Japanese climbing fern was found in 213 of 217 polygons mapped. It is a species that spreads rapidly by spores that can travel by wind, water, clothing or fur. Like kudzu, it can occupy and threaten forested areas, and has done just that on tens of thousands of acres in Florida.

To date, the four districts on the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests have prepared just over 1,100 acres for two annual invasive species treatments, prioritizing control of non-native invasive plants within areas of special Forest Service interest and concern: floodplain canebrakes; open woodlands; longleaf ecosystems; the wild and scenic river corridors; and contiguous tracks of Forest Service ownership.

Program Project Name: Savannah River - Midstory Vegetation Treatment

Local Project Name: Savannah River – Midstory Treatment
Region: Southern Region
Nearby City(ies): Akin
Estimated Project Cost: $250,000.00
Congressional District(s): SC02, SC03
County(ies): SC: Aiken, Barnwell
Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Reduce Hazards While Improving Habitats

(Story posted 5/3/2010)

Carolina Ground Services is working on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act project at the Savannah River Site to reduce hazardous forest fuels while improving the Red-cockaded woodpecker habitat.

Since mid January 2010, Carolina Ground Services completed approximately 800 acres of midstory treatment by employing up to three compact track loaders with masticating heads. Benny Kolb of Carolina Ground Services, LLC, said, “This project has been a great opportunity and a great experience.” Mr. Kolb added that this project enabled him to purchase 2 additional pieces of equipment and employ three people.

Program Project Name: Sumter Wildland Urban Interface Mastication / Thin Project

Local Project Name: Sumter WUI Mastication/Thin Project

Region: Southern Region
Forest: Francis Marion
Ranger District: Enoree
Nearby City(ies): Abbeville
Estimated Project Cost: $375,000.00
Congressional District(s): SC02, SC03, SC05
County(ies): SC: Abbeville, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Union
Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:

Sumter Thinning Project Benefits Habitat, Forest Health, Local Communities

(Story posted 8/3/2010)

Wildland fires are a potential concern for locations in the wildland interface between forests and development in urban areas. This mastication/thinning project is intended to reduce wildfire risk in places near urban development which are not appropriate for fuel reduction using prescribed fires.

In this project, midstory vegetation in dense pine stands will be mechanically removed on Sumter National Forest lands bordering wildland urban interfaces. This is intended to reduce fuel levels and susceptibility to wildfire, while also benefiting the habitat and improving overall forest health.

Currently this project is about 50 percent complete.

Program Project Name: Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests Prescribed Burning Preparation

Local Project Name: FMS Prescribed Burning Prep
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Francis Marion
Ranger District: Francis Marion
Nearby City(ies): Abbeville/Walhalla/Georgetown
Estimated Project Cost: $532,865.00
Congressional District(s): SC01, SC02, SC03, SC05, SC06
County(ies): SC: Abbeville, Berkeley, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Union
Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:

Prescribed Burning Brings Jobs, Reduces Risk Thanks To Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 8/3/2010)

This project will recruit and train local people to assist in the implementation of the fiscal year 2010 hazardous fuels reduction program on the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests in South Carolina.

Local workers will be hired to prepare sites for prescribed burning. The prescribed burning will reduce hazardous fuel levels and restoration of wildlife habitat. Benefits of the project will include reduced wildfire risk, improved safety, and resource protection as well as providing training for workers in future green jobs.

Nature Conservancy is a key partner in this project to help protect and preserve the wildlife habitat.

This project is currently underway.

Program Project Name: Sumter National Forest – Repave - Chattooga River and Parson's Mountain Recreation Access

Local Project Name: Sumter Rec Repave
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Francis Marion
Ranger District: Long Cane
Nearby City(ies): Abbeville/Walhalla
Estimated Project Cost: $364,550.00
Congressional District(s): SC03
County(ies): SC: Abbeville, Oconee
Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:

Sumter Rec Repaving Project Uses Recovery Act Funds Locally

(Story posted 8/3/2010)

This project will repave visitor access roadways to the Chattooga River and Parsons Mountain recreation area in the mountains of northern South Carolina. The access point to the Chattooga River at Highway 76 is one of the most visited recreation areas on the Sumter National Forest and provides opportunities for visitors to float the river and enjoy the scenery and trails of this designated Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Due to heavy use over the years, cumulative weather effects, and maintenance limitations, access roads and parking areas at the Chattooga River and Parsons Mountain recreation sites have deteriorated. This project will improve visitor safety and reduce deferred maintenance.

Hiring of contractors for repaving work and use of local supplies such as asphalt are expected to support the economy as well as enhance recreation experiences at these popular sites, thereby increasing the local economy.

Program Project Name: Francis Marion and Sumter Forest Recreation Facility Reconstruction and Maintenance

Local Project Name: Sumter Forest-wide Recreation Facility Reconstruction and Maintenance

Region: Southern Region

Forest: Francis Marion

Ranger District: Long Cane

Nearby City(ies): Abbeville/Walhalla

Estimated Project Cost: $732,000.00

Congressional District(s): SC01, SC03, SC04, SC05

County(ies): SC: Abbeville, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenwood, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Union

Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Sumter Forest-Wide Recreation Facility Reconstruction, Maintenance

(Story posted 8/3/2010)

This group of recreation maintenance activities touches almost every county across the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests. A backlog of general maintenance work, reconstruction, roof repairs, facility replacements, accessibility upgrades, removal of old structures, and safety improvements are needed at numerous recreation facilities.

Work will include carpentry, painting, walkway paving, bench and picnic table reconstruction, and removal of hazard trees. Once completed, the project should reduce deferred maintenance and result in more sustainable facilities.

The project is currently underway.

Program Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and Fuels Management

Local Project Name: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative

Region: Southern Region

Nearby City(ies): Atlanta, Columbia, Asheville, Tallahassee, Montgomery

Estimated Project Cost: $0.00

Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 85

Congressional District(s): AL01, AL02, AL03, AL04, AL05, AL06, AL07, FL01, FL02, FL03, FL04, FL05, FL06, FL07, FL08, FL09, FL10, FL11, FL12, FL13, FL14, FL15, FL16, FL17, FL18, FL19, FL20, FL21, FL22, FL23, FL24, FL25, GA01, GA02, GA03, GA04, GA05, GA06, GA07, GA08, GA09, GA10, GA11, GA12, GA13, NC01, NC02, NC03, NC04, NC05, NC06, NC07, NC08, NC09, NC10, NC11, NC12, NC13, SC01, SC02, SC03, SC04, SC05, SC06

County(ies): AL: 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; FL: 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; GA: 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; NC: 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; SC: 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

Modified Date: 8/13/2010

Story:

Longleaf Pine Restoration Funded Through Recovery Act

(Story posted 8/11/2010)

A total of $8.975 million Recovery Act funding, through USDA Forest Service - State & Private Forestry, was awarded through five separate grants to state forestry agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina during the summer of 2009. As of June 30, 2010, approximately 43.6 percent ($3.75 million) of the grant funding has

been reimbursed to the states for work accomplished. The grants have been in effect almost one year.

Based on the original grant program narratives from each state, the estimated total jobs created/saved were projected to be 85 FTEs (does not include estimate from Alabama). Since the initial planned projections, more uniform guidance for calculating jobs (FTEs)is being employed by each state (based on hours worked). As of June 30, 2009, an estimated 85 FTEs have been generated from this program across all five states. It appears the accomplished FTEs will exceed the estimates provided by the states in the original project narratives.

A total 8,397 acres of longleaf establishment has been reported completed by the five states on both private and state lands. This represents around 62 percent completed of the total 13,619 acres planned. The accomplishments signify areas in which all site preparation and tree planting has been completed. Site preparation work is continuing during the summer and fall seasons of 2010 to prepare areas for planting during the winter 2010-11.

A total of 3,630 acres of the planned 7,344 acres for longleaf establishment has been completed on state lands (i.e. state forests, DNR lands). A total of 4,767 acres of the planned 6,275 acres for longleaf establishment has been completed on four private non-industrial land ownerships. The Recovery Act landowner incentives programs for South Carolina, Florida, and Georgia have proven to be very successful in reaching landowners interested in establishing longleaf pine or improving existing longleaf pine.

A total 23,772 acres of existing longleaf pine improvement has been reported completed by the five states on both private and state lands. This represents around 75 percent of the total planned 31,488 acres of longleaf establishment completed. Work activities include native understory plant establishment, prescribed burning, midstory/stand improvement treatments, and nonnative, invasive plant species treatments.

Work accomplishments for existing longleaf improved on state lands has exceeded the planned goals, with 21,538 acres reported accomplished. Work accomplishments on private lands are reported at 2,234 acres.

An overall goal of the grants is for state nurseries in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina to improved facilities in order to increase longleaf seedling production capacity by 7.6 million seedlings. To date, the states have reported increased completed capacity at the nurseries of 6.95 million seedlings. Another goal was to increase longleaf seed collected/processed by 8,350 pounds. The states exceeded this goal by collecting/processing over 11,000 pounds of longleaf seed. To date there has been 1,743 acres of improvements reported in longleaf cone collection areas to improve access for cone collection.

The overall goal of the grants is to increase the number of native understory plants produced at state nurseries by 600,000 plant sets. To date 200,000 plant sets were reported produced. Additional planning and work is underway to improve understory plant seed collection areas

(135 acre goal) and to increase native plant seed collected/processed (1,300 pound goal). Most of the remaining work is scheduled for completion in Florida.

As of June 30, 2010, 125 professionals have been trained at the Longleaf Academies administered by the Longleaf Alliance. The five states are planning 36 training sessions o reach 1,200 private landowners related to restoring and management of longleaf pine. Work is underway to draft a brochure for private landowners that address the economics for managing longleaf pine.

South Dakota

Program Project Name: Custer National Forest - Harding County Facility Projects
Local Project Name: Jessie Elliott Historic Ranger Station Stabilization
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Custer
Ranger District: Sioux
Nearby City(ies): Buffalo, SD
Estimated Project Cost: $250,000.00
Congressional District(s): SD00
County(ies): SD: Harding
Modified Date: 7/23/2010

Story:

Custer National Forest Stabilizes Historic Ranger Station Using Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 7/21/2010)

The Jessie Elliott Historic Ranger Station, built in 1913, is located in the Slim Buttes Land Unit of the Sioux Ranger District on the Custer National Forest. The building, constructed of native stone, is an excellent example of the use of locally available materials and craftsmanship. It is one of only a few stone buildings in Region 1 of the Forest Service and is considered eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Originally, adjacent buildings were present, but all that remains standing now is the original stone structure, which had been slowly collapsing due to the forces of nature and lack of attention.

A field team that included volunteers and students from Montana State University Billings documented the site in 2008, donating their time and skills. The Recovery Act-funded stabilization work that began this May capitalized on this documentation. Work was conducted by Forest Service regional historic preservation employees; National Park Service stonemasons and carpenters; Custer National Forest employees; and youth from the Box Elder Civilian Conservation Corps Job Corps program on the Black Hills National Forest. The National Park Service Historic Preservation Team led the stabilization effort.

Work began in late May and was completed by June 17. A local contractor was used for part of the project, and workers stayed in the motel in Buffalo, South Dakota, for the duration of the project. Materials and supplies were ordered and purchased locally where available. Of the three Recovery Act projects on the Sioux Ranger District, this project is the first to be completed.

Recovery Act funding has allowed the Custer National Forest to address the long-standing need to stabilize this historic cabin. Historic buildings such as this not only document the past, but continue to play a role in defining our culture into the present. Job Corps program youth were also provided employment and hands-on training.

Program Project Name: Regionwide Historic Building Restorations

Local Project Name: San Juan National Forest Historical & Archaeological Restoration projects

Region: Rocky Mountain Region

Forest: San Juan

Nearby City(ies): Durango, Colorado

Congressional District(s): CO02, CO03, CO05, SD00, WY00

County(ies): CO: Archuleta, Conejos, Dolores, Eagle, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Lake, Montezuma, Saguache; SD: Custer, Lawrence; WY: Park

Modified Date: 12/21/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funding Supports Historical Site Restoration

(Story posted 11/16/2010)

The San Juan National Forest has a rich historic and prehistoric legacy reflected in its old ranger stations, fire lookout towers, and archaeological sites. Several of these unique and irreplaceable resources have received Recovery Act funding for restoration projects.

GLADE GUARD STATION:
The Recovery Act is funding utility reconstruction at the Glade Guard Station to prepare the historical cabin for public rental in the future. The cabin's potable water supply system has been reconstructed, its wastewater-disposal system replaced, and a new propane storage tank installed. The Glade Guard Station's water system has been retrofitted to solar power and its water well and treatment system upgraded for water filtration and disinfection. In addition, a water hydrant is being installed to supply water to the barn and corral. A new wastewater system will be installed to provide for collection and disposal of sewage and gray water generated in the residence.

ASPEN GUARD STATION:
At the Aspen Guard Station, a Civilian Conservation Corps-era ranger's cabin, Recovery Act funding was used to replace an unreliable spring water source with a safer groundwater well. The new water system includes a solar-powered pump, water line between the well and cabin, chlorination system to disinfect the water, and pressure tanks to provide storage and adequate pressure to fixtures. The Aspen Guard Station has been used for the past 15 years to house the popular San Juan National Forest Artist-in-Residence Program. The updated water system will provide a reliable and safe drinking water system for resident artists and teachers.

CHIMNEY ROCK ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREA:
The Recovery Act is funding several projects at Chimney Rock Archaeological Area that will help preserve cultural resources, improve facilities, and enhance visitors' experiences. Moisture monitors have been installed in prehistoric walls to help archaeologists evaluate the

efficiency of past stabilization efforts and to identify and address future stabilization problems in advance before damage occurs.

Other work includes removal of the Chimney Rock Fire Lookout Tower, which shared the mesa top with the prehistoric Great House. The tower was initially constructed in the 1940s, largely removed in the 70s, and reconstructed in the late 80s. Its location detracted from the unique archaeological setting of the world-class Ancestral Puebloan site, obstructing views of the rock pinnacles from the Great House and kiva, and blocking views of astronomical alignments that the prehistoric inhabitants incorporated into their layout of the site. Interpretive signs will be erected at the lower visitor parking lot offering information on the lookout tower and the history of fire suppression.

In addition, crumbling masonry walls around the upper parking lot are receiving a concrete cap to deflect water, and a non-functional restroom has been removed and replaced with a concrete patio area.

Contractors and partners who received Recovery Act funding to complete these projects include the following:
• Chimney Rock Interpretive Association of Pagosa Springs
• MakNak Construction, LLC of Dolores
• Trigon General Contractors and Construction Managers of Durango
• Spallone Construction of Gunnison
• First Cut Development and Animas Well Drilling of Durango
• Clamber, Inc of Durango
• Animas Well Drilling
• Signature Underwriters
• Dominguez Archaeological Research Group
• CR Plumbing and Heating
• Yellow Jacket Solar of Yellow Jacket
• Woods Canyon of Yellow Jacket
• Petrographics of Durango

Tennessee

Program Project Name: Cherokee National Forest – Repave Hiwassee River Road and Ocoee Work Center Resurfacing

Local Project Name: Hiwassee River Road & Ocoee Work Center Parking Area Repaving
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Cherokee
Ranger District: Hiwassee
Nearby City(ies): Cleveland
Estimated Project Cost: $425,000.00
Congressional District(s): TN03
County(ies): TN: Polk
Modified Date: 8/17/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Road Improvements

(Story posted 6/22/2010)

Recovery Act funding is funding three road improvement, included in two contracts.

The first contract is a $425,000 bid for repaving of 3.4 miles of the Hiwassee River Road and resurfacing of the parking area at the Ocoee Work Center in Polk County. These projects will reduce deferred maintenance, enhance NF visitor enjoyment and improve public safety. Both projects were completed in December 2009. They have been well received by national forest visitors, local residents and county officials.

The second contract is a $300,000 bid for Wolf Creek bridge deck replacement in Monroe County. This project will enhance visitor safety, reduce deferred maintenance and improve the transportation infrastructure. Work on the Wolf Creek Bridge is underway.

Program Project Name: Waterfall Trails Maintenance

Local Project Name: Waterfall Trails Maintenance
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Cherokee
Ranger District: Hiwassee
Nearby City(ies): Cleveland, Johnson City, Greenville
Estimated Project Cost: $350,000.00
Congressional District(s): TN01, TN02, TN03
County(ies): TN: Carter, Cocke, Greene, Johnson, Monroe, Polk, Unicoi
Modified Date: 8/17/2010

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Cherokee National Forest Trail improvements

(Story posted 6/22/2010)

In July 2009, the Forest Service received $350,000 to do trail maintenance work on 30 miles of trails leading to waterfalls in the Cherokee National Forest.

Waterfalls are popular visitor destinations in the Cherokee National Forest, and the trails leading to these falls are heavily used and in places are in poor condition, increasing the risk of hiker safety. These waterfall trails are major destinations supporting tourism in the surrounding communities.

This project will address needed work on 20 or more of these trails and will include maintenance activities, erosion control, and replacement of steps, handrail reconstruction, and other general repairs. Approximately 30 miles of trails will be improved. Work will be accomplished primarily by hand labor using local contractors. The Forest Service is currently evaluating proposals for contract award.

Completion of this work would improve visitor access to and safety on these natural attractions and other regional sightseeing destinations.

Program Project Name: Indian Boundary and Little Oak Water System Maintenance

Local Project Name: Recreation area water system improvements/upgrades
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Cherokee
Ranger District: Tellico
Nearby City(ies): Etowah, Athens
Estimated Project Cost: $1,800,000.00
Congressional District(s): TN01, TN02
County(ies): TN: Monroe, Sullivan
Modified Date: 8/17/2010

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Road Improvements

(Story posted 6/22/2010)

This project involves work on three popular recreation sites within Cherokee National Forest.

