USDA Forest Service
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
Project Stories

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

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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

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

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

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

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
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
Congressional District(s): AL03
County(ies): AL: Lee
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3r5oced
Modified Date: 4/11/2011

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

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

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

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

Related Photo(s) Link:
http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5313753.pdf

Modified Date: 8/25/2011

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

Congressional District(s): AK00

County(ies): AK: Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/63zwhd9
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/6af4j75
Modified Date: 4/13/2011

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

Congressional District(s): AK00

County(ies): AK: Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area

Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/68wpemn; http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5314008.pdf; http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5314009.pdf

Modified Date: 8/25/2011

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

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
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Fairbanks North Star Borough, Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area
Related Photo(s) Link:
http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5202966.pdf;
http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5314043.pdf
Modified Date: 8/25/2011

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

(Story posted 4/21/2010)

In the Fairbanks Northstar Borough, 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 awardee, 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
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
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
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
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/66847fk
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Yakutat Borough
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/6fyv3km; http://prdp2fs.ess.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5313656.pdf
Modified Date: 8/25/2011

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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
Congressional District(s): AK00

County(ies): AK: Juneau Borough
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/6k8ywvx; https://fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5202957.pdf
Modified Date: 8/25/2011

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 equipment rental 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
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
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area
Modified Date: 6/21/2011

Story:
Road Reconstruction Work Moves Ahead with Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 5/19/2010)

This project on the Tongass National Forest 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 30 salmon stream crossings.

By improving water quality in major spawning streams, it is hoped that four species of salmon will increase in numbers. The project 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
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/6kzdqsr
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Yakutat Borough
Modified Date: 6/21/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-Funded Road Work Benefits Remote Community

(Story posted 6/15/2011)

A road restoration project on the Tongass National Forest provided badly needed jobs in economically depressed areas with high unemployment, such as Yakutat, a remote economically depressed community with two grocery stores, one gas station, no cell phone service, and two commercial airline flights per day. The Alaska Marine Highway ferry and commercial barges provide service once a month to Yakutat from Juneau..
Work near Yakutat involved a tracked excavator and operator working on single-lane forest roads performing roadside drainage restoration while a second employee worked broadcasting grass seed and fertilizer on exposed soils for soil stabilization and sediment

minimalization.

A Sitka, Alaska contractor was awarded the contract, who worked from late May through late July 2010. He mobilized to Yakutat via commercial barge lines and hired a local Yakutat contractor to move his equipment to work sites. During those two months the contractor purchased goods and services, such as fuel, transportation, and food, in Yakutat, a remote community of approximately 600 residents.

The finished roadwork is helping restore the land and salmon stream crossings. By improving water quality in major spawning streams on the Tongass, it is hoped that four species of salmon will increase in numbers, which 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: Beaver Lake Trail and Bridge
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Ranger District: Sitka
Nearby City(ies): Sitka, Alaska
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
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Sitka Borough
Modified Date: 6/21/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-Funded Road Reconstruction Project Benefits Resources, Alaskans

(Story posted 6/17/2011)

In fall 2010, TM Construction began a road work project located on Chichagof Island utilizing a crew of three that will be completed in early summer 2011. Along with other Tongass National Forest road maintenance activities, two road crossings affecting fish passage are being replaced to restore fish passage. These activities will provide long-term benefits to subsistence, recreational, and commercial fishing in both Sitka and Angoon, a small, remote native village. Both communities are highly dependent upon these resources.

In addition to the subsistence and fisheries improvements, this road work is enhancing recreational opportunities in the area, allowing access to the Sitkoh Lake rental cabin as well as removing health and safety concerns on a motorized trail. The road reconstruction project is also improving water quality standards in a priority watershed with high fisheries value.

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

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
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
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area
Modified Date: 8/18/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-Funded Bridge Replacement Project Improves Public Safety, Access

(Story posted 6/15/2011)

This Tongass National Forest Recovery Act-funded project took place in the economically depressed rural village of Hoonah, a community with few employment opportunities.

The project involved the replacement of numerous deficient bridges; installation of bridge guard rails systems; removal and replacement of bridge wearing surfaces; bridge railing replacement/retrofit; and other miscellaneous repairs. These bridges are located on routes that serve as direct links for access needs, including subsistence needs, which are critical for residents in rural Alaskan villages.
The contract was awarded to Channel Construction, who employed a crew of five to seven employees. Channel then subbed out some of the work items to a local contractor, Coutlee & Sons Construction, who hired four local youth for the project. The contractors purchased 8,000 square feet of timber planks from a local small mill owner, who hired an employee to help process this plank order, further benefiting this small rural community.

The 2010 contract work took place in July and August, with finishing touches done in late October of 2010.

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
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area
Modified Date: 6/21/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-Funded Fish Passage Project Benefits Natural Resources, Economy

(Story posted 6/17/2011)

This Recovery Act-funded fish passage improvement project was located on the Tongass National Forest in the Thorne Bay area on Prince of Wales Island. This remote, small community is highly dependent on National Forest System roads and bridges for community connections and access for subsistence fishing and hunting. This project replaced five stream crossings that restricted fish passage and reopened several miles of high-value salmon habitat, providing long-term benefits to subsistence, recreational, and commercial fishing to generate much-needed jobs in a remote area with high unemployment and limited job opportunities.

Ketchikan Ready Mix started the work on July 3, 2010, and the project was substantially completed by August 15, with final wrap-up completed October 25. A crew of three worked for approximately six weeks with two others working occasionally. Expenditures for local housing, food, fuel, and transportation were also highly beneficial to the Thorne Bay community.

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
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/6e9nkfb
Modified Date: 4/13/2011

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: 8/22/2011

Story:
Road Maintenance/Storage Project Benefits Natural Resources, Residents

(Story posted 7/22/2011)

On the Tongass National Forest, a Recovery Act-funded road maintenance and storage project is helping restore land and replace road crossings that affect fish passage on the south side of Revillagigedo Island.

Alaskan contractors have been working on the project that will provide long-term benefits to commercial, subsistence, and recreational fishing in this area as well as reduce long-term maintenance costs. Slide removal and roadside brushing are addressing health and safety concerns on these roads, which provide access for several island communities that are highly dependent on this forest road system for subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering activities, as well as access for recreational opportunities. The work to restore salmon stream crossings will reduce sedimentation, helping to restore natural drainage patterns.

