



Road Reconstruction/Decommissioning – Recovery Act Projects– Dolores, Montezuma, Archuleta & Hinsdale Counties

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 USFS and BLM 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.

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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.



Road Repairs/Decommissioning - Recovery Act Projects - continued



County Cooperative Agreements are used by the San Juan to help share road-maintenance costs with counties on shared National Forest 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.



H 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:

- Four Corners Materials of Montezuma County
- J. E. Hurley Construction of Colorado Springs
- Aztec Archaeological Construction of Aztec, New Mexico
- Bankston Trucking & Excavation of Dolores
- F & M Construction of Bayfield
- Federal Highway Administration
- KW Enterprises of Durango
- McStone Aggregates of Dolores
- Archuleta & Dolores Counties