Indian Boundary Recreation Area is a popular developed recreation area in the Cherokee National Forest – Monroe County, TN, with a large campground (132-campsites), lake, and trails. The area's current water well has insufficient output. A new well with a water treatment system will be installed and waterlines repaired to insure clean drinking water. Work began

on this project in mid-February 2009

Little Oak Recreation Area is a popular recreation facility on South Holston Lake in Sullivan County, TN. It offers 72 campsite, hiking, boat ramp, water play access, and fishing. The existing high-maintenance water treatment plant used at this site will be replaced by connecting the facility to a municipal water system or by drilling new wells equipped with chlorinators. Work will also include replacement of current sand filter septic systems with prefabricated vault restroom facility buildings.

The projects will employ utility contractors, well drillers, concrete workers, and small equipment operators as well as the local purchase of supplies. Contracts for well drilling at Little Oak & Indian Boundary have been awarded & contractors (Calfee & Sons and Ratliff) began work in late February 2009.

When completed, these improvements will reduce maintenance needs and provide more reliable water sources to facilities. The work on these facilities will contribute to safe, high quality outdoor experiences for national forest visitors.

Program Project Name: Forest-wide Recreation Site Facilities Deferred Maintenance

Local Project Name: Vault toilet building replacement
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Cherokee
Ranger District: Ocoee
Nearby City(ies): Chattanooga, Bristol
Estimated Project Cost: $520,000.00
Congressional District(s): TN01, TN02, TN03
County(ies): TN: Monroe, Polk
Modified Date: 8/17/2010

Story:

Cherokee National Forest Recreation Facility Improvements With Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 6/22/2010)

The Cherokee National Forest (forest) covers 650,000 acres in ten east Tennessee counties from Chattanooga to Bristol. It is the largest tract of public land in the State. Each year over two million people make sites visits to the Forest. It is popular recreation destination area. Tourism to the Forest is extremely to local communities.

The Forest manages 30 developed campgrounds and 45 day use sites, as well as over 600 miles of trails. Camping, hiking, picnicking, water play, fishing, hunting, etc are popular outdoor activities. Many of the Forest developed recreation sites are in needed of upgrading and maintenance.

Recovery Act funding will be utilized to made various improvements at recreation sites throughout the entire Forest. Prefabricated toilet buildings have been ordered (CXT, Inc.) & will be delivered & installed at various sites in April 2009. Other improvements will be made throughout the year. Enhancing and upgrading recreation facilities will contribute to safe, high quality outdoor experiences for national forest visitors.

Program Project Name: Restoration of Native Communities and Wildlife Habitat

Local Project Name: Habitat Restoration
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Cherokee
Ranger District: Ocoee
Nearby City(ies): Cleveland, Benton
Estimated Project Cost: $34,465.00
Congressional District(s): TN03
County(ies): TN: Polk
Modified Date: 8/17/2010

Story:

Shortleaf Pine/Oak Communities Restored To Productive And Healthy Conditions

(Story posted 6/22/2010)

Forests are dynamic places that are constantly changing; impacted by weather, invasive species and human impacts to mention a few. Proper resource management is vital to the vigor and overall health of forest ecosystems.

By the early 1900's most of the Southern Appalachian Range had been cut over, over grazed, burned over, and devastated by poor agricultural practices. In 1911, the Weeks Act allowed the Federal Government to purchase private land from willing sellers. The national forests in the eastern and southeastern US are a result of the Weeks Act. The Forest Service was given the tasks of restoring these abused lands back to a productive and healthy state. That task continues today.

An ongoing effort of resource restoration is taking place in the Cherokee NF. Restoration of shortleaf pine and oak communities is an emphasis for resource managers. Efforts are underway to resort these ecosystems back on the landscape where they have been removed or decimated in the past.

In February 2010, Recovery Act funds were used to plant 100-200 pine and oak seedlings per acre on 366 acres of national forest land. Trees were planted on areas that have been burned or severely damaged by southern pine beetle infestation. This project will help restore the natural pine/oak ecosystem where it belongs. These types of ecosystems provide an array of benefits to humans, wildlife and help make the forest more resistant to insects and disease. It contributes to the overall health of the forest ecosystem.

Program Project Name: Cherokee National Forest - Wolf Creek Bridge Deck Replacement

Local Project Name: Wolf Creek Bridge
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Cherokee
Ranger District: Hiwassee
Nearby City(ies): Hiwassee
Estimated Project Cost: $300,000.00
Congressional District(s): TN03
County(ies): TN: Polk
Modified Date: 8/17/2010

Story:

Wolf Creek Bridge

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

Thanks to the Recovery Act the Wolf Creek bridge deck in Monroe County will be replaced. This project will enhance visitor safety, reduce deferred maintenance and improve the transportation infrastructure.

Work on the Wolf Creek Bridge is currently underway.

Program Project Name: Land Between The Lakes Trail Bridge Replacements and Trail Reconstruction

Local Project Name: Trail Bridge Replacements and Trail Reconstruction
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Land Between The Lakes
Nearby City(ies): Hopkinsville
Estimated Project Cost: $500,000.00
Congressional District(s): TN08
County(ies): TN: Stewart
Modified Date: 8/12/2010

Story:

Trail Bridge Replacements, Reconstruction Ensures Public Safety

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

The project, located in Stewart County, Tennessee, is comprised of upgrading and expanding recreation trails infrastructure. Efforts will concentrate on replacing small foot bridges and reconstructing needed trail segments in the areas known as the Prior Creek

Watershed, Brandon Spring Group Center, and Fort Henry Hiking Trails System. In addition, several new hiking, biking, and birding trails, interpretive pull-offs, raised wetland boardwalks and observation blinds have been proposed in the Prior Creek area. These will complement the existing Stewart County trail systems in Land Between the Lakes (LBL).

Efforts will be concentrated on replacing small foot bridges and reconstructing needed trail segments in the areas of the Prior Creek Watershed, Brandon Spring Group Center, and Fort Henry Hiking Trails System. Such maintenance ensures visitor safety and resource protection. In addition, several hiking/biking/birding trails, interpretive pull-offs, raised wetland boardwalks, and observation blinds have been identified for maintenance in the Prior Creek area and will complement the existing Stewart County trail systems in LBL. Improving trails will result in better visitor safety and access, and will increase visitation, thus boosting the economy in gateway communities.

Recreation trails provide the most popular dispersed recreation activities at LBL. Improving these recreation trails will result in better visitor safety and access in LBL, and will increase recreation visitation, thus stimulating the economy in gateway communities.

Kathryn Harper, LBL Public Affairs Officer, stated, “Our recreational trails are among our most popular dispersed recreation; and in the area of this project, we have a number of small foot bridges that need to be replaced, and in some areas, there are entire trail sections that need to be relocated for better sustainability.”

Utah

Program Project Name: Uinta-Wasatch-Cache Forest-wide Road Reconstruction
Local Project Name: Forest Service Roads in Box Elder County Get an Upgrade Thanks to ARRA Funding
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Uinta-Wasatch-Cache
Ranger District: Ogden
Nearby City(ies): Brigham City, Mantua, Manway
Estimated Project Cost: $500,000.00
Congressional District(s): UT01
County(ies): UT: Box Elder
Modified Date: 7/16/2010

Story:

Forest Service Roads in Box Elder County Get an Upgrade Thanks to Recovery Act Funding

Reshaping Roadways, Vegetation Removal and Major Repairs on 12 Miles of Roads in Box Elder County, Utah

(Story posted 2/22/2010)

The Willard Mountain Road (NFSR# 20084) on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest in Utah has seen many years of wear and tear, leaving large ruts and protruding rocks in the road. Funding from the Recovery Act allowed this popular roadway to be repaired & upgraded.

The $500,000 road maintenance project in Box Elder County included reshaping roadways, vegetation removal, and the completion of major repairs on 12 miles of road on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache (UWC). Also, the parking area at the end of the Willard Mountain Road was leveled off and a safety cable fence was installed around the perimeter.

The project generated approximately 20 jobs. The county subcontracted the majority of the road work to private construction companies, but county road crews were on hand for quality control and inspection.

"Safety concerns have been a main focus for these particular forest road projects," Brian Ferebee, UWC Forest Supervisor said. "We have addressed those issues with road crews applying more than 8,000 tons of gravel to resurface these popular roads."

The smooth running surface reduces the risk of vehicular damage, while the removal of vegetation provides more visibility around corners and on straight-aways. Culverts and French drains were also installed to allow rain and snow to safely drain under the roadway.

This project was one of five agreements totaling $11.6 million designed to improve 165 miles

of National Forest System roads. Additional counties that entered into agreements with the Forest Service include Utah, Cache, Juab, and Wasatch. Utah received $3.1 million, Cache - $3 million, Juab - $1.8 million, and Wasatch - $3.2 million. So far, more than 120 miles of roads on the UWC have been improved due to Recovery Act funding.

Program Project Name: Uinta-Wasatch-Cache Forest-wide Road Reconstruction

Local Project Name: Forest Service Roads in Utah County Get an Upgrade Thanks to ARRA Funds
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Uinta-Wasatch-Cache
Ranger District: Spanish Fork
Nearby City(ies): Santaquin, Springville, Provo
Estimated Project Cost: $0.00
Congressional District(s): UT03
County(ies): UT: Utah
Modified Date: 7/16/2010

Story:

Forest Service Roads in Box Elder County Get an Upgrade Thanks to Recovery Act Funding

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Program Project Name: Uinta-Wasatch-Cache Forest-wide Road Reconstruction

Local Project Name: Forest Service Roads in Cache County Get an Upgrade Thanks to ARRA Funds
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Uinta-Wasatch-Cache
Ranger District: Logan
Nearby City(ies): Logan
Estimated Project Cost: $0.00
Congressional District(s): UT01
County(ies): UT: Cache
Modified Date: 7/16/2010

Story:

Forest Service Roads in Cache County Get an Upgrade Thanks to Recovery Act Funds

Road work on more than 40 miles in Cache County on the Uinta Wasatch Cache National Forest.

(Story posted 2/8/2010)

Recovery Act funding allowed the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache NF (Utah) to accomplish work that would not have been completed otherwise. Included was a $3 million dollar road maintenance project along the Wasatch Front of Utah, that previously had been too large to include in the Forest's annual maintenance budget.

This project included work on Franklin Basin Road (NFSR# 20006), Rock Creek Road (NFSR# 20060), Sinks Road (NFSR#20055), Tony Grove Lake Road (NFSR# 20003), and Temple Fork Road (NFSR#20007). It is one of five agreements in the Uinta Wasatch Cache National Forest (UWC) Deferred Maintenance project totaling $11.6 million to improve 165 miles of National Forest System roads. More than 120 miles of roads were enhanced on the UWC in 2009 due to Recovery funding.

Cache County road crews were available for quality control and inspection, the county sub-contracted a majority of road work to private construction companies. Project work on more than 40 miles of forest roads included new gravel, roadway shaping, vegetation removal, and culvert and drain installation. The County also purchased bridge components and contracted out the installation of two bridges.

The asphalt overlay on portions of roads repaired and rejuvenated sections that were worn from years of traffic use. The smooth running surface will reduce the risk of vehicular damage, and removal of vegetation provides for safe sight distance around corners and on straight a-ways. The new culverts and French drains allow water from rain and snow to safely cross under roadways and reduce soil erosion. The bridges were also starting to fail, and would no longer have the ability to hold large vehicle loads.

More than 33 jobs were created or saved to complete this project during the summer and fall of 2009.

The counties that entered into agreement with the Forest Service to accomplish the work included Utah, Cache, Box Elder, Juab, and Wasatch. These projects created approximately 215 jobs. Cache County has received $3 million, Box Elder - $500,000, Wasatch - $3.2 million, Utah - $3.1 million and Juab - $1.8 million. All funding was used to reduce the backlog of deferred road maintenance.

Program Project Name: Uinta-Wasatch-Cache Forest-wide Road Reconstruction

Local Project Name: Forest Service Roads in Wasatch County Get an Upgrade Thanks to ARRA Funding
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Uinta-Wasatch-Cache
Ranger District: Heber-Kamas Uinta
Nearby City(ies): Heber, Kamas
Estimated Project Cost: $0.00
Congressional District(s): UT02
County(ies): UT: Wasatch
Modified Date: 7/16/2010

Story:

Forest Service Roads in Wasatch County Get an Upgrade Thanks to Recovery Act Funding

Road improvement project created safer driving conditions and reduced erosion across roadways.

(Story posted 2/8/2010)

Recovery Act funding allowed the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache NF (Utah) to accomplish work that would not have been completed otherwise. Included was a $3.2 million deferred road maintenance project that had been previously too large to include in the annual maintenance budget for the Forest.

This project in Wasatch County is one of five agreements in an $11.6 million project on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest (UWC) to improve 165 miles of National Forest System roads. More than 120 miles of roads were enhanced on the UWC in 2009 due to

Recovery Act funding.

Wasatch County road crew members and sub-contractors laid asphalt, installed drains and culverts for improved water run-off on 40 miles of forest roads. The project included work on Lake Creek Road (NFSR# 70083), Mill Hollow Road (NFSR# 70054), Strawberry River Road (NFSR# 70049) and Co-Op Creek Road (NFSR# 70082).

These roads are safer with improved widths and resurfaced roadways. Replacing the culverts will allow for water to pass under the roadway and provide for increased erosion control.

"The condition of the roads has improved greatly. It is a great project and has improved the life of the roads for maybe the next 20 years," said Kent Berg, public works director for Wasatch County.

The work was accomplished through an agreement with Wasatch County's road crew and private contractors. The county reported that approximately 76 jobs were created or saved to complete this project. Large quantities of materials were purchased to complete the work.

The counties who have entered into agreement with the Forest Service to accomplish the work include Utah, Cache, Box Elder, Juab, and Wasatch. These projects are expected to have created approximately 215 jobs. Cache County has received $3 million, Box Elder - $500,000, Wasatch - $3.2 million, Utah - $3.1 million and Juab - $1.8 million. All funding was used to reduce the backlog of deferred road maintenance.

Program Project Name: Uinta-Wasatch-Cache Forest-wide Road Reconstruction

Local Project Name: Forest Service Roads in Juab County Get an Upgrade Thanks to ARRA Funds

Region: Intermountain Region

Forest: Uinta-Wasatch-Cache

Ranger District: Spanish Fork

Nearby City(ies): Nephi

Estimated Project Cost: $0.00

Congressional District(s): UT03

County(ies): UT: Juab

Modified Date: 7/16/2010

Story:

Forest Service Roads in Juab County Get an Upgrade Thanks to Recovery Act Funds

Juab County road crews performed improvement projects on various sections of ten miles of forest roads.

(Story posted 2/8/2010)

Recovery Act funding has allowed the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache NF (Utah) to accomplish work that would not have been completed otherwise. Included in this is a $1.8 million deferred road maintenance project, that had been too large to include in the annual maintenance budget for the Forest.

Juab County road crew members laid asphalt, reshaped roadways, installed culverts, and treated noxious weeds on various sections of 10 miles of forest roads. Sections of roads included Pole Canyon Road (NFSR# 70016), roads around Bear Canyon Campground, and roads around Ponderosa Campground.

Thanks to reshaping road widths and paving roadways, these roads are provide a safer travel route for vehicles. New culverts will allow water to drain safely under the roadways and provide increased erosion control. In addition, funding contributed to an effort to stop the spread of invasive weeds that have invaded Juab County via the roads.

"We have been able to accomplish work that would not have happened otherwise," said Doug Anderson, civil engineer and project manager for the Forest.

The work was accomplished through an agreement with Juab County. The county reported creating or saving approximately 76 jobs. The asphalt and some of the materials were purchased under contract.

The counties who have entered into agreement with the Forest Service to accomplish the work include Utah, Cache, Box Elder, Juab, and Wasatch. These projects are expected to have created approximately 215 jobs. Cache County has received $3 million, Box Elder - $500,000, Wasatch - $3.2 million, Utah - $3.1 million and Juab - $1.8 million. All funding was used to reduce the backlog of deferred road maintenance.

Program Project Name: Region 4 State and Private Forestry Tribal Initiative

Local Project Name: Six Native American Tribes in Three States Received Funding to Treat Hazardous Fuels & Invasive Species Thanks to the Recovery Act

Region: Intermountain Region

Nearby City(ies): Don't know yet.

Estimated Project Cost: $479,438.00

Congressional District(s): ID02, NV02, UT02

County(ies): ID: Bannock, Bingham, Caribou, Owyhee, Power; NV: Churchill, Elko, Lyon, Mineral, Washoe, White Pine; UT: Duchesne, Juab, Uintah

Modified Date: 7/23/2010

Story:

Six American Indian Tribes in Three States Received Funding to Treat Hazardous Fuels and Invasive Species Thanks to the Recovery Act

(Story posted 7/16/2010)

This recently awarded American Recovery and Reinvestment Act project will ease unemployment and under-employment trends in three rural, western states while accomplishing critical hazardous fuel reduction and invasive species treatments on nearly 18,000 acres of Tribal lands managed by nine American Indian Tribes in southern Idaho, Nevada and Utah.

The resulting forests and rangelands will be more fire resistant, healthier and more resilient to noxious weed, insects and diseases infestations. Furthermore, with funding provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, individual families and Tribal communities are economically healthier and more resilient as well.

Shoshone-Paiute Fire Chief Brent Hunter said, “The work is benefiting the communities to reduce the hazardous fuels, helping to improve the economy and the crews are also educating the community members about continuing to improve the defensible space around their homes.”

“This is a great opportunity to work with Tribal partners while reducing the risk from catastrophic wildfire and providing local jobs,” said Mike Dudley, Region 1- 4 Forest Service State and Private Forestry director.