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
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area
Modified Date: 7/6/2011

Story:
Tongass National Forest Bridge Replacements Contribute to Safety, Ecological Restoration

(Story posted 6/23/2011)

On the Tongass National Forest, contractor Ketchikan Ready Mix rehabilitated 34 bridges on National Forest System roads located on Prince of Wales Island. These bridges are located on routes that serve as direct access needs for numerous small remote communities on Prince of Wales Island. Prior to reconstruction, these bridges posed critical health and safety risks to the public who depend on them for community access and subsistence access, both of which are critical for residents in rural Alaska communities.

A crew of three worked from January through October of 2010. The contract refurbished guardrails and curbs to meet current standards, improved bridge approaches, replaced wearing surface planks, treated structural members, and constructed treated timber back walls. This work will provide long-term ecological benefits by reducing erosion and sedimentation to high value salmon streams, further enhancing commercial, sport, and

subsistence opportunities for southeastern Alaskans highly dependent on these resources.

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: 6/22/2011

Story:

Tongass National Forest Restores Land, Salmon Crossings with Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 6/22/2011)

On the Tongass National Forest, a project to temporarily close and remove roads to restore the land and salmon stream crossings is supporting the many residents whose lifestyle depends on living from the land and streams in rural villages in Alaska. This road storage project was located at five isolated road systems on Revillagigedo Island.

The project was awarded to Ketchikan Ready Mix, a local Ketchikan contractor. A sub-contractor, Seaborne Marine Services, also of Ketchikan, was utilized. The work took place from May through November of 2010 with eight employees on the job site during the peak performance, as well as another nine people indirectly employed as a result of this project. Indirect jobs included that of the tug boat skipper, barge crew, payroll, and office support, as well as suppliers of bridge components, culvert materials, and crushed rock.

The project involved road maintenance and storage on approximately 113 miles of road. Workers also removed slides and conducted roadside brushing to address health and safety concerns on these roads, which provide access for several island communities highly dependent on this forest road system for subsistence activities as well as recreation access. The work to restore salmon stream crossings will reduce sedimentation, restore natural drainage patterns, and increase fish habitat, providing long-term benefits to commercial, subsistence, and recreational fishing. Long-term road maintenance costs will be significantly reduced.

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
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
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/6386x74; http://prdp2fs.ess.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5313656.pdf
Modified Date: 8/25/2011

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
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Sitka Borough
Modified Date: 6/21/2011

Story:

Tongass National Forest Uses Recovery Act Funds to Support Important Road Work

(Story posted 6/17/2011)

This road storage and maintenance project on the Tongass National Forest took place on the arterial roads of the False Island road system, which is located on Chichagof Island. This road system is used by the communities of Sitka and Angoon, a small, remote Native village, with both communities highly dependent upon access for subsistence and recreation. The contract was awarded to S&S Construction with the majority of work taking place in July and August of 2009 utilizing a crew of three. Those three jobs would have been lost without this work. Additional work was completed by a sub-contractor who also utilized a crew of three.

Workers placed rarely used roads into storage by pulling drainage structures to prevent resource damage, improve water quality, and enhance fisheries. They also converted some road sections to motorized trails to enhance subsistence gathering as well as increase recreation opportunities. The contractors also replaced failing culverts and older failing log

bridges. The work addressed health and safety concerns on roads converted to motorized trails by brushing encroaching vegetation and repairing minor slides. Additional work items were added for road repair on the two main roads in the road system, ensuring access for years to come.

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
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/6y39twz
Modified Date: 4/13/2011

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
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area
Related Photo(s) Link:
http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5313659.pdf
Modified Date: 8/25/2011

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
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Ketchikan Gateway Borough
Related Photo(s) Link:
http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5202976.pdf
Modified Date: 8/25/2011

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. Use the link below to read the story.

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
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

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

Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/6l8qvgm

Modified Date: 12/29/2011

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.

Program Project Name: Begich Boggs Visitor Center Parking Lot

Local Project Name: BBVC Parking Lot Survey and Design
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Chugach
Ranger District: Glacier
Nearby City(ies): Girdwood
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Kenai Peninsula Borough
Modified Date: 3/20/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Parking Lot Survey, Design

(Story posted 3/15/3012)

On the Chugach National Forest, the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center is one of the most popular recreation facilities in Alaska. Located within a two-hour drive of more than half of the state's population and a major stop for cruise ship passengers on land tours, the center is a prime attraction for locals and tourists alike.

Because visitor safety is the highest priority, the Forest has been working to improve the parking areas and paths to provide for safe efficient traffic flow and parking. In 2007 the Forest Service produced a conceptual design, but the plan was not to scale and did not fit the site. In late 2009, Recovery Act funds supported a design contract to produce a new site plan to reduce traffic congestion, confusion, and the potential for accidents. The recently completed design allows for the following:

• Helps visitors easily locate the visitor center parking lot and other amenities.
• Allows for visual access to the visitors' center upon arrival to support visitor orientation to the

site.
• Allows for visual access from the visitor center to the lodge that helps visitors explore the site and visit the lodge without use of a vehicle.
• Provides visual access to the Trail of Blue Ice trailhead from the front door of the visitor center and locates bicycle parking close to the visitor center entry.
• Enhances pedestrian safety for people of all abilities by providing a place where both buses and cars can drop off passengers. This area is well lighted and has a special accent pavement to help designate it as a pedestrian area, with accessible parking located close to the center and drop-off area.
• The parking area looks over the lake, so it can be seen during rainy and windy weather.
• An amphitheater with informal seating is located close to the visitor center and somewhat out of the wind for interpretive lectures and orientation.

Once implemented, the new design will address increasing visitation and changing use patterns to easily accommodate large numbers of tour buses and recreational vehicles while maintaining the unique character of Portage Valley.

Program Project Name: Iditarod National Historic Trail 6 Bridges for Safety and Protection

Local Project Name: Iditarod Snow Machine bridges
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Chugach
Ranger District: Glacier
Nearby City(ies): Girdwood
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Kenai Peninsula Borough
Related Photo(s) Link: http://prdp2fs.ess.usda.gov/detail/recovery/accomplishments/photos-video/?cid=stelprdb5357494
Modified Date: 7/10/2012

Story:

Iditarod National Historic Recovery Act-funded Trail Bridges Support Local Economies, Enhance Recreation Access Opportunities

(Story posted 3/1/2012)

The Iditarod National Historic Trail (INHT) south of Anchorage commemorates America's last great gold rush. It connects people to a time when sled dogs and mushers hauled tons of mail and supplies over 2,600 miles of frozen trail and tundra.

The Chugach National Forest is working with several partners on a high-profile effort to restore and develop over 180 miles of a year-round recreation trail along the Southern Trek of Iditarod between Seward and Girdwood. Between August 2010 and June 2011, Recovery Act-funded workers built four trail bridges to provide improved snowmachine access to

backcountry riding opportunities: the Spokane Creek Bridge; Bertha Creek Bridge; Lower Granite Creek Bridge; and Upper Granite Creek Bridge.

This week the Anchorage-based firm that built the bridges will address minor ramp settling issues, but snowmachine enthusiasts have been safely using the new structures all winter. The new bridges have provided a travel route generally outside of avalanche zones while greatly improving outdoor recreation access opportunities. Local small communities along the route are able to provide services to more trail users to benefit the economy.

Program Project Name: Iditarod National Historic Trail Improvement for Improved Visitor Safety

Local Project Name: Iditarod Trail Improvement
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Chugach
Ranger District: Seward
Nearby City(ies): Girdwood, Moose Pass, Seward
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Kenai Peninsula Borough
Modified Date: 3/28/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded INHT Trail Improvements Support History, Recreation

(Story posted 3/16/2012)

On the Chugach National Forest, Recovery Act-funded trail work to construct or reconstruct approximately 20 miles of the Iditarod National Historic Trail underway seasonally since June of 2010 will be finished this summer. Because much of the original Iditarod trail in this area has been used for other transportation routes such as the Seward Highway and the Alaska Railroad; contractors are building a pedestrian trail that will complete priority segments from the Winner Creek trailhead in Girdwood to Rosehip Creek; from Johnson Pass through Turnagain Pass; and from Primrose north to Vagt Lake.

The work that also includes repairing the Victor Creek and Ptarmigan Creek trails from their trailheads near the Seward Highway to where they join into the new trail will enhance year-round outdoor recreation opportunities within a short drive of Anchorage. Trail crew members have expressed pride in helping build infrastructure that will help get others outdoors while commemorating an important piece of history—the route made famous by gold prospectors and their dog teams during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The Chugach National Forest awarded three Recovery Act-funded contracts for this effort: Oregon Woods, Inc. was awarded the contract for segment one, and Clarence McReynolds Trail Builders was awarded segments two and three. Segment one is a total of 11.7 miles of new trail construction; segment two is a total of 7.2 miles of new trail construction and reconstruction; and segment three was 1.5 miles of new trail construction.

Oregon Woods Inc. has employed three two-person crews plus a project manager for the past two summer seasons. Each crew has a mini excavator, one of which is equipped with a power hammer to chisel through bedrock to create the trail and drainage features. The trail crew workers suffer through many rainy days, slogging through muddy ground to reach their work sites, but their pride in helping construct something that will get others outdoors is always evident.

Clarence McReynolds Trail Builders employed a three-person crew for the past two summers, moving its workers between the two contracts. Segment three was in an area accessible by nine miles of existing trail; the contractor used local helicopter services to establish its base camp and fly in weekly supplies to its crew members. The contractor noted this was a one-way trail: many people hike down, but none back up! Visitors are floating out on the Twentymile River using lightweight packrafts, a fairly new Alaskan answer to inaccessible river floats.

Segment one is located between Johnson Pass North Trailhead and an existing highway pullout at mile post 72.5 of the Seward Highway. This trail runs through the area known as Turnagain Pass and roughly parallels the Seward Highway between 1/8 and one mile away from this roadway. This trail ties in with the existing 21-mile long Johnson Pass trail segment of the Iditarod National Historic Trail. Segment two is located between Snow River and Vagt Lake and includes reconstruction of the Victor Creek and Ptarmigan Creek trails from their trailheads near the Seward Highway to where they join into the new trail. Segment one and two contracts are still underway with completion slated for this coming summer— 2012.

Segment three, which was finished in 2011, is located nine miles in from the Winner Creek trailhead in Girdwood and extends this segment of the Iditarod to Rosehip Creek, a tributary of the Twentymile River.

Program Project Name: Chugach National Forest-Snug Harbor Road Recondition and Resurface

Local Project Name: Snug Harbor Road Reconditioning

Region: Alaska Region

Forest: Chugach

Ranger District: Seward

Nearby City(ies): Cooper Landing

Congressional District(s): AK00

County(ies): AK: Kenai Peninsula Borough

Related Photo(s) Link: http://prdp2fs.ess.usda.gov/detail/recovery/accomplishments/photos-video/?cid=stelprdb5358899

Modified Date: 6/11/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Road Repairs Benefit Travelers, Resources

(Story posted 3/16/2012)

In 2010, Recovery Act-funded workers repaired eight miles of the severely degraded Snug Harbor Road to provide a safer public experience and reduce deferred maintenance on the existing road. In recent years, several culverts had washed out, resulting in costly emergency repairs, resource damage, and service disruptions. Beginning in April, an Anchorage-based contractor analyzed and redesigned drainage in the road corridor and addressed ditches and cross drainage needs. Workers removed aged culverts and added more cross drains with armored ditch protection and then resurfaced the road with 6 inches of crushed aggregate to minimize the significant potholing, wash boarding, and large rocks penetrating the road surface, finishing the project by August.

Located south of Anchorage along the Sterling Highway near Cooper Landing, Alaska, on the Chugach National Forest, Snug Harbor Road provides the only access to a national forest trailhead and to a hydroelectric plant that provides power to the Kenai Peninsula. An existing agreement with Chugach Electric Association will ensure that the reconstructed road will be maintained to the appropriate standard needed to best serve travelers and protect resources.

Program Project Name: Alaganik Slough Boardwalk Repair for Health, Safety and Accessibility

Local Project Name: Alaganik Slough Boardwalk Reconstruction
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Chugach
Ranger District: Cordova
Nearby City(ies): Cordova, AK
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Valdez-Cordova Census Area
Related Photo(s) Link: http://prdp2fs.ess.usda.gov/detail/recovery/accomplishments/photos-video/?cid=stelprdb5357536
Modified Date: 7/10/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Alaganik Slough Accessible Boardwalk Health and Safety Repair

(Story posted 3/1/2012)

During the summer of 2010, Recovery Act-funded workers reconstructed approximately 1,000 linear feet of a popular boardwalk to restore universal access to the Alaganik Slough in the heart of the Copper River Delta near Cordova.