Program Project Name: Quichapa

Local Project Name: Quichapa
Region: Intermountain Region
Nearby City(ies): Quichapa, Cedar City Utah
Estimated Project Cost: $149,500.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 8.31
Congressional District(s): UT02
County(ies): UT: Iron
Modified Date: 12/13/2010

Story:

Hazardous Fuels Reduction Work Benefits Workers, Local Community

(Story posted 12/1/2010)

In Utah, state fire crews and contractors used Forest Service Recovery Act funds to extend Dixie National Forest and Bureau of Land Management existing fuel breaks onto and through private land near the community of Quichapa.

State crews began hand and mechanical hazardous fuel reduction treatments in dense pinion/juniper (PJ) and sagebrush in May 2010, and contractors followed through the summer, finishing work in October. The work involved 145 acres to help reduce wildland fire risk while increasing vegetation biodiversity for wildlife. A county road is safer from

wildlife/vehicle incidents due to higher operator visibility.

Throughout the year resources from the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Land are used to complete projects across the state. This project was accessible in late spring and allowed fire crews to not only be challenged with hard work, but this time spent together early increased their abilities to work safely during hazardous firefighting operations.

Local community members may never have seen their work be accented with work on state lands if it were not for these funds. The fuels reduction on this land will allow for increased response time and safety in the event of a wildfire and may also allow for the existence of critical winter range if a wildfire would move through the area.

Buntings Cut and Chip owner Ladd Bunting said, “The Quichapa project was an excellent opportunity to expand the capacity of my company in order to compete for larger projects in the future.”

Danon Hulet, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands fuels coordinator said, “The Quichapa project was a great opportunity to work with other agencies, such as Division of Wildlife Resources, State Purchasing, and the State Institutional Trust Lands Administration. It expanded my abilities because it has been the largest and most complex project I have been involved with.”

Pile burning will occur over winter season 2010-2011.

Program Project Name: Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest Facility Replacement

Local Project Name: Forest-wide Vault Toilet Replacement
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Uinta-Wasatch-Cache
Nearby City(ies): Bountiful, Alpine, Kamas, Evanston, Ogden, Logan, Payson
Estimated Project Cost: $876,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 3
Congressional District(s): UT01, UT02, UT03, WY00
County(ies): UT: Cache, Davis, Juab, Summit, Utah, Weber
Modified Date: 12/22/2010

Story:

Recreation Sites Renovated with Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 12/8/2010)

Using Recovery Act funds, three separate contractors replaced 42 restroom buildings across seven ranger districts, including removing old buildings and installing accessible pathways to new facilities on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. This project eliminated

approximately $869,000 in deferred maintenance.

Restroom buildings were located in high-use recreation sites and were beyond their service life. Many were constructed as early as the 1960s. A few of the old buildings had already been closed to the public for health and safety reasons. The Forest has been waiting for the money to demolish and replace these out-of-service buildings.

Work began in April 2010 and the majority of the work has been completed. All work is expected to be completed by April 2011. Work remains undone at only one site.
The project is 99 percent complete.

Vermont

Program Project Name: Partnerships with State and Private Forestry, State of New York and State of Vermont - Surveys and Forest Health Protection

Local Project Name: Superior National Forest Monitors Climate Change Effects Thanks to Recovery Act Funds

Region: Northeastern Area S&PF

Forest: Superior

Nearby City(ies): None listed

Congressional District(s): NY24, NY29, VT00

County(ies): VT: Rutland

Modified Date: 6/17/2010

Story:

Superior National Forest Monitors Climate Change Effects Thanks to Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 4/4/2010)

To understand how forests of northeastern Minnesota will respond to changing climatic conditions, employees of the University of Minnesota, USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station, and Superior National Forest (SNF) have teamed up to develop a monitoring and assessment project funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

To facilitate this process, efforts are underway to coordinate the sharing of resources from several additional organizations including Forest Service's Forest Inventory and Analysis Program and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources County Biological Survey. As the summer draws near, we anticipate hiring an additional seven employees to help with data collection during the field season. During the summer, the project will establish a network of monitoring plots across the SNF and begin to collect information targeted at characterizing forest ecosystem responses to climate change. A research technician was hired last fall to coordinate project activities and has been working with geographic information system (GIS) data to locate representative areas to place monitoring plots.

Other aspects of this project include expanding ongoing efforts to estimate how the amounts of carbon stored in forests on the SNF will change with varying levels of timber harvesting and predict how forests on the SNF will respond to changing climatic conditions. Results from this work will emphasize the importance of selecting appropriate management strategies to mitigate increasing concentrations of atmospheric CO2 associated with climate change and identify areas and forest types where forest productivity is likely to be impacted by climate change.

While this project is still in its early stages, it is clear that Recovery Act funds are being put to good use by helping resource managers answer important questions regarding the future of the SNF.

In 2009 the Obama Administration invested nearly 13 million dollars in Northeast Minnesota's economy as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This is one of 23 projects funded on the Superior National Forest through 2012, helping put people to work; accomplishing needed work on public lands; and providing long-term benefits such as developing new skills and adding economic value to communities.

Recovery Act-funded Projects funded have been integrated into our overall program of work where we are creating significant efficiencies by combining similar projects and integrating planning and preparation. This investment will provide multiple benefits, such as clean and abundant water by restoring forest health.

Program Project Name: Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests – Roads Deferred Maintenance Reduction

Local Project Name: Road Maintenance Agreements
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Green Mountain
Nearby City(ies): Supervisor's Office in Rutland, Vermont
Congressional District(s): VT00
County(ies): VT: Bennington, Essex, Rutland, Washington, Windham, Windsor
Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:

Road Surfacing Projects Support Public Safety

(Story posted 12/2/2010)

The Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) received Recovery Act funding to conduct critical road resurfacing throughout the forest. The goal of the project was to improve the driving surface for user comfort, ease of maintenance, and drainage. The project was accomplished using three maintenance agreements that the GMNF had in place with local communities.

* $39,980 to Rochester, Vermont

* $39,500 to Hancock, Vermont

* $39,200 to Granville, Vermont

The project increased safety and comfort for the many users of National Forest System roads that intertwine with township roads.

Virginia

Program Project Name: Shenandoah Valley Watershed Community Ecosystem Restoration and Enhancement

Local Project Name: Shenandoah Valley Watershed Community Ecosystem Restoration and Enhancement

Region: Southern Region

Nearby City(ies): VA Congressional District 6, 7, and 10

Estimated Project Cost: $897,000.00

Congressional District(s): VA06, VA07, VA10

County(ies): VA: Augusta, Clarke, Frederick, Page, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, Warren

Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Shenandoah Valley Watershed Community Ecosystem Restoration and Enhancement

(Story posted 4/2/2010)

This project will provide employment opportunities for commercial arborists, landscape contractors, nurserymen, consulting arborists, landscape architects/designers, equipment rental contractors and tree planters for involvement in implementation in 15-17 communities within the Shenandoah Valley Watershed.

Projects will be implemented by local government entities in cooperation with environmental organizations, with technical assistance from appropriate state and federal agencies. Funding is for community tree planting and tree maintenance/hazard mitigation work, tree planting for stream bank restoration, riparian buffer establishment, environmental site design work, tree inventories, and greenway enhancement work.

The targeted communities are within Chesapeake Bay watershed that is the focus of forestry related water quality work by the Forest Service. Community tree planting and riparian establishment initiatives have been adopted as strategies in the Chesapeake Bay Agreement to assist in the improvement of water quality. The projects funded under this initiative will contribute to local water quality, improve community aesthetics, increase tree canopy, enhance outdoor recreation opportunities, and provide employment for the green industry.

Program Project Name: Southside Virginia Community Tree Planting Initiative

Local Project Name: Southside Virginia Community Tree Planting Initiative

Region: Southern Region

Nearby City(ies): VA Congressional District 5

Estimated Project Cost: $179,000.00

Congressional District(s): VA05

County(ies): VA: Halifax, Henry, Pittsylvania
Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Community Tree Planting Initiative in Southside Virginia

(Story posted 4/2/2010)

This project will employ commercial arborists, landscape contractors, nurserymen, consulting arborists, landscape architects/designers, and equipment rental contractors to implement community forestry projects in several communities in south central Virginia.

Projects will be implemented by local government entities in cooperation with local non-profit organizations, with technical assistance from appropriate state and federal agencies. This project will implement community tree planting and maintenance work, environmental site design work, tree inventories, tree planting for stream restoration, and greenway development and enhancement work in the targeted communities.

The targeted communities are in the region of Virginia that is considered to be the most economically distressed. The projects funded under this initiative will improve community aesthetics, increase community tree canopy, improve local water quality, enhance outdoor recreation opportunities, provide information for planning future community forestry activities and provide employment opportunities for the green industry.

Program Project Name: Jefferson National Forest-Repave Large Parking Area at Cascades Day Use Area

Local Project Name: Cascades Recreation Area Trailhead Parking Area
Region: Southern Region
Forest: George Washington & Jefferson
Ranger District: Blacksburg
Nearby City(ies): Blacksburg
Estimated Project Cost: $300,000.00
Congressional District(s): VA09
County(ies): VA: Giles
Modified Date: 7/8/2010

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Address Deferred Maintenance at Cascades Recreation Area

(Story posted 1/30/2010)

Cascades Recreation Area, located near Blacksburg, Virginia, is one of the most beautiful and popular areas on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests.

Visitors to the area enjoy hiking, fishing, and picnicking. The picturesque 66-foot Cascades waterfall is accessed by the 4.2 mile Cascades National Recreation Trail. The loop trail follows Little Stony Creek, which is home to native trout.

Over the years, a large amount of vehicle traffic and flooding due to a faulty culvert created pot holes, cracking, and uneven surfaces occurred in the parking area pavement. This deferred maintenance poses parking hazards risks to pedestrians and increases sedimentation to a sensitive trout stream.

The Cascades Recreation Area was selected for ARRA funding in the summer of 2009, providing just over $200,000 towards these needed repairs. A local contractor completed these repairs in just three weeks during November 2009.

In 2010, additional Recovery Act funding will improve the Cascades National Recreation Trail, making it easier for visitors of all ages to hike to Cascade Falls.

Program Project Name: Shenandoah Valley Watershed Community Ecosystem Restoration and Enhancement

Local Project Name: Shenandoah Valley Tree Planing

Region: Southern Region

Nearby City(ies): Roanoke, Richmond, Charlottesville

Estimated Project Cost: $897,000.00

Congressional District(s): VA01, VA02, VA03, VA04, VA05, VA06, VA07, VA08, VA09, VA10, VA11

County(ies): VA: Augusta, Clarke, Frederick, Page, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, Warren

Modified Date: 8/19/2010

Story:

Virginia Cooperative Forestry Projects Underway using Forest Service Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 8/18/2010)

In Virginia, this project will support community tree planting and tree maintenance/hazard mitigation work; tree planting for stream bank restoration; riparian buffer establishment; environmental site design work; tree inventory work; and greenway enhancement work. The targeted communities are within Chesapeake Bay watershed that is the focus of forestry related water quality work by the U.S. Forest Service. The projects funded under this initiative will contribute to local water quality, improve community aesthetics, increase tree canopy, enhance outdoor recreation opportunities, and provide employment for the green industry.

• Town of Broadway contracted Blue Ribbon Nursery of Broadway, VA to provide tree planting services for their Corridor Enhancement project. Three employees with Blue Ribbon Nursery worked a total of 120 hours.

• The Town of Staunton contracted Village Garden Center of Fishersville, VA to provide tree planting services for their Urban Tree Planting and Landscaping project. Three employees with Village Garden Center worked a total of 36 hours.

• The Town of Staunton, VA contracted Village Garden Center of Fishersville, VA to provide tree planting services for their Urban and Parks Tree Planting and Tree Replacement project.

• The Town of Edinburg contracted two businesses, Gray's Tree & Landscaping of Maurertown, VA and Fort Valley Nursery of Woodstock, VA to provide tree planting services for their Tree Planting and Beautification project. Two employees with Gray's Tree & Landscaping worked a total of 24 hours. Three employees with Fort Valley Nursery worked a total of 16 hours. Two Edinburg city employees worked a total of 56 hours.

• Page County contracted to provide tree planting services for their Municipal Tree Planting project.

• The Town of Winchester contracted two businesses, Reading Landscapes, Inc. and Echo Ridge Nursery of Winchester, VA to provide services for their Tree Planting project. Seven employees with Reading Landscapes worked a total of 150 hours; 5 employees with Echo Ridge Nursery worked a total of 140 hours.

• The City of Lexington contracted two businesses, Native Wood Landscaping of Lexington, VA and David Rosher of Lexington, VA to provide services for the tree planting portion of their Municipal Tree Planting project. Four employees with Native Wood Landscaping worked a total of 42.75 hours. David Rosher worked a total of 50.5 hours.

• The town of Elkton contracted Shreckhise Shrubbery Sales & Landscaping of Weyers Cave, VA to provide services for the tree planting portion of their Tree Planting, Site Improvement and Enhancement project. Eight employees with Shreckhise Shrubbery Sales & Landscaping worked a total of 13 hours. The town also hired a local arborist to do tree maintenance work.

• Nine communities in the Shenandoah Valley including additional projects in Staunton and Page County have a total of 11 tree planting projects to begin in the fall of 2010.

• The Recovery Act stimulus grant enabled the VA Dept. of Forestry to re-hire a part-time program support technician who was previously laid off due to state budget cuts. Tammi Oliva was laid off September 30, 2009 and returned to work on Decemeber 1, 2009 to perform administrative duties for the Recovery Act grants, working an average of 20 hours per week.

• Fort Valley Nursery, working on the project in Luray, VA, indicated that this project was very important in helping them get through the month of July without having to lay off personnel.

Washington

Program Project Name: Energy-efficient windows installed at Olympia Forestry Sciences Laboratory

Local Project Name: Olympia Lab Window Replacement Summary
Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Olympia, WA
Estimated Project Cost: $250,650.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 10
Congressional District(s): WA03
County(ies): WA: Thurston
Modified Date: 7/8/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Project Supports Sustainability, Economy

(Story posted 4/9/2010)

The Olympia Forestry Sciences Laboratory is the first facility in the Pacific Northwest Research Station to receive funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The Station received $260,000 in the first round of economic recovery funding under the ARRA to replace outdated, low-thermal-rated windows at the Olympia Lab. The funding was used to create 10 local jobs for the installation of energy-efficient windows, including glazers, painters, carpenters, managers, and clerical staff.

“This project will significantly reduce the lab’s energy use and, at the same time, it creates needed jobs in our local community,” said Doug Ryan, line officer at the 16,000-square-foot research facility.

The lab was built in the 1960s and originally had single-pane windows. The project removed about 150 outdated windows and replaced them with modern energy-efficient windows that provide better insulation and reflect infrared light, which will help to retain heat in the winter and repel it in the summer. The calculated decrease in U-value (the standard measure of the amount of heat being transferred by windows) was from 1.02 (single pane) to 0.29 (double-pane), or about 350%.

Longview, Wash.-based Twin City Glass performed the project. Pacific Tech, also based in Longview, was the project’s general contractor.

“One of the easiest ways to save money is by conserving energy, and it won’t be long before this investment pays for itself through lower energy bills for the Olympia Forestry Sciences Laboratory, “ said Congressman Brian Baird (D-WA-03). “This project is just one of the many ways that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is not only putting people back to work, but building the green economy of the 21st century.”

Installation of the new windows began in March 2009 and was completed in May 2009.

Program Project Name: Research on Restoring Critical Habitat for Listed Pacific Salmon

Local Project Name: Research on restoring critical habitat for listed Pacific salmon - project summary

Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station

Nearby City(ies): Corvallis OR, Seattle WA; Mt. Shasta CA; Wenatchee WA

Estimated Project Cost: $2,259,535.00

Congressional District(s): CA02, OR04, WA04

County(ies): CA: Siskiyou; OR: Benton; WA: Chelan, King

Modified Date: 6/23/2010

Story:

Research Underway on Restoring Critical Habitat for Listed Pacific Salmon

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

Salmon are critical to Pacific Northwest States economically, culturally, and ecologically. Concerns are acute for the future of these highly visible species because several populations of Pacific salmon and trout are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The Pacific Northwest Research Station (PNW) has studied habitat for these fish for four decades and recently initiated work to help land managers, public utility districts, and others at the federal, state, and county levels make decisions on restoring native salmon and trout habitat, and provide clean water that anticipate effects of wildland fire and climate change.

This project will create jobs that support the work of leading scientists and natural resource professionals from the Forest Service and their partners at University of Washington, Oregon State University, Bureau of Land Management, and others.

Successful completion of this work will be based on the scientific expertise and cooperative relationships that are already established among the participating agencies and research institutions. The work is being accomplished via several Joint Venture Agreements between the PNW Station and various research institutions; most of these agreements were finalized at the end of 2009, and as of April 2010 hiring processes are either recently completed or ongoing, so most work is in the early stages.

Project work will bring together interrelated factors that have been identified as strongly affecting the habitat for these threatened fish species. Analyses will be performed on National Forests and the lands surrounding them in WA, OR and CA, at landscape scales to identify and map areas with high potential for restoring fish habitat. This work will examine salmon habitat in high rainfall areas in coastal Alaska and west of the Cascades as well as lands in the Columbia Basin subject to wildland fire and drought typical of the dry interior West.

These analyses will be made available for use by land and fisheries managers for planning and monitoring habitat protection and restoration efforts. To investigate the effectiveness of alternative forest management practices on fish habitat, work in collaboration with BLM will examine effects of variable density thinning experiments on riparian forests. To help states and the forest industry assess effects of forest management on water quality, long-term water quality data collected at Forest Service Experimental Forests will be made available for public use on the Internet.

A collaborative effort with University of Washington will expand upon work to develop decision support models for forest planners to assess potential effects of climate change on fish habitat in the Northwest. This work will bring the results of global climate models down to the scale of river basins help land and fisheries managers better understand what basin and salmon stocks are most at risk from climate change effects over the next several decades.

The results of this effort will be reported in peer-reviewed journal articles and in decision support models that make the outcomes more accessible for use by land and fisheries managers and policy makers. The information yielded by this project opens the door to future jobs related to fish habitat and riparian restoration, forest and fisheries management, forest fuel reduction and recreation in the affected counties.