The existing boardwalk built with the help of international volunteers in the mid-1990s had become unsafe due to differential settling of the foundation, but at the time of its construction, then-Alaska Governor Knowles noted the project’s excellent barrier-free design for the boardwalk, viewing blind, and elevated observation platform. Because frost heaving had

caused the boardwalk to no longer meet ADA and ABA accessibility standards, workers removed the existing decking, bullrail, and guardrail and replaced them with new Alaska yellow cedar from the southeastern part of the state. Contractors also replaced foundations for the entire boardwalk except the viewing tower with a helical pier foundation system.

The Alaganik Day Use Area on the Chugach National Forest Cordova Ranger District is one of the few places in the 700,000-acre wetland with vehicle access and provides wildlife viewing and beautiful scenery, hunting, fishing, and boating.

Since its completion in September 2010, the boardwalk again meets agency safety and accessibility standards and is once more a key site for recreation use and for Cordova's Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival held each spring when as many as five million shorebirds rest and feed there during migration. The many activities, workshops, and community events offered throughout the festival support valuable environmental education activities.

Program Project Name: Whistle Stop Placer River Trail Bridge & Access

Local Project Name: Placer River Bridge
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Chugach
Ranger District: Glacier
Nearby City(ies): Girdwood, AK
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Kenai Peninsula Borough
Related Photo(s) Link: http://prdp2fs.ess.usda.gov/detail/recovery/accomplishments/photos-video/?cid=stelprdb5359340
Modified Date: 6/11/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Partnership-driven Whistle Stop Project

(Story posted 3/14/2012)

Recovery Act-funded project work supporting a world-class recreation and transportation network for visitors to the Chugach National Forest and Kenai Peninsula communities that began in 2011 will be underway again when weather permits this spring. Through the Whistle Stop Project, a long-term partnership effort between the Forest Service and Alaska Railroad Corporation that will eventually include several railroad whistle stops between the Portage Valley and Moose Pass along with a trail network inter-connecting all of the stops with cabins dispersed throughout, Recovery Act-funded workers are building a 280-foot timber-truss pedestrian bridge over the Placer River.

After spending the winter and spring working with the designer, construction for the Placer River Trail Bridge commenced in July 2011. Construction continued into the fall until weather

eventually stalled the project. The contractor plans to ramp construction back up this spring. This bridge may be the longest single-span, timber-truss bridge in North America or possibly the world.

The bridge was manufactured and assembled in Oregon prior to being disassembled, packaged, and shipped to Alaska. Once the bridge was on site, workers reassembled the pieces. Currently a fully assembled bridge section is sitting on each side of the river waiting for the day when they will be lifted into their final positions. The bridge is a magnificent structure that fits well with the pristine Placer River Valley.

The bridge is the key connector to the planned 35-mile-long Glacier Discovery Trail that will unite the backcountry stations. Contractors expect to finish work by mid-summer, adding to business opportunities for outfitter/guides, the railroad, and local communities while enhancing outdoor recreation opportunities for people of all abilities.

Program Project Name: Whistle Stop Partnership Projects

Local Project Name: Grandview Whistle Stop
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Chugach
Ranger District: Glacier
Nearby City(ies): Girdwood, AK
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Kenai Peninsula Borough
Related Photo(s) Link: http://prdp2fs.ess.usda.gov/detail/recovery/accomplishments/photos-video/?cid=stelprdb5359342
Modified Date: 6/11/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Whistle Stop Project Activity Continues

(Story posted 3/14/2012)

Since 2011, Recovery Act-funds have been supporting project work to provide access to the Kenai Peninsula remote backcountry with a world class system of trails, overnight camping, and rental cabins. Through the Whistle Stop Project, a long-term partnership effort between the Forest Service and Alaska Railroad Corporation that will eventually include several railroad whistle stops between the Portage Valley and Moose Pass along with a trail network inter-connecting all of the stops with cabins dispersed throughout, Recovery Act-funded workers are building platforms, pavilions, and a restroom adjacent to the railroad tracks at Grandview.

After spending the winter and spring working with the designer, construction for the Grandview Whistle Stop began in July 2011. Construction continued into the fall until weather eventually stalled the project. The contractor expects to resume work this spring with a mid-summer estimated completion date. The project consists of a series of platforms and

pavilions located adjacent to the railroad tracks that will provide an opportunity for visitors to access a part of the forest that has not previously been available. The Grandview Whistle Stop will offer sweeping views of a lush alpine valley and glaciers.

The whistle stop is the second of its kind to be constructed within the larger project that will eventually include four or five whistle stops along the railroad route. A self-propelled railcar, trails, and facilities are already in place. The larger project is upgrading access and utilization of the existing components through improvements to cabins, restrooms, rail platforms, and wildlife viewing structures. The improvements will enhance visitor safety from bears and the elements in this rugged region, provide access for people of all abilities, and bring substantial benefits to local economies through long-term employment opportunities.

Program Project Name: Cooper Lake Fuels Project - Thin and Pile

Local Project Name: Cooper Lake Fuels
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Chugach
Ranger District: Seward
Nearby City(ies): Cooper Landing, AK
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Kenai Peninsula Borough
Modified Date: 3/28/2012

Story:

Cooper Landing Community Safer following Recovery Act-funded Hazardous Fuels Reduction Work

(Story posted 3/7/2012)

An estimated one million acres on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula are infested with spruce bark beetles, resulting in vast amounts of dead and dying spruce trees. The dead and dying trees combined with limited access and few evacuation routes have resulted in extreme catastrophic wildfire risk to the Cooper Landing community.

This Recovery Act-funded hazardous fuels reduction project had been identified in the Cooper Landing Community Wildfire Protection Plan, a collaborative effort involving citizen volunteers and federal, state, borough, and municipal representatives.

In December 2009, the Forest Service issued a 200-acre hazardous fuels reduction mechanical contract on the Chugach National Forest Seward Ranger District to Evergreen Alaska for work to begin in winter of 2010, and in January 2011 workers finished removing dead spruce, thinning stands to improve tree resistance to insect attack, and piling and burning debris to help protect the community from future wildfires.

The efforts to reduce wildland fire potential near high-use portions of the community have

contributed to public and firefighter safety while helping secure and safe ingress/egress routes to the Kenai Peninsula.