Program Project Name: Research on Restoring Critical Habitat for Listed Pacific Salmon

Local Project Name: Entiat Watershed Restoration #1
Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Chelan, WA
Estimated Project Cost: $157,600.00
Congressional District(s): WA04
County(ies): WA: Chelan
Modified Date: 6/23/2010

Story:

Entiat Watershed Restoration Underway

(Story posted 4/14/2010)

Dr. Karl Polivka of the USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station's (PNW) Land and Watershed Management Program is leading this project. Dr. Polivka will investigate aspects of salmon habitat restoration effectiveness in the Entiat River watershed, a low rainfall area in the Columbia Basin subject to wildland fire and drought typical of the dry interior West. The work will be accomplished through a Joint Venture agreement with the Cascadia Conservation District (CCD). The resulting analyses will be made available for use by land and fisheries managers for planning and monitoring for habitat protection and restoration efforts.

As of April 2010, the Joint Venture Agreement for this project was just finalized, and work will commence in the summer of 2010. The CCD will use Economic Recovery funds to hire and house field and laboratory workers who will gather and analyze data on the effectiveness of instream habitat structures in the Entiat watershed. The PNW Station lead scientist will advise CCD employees in the completion of field studies, laboratory processing of data, and communication of results.

The techniques employed will yield direct estimates of the benefits of restored habitat structures to fish production, and will allow greater precision in the estimate of variability in stream carrying capacity than normal monitoring procedures. The work will support the roll-up of reach-level information to sub-basins, and will also help researchers who use models to refine predictions of fish population responses to environmental fluctuations including climate change, supplementation, natural disturbance, and restoration actions.

The Entiat Watershed Planning Unit (WPU) is an association of resource specialists, local, state and federal agencies, and landowners that seek an informed approach to balancing the competing interests at stake within the watershed. Over the last decade, the Entiat WPU has advanced the goals of seeking restoration of depleted salmon stocks, restoring aquatic and riparian function and meeting the needs of growing human activity in the Entiat River Basin in Chelan County, Washingon, USA. The CCD has facilitated the efforts of the Entiat WPU, in part by endorsing several in-stream habitat restoration projects, including linking project sponsors with funding agencies and obtaining landowner approval for implementation.

Through this Economic Recovery project, the PNW Research Station will benefit from (1) present and future participation in effectiveness monitoring studies and (2) scientific presentations or publications that disseminate the knowledge gained from the study of restoration processes. CCD will benefit from having a direct assessment of the effectiveness of restoration actions that will inform their reports to the Entiat WPU and other interested parties. The information gained from this collaboration will enable CCD to meet their obligation of accountability to the community of stakeholders in the Entiat River Basin to report on the effectiveness of restoration actions that CCD has sponsored.

Program Project Name: Research on Restoring Critical Habitat for Listed Pacific Salmon

Local Project Name: Entiat River Basin Climate Change Impacts #1
Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Seattle, WA
Estimated Project Cost: $156,981.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 3
Congressional District(s): WA07
County(ies): WA: King
Modified Date: 6/23/2010

Story:
Entiat River Basin Climate Change Impacts Research Underway

(Story posted 4/14/2010)
Dr. Richard Woodsmith of the Pacific Northwest Research Station's (PNW) Threat Characterization and Management Program is leading this Recovery Act project that is being accomplished through a Cooperative Agreement with the Climate Impacts Group (CIG) of the University of Washington's Center for Science in the Earth System.

As of April 2010, under this agreement the CIG employs a researcher, a research assistant, and a computer analyst to develop and use hydrology models to assess the impacts of climate change on snowpack, snow melt and seasonal stream flow. This work will support assessment of how a changing climate may affect salmon habitat and water supply in the Entiat River watershed, a low rainfall area in the Columbia Basin subject to wildland fire and drought typical of the dry interior West.

Results of this work will be useful for land managers and decision makers to anticipate affects of climate change on federal, state and private lands across the larger Interior Columbia Basin, and especially within the Entiat Watershed Planning Unit (WPU).

The Entiat WPU is an association of resource specialists, local, state and federal agencies, and landowners that seek an informed approach to balancing the competing interests at stake within the watershed. Over the last decade, the Entiat WPU has advanced the goals of seeking restoration of depleted salmon stocks, restoring aquatic and riparian function and meeting the needs of growing human activity in the Entiat River Basin in Chelan County, Washington, USA.

Program Project Name: Vaagen Brothers Lumber, Inc.

Local Project Name: Imrprovement of Biomass Removal on the Colville National Forest
Region: Forest Products Laboratory
Nearby City(ies): Colville
Estimated Project Cost: $250,000.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 5
Congressional District(s): WA05
County(ies): WA: Stevens
Modified Date: 7/12/2010

Story:
Removal of Biomass on the Colville National Forest Continues to Improve

(Story posted 5/3/2010)

Vaagen Brothers Lumber holds contracts on seven federal projects that require biomass grinding and removal. This amounts to roughly 9,000 acres. The goal of this project was to

purchase a Kobelco SK 235 SR tracked excavator with an orbital brush grapple, brush rake, bar saw and dirt bucket to be used to remove slash materials and load the material into a Peterson Horizontal grinder on projects on the Colville NF. The use of the Kobelco excavator has increased our output to a total of approximately 150 dry tons per day. In 2007, we were only able to grind 100 dry tons per day and our costs were much greater. In 2007, these grinding jobs were not profitable, sometimes we even lost money. That is why we stopped grinding biomass. However, with the new excavator we can be profitable on these grinding biomass slash piles. The grant has created approximately five jobs: one grinder, one excavator operator, and three truck drivers. Environmentally the projects have resulted in less carbon released since these slash piles are not burned. We have produced and delivered almost 13,000 dry ton of biomass to the Avista Power Plant in Kettle Falls, WA. The projects performed would not have been viable without the use of the excavator.

Indirect benefits include the recognition by the Forest Service of service contract work, an increase in cash flow to our Company during these economic times, and the ability to help the Forest Service with slash removal in lieu of open burning. We anticipate the impact of this grant will be continued to be felt 3 to 5 years out. The only concern we have is the capability of the Forest Service to put up enough slash pile removal projects that can fully utilize the equipment.

Program Project Name: Restore Community Ecosystems While Promoting Green Jobs in the Puget Sound Area

Local Project Name: Green Cities: Stewardship and Urban Forestry
Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Seattle, WA
Estimated Project Cost: $1,325,810.00
Estimated Jobs Created / Retained: 8
Congressional District(s): WA01, WA02, WA07, WA08, WA09
County(ies): WA: King, Pierce, Snohomish, Thurston
Modified Date: 7/13/2010

Story:

Green Cities Working To Enhance Urban Natural Systems And Engage Citizens

(Story posted 4/19/2010)

Urban forests and green spaces provide a diversity of community benefits. The Economic Recovery jobs created through a suite of research projects in the Puget Sound region will help public and private resource managers and policy makers design and implement strategies that enhance these urban natural systems, while also helping people lead healthier lifestyles.

These projects, led by Dr. Dale Blahna of the Pacific Northwest Research Station's (PNW) Goods, Services, and Values Program will explore how to estimate ecosystem services in populated areas, identify what motivates people to engage in urban stewardship activities,

and determine how to make the most of citizen involvement efforts.

An added benefit is that new alliances are being formed between the PNW Research Station and the project's cooperators, such as the Cascade Land Conservancy (a Seattle nonprofit organization), King County (WA), Rural Technology Initiative, Precision Forestry Cooperative, and the Geospatial Lab in the School of Forest Resources at University of Washington. Project lead Blahna described this as an important opportunity for the Station. "We're research scientists. We often work with federal and state partners," he said. "But these projects are bringing us together with groups we rarely have contact with, like the county and local non-governmental organizations—allowing us to make working connections at the community level."

As of April 2010, approximately eight jobs have already been created to help coordinate these projects, and King County will be hiring additional field crews soon to help collect data. Some of these crew people would have been pink-slipped as a result of the economic downturn, but Economic Recovery funding allowed their jobs to be saved.

Program Project Name: Region-wide Road Deferred Maintenance

Local Project Name: Chipseal Bonaparte RD 3200
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Okanogan-Wenatchee
Ranger District: Tonasket
Nearby City(ies): Tonasket
Estimated Project Cost: $195,390.00
Congressional District(s): WA05
County(ies): WA: Okanogan
Modified Date: 7/23/2010

Story:

Forest Targets Road for Recovery Act Maintenance

(Story posted 7/22/2010)

The National Forest road system in the Northwest has approximately $1.8 billion worth of deferred maintenance which, if left uncorrected, jeopardizes public safety and natural resources, specifically aquatic resources.

This project will improve National Forest System roads in Oregon and Washington by completing deferred maintenance work roads and bridges. The work will include an emphasis on hazard mitigation; structure replacement; erosion control; drainage system upgrades; and installing low-cost surface drainage systems along with replacing culverts to reduce future storm damage risk. It also includes deferred maintenance on roads used for logging traffic.

The work can also be done through existing or upcoming stewardship contracts. The project

will be awarded with multiple contracts across the region.

In Okanogan County, Recovery Act funds will be used to place chip seal on 7.6 miles of Forest Service Road 3200. This road has the heaviest traffic on the Tonasket Ranger District, and up to 2,500 people use it on summer weekends. It is a major thoroughfare to the Bonaparte Lake area, which has five developed campgrounds, three organizational camps, and numerous private homes.

Program Project Name: Gifford Pinchot National Forest - Forest Bridge Design and Replacement

Local Project Name: Eight, Nine, Ten and Counting — GP Bridges Slated for Replacement
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Gifford Pinchot
Nearby City(ies): Packwood, Randle and Pine Creek
Congressional District(s): WA03
County(ies): WA: Lewis
Modified Date: 7/15/2010

Story:

Eight, Nine, Ten and Counting — GP Bridges Slated for Replacement

(Story posted 7/14/2010)

With Recovery Act funding, and an underlying goal of creating and saving jobs, the Gifford Pinchot National Forest proposed replacement of eight bridges. Many old treated timber and wooden-stringer bridges were, and are still, in need of replacement to continue to provide access to the Gifford Pinchot.

Assistant Forest Engineer for Operations and Construction, Woody Starr and others thought of using modular steel bridges for this. The Forest used some of these prefabricated structures for timber sales in the past. These portable steel bridges were moved to other active timber sales after completion of the original project.

An agreement with Federal Highway Administration (FHA) provided bridge design assistance by Missoula, Montana based engineering firm, DJ&A.

There are several builders, however. Successful bidders, including Western Montana based engineering firm, RTI, are now fabricating and will deliver bridge building “kits” to the Gifford Pinchot National Forest by mid-July.

These “kits” are packages complete with all materials needed by contractors to construct bridges. They are to be delivered to one of three strategic locations planned for use as staging areas, one each in Packwood, Randle and Pine Creek.

Starr said the Forest Service wanted to help create the maximum number of local jobs. Four

initial contracts to remove the old bridges, build abutments, bring the kits to the project sites and complete assembly were awarded in late May to four different local contractors, chosen from among approximately 10 bidders. Starr said this should create numerous local jobs this summer.

These projects will be active from the end of June through late October. Each contractor has two or three bridges to lift into place with large cranes onto abutments they construct.

A ninth bridge replacement is also in the works due to scale-related savings for the forest and taxpayer. This project site lies on the north end at Skate Creek along Forest Road 47. The existing bridge is an old concrete structure that has failed and can no longer provides safe access to a large part of the north end of the Gifford Pinchot.

The contract for the Skate Creek project was advertised in May and opened to bids the second week of June. It is expected to run from July to October at a total cost of about $854,676. The successful contractor will remove the old bridge, as well as provide and assemble the new bridge.

Continued savings allowed another, tenth bridge project as well. The Jody Mullins Bridge partially collapsed during the floods of 2006. The FHA is now removing the old structure under Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads.

Recovery Act funding has allowed a study to find possible alternatives for replacement of the Jody Mullins Bridge. Five alternative bridges have been identified for selection and design, and possible implementation this fall.

Replace Compass and Crater Creek Bridges $214,400.00

Purchase and Install Skate Creek Bridge $854,676.00

Install Silver Creek and Wilamee Bridges $364,600.00

Install Davis Cr Bridge and Remove Johnson Creek Bridge $164,240.00

Install two East Canyon Bridges and Langille Bridge $509,500.00

Program Project Name: Olympic National Forest Aquatic Species Passage and Road Decommission

Local Project Name: O'Brien Creek Bridge Replacement
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Nearby City(ies): Humptulips, WA
Congressional District(s): WA06
County(ies): WA: Grays Harbor
Modified Date: 7/15/2010

Story:
O'Brien Creek Bridge Replacement, Stream Channel Funded Through Recovery Act

(Story posted 7/14/2010)

Olympic National Forest's O'Brien Creek bridge replacement and habitat improvement project is well underway. The bridge is located on Forest Service Road 22, just north of Humptulips, WA, one of the main corridors connecting the Hood Canal Ranger District on the east side of the Olympic Peninsula with the Pacific Ranger District on the west side.

The road provides crucial access to private lands and numerous public recreation destinations including the Lake Wynoochee Reservoir and campground. The bridge, 180 feet in length, has already been replaced and reopened to the public on July 1st.

An ailing culvert and fish ladder was removed and will be replaced with a stream channel to provide native salmon access to spawning habitat; this restoration work is expected to be completed in the summer months ahead.

Program Project Name: Olympic National Forest Aquatic Species Passage and Road Decommission

Local Project Name: Snow Creek Stream Crossing
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Olympic
Ranger District: Hood Canal
Nearby City(ies): Quilcene
Congressional District(s): WA06
County(ies): WA: Grays Harbor
Modified Date: 7/15/2010

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Snow Creek Stream Crossing

(Story posted 7/14/2010)

Restoration of the Snow Creek stream crossing, located on Forest Road 2850 on Olympic National Forest's Hood Canal Ranger District, will begin in late July 2010.

This project will replace a small culvert with a 25 foot span steel arch and a natural rock streambed. This unique design, similar to many constructed on Olympic National Forest, will the restore a native fish migration area by providing a channel under the engineered arch that simulates the natural stream.

The Snow Creek project is expected to be completed in this summer.

Program Project Name: Olympic National Forest Deferred Trail Maintenance

Local Project Name: Dry Creek Trail
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Olympic
Ranger District: Hood Canal
Nearby City(ies): Quilcene
Congressional District(s): WA06
County(ies): WA: Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason
Modified Date: 7/23/2010

Story:

Olympic National Forest Trail Work Benefits Recreationists, Conservation Crew Workers

(Story posted 7/15/2010)

The Dry Creek Trail is an excellent example of what Recovery Actfunds have accomplished. Located above Lake Cushman in Mason County on the Olympic National Forest, the trail rises through second growth Douglas fir into an old growth forest, eventually reaching 3,650 feet in elevation.

Recreationists enjoy the well-used route's choice views. The trail has been minimally maintained for the last ten years and was in very poor condition; heavy windfall and flooding damage made the trail impassable to both stock and bikes.

Recovery efforts have involved a variety of projects. A Washington Conservation Crew (WCC) cut and removed 88 large trees from the trail to improve access. Numerous seasonal fjords required a significant amount of rock work. Workers built ditches and drains in areas where the trail was covered with water; the longest of these is more than one-hundred feet in length. Workers also built re-routes in areas that were unsafe for stock; one related project involved building a large retaining wall.

A Student Conservation Association (SCA) crew recently joined the WCC crew to restore a creek crossing that was severely damaged in a flood event several years ago. With the completion of this project, the Dry Creek trail is now passable as far as Dry Creek, four miles from the trailhead. Both crews will continue work on the upper half of the trail until it is finished.

Program Project Name: Region-wide Road Deferred Maintenance

Local Project Name: Ramona Bridge Demolition and Construction
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Okanogan-Wenatchee
Ranger District: Chelan

Nearby City(ies): Chelan, WA
Estimated Project Cost: $59,132.00
Congressional District(s): WA04
County(ies): WA: Chelan
Modified Date: 7/23/2010

Story:
Bridge to Undergo Recovery Act-funded Maintenance

(Story posted 7/22/2010)

The National Forest road system in the Northwest has approximately $1.8 billion worth of deferred maintenance which, if left uncorrected, jeopardizes public safety and natural resources, specifically aquatic resources.

This project will improve National Forest System roads in Oregon and Washington by completing deferred maintenance work roads and bridges. The work will include an emphasis on hazard mitigation; structure replacement; erosion control; drainage system upgrades; and installing low-cost surface drainage systems along with replacing culverts to reduce future storm damage risk. It also includes deferred maintenance on roads used for logging traffic.

The work can also be done through existing or upcoming stewardship contracts. The project will be awarded with multiple contracts across the region.

Forest Service projects in Chelan County, Washington, include replacing a guardrail and decking on a bridge near Snowberry Bowl Campground on the Okanogen-Wenatchee National Forest, which is located about two miles south of Twenty-Mile State Park and Lake Chelan.

Program Project Name: Region-wide Road Deferred Maintenance

Local Project Name: Resurface Road 1708
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Okanogan-Wenatchee
Ranger District: Cle Elum
Nearby City(ies): Cle Elum, WA
Estimated Project Cost: $176,500.00
Congressional District(s): WA04
County(ies): WA: Kittitas
Modified Date: 7/23/2010

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Road Maintenance Improves Recreational Opportunities

(Story posted 7/22/2010)

The National Forest road system in the Northwest has approximately $1.8 billion worth of deferred maintenance which, if left uncorrected, jeopardizes public safety and natural resources, specifically aquatic resources.

This project will improve National Forest System roads in Oregon and Washington by completing deferred maintenance work roads and bridges. The work will include an emphasis on hazard mitigation; structure replacement; erosion control; drainage system upgrades; and installing low-cost surface drainage systems along with replacing culverts to reduce future storm damage risk. It also includes deferred maintenance on roads used for logging traffic.