Program Project Name: Hope Area Fuels Project - Thin and Pile

Local Project Name: Hope Area Fuels
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Chugach
Ranger District: Seward
Nearby City(ies): Hope, AK
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Kenai Peninsula Borough
Modified Date: 3/28/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Help Reduce Catastrophic Wildfire Risk to Communities

(Story posted 3/7/2012)

Last month, Recovery Act-funded workers completed mechanical and hand-thinning hazardous fuel reduction activities on approximately 700 acres on the Kenai Peninsula near the isolated communities of Hope, Sunrise, and Summit Lake, whose proximity to heavy dead and down fuel amid local wind regimes cause them to face extreme wildfire risk. Alaska's 10-million-acre Kenai Peninsula Borough is in the midst of a regional spruce bark beetle outbreak that has resulted in extensive spruce mortality on approximately one million acres.

This project had two different contracts awarded in December 2009. Evergreen Alaska was awarded the 344-acre mechanical contract along the Hope Highway and Palmer Creek Road while Summit Forestry was awarded the 360-acre manual contract to work on areas adjacent to power lines and units along the Palmer Creek Road.

Work that began in early 2010 removed spruce bark beetle-infested dead and dying trees along critical egress roads while improving tree resistance to insect attack and replacing fire-prone spruce with birch stands that have a lower rate of spread. The activities were among those identified in the community wildfire protection plan the Chugach National Forest and local community members, fire districts, and government agencies completed in 2006.

In addition to protecting communities and providing meaningful work, the project generated firewood always in demand among local residents.

Program Project Name: Daves Creek Watershed Restoration

Local Project Name: Daves Creek Restoration

Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Chugach
Ranger District: Seward
Nearby City(ies): Moose Pass
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Kenai Peninsula Borough
Modified Date: 4/25/2012

Story:

Stream and Riparian Restoration Project Offers Multiple Benefits

(Story posted 3/21/2012)

On the Chugach National Forest, Recovery Act funds are supporting a multi-year, multi-partner stream and riparian restoration effort designed to reestablish aquatic habitat, riparian health, and fish passage while improving recreational opportunities for visitors to Alaska's Kenai Peninsula.

Construction activities near the junction of the Seward and Sterling highways in the mid-1900s brought about the need to restore approximately 2,000 feet of the Daves Creek stream channel downstream of the Tern Lake outlet and replace an existing culvert with a bridge. Other activities workers have undertaken since 2009 include rebuilding the fish viewing platform and existing user trails in the Tern Lake day-use area to accommodate visitors of all abilities.

Workers will install interpretive signs on-site in 2012 to highlight the restoration project as well as the importance of aquatic habitats. Preliminary results of this project are positive: numerous salmon have been observed in the new stream channel, which is maintaining itself as designed. Riparian foliage growth is excellent, with high survival rates of transplanted and planted vegetation. Monitoring of stream channel condition; vegetation; invasive plants; and aquatic habitat and populations will continue over the next several years.

Program Project Name: Salt Chuck Mine Soil and Tailings Clean-Up

Local Project Name: Salt Chuck Mine CERCLA Clean-up
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Tongass
Nearby City(ies): Prince of Wales Island
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area
Modified Date: 5/20/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Abandoned Mine Clean-up Operation

(Story posted 2/6/2012)

While Recovery Act-funded on-site clean-up work has been finished at the abandoned Salt Chuck Mine located on the Tongass National Forest and on adjacent State of Alaska tidelands since last fall, the benefits continue, as do plans to further improve the site.

Located on Prince of Wales Island, the operation produced copper, palladium, gold, and silver from around 1905 to 1941 that left behind hazardous substances including arsenic, copper, lead, mercury, selenium, and vanadium in mine tailings and soil. In spring 2010, the mine site was added to the Environmental Protection Agency's National Priorities List, making it eligible for long-term cleanup federal funds while EPA seeks to recover costs from responsible parties.

Recovery Act-funded workers removed 8,400 tons of unsafe debris and hazardous substances from the mill area portion of the site from spring to fall of 2011. Reducing human and ecological exposure to heavy metal and organic contaminates is improving area recreation as well as commercial and subsistence (living from the lands and streams) opportunities.

Additional indirect jobs will result from long-term site monitoring and support industries. This spring the Forest expects to receive a detailed removal action report from the contractor. The Forest Service continues to work with EPA and other agencies and stakeholders to ascertain the risk of remaining contamination within the site and whether further cleanup is needed. Non-Recovery Act-funded operations and maintenance work will begin in May and continue into 2013.

Program Project Name: Anchorage Hazardous Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Treatment

Local Project Name: Anchorage Hazardous Fuels
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Chugach
Ranger District: Glacier
Nearby City(ies): Anchorage, Alaska
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Anchorage Borough
Modified Date: 7/10/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Hazardous Fuels Reduction Activities, Education

(Story posted 7/3/2012)

In Anchorage, USDA Forest Service Recovery Act funds are supporting catastrophic wildfire protection efforts, including Firewise home inspections, fire education outreach, and

hazardous fuels reduction activities on private land within the city.

The Alaska State Division of Forestry is administering the grant that the Anchorage Fire Department is implementing within the Anchorage municipality to help residents make their homes more defensible in case of wildfire. The fire department estimates approximately 40 temporary workers are supporting the project that includes removal of large dead trees and brush from private lands, with the expectation that about 75 acres will be treated by the end of 2012.

In addition to creating jobs, the work is helping protect hundreds of homes in the Anchorage bowl from potential fires that could spread from Chugach State Park, where a spruce bark-beetle infestation has killed acres of trees.

Program Project Name: Kenai Borough Spruce Bark Beetle Mitigation

Local Project Name: KPB Spruce Bark Beetle Mitigation
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Chugach
Ranger District: Seward
Nearby City(ies): Homer, Nikiski, Clam Gulch and others
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Kenai Peninsula Borough
Modified Date: 7/10/2012

Story:

Kenai Peninsula Residents Benefit from Recovery Act-funded Hazardous Fuels Reduction Work

(Story posted 7/3/2012)

On the Kenai Peninsula on Alaska's southern coast, USDA Forest Service Recovery Act funds are helping borough spruce bark beetle-mitigation program staff design and conduct several hazardous fuels treatment projects scattered across the borough. Treatment areas include projects recommended and prioritized in accordance with local community wildfire protection plans on both public and private lands within the wildland-urban interface.