The work can also be done through existing or upcoming stewardship contracts. The project will be awarded with multiple contracts across the region.

Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest projects in Kittitas County, Washington, include resurfacing two miles of Forest Service Road 1708, a recreation corridor winding east from State Route 410, near the Little Naches Campground.

Program Project Name: Colville National Forest Timber Stand Improvement

Local Project Name: Malo Eastlake Stewardship TSI and Whipfelling
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Colville
Ranger District: Republic
Nearby City(ies): Malo - 2 miles, Curlew - 4 miles, Republic - 8 miles
Estimated Project Cost: $603,600.00
Congressional District(s): WA05
County(ies): WA: Ferry
Modified Date: 8/13/2010

Story:

Whipfelling, Hazard Fuel Reduction Funded Through Recovery Act

(Story posted 7/23/2010)

The Malo Eastlake Stewardship TSI and Whipfelling project was part of a larger stewardship package originally bid on and awarded in September 2009. Timber harvest units and some of the post harvest work was awarded in issuing the first two task orders on this contract, but no further money was available for another task order. Realizing this, the Forest looked at the work and included it in their proposed Recovery package earlier in 2009.The Forest received Recovery Act funding in mid-September 2009 but had to wait to see how much of the work could be funded by the stewardship “pot” in the first two task orders.

Lastly, with the knowledge of what was left to do that fit in with the spirit of “hand-tended”

projects to put people to work (as opposed to mechanized work where few people would normally work on a contract), the Forest preceded with the task order award in mid-December 2009 to Vaagen Bros Lumber Company. A second task order was awarded as additional funds became available in May 2010. Overall almost 4300 acres of fuels treatments will be completed with Recovery Act funds.

The contract consists of four individual treatments.

The first treatment is called pre-commercial thinning. This is done approximately 15 years or more after some sort of “regeneration harvest” was completed on a given unit of land. In many cases, but not all, the land was planted with desirable tree species at eight to twelve foot spacing. At 15 plus years of age, it is beneficial to thin these stands out, favoring the taller, more advanced trees over those that are beginning to become suppressed. Resulting slash will be lopped to within two feet of the ground.

The reduction of ladder fuels is the second phase of treatments. This is the “whipfelling” in the contract where all trees less than a given diameter are cut, so as to reduce the wildfire susceptibility in the given stands. It sometimes is referred to as reduction of “ladder fuels”. By removing the smaller stems in a stand, a wildfire has less opportunity to heat up and advance into the crowns of larger trees, causing damage to larger trees.

The third treatment is the reduction of surface fuels. Also called “hand piling,” these are areas where surface fuel buildup, either natural or caused by past harvesting, has created an unacceptable layer of branches, stems, needles, etc. which could ignite in a wildfire situation. By piling these fuels and burning the piles or removing the piles for biomass, the time of year and day of burning can be controlled by fire specialists on the Forest.

Finally, the creation of shaded fuel breaks is needed. This treatment combines aspects of the first three treatments to create fuel breaks at strategic places within the Malo Eastlake project area. Trees and brush will be cut and hand piled except for large fire-tolerant trees, creating a fuel break. Piles will be burned by Forest crews at a later date using appropriated funds.

Program Project Name: Colville National Forest Timber Stand Improvement

Local Project Name: East Zone Blister Rust Pruning
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Colville
Ranger District: Sullivan Lake
Nearby City(ies): Ione, WA - 7 miles
Estimated Project Cost: $6,600.00
Congressional District(s): WA05
County(ies): WA: Pend Oreille
Modified Date: 8/13/2010

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Helps Prevent Spread Of Infections Through Blister Rust Pruning

(Story posted 7/23/2010)

The entire project is generally considered “blister rust pruning”. This is done approximately ten years or more after some sort of “regeneration harvest” was completed on a given unit of land. These units were planted with genetically improved rust-resistant western white pine seedlings at eight to twelve foot spacing. At this spacing, the trees grow and eventually begin to compete with each other, forcing competition for nutrients. The young trees begin to grow branch infections of Cronartium ribicola during this time. It is beneficial to prune the lower branches of these trees, preventing these branch infections from reaching the tree bole, where they can and do kill trees. This project covered 110 acres of western white pine trees planted in 1998. The pruning contract was awarded on February 9, 2010 and completed by mid-May 2010.

Program Project Name: Gifford Pinchot Trails Deferred Maintenance

Local Project Name: Washington Conservation Corps Crews Work Hard for an Education and Your Safe Hiking Experience
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Gifford Pinchot
Ranger District: Mt St Helens NVM
Nearby City(ies): Johnston Ridge
Congressional District(s): WA03, WA04
County(ies): WA: Skamania
Modified Date: 7/30/2010

Story:
Washington Conservation Corps Crews Work Hard for an Education and Your Safe Hiking Experience

(Story posted 7/26/2010)

Thanks to $627,000 in Recovery Act funding designated specifically for trails projects, additional trail crews are building more accessible and safe hiking trails for visitors to the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument.

Among the many valuable partners working on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest under Recovery funding this year are some educational work organizations. Some of these are the Student Conservation Association, Northwest Service Academy, Northwest Youth Corp and Washington Conservation Corp (WCC). One WCC trail crew is working on improvements at Mount St. Helens.

Nichole Hansen is the assistant WCC crew-leader working on Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument (MSNVM). She said they usually see at least one group of hikers a day,

and most are excited to see them clearing heavy brush, renewing tread and removing obstacles such as large trees fallen across trails.

Forestry Technician and Recovery Trails projects coordinator, Sharon Steriti reported her Forest Service crew, as well as volunteer crews in her area, focus on trails that have had limited maintenance over the past ten years. She said these trail improvements should continue to pay off for a number of years.

“Our number one objective here is the safety of our visitors and trail-users,” She said. Steriti’s five-person Forest Service trail maintenance crew takes care of trails on the entire MSNVM, which covers over 400,000 acres in total. Steriti said they could not get everything done without the help of organizations such as the WCC and workers they field.

“The brushing and other maintenance work is never-ending,” said Steriti. “So, it helps immensely to have other crews helping us keep things in line.” She added the WCC crew will move on to the Loowit Trail in August.

Mount St. Helens has two WCC crews scheduled for trail work in 2011.

Participants in WCC spend six months working to receive an education grant for college. Some universities even match funding up to 100 percent depending on how students choose to use the grant.

WCC participants get two weeks of training and the option to receive professional certifications that may otherwise be financially out of reach for many youth without a sizable commitment on their part. Most projects are not out in the mountains as this AmeriCorps program provides community and ecological enhancement projects of many types, from urban settings to wilderness camps.

WCC workers make minimum wage 40 hours a week and earn comp-time for any hours over 40, which is used for paid vacation when they need it to recover from the hard physical labor involved. WCC Supervisor, Nancy Toenyan, with the Washington Department of Ecology, said, “It is definitely hard work, but the rewards are huge.”

Learn more about how to support or get involved with the WCC at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wcc/index.html.

Program Project Name: Umatilla National Forest Trails Maintenance

Local Project Name: Youth Crews Clear the Way!
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Umatilla
Nearby City(ies): Pomeroy, Walla Walla, Pendleton, Ukiah, Heppner
Congressional District(s): OR02, WA05
County(ies): OR: Grant, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa; WA: Asotin, Columbia, Garfield

Modified Date: 8/13/2010

Story:

Youth Crews Clear The Way With Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 7/30/2010)

Trail maintenance is tough, vigorous work! Just ask any youth crew member currently brushing, logging out and restoring trails on the Umatilla National Forest this summer. Thanks to funding provided through the Recovery Act, the Forest has teamed up with Student Conservation Association (SCA), Northwest Youth Corp (NYC) and the Oregon Youth Employment Initiative (OYEI) to complete a laundry list of backlog trail reconstruction and miscellaneous campground maintenance work over the next two summers.

Youth programs like these provide teens an opportunity to get work experience in an outdoor setting while helping them develop good work ethics, interpersonal skills and connections to their natural environment. Being on a youth crew and learning team dynamics can be key experiences for those entering the workforce.

By the numbers: A total of nine youth crews are working across the Forest on a variety of recreation improvement projects. Crews vary in size as do the length of their tour and the rotation of crews and crew members. SCA crews consist of five members, including their crew leader, and work a ten day “hitch” with four days off in between hitches. OYEI crews have six members including the crew leader and work a five-day, 40 hour week tour. NYC crews are made up of ten members plus a crew leader and also work a five-day, 40 hour week for ten weeks throughout this summer.

In addition to partner youth crews, we’ve beefed up seasonal employee numbers in our own trail crew program. In a typical summer, the forest employs three trail crews, but in 2010, the forest was able to double that horsepower with the help of additional recovery funds. The forest is also utilizing a crew of five from the La Grande Ranger District to focus on campsite and trail accessibility on the North Fork John Day Ranger District.

Though crews are busy laboring on both motorized and non-motorized trail systems this summer, a good portion of the work is located in the backcountry, primarily in the North Fork John Day, North Fork Umatilla and Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness areas where the use of motorized and mechanized equipment is prohibited. To maintain the intent of wilderness values and comply with wilderness regulations, trail work is completed using hand tools such as shovels, spades, axes and cross-cut saws.

Many hands make light work?? Well, maybe not light work but definitely visible progress! These projects require physical strength and stamina and the crews are obviously in great shape. "It's really phenomenal to have them here on the Forest. They're a big contributor to the legacy we're building with Recovery Act funding. Maybe they will return some day with kids of their own to show off their work and reminisce about that amazing summer of 2010," said Larry Randall, Recreation Program Manager.

Program Project Name: Umatilla National Forest Trails Maintenance

Local Project Name: OHV Campground Receives Makeover Thanks to Recovery Dollars
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Umatilla
Ranger District: N Fork John Day
Nearby City(ies): 17 miles east of Ukian, OR
Congressional District(s): OR02, WA05
County(ies): OR: Grant, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa; WA: Asotin, Columbia, Garfield
Modified Date: 8/13/2010

Story:

OHV Campground Receives Makeover Thanks to Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 7/30/2010)

Frazier Campground , located off State Highway 244 about 17 miles east of Ukiah, OR, is receiving a much need face lift thanks to funding provided by the Recovery Act. Janel Lacey, District Recreation Manager on the Umatilla National Forest is excited to have the funding to make these improvements a reality. "I've had these pictures in my head of things I wanted to complete at this campground and they're all happening this year!" said Lacey.

A popular spot for ATV enthusiasts, Frazier Campground is the largest of four recreation sites accessing the 150-mile motorized trail system in the Winom-Frazier Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Complex. However, existing campsites and facilities, built in mid 1960s, do not easily accommodate today's longer, taller RVs or vehicles pulling long trailers.

Some of the improvements at the campground include the addition of three news sites, bringing the total of campsites available to 20. Eight sites now provide pull through traffic to prevent the need for backing up long vehicles. Several pull-in site parking pads were elongated to fit longer vehicles. Five sites are designed for group camping and have room for up to five RVs. Three sites, including one of the group sites, will provide accessible features such as picnic tables, fire ring and compacted gravel to accommodate wheelchairs and other mobility devices. And, these accessible sites are located near accessible restroom facilities.

In fact, most of the campsites at Frazier Campground, as well as other campgrounds across the forest, will receive new accessible picnic tables and fire rings. A new accessible group picnic shelter for day use will be installed later this year or early next summer.

Contractors have delivered and spread 75 dump truck loads of gravel along the interior campground roads and parking pads. Large rocks were strategically placed to discourage ATV travel off the designated roads and trails to prevent resource damage in natural areas within the campground. Trees along the roadside have been pruned 20ft up to prevent

branches from scratching taller RVs, and tent pads have been cleared and packed with sand to provide a level spot and easier spike driving for tent camping.

Much of the labor was carried out by youth crews funded through the Recovery Act. Northwest Youth Corps crews, Oregon Youth Initiative crews, and a Wallowa-Whitman National Forest crew specializing in accessible recreation work have been instrumental in completing the improvements. “Their work is quite impressive,” beams Lacey.

Program Project Name: Pacific Crest Trail Maintenance - Oregon and Washington

Local Project Name: Deschutes National Forest Gets Support for Volunteers Maintaining the Pacific Crest Trail

Region: Pacific Northwest Region

Forest: Deschutes

Nearby City(ies): Sisters, Bend, and Crescent, Oregon

Congressional District(s): OR02, OR03, OR04, OR05, WA02, WA03, WA04, WA05, WA08

County(ies): OR: Clackamas, Deschutes, Douglas, Hood River, Jackson, Jefferson, Klamath, Lane, Linn, Multnomah, Wasco; WA: Chelan, King, Kittitas, Lewis, Okanogan, Pierce, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Whatcom, Yakima

Modified Date: 8/13/2010

Story:

Deschutes National Forest Gets Support, Recovery Act Funds For Volunteers Maintaining The Pacific Crest Trail

(Story posted 7/30/2010)

Recovery Act funding allowed the Deschutes National Forest to partner with the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) this year to fund an Americorps volunteer who supports trail volunteers on the Pacific Crest Trail.

Kathleen “Kit” Dickey was brought on in January, through the Northwest Service Academy, to serve as the Trail and Wilderness Volunteer Coordinator for the Deschutes National Forest and to be a volunteer coordinator for the Pacific Crest Trail.

In this position, Kit organized and implemented a three-day training event for trail volunteers. The training included first-aid and CPR certification, saw training and certification, and opportunities to learn brushing, drainage, and rock work as well as many other trail maintenance skills.

In addition, Kit has worked with the Deschutes NF and PCTA to develop crew leaders and trail stewards. She also has worked hard to increase the coordination of projects. Because of her coordination, volunteers no longer arrive at a section of trail they were planning to work on to find out that someone else has already done the work or find that they have to clear miles of trail before they reach the section they were planning to get done. As volunteers experiences improve, their overall effectiveness to do trail maintenance that would not get

done without them increases.

Deschutes County's economy relies significantly on tourism and recreation. Providing a great trail experiences for visitors because of the work of local volunteers helps the entire county. No lodge owner or recreational equipment supplier may ever know about Kit's efforts, but they likely will benefit from them.

Kit has personally benefitted from the funding provided, which has allowed her to support herself and maintain her home. This partnership, developed with the Recovery Act funding, has truly made a difference on the ground.

Program Project Name: Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Trail and Facilities Maintenance

Local Project Name: Blum Creek Bridge Maintenance
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie
Ranger District: Mt. Baker
Nearby City(ies): Concrete, Washington
Congressional District(s): WA02, WA08
County(ies): WA: King
Modified Date: 8/25/2010

Story:

Restoring a National Treasure the Pacific Northwest Trail with Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 7/30/2010)

Washington is known for its winter floods. In 2003 they destroyed roads, trails, and bridges in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest; Blum Creek did not escape that damage.

"It was a terrible year for the Forest Service, and then they got hammered again in 2006 with almost the same devastation," said Jon Knechtel, director of trail operations with Pacific Northwest Trail Association. Blum Creek Bridge is part of the Baker Lake Trail, a segment of the Pacific Northwest Trail nestled in the North Cascades Mountains just north of Mount Vernon, Wash., off the North Cascades Highway.

Thirty years ago Ron Strickland first envisioned a trail tracing the seasonal migration routes of animal and herders from the Continental Divide to the Pacific Ocean. In March this year, the Pacific Northwest Trail joined the ranks of the National Scenic Trail system, becoming the first national scenic trail to connect two other scenic trails, the Continental Divide Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail. The Pacific Northwest Trail spans three National Parks, seven National Forests and three states, starting in Montana and moving west into Idaho and Washington. The Forest Service administrates the trail, coordinating land management efforts with other federal, state and private land owners.

Knechtel was instrumental in making that designation become a reality. He began volunteering for the Pacific Northwest Trail Association in 2000 making maps. The next year the board of directors asked him to join them. Knechtel spent the next nine years focusing on getting the Pacific Northwest Trail designated a national scenic trail. “I went out and did a lot of the leg work, talking with the senators, county commissioners, mayors, hikers, back-country horsemen, and many user groups,” said Knechtel. He donated hundreds hours and thousands of dollars of personal time and expense for the trail.

“After the 2003 flood we invited the association to come in and build a 50-foot bridge were Blum Creek rerouted itself,” said Gary Paull, wilderness and trails specialist with the US Forest Service. “Then the 2006 flood hit and did two things to Blum Creek, relocating its drainage back to its original route and washing away the new bridge,” he said.

In the spring of 2009, the Forest Service brought the association in to shore up and secure the bridge over the original Blum Creek drainage from water erosion. “We are fixing the north side of Blum Creek with gabion baskets to keep the banks in place, and filling in the trail approach for the bridge,” said Knechtel. “We expect to complete the project next year, providing Mother Nature has left everything intact over the winter,” he said.

Restoring the trail for hikers takes an army of volunteers. Jon uses help from the Job Corps for many of the projects on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. “The Job Corps is a two-year program where kids learn a trade while helping out local communities,” said Knechtel. The youth are required to get their high school diploma while developing skills for a future trade. They can choose to study electrical, culinary arts, facilities maintenance, carpentry, painting and many other trades.

“After all of the outdoor experience the kids receive, many make it a career and become rangers with the National Parks, Forest Service or Department of Natural Resources,” said Knechtel.

Jon Knechtel, Pacific Northwest Trail Association trail operations director, stands on Blum Creek bridge observing the bank restoration work.

This fall the kids excavated the banks of Blum Creek by hand to secure locations for gabion baskets. After the baskets were in place, filling them became the next task. “Each basket takes about 12 wheel barrow loads of river rock to fill them,” said Lewis Trout, crew leader with the Pacific Northwest Trails Association. “The baskets are laid out side-by-side to protect the banks from the water’s erosive power,” he said.

The association pays the Job Corps youth a salary for their time and effort. Trail work starts in April and continues until the weather changes in October. “The kids do great work for me,” Knechtel said.