Hundreds of workers employed through private contractors are removing hazard trees along approximately 70 miles of road corridors; reducing ground fuels on approximately 125 acres of state park lands; thinning approximately 1,000 acres of borough public land adjacent to communities; reducing grassy fuels in the wildland urban-interface on approximately 2,500 acres; and treating woody debris resulting from private land hazardous fuels removal.

All project work is expected to be complete by the end of 2012.

Program Project Name: Matanuska-Susitna Community Wildfire Protection Plan Wildfire Mitigation

Local Project Name: Matanuska Susitna Wildfire Mitigation
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Chugach
Ranger District: Glacier
Nearby City(ies): Houston, Meadow Lakes, Big Lake, Wasilla, Palmer, Willow, Sutton
Congressional District(s): AK00
County(ies): AK: Matanuska-Susitna Borough
Modified Date: 7/10/2012

Story:

Hazardous Fuels Reduction Activities, Education Support Community Wildfire Protection Plan Goals

(Story posted 7/3/2012)

In the Matanuska-Susitna Borough in south central Alaska, USDA Forest Service Recovery Act funds are supporting extensive wildland fire prevention education efforts and approximately 30 hazardous fuels reduction projects covering about 200 acres across the borough. Administered by the state of Alaska Division of Forestry and implemented by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, this project involves about 90 percent fire prevention education and 10 percent hazardous fuels reduction.

Temporary crews and private contractors are conducting hazard fuels mitigation work in areas prioritized according to needs identified in community wildfire protection plans.

Other temporary workers are conducting Firewise home assessments and associated public outreach. The inspections are helping identify trees that should be removed to protect property from approaching wildfires. Last winter these employees conducted fire prevention education programs at local schools.

All project work is expected to be complete by the end of 2012.

Program Project Name: Chugach State Parks Hazard Fuels

Local Project Name: Chugach Park Hazardous Fuels
Region: Alaska Region
Forest: Chugach
Ranger District: Glacier
Nearby City(ies): Anchorage, Eagle River, Chugiak, Eklutna, Elmendord AFB, Fort Richardson, Indian, Bird Creek, Girdwood and Palmer
Congressional District(s): AK00

County(ies): AK: Anchorage Borough, Matanuska-Susitna Borough
Modified Date: 7/10/2012

Story:

Chugach State Park Hazardous Fuels Reduction Work Protects Homes, Resources

(Story posted 7/3/2012)

On hillside areas above Anchorage, USDA Forest Service Recovery Act-funded hazardous fuels reduction work is underway to help protect densely populated adjacent areas from catastrophic wildland fire.

In cooperation with the Anchorage Fire Department, Alaska State Parks, and the Alaska Division of Forestry, approximately 20 seasonal workers are thinning dense stands of beetle-killed spruce to mitigate danger from human-caused fire starts more likely because of high recreational use in the vicinity. Workers are building a fuel break between the park and the City of Anchorage to protect homes, a natural gas pipeline running through the park, and natural resources.

Local residents are also benefiting from resulting firewood made available that rising home heating fuel costs have caused to be in high demand. The project is expected to be complete by the end of 2012.

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
Congressional District(s): AZ04
County(ies): AZ: Apache
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3bblctr
Modified Date: 9/8/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Pellet Mill Expansion Allows for Increased Capacity

(Story posted 5/24/2010)

The goal of the Recovery Act-funded project for APC and Affiliated Companies (APC) was 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 brought APC to full production and increased the amount of material processed from the stewardship contract.

After acquiring the equipment, from November 2009 to January 2010, APC Pallets increased treatment capacity by 25 log loads a week, approximately covering 300 acres in a three-month time period from Future Forests LLC, the White Mountain 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 percent. The company has expanded its product line to include 1x4, 2x4, 4x4, 4x8, 8x8 inch lumber in random lengths, cut stock, and timber cants as expected. In addition, APC has been able to increase the lumber grade of manufactured pallets from grades 2 and 3. With this grant, APC hoped to replace eight million board feet of lumber purchases from Canada and other suppliers. APC hit 1,350,000 board feet in a three-month time period and anticipates hitting the eight million mark during the full year. APC Pallets has also added new positions to its workforce.

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
Congressional District(s): AZ04
County(ies): AZ: Maricopa

Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/5sxmt4a
Modified Date: 9/9/2011

Story:

New Equipment Allows for Increased Capacity to Harvest Small-diameter Trees and Woody Biomass

(Story posted 4/16/2010)

A USDA Forest Service Recovery Act-funded grant to Dakota Logging is helping the company increase efforts to harvest and utilize wood from the wildland-urban interface around Prescott and Prescott Basin and to sell to the strong area firewood market. Since receiving the grant the company purchased equipment and began operations on the Prescott National Forest to harvest small-diameter trees and reduce wildfire risk to nearby communities. The new equipment has allowed the company to operate more efficiently so it could treat more acres in less time.

Dakota Logging was awarded the Quartz timber sale from the Prescott National Forest on the Bradshaw Ranger District and completed 50 percent of the sale in a three-month time frame, which is double the production prior to receiving the grant.

Dakota Logging hauled 140 loads (3,500 green tons) to Hot Woods in Camp Verde, Arizona, and 11 loads (275 green tons) to Bowen Poles located in Phoenix, Arizona, increasing its staff for the operations.

As Dakota Logging finishes treating acreage on the National Forest, the company purchases seed and restores the land to preserve forest health. In addition to reducing wildfire risk, the lower slash volume is reducing air pollution and carbon emissions since there is less material to burn.

Dakota Logging has acquired new thinning projects for which the new equipment will continue to benefit operations.

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
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/6kkqw3n
Modified Date: 4/12/2011

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
Congressional District(s): AZ05
County(ies): AZ: Maricopa
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/6b9n9kk
Modified Date: 4/12/2011

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
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Apache
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/6fqpz44
Modified Date: 6/15/2011

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

Congressional District(s): AZ01

County(ies): AZ: Apache

Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/5wa8bma

Modified Date: 6/15/2011

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
Congressional District(s): AZ08
County(ies): AZ: Pima
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/6bhk2bv
Modified Date: 4/12/2011

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: 7/5/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Work to Support Scientists, Students

(Story posted 12/14/2010)

Scientists and students will soon reap the benefits of Recovery Act-funded 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. The project is bringing jobs to the community and allowing the managing agencies to bring more of the community to the station by increasing 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 UA-managed experimental range. 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 needed repairs and restoration, including modifications to improve sustainability and accessibility, to provide facilities suited to environmental education.