The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest has worked with PNTA for more than decade throughout the forest building and installing foot logs, bulletin boards, and removing damaged

bridges, as well as trail maintenance. “The National Scenic Trails legislature requires an advocate,” said Paull. “This special relationship helps maintain and manage the trail. The PNTA has been managing the trail for over 30 years with projects from the Pacific Ocean to the Continental Divide,” he said.

For Knechtel, the Pacific Northwest Trail designation was only the beginning of a continuing commitment. “I plan on working on the trail for years to come,” he said.

Program Project Name: Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Trail and Facilities Maintenance

Local Project Name: Kiosk at Coal Lake
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie
Nearby City(ies): Verlot Public Service Center, Granite Falls, Washington
Congressional District(s): WA02, WA08
County(ies): WA: King
Modified Date: 8/25/2010

Story:

New Kiosk at Coal Lake Thanks to Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 7/30/2010)

The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie NF received $150,000 for North MBS Trail Deferred Maintenance as part of the approximately $1.2 million MBS Trails and Facilities Maintenance Recovery Act Project. Through an agreement with the Pacific Northwest Trail Assn (PNTA) $45,000 was transferred to perform a variety of trail maintenance tasks on the north end of the forest including construction of a kiosk at Coal Lake. Work to fully complete these project are on-going.

Program Project Name: Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Trail and Facilities Maintenance

Local Project Name: Bulletin Board at White Chuck Bench Trailhead
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie
Ranger District: Darrington
Nearby City(ies): Darrington, Washington
Congressional District(s): WA02, WA08
County(ies): WA: King
Modified Date: 8/25/2010

Story:

Bulletin Board at White Chuck Bench Trailhead to be Constructed with Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 7/30/2010)

The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie NF received $150,000 for North MBS Trail Deferred Maintenance as part of the approximately $1.2 million MBS Trails and Facilities Maintenance Recovery Act Project. Through an agreement with the Pacific Northwest Trail Assn (PNTA) $45,000 was transferred to perform a variety of trail maintenance tasks on the north end of the forest including construction of a bulletin board at the White Chuck Bench Trailhead. Work to fully complete these project are on-going.

Program Project Name: Puget Sound Region of Washington - Storm Proofing and Deferred Maintenance and Road Decommissioning - Culverts

Local Project Name: Dan Creek Road Repair and Maintenance
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie
Ranger District: Darrington
Nearby City(ies): Darrington, Washington
Congressional District(s): WA02, WA04, WA08
County(ies): WA: Snohomish
Modified Date: 8/25/2010

Story:

Dan Creek Road Repair and Maintenance Funded Through Recovery Act

(Story posted 7/30/2010)

Puget Sound Region of Washington - Storm Proofing and Deferred Maintenance and Road Decommissioning - Culverts, Estimated Project Cost of $5,590,000 will go to about 20 projects.

When water runs off roads unabated during a storm, it can create erosion, damage roads, affect water quality and fish habitat, and more. The Puget Sound region of Washington is particularly vulnerable to intense winter storms each year. In any road system, proper drainage ensures appropriate passage of water, fish and minimal sedimentation. However they must be maintained to be effective. Likewise, roads that are no longer used can fail or erode and become sources of sediment in streams and rivers. Storm proofing, maintaining needed roads and decommissioning roads that have served their social and economic purposes are key in protecting resources from uncontrolled damage. This Project leverages the interest of Forest partners and stakeholders. It provides an opportunity to make timber sales more economically viable. It also provides significant jobs for people in adjacent economically distressed communities.

Dan Creek Road Repair and Maintenance Project, located near Darrington, Washington. This contract was awarded to Cates & Erb, Inc of Omak, WA, total contract price $340,988.50. Nine workers have been hired from Omak, Darrington, Whidbey Island and

other communities in Washington. This project started in March. It upgrades culvert deficiencies with new culverts, repairs road fill slope failures, and adds surface rock replacement.

Program Project Name: Gifford Pinchot National Forest - Forest Bridge Design and Replacement

Local Project Name: Crater and Compass Creek Bridge Replacements
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Gifford Pinchot
Ranger District: Wind River
Nearby City(ies): Carson, WA
Congressional District(s): WA03
County(ies): WA: Lewis
Modified Date: 8/18/2010

Story:

Compass and Crater Creek Bridge Projects, Unique Opportunities for Synergistic Solutions

(Story posted 8/18/2010)

The Wind River Work Center on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest was as quiet as usual the morning of Friday, July 30, 2010. But with the arrival of components for two new bridges, the normal tranquility of this idyllic setting next to Trout Creek on an historic Forest Service site was interrupted.

At approximately nine in the morning, two trucks arrived from Missoula, MT carrying four steel support spans and the hardware needed to put the two bridges together. These were the first of nine Recovery Act-funded bridges expected for delivery to the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in the next month.

Workers with McNealy Excavation Inc. came from the nearby project site to unload. They used a fork-lift to pull components from the trucks for short-term storage at Wind River while they complete footings and other preparations.

Supervising Civil Engineer Woody Starr said the old wooden bridges would not support vehicles hauling timber. Tree-stand improvement thinning projects could not be completed using these roads without replacement of Compass and Crater Creek bridges. Badly needed forest management projects can finally take place with completion of these and other travel-related projects, not to mention increased access and safety for all forest visitors.

Back at the work site after unloading, the workers from McNealy were leveling footings on either side of Crater Creek with excavators. Meanwhile, the creek flowed through the site as if nothing at all was happening. Fish screens above and below protected aquatic life, but the stream flowed as clear and cold as ever.

This and other Recovery Act-funded bridge projects around the Gifford Pinchot National Forest will improve fish passage and habitat. Fish Biologist David Hu said, “The potential for increased anadromous (ocean-going) and resident fisheries health is great.” New, stronger steel allows 52-foot spans that will widen the narrow channel created by obsolete wooden structures.

Hu said the current bridges constrict flow and need to be set back to original stream banks at high flows in order to minimize water-pressure created by constricted flows, which can blow out downriver habitat like a “high-pressure hose.” This should restore natural processes, and according to Hu, the sites should be sufficient to handle 100-year flow events.

He added, “With these new bridges in place, there will be a positive impact on past stream restoration activities that took place further downstream, due to improved stream passage and stream recovery response.” In short, high flows will be less destructive to downstream habitat, including previous improvement projects.

The habitat improvement opportunity taken in the replacement of bridges across the Gifford Pinchot shows the effectiveness of a more synergistic approach to forest management. Here, forest biologists are working hand-in-hand with forest engineers to provide safe passage for fish and human visitors alike.

Program Project Name: Gifford Pinchot Trails Deferred Maintenance

Local Project Name: Recreation trails defferred maintenance
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Nearby City(ies): Trout Lake, WA
Congressional District(s): WA03, WA04
County(ies): WA: Skamania
Modified Date: 8/18/2010

Story:

Northwest Service Academy Workers Support Trail Work on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest

(Story posted 8/18/2010)

While high-profile Recovery Act-funded projects like the installation of new bridges and high-tech interpretive upgrades get going throughout the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, young people continue to toil in summer heat on mountain trails for your safety and enjoyment.

On the south end of the Gifford Pinchot on the Mt. Adams Ranger District, a crew from the Northwest Service Academy (NWSA) is renewing tread; installing check dams to limit water flowing down trails; and beating the heat any way they can to get these jobs done for American taxpayers.

ARRA Trail Projects Coordinator and Forestry Technician John Kruse reported that this crew does not get to do the glorious stuff, but the bread-and-butter projects that sorely need completion. He said this is the stuff hikers notice, and they really like it when they see the trails getting "dialed in."

Jonathan Martin is the field-team leader for this crew. He said that the key-factor in this service based program is, "We're all here for the right reasons--to give back to the forest because it has given so much to us." He said there are so many beautiful places in our country with limited access where visitors will never go if they have to "bush-whack" to get there. "We want to make it easier for people to get out and enjoy these gorgeous areas that we just love," Martin said.

Martin said his crew is not just out there for personal satisfaction, but to contribute to and uphold the missions of the NWSA and Forest Service by helping forest visitors to gain the same appreciation that brought them out to do this kind of work. In the process, these young adults get the opportunity to figure out what path to take in life. He added, "We're not out here to make money. We're out here to make a difference."

Director of the Mt. Adams NWSA Center Brendan Norman explained that developing community leaders while preserving and restoring the natural world in the process is a central mission of the academy. He said many latch onto this mission as a stepping stone to become leaders in resource management and conservation.

The Mt. Adams program started in 1994 and has run upwards of 1,000 people through, with approximately 25 percent moving on to careers in related fields with land-management agencies or in the educational arena. He said this program is partially funded by an AmeriCorps grant that will not be awarded next year.

"Loss of the AmeriCorps grant for 2011 has really put us in a pinch," Norman said. "With 50 percent of our funding gone next year, NWSA is in danger of having to close our doors at the end of this season. We are working collaboratively with our partners, including the Forest Service, to identify alternatives that will prevent that from happening. We really need to create more awareness of our mission and success, as well as the overall importance of the program."

To learn how to become involved with the NWSA or to become a supporter, go to their website at http://www.nwserviceacademy.org/ or http://www.mtadamscenter.com/.

Program Project Name: Improve Health and Safety of Communities and Fire Fighters through Forecasting and Managing Smoke from Fires

Local Project Name: Improve health and safety of communities and fire fighters through forecasting and managing smoke from fires

Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station

Nearby City(ies): Seattle, WA

Estimated Project Cost: $735,000.00

Congressional District(s): WA01, WA02, WA07, WA08, WA09
County(ies): WA: King
Modified Date: 9/23/2010

Story:

Public to Benefit from Recovery Act-funded Wildland Fire Research

(Story posted 8/20/2010)

Smoke from wildland fires is a human health hazard, particularly for those with asthma and other respiratory problems. Moreover, the fires themselves often destroy property, damage ecosystems, and even threaten lives. Being able to more accurately forecast the behavior of wildland fires and the smoke they create would help public health officials protect individuals with health concerns; allow firefighters to reduce their risk of exposure to dangerous fires and smoke; save firefighting cost; and lessen impacts to communities and the economy.

This economic recovery project, led by Dr. Brian Potter of the Pacific Wildland Fire Sciences Laboratory, supplements funding being used to enhance the delivery of accurate smoke forecasts from wild and prescribed fires and to accelerate the development of improved tools for smoke and fire management.

One part of the project employs workers from Sonoma Technology, Inc. (STI), who were facing lay-offs before the economic recovery funding was received. They are making improvements to the BlueSky Framework, a system of computer models that fire and smoke forecasters nationwide use to answer questions about how much smoke a fire will generate and where smoke effects will be the greatest.

The information is delivered to fire, land, and air managers on Google Earth images, as well as by other means, allowing rapid assessment of where the risks to human health will be the greatest. Researchers also use the BlueSky Framework to simulate smoke impacts from different kinds of fire events, improving their understanding of how to plan strategically for future events.

Using economic recovery funding, a team headed by Dr. Cliff Mass of the University of Washington’s Atmospheric Sciences Department ensures the daily availability of current weather information and computer weather simulations up to three days ahead. These weather simulations provide information necessary for BlueSky smoke predictions across the Pacific Northwest. They are also critical to research projects that aim to improve forecasts of potentially erratic fire behavior locations and times; the chances of lightning-ignited fires; and fuel moisture conditions. The funding for Dr. Mass’ research group prevented four employees from being laid off and allowed this work to continue.

Obviously all of this work requires a whole host of technical wizards. In addition to those working for STI and the University of Washington, Dr. Potter is employing about 20 undergraduate interns through the Hispanic Colleges and Universities’ (HACU) internship

program. HACU's intern pool spans the U.S. and Puerto Rico, providing opportunities to students from universities with substantial Hispanic enrollment. Interns and employees will gain scientific and technical experience that will prepare them for future "green" jobs targeted at improving environmental quality, especially air quality, with its ramifications to climate change.

Program Project Name: Pacific Northwest Research Station Road Maintenance

Local Project Name: PNW Road Maintenance
Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Corvallis, Blue River, and LaGrande, OR; Wenatchee and Carson, WA
Estimated Project Cost: $200,000.00
Congressional District(s): OR02, OR04, WA03, WA04
County(ies): OR: Lane, Union; WA: Chelan, Skamania
Modified Date: 12/20/2010

Story:

Research Station Road Repairs Enhance Safety, Ecosystems

(Story posted 8/24/2010 and updated 11/24/2010)

In 2009, Pacific Northwest Research Station (PNW) Engineer Donna Wians determined that road repairs were needed throughout the Pacific Northwest Research Station’s network of research laboratories and experimental forests to ensure safe access for personnel and the public.

Economic Recovery funding allowed several infrastructure and erosion control improvement projects to go forward in fiscal year 2010. Contractors brushed, graded, and resurfaced roads at the Wind River and H.J. Andrews experimental forests; built a new bridge and improved roads at the Starkey Experimental Forest and Range, and and improved access and parking lot facilities at the Wenatchee and Corvallis forestry sciences laboratories. Associated erosion control activities have improved water quality and ecosystem integrity.

By the fall of 2010, the projects had been completed. The Recovery Act funding created approximately 1.065 FTEs of employment during the months of operation, resulting in jobs for between 20 and 30 individuals.

Program Project Name: Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Trail and Facilities Maintenance

Local Project Name: Local workers rebuild, restore Pacific Crest Trail
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie
Ranger District: Darrington
Nearby City(ies): Darrington, Washington

Congressional District(s): WA02, WA08
County(ies): WA: King
Modified Date: 9/29/2010

Story:

Local Workers Rebuild, Restore Pacific Crest Trail

(Story posted 9/28/2010)

The Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) is 2,650 miles of trail running from Mexico to Canada through California, Oregon, and Washington. It is one of only 11 designated national scenic trails in the country. Thousands attempt to through-hike it; are members of the association dedicated to it; journal about it; and volunteer to work on it. And since 2003, flood damage has made it close to impassible along 45 miles on the south end of Glacier Peak Wilderness, about 25 miles southeast of Darrington, Washington. But thanks to beefed-up trail crews and $424,000 in Recovery Act funds, the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest has made headway this summer on repairs and backlog maintenance and plans to open the trail to the backcountry by the end of next summer.

Dawn Erickson, trails specialist for the Darrington Ranger District, hired 16 workers from Mt. Vernon, Oso, Darrington, Arlington and Concrete, Washington. Two are from Seattle, Washington, along with a couple from the East Coast. All are young adults; some are students; and for a few this was their first job. That is about double what Erickson usually hires to work on trails during the summer. “This was a really good crew. It was nice to finally get in there and hit these areas hard,” she said.

It hasn’t been easy. Washed out roads and trails along with several major river crossings made access difficult. Congressionally designated Wilderness imposes strict restrictions on using motorized and mechanical equipment for work or transportation. From April through September the crew split into groups to clear and repair three different segments of the PCT: Red Pass to White Pass, Mica Lake to Milk Creek, and Vista Ridge to Vista Creek. They also worked on the Suiattle River Trail and the North Fork Sauk Trail, major access trails to the PCT.

Bryce Boyd from Darrington worked his seventh season this year, his first as a crew leader. He led seven workers 14 miles to Vista Creek and Vista Ridge, a four-and-a- half hour hike. They logged out 150 to 200 logs clogging the trail by hand using crosscuts. The logs were left by windfall and had accumulated over the seven years since the Suiattle trail, road, and bridges washed out, keeping crews from accessing the site.

Boyd said he prefers working with handtools because it gets him in excellent physical condition. “It is a lot more intimate using crosscuts, I could hear the wood cracking,” he said. Crewmembers would scrape the bark off with axes or Pulaskis, attempt to saw through the log in two cuts, and then push it off the trail. The bark was a foot thick on some of the old growth Doug firs. It took them six days to clear logs off five miles of trail.

Through the summer workers retread trail where it had slumped down hills, rerouted trail, and brushed it: excavating, digging, replacing rock, widening and smoothing the surface. Boyd's crew would start at a lower camp and work up. Although it was early August, he woke up couple of nights in the high elevation to thick ice. Boyd grew up hunting and fishing outdoors around Darrington and thought he knew all the trails and scenic spots. But he said camping and working nine days at a time in the backcountry gave him a deeper appreciation. "The upper Suiattle is beautiful. I can see why it is so popular. I love the scenery; it is awe inspiring," he said.

Most of the workers had some outdoors experience. But Shawn Corbett from Seattle of Boyd's crew had never hiked, camped out, or ventured into the woods. Boyd said it was rewarding to see him transform. "The first time he went out he was intrigued by every little insect, plant, and tree. Hiking up a trail he startled a grouse and almost jumped off the trail. Now he is a competent outdoorsman."

Corbett said it was tough at the beginning, his first time away from home; hiking miles carrying heavy packs; learning how to plan and prepare dinner for the crew when it was his turn. But he likes being paid to be outdoors and work out. Most of all he enjoyed the camaraderie. "From the first day the crew made me feel welcome; we shared food, work," he said. But it was the sense of accomplishment that makes him want to do this again next year, "So many people hike and use this trail. Every hour we worked hikers came through and thanked us. It made it all worth it," he said.

Crew leader Catherine Austin spent 20 days out with her nine-person crew in the Milk Creek area on the northwest side of Glacier Peak, 25 trail-miles south of Suiattle River. At 35 miles from the nearest trailhead in any direction and lack of stock access because of washed out bridges, they had to helicopter in. Although they got a tremendous amount done, she said there is still a lot to do to make it fully accessible.

Snow at the high elevations has ended work for the season, but the increased crews gave them the jump-start they needed this summer and Erickson hopes they can keep the momentum going. "It provided jobs to students and others. It pays a decent wage, and I think that helped," she said.

Program Project Name: Recreation Facilities Maintenance

Local Project Name: Forest Focus on Accessibility: Recreation sites updated with accessible features

Region: Pacific Northwest Region

Forest: Umatilla

Nearby City(ies): Lewistin, Pomeroy, Dayton, Walla Walla, Pendleton, Ukiah, Dale, Heppner

Congressional District(s): OR02, WA05

County(ies): OR: Grant, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wheeler; WA: Asotin, Columbia, Garfield

Modified Date: 11/10/2010

Story:
Facilities Improvements Allow Better Accessibility

(Story posted 10/1/2010)

Summer marked the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act…
The Forest Service is committed to integrating accessibility into the complete range of recreation opportunities while protecting natural resources and settings so that all people, including people who have disabilities, have the opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. It's policy!

Spit, polish, and shine…
Projects to improve recreation sites and facilities represent a big chunk of the economic recovery funding received by the Umatilla National Forest. This summer forest campgrounds, cabin rentals, trails, and restrooms got much needed makeovers that included updating our sites for better accessibility for all.

Out with the old and in with the new and accessible…
Through Recovery Act funding the forest was able to replace rundown, well-used picnic tables, fire rings, and primitive restrooms at most designation campgrounds. In all, upgraded features across the forest include the following:

- 77 accessible picnic tables
- 72 accessible fire rings
- 31 accessible vault restrooms

Forest trail crews and youth conservation crews were busy assembling and painting the picnic tables and installing the new fire rings. Contractors should complete the installation of the new vault restrooms next summer.

Two accessible forest trails saw major improvements this summer…
Youth crews cleared, leveled, and widened Bull Prairie Lake Trail, a 1.5-mile loop trail located at Bull Prairie Lake Campground on the Heppner Ranger District. The trail was paved in August and will provide access to fishing platforms and a new viewpoint with accessible benches. The campground also offers accessible restrooms and campsites.

Program Project Name: Recreation Facilities Maintenance

Local Project Name: History and Heritage: Wilderness Crew Scans the Trail for Cultural Artifacts
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Umatilla
Ranger District: Pomeroy
Nearby City(ies): Pomeroy Washington, Tollgate and Troy Oregon
Congressional District(s): WA05
County(ies): OR: Wallowa; WA: Asotin, Columbia, Garfield

Modified Date: 11/10/2010

Story:

History and Heritage: Wilderness Crew Scans the Trail for Cultural Artifacts

(Story posted 10/1/2010)

Heads down, eyes on the ground. It's not how you'd typically encounter a trail crew in the wilderness, but then, this is not your typical trail crew. While other crews were brushing and treading wilderness trails this past summer, this four-person Recovery Act-funded contract crew from Transect Archaeological was searching for surface evidence of past human use, either Native American or early European, thanks to funding provided through the Recovery Act. Their focus was to search along wilderness trails that were likely built from past transportation trails used by the Native Americans, early pioneers, or big game.

Instead of the usual shovels, rakes, and crosscut saws, this crew was outfitted with Trimble Junos: personal data recorders (PDRs) equipped with GPS and INFRA mobile applications. PDRs are used to collect data in the field, and when connected to the computer back at the office, automatically populate the database. This eliminates the time-consuming task of interpreting field notes and keying in the information by hand.

According to Allen Madril, forest archaeologist, most of the wilderness areas aren't surveyed for cultural resources because we don't typically do projects, other than trail maintenance, in wilderness areas. The information collected through this survey will fill in data gaps, giving us some connectivity and a fuller understanding of how the area was used historically.

The survey began in late August in the Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness. They were looking for artifacts of past human activities, such as primitive tools made of both stone and steel. Once a discovery is made, the true archeology begins. The crew photographs and GPSs the artifact, then documents the type of object found, the surrounding landscape characteristics, and the potential for other buried material. The crew leader, qualified with a master's degree in archeology, made a determination recommendation to the forest on if a finding is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The forest archaeologist would then concur or not concur with that recommendation. This process meets the Section 106 and 110 responsibilities outlined in the National Historic Preservation Act.

"Just because a discovery is deemed not eligible for submission does not mean the information is not valuable," said Madril. "That knowledge is now recorded in the database and will inform us on future project surveys." Madril stressed the importance of collecting this information. "With these types of cultural resources, once they're gone the historic information can never be recreated.

Program Project Name: Recreation Facilities Maintenance

Local Project Name: Recovery Funds Help to Restore CCC Era Rock Ovens at Godman Campground

Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Umatilla
Ranger District: Pomeroy
Nearby City(ies): Pomeroy, Washington
Congressional District(s): WA05
County(ies): WA: Columbia
Modified Date: 11/10/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Help Restore CCC-era Campground

(Story posted 10/1/2010)

Situated atop a relatively narrow ridge on the Umatilla National Forest Pomeroy Ranger District, Godman Campground overlooks the rugged Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness to the east and the winding Wenaha River drainage to the south.

This quaint campground, named after Judge Godman of Dayton, WA, was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) during the early 1930s and included a large log "community kitchen" with central stone fireplaces built from native basalt rock. In addition, five ovens (combination fireplace/camp stoves) were built from the same material at various sites throughout the campground. Over time, exposure to the weather and heavy recreational use had taken a toll on these 80-year-old historic structures, leaving them in various stages of disrepair.

Because the rock structures are associated with a significant event in 20th century American history and they embody distinctive characteristics of the rustic design philosophy adopted by the Forest Service during the Depression era, they are considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. So when the forest decided to restore the rock ovens using recovery funds, they needed to design the project in a manner that retained the oven's historic character while restoring their intended use.

That's why the forest turned to the 1937 USFS publication Camp Stoves and Fireplaces for developing contract design specs that would maintain the form and character of the original stoves. The contract mason who completed the restoration work used the same native rock, when possible, to rebuild the ovens. The historic metal stove parts were also re-used or duplicated in kind. The restoration took about two weeks and was completed in early August.

Although Godman Campground has undergone some changes since its construction by the CCC, evident in the various styles of steel fire pits found in individual campsites, the campground and its structures still retain the rustic and informal ambiance of its original Depression-era design.

Program Project Name: Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Trail and Facilities Maintenance

Local Project Name: Recovery Toilets Installed
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie
Ranger District: Snoqualmie
Nearby City(ies): Enumclaw, Northbend, Skykomish and Darrington, Washington
Congressional District(s): WA02, WA08
County(ies): WA: King, Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom
Modified Date: 12/29/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Recreation Facilities Upgrades

(Story Posted 11/23/2010)

The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest recently finished installing the last of 13 new concrete restrooms at various campgrounds and trailheads as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act at a cost of $240,000. On an urban forest with five million visitors a year, restrooms are needed. Many of the original facilities at these sites were over 40 years old.

The new structures were installed under a contract with CXT, a Spokane-based company. On the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie Nation Forest, Recovery Act projects primarily involved backlog maintenance and renovation of developed recreation sites and trails. Contracts using Recovery funds helped small locally-based companies like CXT expand their workforce. Other Recovery Act funds were used in cooperation with partners to employ young people and expose them to natural resource ethics while making recreation sites and trails safer and more accessible.

The contractor installed new restrooms at Government Meadows Horse Camp, Sun Top Lookout, Skookum Flats Trailhead, Denny Creek Trailhead, Pacific Crest Trail North Trailhead at Snoqualmie Pass (2), North Fork Skykomsish complex Trailhead, Blanca Lake Trailhead, Swift Creek Campground (3), Wiley Creek Campground, and Necklace Valley Trailhead.

Program Project Name: Western States - Forests Adapting To and Mitigating Climate Change Effects

Local Project Name: Forest Inventory in Urban Areas
Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station
Nearby City(ies): various
Estimated Project Cost: $1,780,000.00
Congressional District(s): AK00, CA01, CA02, CA03, CA04, CA05, CA06, CA07, CA08, CA09, CA10, CA11, CA12, CA13, CA14, CA15, CA16, CA17, CA18, CA19, CA20, CA21, CA22, CA23, CA24, CA25, CA26, CA27, CA28, CA29, CA30, CA31, CA32, CA33, CA34, CA35, CA36, CA37, CA38, CA39, CA40, CA41, CA42, CA43, CA44, CA45, CA46, CA47, CA48, CA49, CA50, CA51, CA52, CA53, HI01, HI02, OR01, OR02, OR03, OR04, OR05, WA01, WA02, WA03, WA04, WA05, WA06, WA07, WA08, WA09

County(ies): AK: Bethel Census Area, Bristol Bay Borough, Denali Borough, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Lake and Peninsula Borough, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Nome Census Area, Northwest Arctic Borough, Southeast Fairbanks Census Area, Valdez-Cordova Census Area, Wade Hampton Census Area, Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area; CA: Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yolo, Yuba; HI: Hawaii, Honolulu, Kalawao, Kauai, Maui; OR: Baker, Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Coos, Crook, Curry, Deschutes, Douglas, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine, Klamath, Lake, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Malheur, Marion, Morrow, Multnomah, Polk, Sherman, Tillamook, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco, Washington, Wheeler, Yamhill; WA: Adams, Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Clallam, Clark, Columbia, Cowlitz, Douglas, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lewis, Lincoln, Mason, Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Spokane, Stevens, Thurston, Wahkiakum, Walla Walla, Whatcom, Whitman, Yakima

Modified Date: 2/15/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Urban Forest Project Spanning Five States

(Story posted 1/14/2011)

This project, led by John Mills of the PNW Research Station's Resource Monitoring and Assessment Program, is using $1,795,000 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to employ field crews to gather data on the condition of forests from approximately 1,000 sites in populated areas in five western states: Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington.

The project uses the scientifically-rigorous protocols of the USDA Forest Service's nationwide Forest Inventory and Analysis Program, and will result in a network of permanently located plots in urbanized areas that can be measured again in the future. The Forest Service is conducting the work in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Forestry, California Polytechnic State University, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Hawaii Urban Forestry Council, and Davey Resource Group.

Having Recovery Act funds become available for this project means that workers have the opportunity to collect systematic data on the abundance, extent, and health of trees and other vegetation in urban areas for the first time. To help urban forests adapt and be resilient to a changing climate, the Forest Service needs to know their current health status.

Urban forests will change as the climate changes, with shifts in species composition, growth rates, mortality, and susceptibility to pests all possible. Having a baseline of urban forest conditions will help local resource managers and planners to understand and articulate the contributions of urban forests to ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, water retention, energy savings, and quality of life for residents. Over the long term, monitoring will

help to determine if and how urban forests are adapting to changing conditions, and might shed some light on potential mitigations.

Work on the initial plot installation will continue through 2013, with a large amount of data gathering planned for 2011. As of November 2010, this project had expended about 3 percent of its funds, generating direct employment for approximately 15 people, with significant additional jobs expected as the project ramps up.

West Virginia

Program Project Name: Monongahela National Forest Fish Passage
Local Project Name: Upper Williams (South) Road Decommissioning
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Monongahela
Nearby City(ies): xxx
Congressional District(s): WV03
County(ies): WV: Pocahontas
Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Wilderness Creations/Expansions

(Story posted 12/2/2010)

The Public Lands Management Act of 2009 (PL-111)included what had originally been called the Wild Monongahela Act. This portion of the final act created three new wildernesses in the Monongahela National Forest and expanded three existing wildernesses.

When the act was first proposed, one concern was the presence of non-conforming roads in some of the areas, which were inconsistent with wilderness attributes. The staff of the Monongahela knew that one of the first actions that needed to be taken once the areas were designated was to decommission the non-conforming roads as quickly as possible.

By using a partner contribution of $25,082 from the Canaan Valley Institute, the Forest was able to maximize the amount work accomplished on the ground. Nearly $100,000 in agency funding was contributed by the Forest Service to the project, which resulted in the decommissioning of six miles of roads in the newly designated Big Draft Wilderness, Spice Run Wilderness, and the expanded Cranberry Wilderness.

In the process of decommissioning the roads, the work also made significant improvements to the overall watershed health of the area, providing enduring benefits to the natural resources of the area. The hydrologic modification, sediment production, aquatic habitat fragmentation, impaired soil productivity, and illegal motorized use associated with the roads were virtually eliminated as a result of the road decommissioning efforts in these areas. As an added benefit to wildlife, six small vernal wetlands were created in areas rehabilitated during the roads work.

The work was accomplished through the use of heavy equipment used for ripping compacted surfaces; excavating road fill material and placing it in the previous road cut to achieve the designed minimum outslope; and removing culverts at stream crossings and rehabilitation of stream conditions. Barrier rocks were also installed to deter any future illegal motorized access. Hand crews installed erosion control structures, sowed the prescribed seed mix, and

distributed mulch. The hand crews also transplanted nearby native vegetation onto the newly contoured surface to more rapidly move the area back to a natural appearance.

Because photo plots were established using a Youth Conservation Corps crew, the project can be monitored over time to track the progress of returning an area to conditions to consistent with their new wilderness designation.

This project (Upper Williams (South)) was one of several that were identified in a watershed assessment of 2000.

This contract obliterated miles of road. Numerous culverts and other barriers to fish passage were removed, restoring natural drainage patterns and grades to the landscape.

This project helps to restore habitat for the Brook trout, one of the primary management indicators for the watershed. Accomplishing this on-the-ground work was very rewarding.

Wisconsin

Program Project Name: Green Retrofit of Forest Service office

Local Project Name: Rhinelander Office Bathroom and Doors
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Chequamegon/Nicolet
Nearby City(ies): Rhinelander, Wisconsin
Congressional District(s): WI07
County(ies): WI: Oneida
Related Photo(s) Link: http://www.flickr.com/photos/usdagov/4228537577/, http://www.flickr.com/photos/usdagov/4228537627/, http://www.flickr.com/photos/usdagov/4228537603/in/photostream/
Modified Date: 2/9/2011

Story:

Renovated Building Work Benefits Local Contractor

(Story posted 12/3/2010)

This Recovery Act-funded contract was one aspect of the complete rehabilitation and conversion of an existing office building to become the Supervisor's Office for the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. The building was purchased from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. Students from the Blackwell Job Corps Center "gutted" the building in preparation for contracted effort.

McNeil West Construction of Antigo, Wisconsin, was awarded a contract to construct restroom facilities within the shell of the office building and to install exterior weather-resistant doors to provide security. This work brought the building into compliance with the most current American Disability Act building codes.

Forest staff say that the contractor's work was excellent, also reporting that the contractor's owner, Mr. Dave West, said that without this stimulus money he would have laid off several of his employees.

With the completed rehabilitation of the building, 45 Forest Service employees now occupy this new Supervisor's Office on a daily basis.

Program Project Name: Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest - Deferred Maintenance

Local Project Name: Recreation Site Deferred Maintenance Reduction
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Chequamegon/Nicolet
Nearby City(ies): Supervisor's Office at Rhinelander, Wisconsin
Congressional District(s): WI07, WI08
County(ies): WI: Oneida

Modified Date: 1/5/2011

Story:
Numerous Recreation Sites Get Recovery Act-funded Upgrades

(Story posted 12/3/2010)

Through six Recovery Act-funded contracts, deferred maintenance was reduced at numerous recreation sites across the entire Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in northern Wisconsin.

One contract replaced more than 100 fire rings and grills and 20 picnic tables with fixtures that comply with the American Disability Act, thus providing a more enjoyable recreation experience for people of all abilities. Another contract purchased and installed two new hand pumps for water systems to improve accessibility.

A contract was awarded to install 18 removable boat docks and three piers on various lakes across the Forest while another contract installed concrete planks to extend boat ramps on several lakes. These improvements were needed as lake levels have gradually receded, making boat access more difficult, and in some cases, resulting in resource damage to lake shores.

A contract was awarded to remove old dilapidated restroom buildings while another contract was awarded to purchase and install new pre-cast concrete restroom buildings in their place at approximately 15 sites. These new facilities will improve the recreational experience for visitors, plus improve sanitation, helping to protect the environment for future generations.

Program Project Name: Improved Energy Use and Facility Maintenance at Rhinelander and Harshaw Farm, Wisconsin

Local Project Name: Rhinelander, WI Facilities Energy Use Improvements
Region: Northeastern Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Rhinelander, WI
Estimated Project Cost: $294,287.00
Congressional District(s): WI07
County(ies): WI: Oneida
Modified Date: 12/17/2010

Story:
Northern Research Station Facilities Upgrades Reduce Operating Costs

(Story posted 12/10/2010)

In Wisconsin, seven contractors worked on projects to bring the 1960s-era Forest Service Northern Research Station facilities in Rhinelander up to modern standards and increase

security and energy efficiency at the nearby Harshaw Experimental Farm facility.

Completed in summer 2010, the work has reduced operating costs while ensuring a healthier environment for scientists and support staff working to develop innovative tools that bring forestry science results to a scale relevant for policy makers and land managers. Contractors replaced windows and doors; installed electrical service, heating, and lighting upgrades along with heating and air conditioning ventilation and humidification; replaced the roof; insulated the exterior; and seal coated and striped the parking lot.

Harshaw Farm, which hosts the world-class climate change experiment called Aspen FACE (Free-Air Carbon Dioxide Enrichment), got a security system and a new furnace.

Wyoming

Program Project Name: Regionwide Historic Building Restorations

Local Project Name: San Juan National Forest Historical & Archaeological Restoration projects

Region: Rocky Mountain Region

Forest: San Juan

Nearby City(ies): Durango, Colorado

Congressional District(s): CO02, CO03, CO05, SD00, WY00

County(ies): CO: Archuleta, Conejos, Dolores, Eagle, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Lake, Montezuma, Saguache; SD: Custer, Lawrence; WY: Park

Modified Date: 12/21/2010

Story:

Recovery Act Funding Supports Historical Site Restoration

(Story posted 11/16/2010)

The San Juan National Forest has a rich historic and prehistoric legacy reflected in its old ranger stations, fire lookout towers, and archaeological sites. Several of these unique and irreplaceable resources have received Recovery Act funding for restoration projects.