Pima Paving of Tucson, Arizona, will replace the aged sewer system. Much of the septic system dates to the original site construction, and after nearly 80 years, the entire system has deteriorated, and portions have failed completely.

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: 8/18/2011

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 dilapidated structures 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
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/6kkqw3n
Modified Date: 4/11/2011

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
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Yavapai
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/6y869u6
Modified Date: 4/12/2011

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.

Program Project Name: Coronado National Forest - Madera Canyon Road Reconstruction and Pavement Replacement

Local Project Name: Madera Canyon Pavement Preservation
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Coronado
Ranger District: Nogales
Nearby City(ies): Green Valley
Congressional District(s): AZ08
County(ies): AZ: Pima, Santa Cruz
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3rp9vsm
Modified Date: 8/25/2011

Story:

Major Pavement Preservation Completed for Madera Canyon Road and Parking Network

(Story posted 4/13/2011)

Located on the Coronado National Forest, this canyon was named “Madera” (which means lumber or wood in Spanish) because it served as a major source of timber for the city of Tucson over a century ago. It wasn’t long, however, before this accessible haven was better known for the diverse wildlife it sheltered and the cool relief it offered from the desert heat. Today, Madera Canyon continues to be a popular destination for wildlife watchers and nature lovers who come to see the more than 240 species of birds (including more than a dozen species of hummingbirds) that live in its nurturing environment.

The pavement in the canyon was approaching the end of its service lifespan. After more than 25 years weathering the elements and serving hundreds of thousands of visitors, the surface structures were quickly deteriorating and in sore need of replacement. Overall, 1.3 miles of Madera Canyon road were milled and replaced, along with a campground road system and seven separate parking facilities/picnic areas. Seven total contracts were let to "spread the wealth" among local contractors and stage work efforts around visitor needs.

MADERA CANYON ROAD (NFSR 70)
• Milling the existing road pavement surface, reshaping and compacting the millings.
• Applying 3 inches of new hot-mix asphaltic pavement on compacted millings.
• Chipsealing the new pavement along its entire length.
• Restriping the new pavement.
• Placing and compacting a two-foot-wide, 6-inch-deep aggregate base course shoulder on each side of the new pavement.

BOG SPRINGS CAMPGROUND AND LOOP(NFSR 70A)
• Compacting and grading the subgrade road surface for 0.7 miles of forest road.
• Placing and compacting a 4-inch-deep aggregate base course (AB) road bed on the existing NFSR 70A roadway alignment, loop road, and parking bays, stalls, and pullouts.
• Applying 2.5 inches of new hot-mix asphaltic concrete pavement on top of the compacted AB.
• Chip-sealing the new pavement along the length and width of NFSR 70A and the campground loop road as a pavement protection measure.
• Fog-sealing the new pavement in the parking stall/bays/pullouts in the campground as a pavement protection measure.
• Restriping the new pavement with white edge stripes and parking striping.

MADERA PICNIC AREA, MADERA PARKING, WHITEHOUSE PICNIC AREA
• Milling the existing pavement surface; spreading, reshaping and compacting the millings on the existing shoulders of the parking areas.
• Applying 2.5 inches of new hot-mix asphaltic concrete pavement on top of the existing base

throughout the parking areas.
• Fog-sealing all new pavement as a pavement protection measure.
• Miscellaneous hauling and backhoe work, including but not limited to prepping the shoulder areas and cleaning drainage structures.

KENT SPRINGS ROAD (NFSR 4075)
• Blading existing road to establish an adequate horizontal and vertical profile.
• Placing and compacting 4 inches of aggregate base course on the road.

AMPHITHEATER PARKING
• Earthwork to establish modified parking layout and to close off northerly access point for safety reasons.
• Compacting and preparing parking lot subgrade.
• Placing and compacting 4 inches of aggregate base course over the entire parking area.
• Applying 2.5” of new hot-mix asphaltic concrete pavement.
• Fog-sealing all new pavement as a protection measure.

WRIGHTSON CHIPSEAL AND FOG
• Chipsealing the main access and circulation road through the parking area.
• Fog-sealing all existing parking areas as a pavement protection measure.

PROCTOR PARKING
• Milling the existing pavement surface; spreading, reshaping and compacting the millings on the existing shoulders of the parking area.
• Applying 2.5” of new hot-mix asphaltic concrete pavement on top of the existing base throughout the parking area and adjacent to existing curbs in some sections of the lot.
• Fog-sealing all new pavement as a pavement protection measure.
• Miscellaneous hauling and backhoe work, including but not limited to prepping the shoulder areas and cleaning drainage structures.

Program Project Name: Forest Wide Recreation Site Restroom Facility Replacement

Local Project Name: Lakeview, Whiterock, Sycamore, Idlewilde, Reef, and Ramsey Toilets
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Coronado
Nearby City(ies): Sierra Vista
Congressional District(s): AZ01, AZ07, AZ08
County(ies): AZ: Graham, Pima, Santa Cruz
Modified Date: 4/20/2011

Story:

Coronado National Forest Improves Recreation Sites

(Story posted 4/13/2011)

Several campgrounds on the Coronado National Forest are more welcoming to visitor following Recovery Act-funded facility upgrades.

LAKEVIEW CAMPGROUND
Located on a hill overlooking Parker Canyon Lake, the Lakeview Campground campsites are spread among a stand of oaks and junipers. From the campground it is just a short walk to the lakeshore or a short drive to the boat launch ramp, fishing pier, paved parking areas and paved walkways, all of which are accessible to people of all abilities.

Parker Canyon Lake and Lakeview Campground are excellent places to view the waterfowl that either live at the lake or use it as a stopover on their seasonal migration. Bald eagles and osprey are also frequently sighted here, as are Coues white-tailed deer and an occasional extended family of coatimundi, those long-tailed, long-nosed southwestern cousins of the raccoon.

In addition to the sheer age and condition of the existing restrooms, very of few of them were ADA compliant. The associated water system that served the campground was also deteriorating.

Completed work at the Lakeview Campground included the following:
• Demolition of 5 existing restroom buildings and associated slabs, walkways and retaining walls.
• Installation of 5 new restroom buildings including site excavation and preparation of subgrade; construction of new walkways associated with new restroom buildings.
• Installation of approximately 3,000 linear feet of potable water distribution main (and associated valves) with two-inch thickwalled HDPE pipe.
• Removal and replacement of 6 existing hydrant assemblies including infiltrator systems.