GLADE GUARD STATION:
The Recovery Act is funding utility reconstruction at the Glade Guard Station to prepare the historical cabin for public rental in the future. The cabin's potable water supply system has been reconstructed, its wastewater-disposal system replaced, and a new propane storage tank installed. The Glade Guard Station's water system has been retrofitted to solar power and its water well and treatment system upgraded for water filtration and disinfection. In addition, a water hydrant is being installed to supply water to the barn and corral. A new wastewater system will be installed to provide for collection and disposal of sewage and gray water generated in the residence.

ASPEN GUARD STATION:
At the Aspen Guard Station, a Civilian Conservation Corps-era ranger's cabin, Recovery Act funding was used to replace an unreliable spring water source with a safer groundwater well. The new water system includes a solar-powered pump, water line between the well and cabin, chlorination system to disinfect the water, and pressure tanks to provide storage and adequate pressure to fixtures. The Aspen Guard Station has been used for the past 15 years to house the popular San Juan National Forest Artist-in-Residence Program. The updated water system will provide a reliable and safe drinking water system for resident artists and teachers.

CHIMNEY ROCK ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREA:
The Recovery Act is funding several projects at Chimney Rock Archaeological Area that will help preserve cultural resources, improve facilities, and enhance visitors' experiences.

Moisture monitors have been installed in prehistoric walls to help archaeologists evaluate the efficiency of past stabilization efforts and to identify and address future stabilization problems in advance before damage occurs.

Other work includes removal of the Chimney Rock Fire Lookout Tower, which shared the mesa top with the prehistoric Great House. The tower was initially constructed in the 1940s, largely removed in the 70s, and reconstructed in the late 80s. Its location detracted from the unique archaeological setting of the world-class Ancestral Puebloan site, obstructing views of the rock pinnacles from the Great House and kiva, and blocking views of astronomical alignments that the prehistoric inhabitants incorporated into their layout of the site. Interpretive signs will be erected at the lower visitor parking lot offering information on the lookout tower and the history of fire suppression.

In addition, crumbling masonry walls around the upper parking lot are receiving a concrete cap to deflect water, and a non-functional restroom has been removed and replaced with a concrete patio area.

Contractors and partners who received Recovery Act funding to complete these projects include the following:
• Chimney Rock Interpretive Association of Pagosa Springs
• MakNak Construction, LLC of Dolores
• Trigon General Contractors and Construction Managers of Durango
• Spallone Construction of Gunnison
• First Cut Development and Animas Well Drilling of Durango
• Clamber, Inc of Durango
• Animas Well Drilling
• Signature Underwriters
• Dominguez Archaeological Research Group
• CR Plumbing and Heating
• Yellow Jacket Solar of Yellow Jacket
• Woods Canyon of Yellow Jacket
• Petrographics of Durango

Program Project Name: Western Wyoming Fuel Breaks and Mitigation

Local Project Name: Crescent H Common Lots Fuels Mitigation Project
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Nearby City(ies): Lincoln, Sublette, Teton, and Uinta counties
Congressional District(s): WY00
County(ies): WY: Teton
Modified Date: 2/9/2011

Story:

Forest Service Recovery Act Funds Reduce Fire Risk on Private Lands

(Story posted 1/5/2011)

The State of Wyoming awarded U.S. Forest Service Recovery Act funds to Lincoln, Sublette, Teton, and Uinta counties to complete fuel break and hazard fuel treatment projects submitted through a competitive process to protect high priority private lands adjacent to National Forests and communities.

In Teton County, the Crescent H Common Lots Fuels Mitigation project treated 142 acres using helicopter whole tree removal. Work began October 1, 2009 and was completed December 31, 2009. The contractor removed approximately 6,000 tons of fuels, including over 1,200 tons of slash.

This project was originally proposed as a land logging project but was changed to a helicopter logging project when landownership changed. Two parties own the property that was designated as “common land” for the adjacent Crescent H Ranches subdivision landowners when the original ranch was subdivided. Along with this designation, a scenic easement was given to Teton County Scenic Trust Board. After several public meetings, the project was allowed to be completed. The fuels reduction work provides a fuel treatment area to complement the efforts of the individual lot owners in the subdivision. This project also removed currently infested mountain pine beetle trees to lessen the infestation buildup in the area. The Crescent H Ranches subdivision is bound by National Forest System land on its western property line.

Program Project Name: Western Wyoming Fuel Breaks and Mitigation

Local Project Name: Cribiore Fuels Mitigation Project
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Nearby City(ies): Wilson
Congressional District(s): WY00
County(ies): WY: Teton
Modified Date: 2/9/2011

Story:

Reduced Fire Risk on Private Lands Also Lessens Mountain Pine Beetle Outbreak Threat

(Story posted 1/5/2011)

The State of Wyoming awarded U.S. Forest Service Recovery Act funds to Lincoln, Sublette, Teton, and Uinta counties to complete fuel break and hazard fuel treatment projects submitted through a competitive process to protect high priority private lands adjacent to National Forests and communities.

In Teton County, the Cribiore Fuels Mitigation Project was a continuation of projects along

the Wilson Front north of Wilson and adjacent to National Forest System land and its proposed shaded fuel break. A Wyoming contractor began work October 1, 2009 and finished that same year, logging 80 acres and burning slash to lessen the fire danger to private property and to lessen the threat from the mountain pine beetle outbreak on adjacent federal and private lands.

Program Project Name: Western Wyoming Fuel Breaks and Mitigation

Local Project Name: Afton Front Fuels Mitigation Project, Phase I
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Nearby City(ies): Afton
Congressional District(s): WY00
County(ies): WY: Teton
Modified Date: 2/9/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Reduced Fire Risk Benefits Private, Public Property

(Story posted 1/5/2011)

The State of Wyoming awarded U.S. Forest Service Recovery Act funds to Lincoln, Sublette, Teton, and Uinta counties to complete fuel break and hazard fuel treatment projects submitted through a competitive process to protect high priority private lands adjacent to National Forests and communities.

In Lincoln County, the Afton Front Fuels Mitigation Project--Phase 1 was originally proposed as a joint timber sale between three ownerships and the U.S. Forest Service. Due to some environmental concerns, roadless area designation, and the decline in the timber market, this project was put on hold. When limited funding became available, the proposed project was split into three phases.

The project area is just south of the town of Afton, and the first phase was the Frome property that was closest to the town of Afton. A Douglas fir beetle outbreak had affected this area beginning in 2004. A helicopter contractor began work October 1, 2009, treating 50 acres and removing almost 1,000 tons of fuels, including logs and chipped slash. This project was completed December 31, 2009.

Program Project Name: Western Wyoming Fuel Breaks and Mitigation

Local Project Name: Meeks Ridge Fuels Mitigation Project, Phase I
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Nearby City(ies): Uinta County
Congressional District(s): WY00
County(ies): WY: Teton
Modified Date: 2/9/2011

Story:
Multiple Property Owners Use Recovery Act Funds to Reduce Fire Risk on Private Lands

(Story posted 1/5/2011)

The State of Wyoming awarded U.S. Forest Service Recovery Act funds to Lincoln, Sublette, Teton, and Uinta counties to complete fuel break and hazard fuel treatment projects submitted through a competitive process to protect high priority private lands adjacent to National Forests and communities.

In Uinta County, the Meeks Fuels Mitigation Project--Phase 1 was originally proposed as a joint sale between the ownerships. Due to the decline in the timber market, this project was put on hold. When limited funding became available, the proposed project was put forth again. While some of the ownerships had changed hands and the new owners decided not to take part in the project, the local contractor treated 363 acres, beginning October 1, 2009. the contractor removed over 35,000 trees and burned slash to reduce ladder fuels on the forest floor. This project was completed June 30, 2010.

Program Project Name: Western Wyoming Fuel Breaks and Mitigation

Local Project Name: Meeks Ridge Fuels Mitigation Project, Phase II
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Nearby City(ies): Tokewanna
Congressional District(s): WY00
County(ies): WY: Teton
Modified Date: 1/6/2011

Story:
Forest Service Recovery Act Funds Augment Fire Risk Reduction on Private Lands

(Story posted 1/5/2011)

The State of Wyoming awarded U.S. Forest Service Recovery Act funds to Lincoln, Sublette, Teton, and Uinta counties to complete fuel break and hazard fuel treatment projects submitted through a competitive process to protect high priority private lands adjacent to National Forests and communities.

in Uinta County, the Meeks Ridge Fuels Mitigation Project--Phase 2 involves the Smoot property, an adjacent property to the Tokewanna subdivision, and the main road through the subdivision. With limited funding, it was decided to spend the money for “common property” within the subdivision rather than provide it to a select few. The homeowners are completing work on their own properties through other funding programs.

This area has been hard hit by the mountain pine beetle epidemic. The prescription for the

Smoot property is a thinning treatment with a final spacing of 15 to 20 feet between trees with the removal of all currently infested bark beetle trees and both standing and down dead material.

The prescription for the Tokewanna subdivision is to create a shaded fuel break along the main access road, which involves removal of all dead and currently infested trees and thinning to a spacing of 15 to 25 feet between trees with the remaining trees pruned to a height of 16 feet. This treatment will occur within the 60 foot right-of-way for the entire length of road.

An Idaho-based contractor began work on this project October 15, 2010 and will treat approximately 45 acres by removing trees and burning slash.

Program Project Name: Bark Beetle - HF reduction around WUI - FY09 Phase 1b

Local Project Name: WyColo/Pelton Creek
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Medicine Bow-Routt
Ranger District: Laramie
Nearby City(ies): Laramie
Estimated Project Cost: $337,561.00
Congressional District(s): CO03, CO04, WY00
County(ies): CO: Boulder, Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Larimer, Routt, Summit; WY: Albany, Carbon
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Workers Remove Dead Trees to Minimize Wildland Fire Risk

(Story posted 1/10/2011)

Over the past five years the national forests in Colorado and Wyoming have been heavily impacted by bark beetles. To date, bark beetles have affected approximately 2.5 million acres of trees.

The dead trees have created a severe fire hazard over a majority of the national forests. This fire hazard is especially concerning to homeowners and communities adjacent to the national forests.

On Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, workers removed beetle-killed trees from 285 acres of wildland-urban interface to protect communities by reducing wildland fire risk.

Forest Service Recovery Act funds were awarded to the project for hazardous tree removal on the wildland-urban interface.

Program Project Name: Bark Beetle - HF reduction around WUI - FY09 Phase 1b

Local Project Name: Porter Creek
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Medicine Bow-Routt
Ranger District: Laramie
Nearby City(ies): Laramie
Estimated Project Cost: $34,672.00
Congressional District(s): CO03, CO04, WY00
County(ies): CO: Boulder, Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Larimer, Routt, Summit; WY: Albany, Carbon
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Cleanup of Beetle-killed Trees

(Story posted 1/10/2011)

Over the past five years, the national forests in Colorado and Wyoming have been heavily impacted by bark beetles. To date, bark beetles have affected approximately 2.5 million acres of trees.

The dead trees have created a severe fire hazard over a majority of the national forests. This fire hazard is especially concerning to homeowners and communities adjacent to the national forests.

On Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, workers removed beetle-killed trees from 31 acres of wildland-urban interface to protect communities by reducing wildland fire risk.

Forest Service Recovery Act funds were awarded to the project for hazardous tree removal on the wildland-urban interface.

Program Project Name: Bark Beetle - HF reduction around WUI - FY09 Phase 1b

Local Project Name: White Rock Estates
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Medicine Bow-Routt
Ranger District: Brush Creek Hayden
Nearby City(ies): Saratoga
Estimated Project Cost: $239,346.00
Congressional District(s): CO03, CO04, WY00
County(ies): CO: Boulder, Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Larimer, Routt, Summit; WY: Albany, Carbon
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Workers Remove Trees Killed by Bark Beetles to Reduce Wildland Fire Risk

(Story posted 1/10/2011)

Over the past five years, the national forests in Colorado and Wyoming have been heavily impacted by bark beetles. To date, bark beetles have affected approximately 2.5 million acres of trees.

The dead trees have created a severe fire hazard over a majority of the national forests. This fire hazard is especially concerning to homeowners and communities adjacent to the national forests.

On Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, workers have removed beetle-killed trees from 214 acres of wildland-urban interface to protect communities by reducing wildland fire risk.

Forest Service Recovery Act funds were awarded to the project for hazardous tree removal on the wildland-urban interface.

Program Project Name: Bark Beetle - HF reduction around WUI - FY09 Phase 1b

Local Project Name: Grouse Mountain
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Medicine Bow-Routt
Ranger District: Parks-RT
Nearby City(ies): Kremmling
Estimated Project Cost: $48,093.00
Congressional District(s): CO03, CO04, WY00
County(ies): CO: Boulder, Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Larimer, Routt, Summit; WY: Albany, Carbon
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Beetle-killed Trees Removed from 43 Acres on Medicine-Bow Routt National Forest

(Story posted 1/10/2011)

Over the past five years, the national forests in Colorado and Wyoming have been heavily impacted by bark beetles. To date, bark beetles have affected approximately 2.5 million acres of trees.

The dead trees have created a severe fire hazard over a majority of the national forests. This fire hazard is especially concerning to homeowners and communities adjacent to the national forests.

On Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, workers removed beetle-killed trees from 43 acres of wildland-urban interface to protect communities by reducing wildland fire risk.

Forest Service Recovery Act funds were awarded to the project for hazardous tree removal on the wildland-urban interface.

Program Project Name: Bark Beetle - HF reduction around WUI - FY09 Phase 1b

Local Project Name: Summer Cabin
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Medicine Bow-Routt
Ranger District: Parks-RT
Nearby City(ies): Walden
Estimated Project Cost: $49,211.00
Congressional District(s): CO03, CO04, WY00
County(ies): CO: Boulder, Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Larimer, Routt, Summit; WY: Albany, Carbon
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Workers Clear Dead Trees from 44 Acres of Wildland-Urban Interface

(Story posted 1/10/2011)

Over the past five years, the national forests in Colorado and Wyoming have been heavily impacted by bark beetles. To date, bark beetles have affected approximately 2.5 million acres of trees.

The dead trees have created a severe fire hazard over a majority of the national forests. This fire hazard is especially concerning to homeowners and communities adjacent to the national forests.

On Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, workers removed beetle-killed trees from 44 acres of wildland-urban interface to protect communities by reducing wildland fire risk.

Forest Service Recovery Act funds were awarded to the project for hazardous tree removal on the wildland-urban interface.

Program Project Name: Bark Beetle - HF reduction around WUI - FY09 Phase 1b

Local Project Name: Upton/Osage
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Medicine Bow-Routt
Ranger District: Douglas
Nearby City(ies): Douglas
Estimated Project Cost: $722,842.00
Congressional District(s): CO03, CO04, WY00
County(ies): CO: Boulder, Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Larimer, Routt, Summit; WY: Albany, Carbon

Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:
Fuels Treatment Applied to 691 Acres to Reduce Wildland Fire Risk

(Story posted 1/10/2011)

Over the past five years, the national forests in Colorado and Wyoming have been heavily impacted by bark beetles. To date, bark beetles have affected approximately 2.5 million acres of trees.

The dead trees have created a severe fire hazard over a majority of the national forests. This fire hazard is especially concerning to homeowners and communities adjacent to the national forests.

On Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, workers completed fuels treatment on 691 acres of wildland-urban interface for community protection from wildland fire.

The Forest Service partnered with the Colorado and Wyoming State Forest Services and local fire departments to plan and facilitate the hazardous fuels treatments for this project. Research by Jack Cowen at the Missoula, Montana Wildland Fire Laboratory shows that the fuels treatments the Forest proposed are effective in reducing fire severity adjacent to homes.

Forest Service Recovery Act funds were awarded to the project for hazardous tree removal on the wildland-urban interface.

Program Project Name: Bark Beetle - HF reduction around WUI - FY09 Phase 1b

Local Project Name: Friend Creek
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Medicine Bow-Routt
Ranger District: Douglas
Nearby City(ies): Douglas
Estimated Project Cost: $44,738.00
Congressional District(s): CO03, CO04, WY00
County(ies): CO: Boulder, Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Larimer, Routt, Summit; WY: Albany, Carbon
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:
Fuel Reduction Projects Completed to Reduce Risk of Fire

(Story posted 1/10/2011)

Over the past five years, the national forests in Colorado and Wyoming have been heavily impacted by bark beetles. To date, bark beetles have affected approximately 2.5 million acres of trees.

The dead trees have created a severe fire hazard over a majority of the national forests. This fire hazard is especially concerning to homeowners and communities adjacent to the national forests.

On Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, workers completed fuels reduction projects on 40 acres of wildland-urban interface for community protection from wildland fire.

The Forest Service partnered with the Colorado and Wyoming State Forest Services and local fire departments to plan and facilitate the hazardous fuels treatments for this project. Research by Jack Cowen at the Missoula, Montana Wildland Fire Laboratory shows that the fuels treatments the Forest proposed are effective in reducing fire severity adjacent to homes.

Forest Service Recovery Act funds were awarded to the project for fuels treatment on the wildland-urban interface.

Program Project Name: Bark Beetle - HF reduction around WUI - FY09 Phase 1b

Local Project Name: 42 fuels
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Medicine Bow-Routt
Ranger District: Hahns Peak/Bears Ear
Nearby City(ies): Steamboat Springs
Congressional District(s): CO03, CO04, WY00
County(ies): CO: Boulder, Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Larimer, Routt, Summit; WY: Albany, Carbon
Modified Date: 2/16/2011

Story:

Removing Dead Trees on Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest Mitigates Wildland Fire Risk

(Story posted 1/10/2011)

Over the past five years, the national forests in Colorado and Wyoming have been heavily impacted by bark beetles. To date, bark beetles have affected approximately 2.5 million acres of trees.

The dead trees have created a severe fire hazard over a majority of the national forests. This fire hazard is especially concerning to homeowners and communities adjacent to the national forests.

On Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, workers have removed beetle-killed trees from the

wildland-urban interface to protect communities from wildland fire risk.

Forest Service Recovery Act funds paid for this project.