WHITE ROCK CAMPGROUND
A short distance from Peña Blanca Lake, campsites at White Rock are located on the banks of Peña Blanca Creek in the shadow of a rocky cliff that gives the area its name. A portion of the rock actually splits the campground into two sections. Thirteen campsites make up Upper White Rock and are accessible off Forest Road 39. Two others make up Lower White Rock and are accessible off the road that leads to the lake. This project replaced the defunct vault restroom located at the upper campground with a new CXT facility.

SYCAMORE CAMPGROUND
Located on the west side of the Chiricahuas, Sycamore Campground straddles the banks of West Turkey Creek, a small perennial stream that cascades into the campground down a series of small waterfalls and through a rocky cleft decorated with wildflowers. The sycamore- and oak-shaded sites are located near the end of Turkey Creek Road in an area that serves as a jumping off place into the Chiricahua Wilderness, and several trails start in the vicinity of the campground and climb to destinations and connecting trails high in the mountains.

The restroom facility at this idyllic location was in desperate need of updating. Using the

same location and ensuring an accessible route to the restroom, a new masonry Romtec building was constructed to replace the old plastic facility.

IDLEWILDE CAMPGROUND
Located in Cave Creek Canyon, an area known for its spectacular scenery and excellent birding, Idlewilde Campground is the first campground visitors encounter as they enter the Canyon from the east.

Besides replacement of the dated restroom facilities, this project included water system upgrades. Construction consisted of the following:
• Upgrades to the water system including installation of one new hydrant and approximately 1,320 linear feet of two-inch HDPE water line.
• Construction of walkways and site clearing and grading. Installation of a new masonry Romtec restroom.

REEF TOWNSITE AND RAMSEY VISTA CAMPGROUNDS
Reef Townsite is a high mountain campground and group day-use area located on a site that was once occupied by the old mining town of Reef. That remote outpost got its name from the nearby Carr Reef, a tall band of quartzite-bearing cliffs that form the Huachuca Mountains' dramatic eastern front. Mining activity along the Reef began during the last few years of the nineteenth century and proceeded in fits and starts all the way into the 1950s.

The property occupied by the mines and the town was returned to public ownership in 1970, and in 1988, the Forest Service built a campground on the townsite. A number of picnic tables and tent pads were placed within the visible outlines of old cabin foundations.

Many relics of Reef’s mining history, including the remains of the town’s old water system and miscellaneous features, are still visible in and around the campground. Evidence of old mining digs and foundations for an ore mill provide points of interest along a three-quarter-mile interpretive trail that begins and ends at the northeastern end of the campground. Rich in history and actively used by local residents, the restroom facilities at the campground were due for a major overhaul given their poor condition and function.

The Ramsey Vista campsites are spread through a stand of medium-sized ponderosa pines at the end of a road that once brought miners and equipment to the historic Reef mine and townsite. From the high perspective provided by the campground, Ramsey Peak’s tall, layer-cake summit stands above the surrounding landscape as a tempting destination for an overnight backpack or long day-hike. Two major trails leave from the campground to connect to a broader network of trails that lead to some of the most beautiful destinations in the Huachucas. Heavy use and significant weather loads made replacement of the restroom at this site a priority.

Work included demolition of three restroom buildings and associated slabs and walkways and supply and installation of two new Romtec restroom buildings.

Program Project Name: Forestwide Recreation Site Host and Restroom Facility Improvements

Local Project Name: Forestwide Recreation Site, Host, and Restroom Facility Improvements
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Prescott
Nearby City(ies): Prescott
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Yavapai
Modified Date: 4/20/2011

Story:

Prescott National Forest Uses Recovery Act Funds to Improve Recreation Sites

(Story posted 4/13/2011)

The Prescott National Forest used Recovery Act funds to improve volunteer campground host sites and recreation site amenities for visitors.

Basic amenity improvements funded by this project included the addition of storage sheds and septic systems at several host sites as well as relocation of a complete host site for improved public contact and operations. By providing basic amenities at recreation facilities and day-use host sites, the Forest is able to retain quality volunteer hosts. Volunteer hosts on site are able to provide recreationists with good local information about the Forest as well as monitoring and maintaining a safe and clean facility.

Other recreation site improvements included the replacement of obsolete grills and tables and a compacted aggregate accessible surface under the tables and on pathways to improve accessibility for people of all abilities.

Rehabilitating the Prescott National Forest's outdated restroom facilities helps eliminate health and safety concerns. The project included repair and/or replacement in kind of worn facilities as well as door and closure repairs.

Contractors began work in the early spring of 2010 and finished by late winter of 2011. The work provided meaningful jobs to economically distressed Yavapai County and will reduce future maintenance costs at these sites.

Program Project Name: Lynx Lake Electric Service Extension

Local Project Name: Lynx Lake Electric Service Extension
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Prescott
Nearby City(ies): Prescott

Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Yavapai
Modified Date: 4/20/2011

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Extend Electrical Power in Popular Recreation Area

(Story posted 4/13/2011)

Lynx Lake Recreation Area on the Prescott National Forest serves as a major tourism destination and a popular local visitor site. This project was designed to extend electrical power to three separate host sites within the Forest's most popular facility. By providing this additional amenity the Forest can retain quality hosts. The work also provides the basic foundation for future expansion of electrical service throughout the facility to meet the needs of current and future visitors.

The scope of the contract was to provide and install underground electrical infrastructure including conduit, pull boxes, and meter pedestals in order to prepare host sites at Lynx Lake Recreational Area near Prescott, Arizona, for receiving electrical service. Significant deliverables for the project were 6,465 Linear feet of two-inch PVC underground primary conduit installation; 407 linear feet of three-inch diameter PVC underground secondary conduit installation; 181 linear feet of two-inch diameter PVC; 96 linear feet of three-inch diameter PVC; three meter pedestals; 51 linear feet of drainage crossing; 180 linear feet of asphalt pavement cut and repair; 70 square feet of SRW retaining wall; and 10 pothole waterline locations.

Contractors began project work on October 27, 2010 and completed it on December 17, 2010. During this period all of the deliverables from the award section were completed, and all supplies required to do so were delivered and installed.

Program Project Name: Kaibab National Forest Campground Facility Replacements

Local Project Name: Forest-wide Facility Replacement
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Kaibab
Nearby City(ies): Williams
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Coconino
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3apdlqf
Modified Date: 7/5/2011

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Upgrade Deteriorating Facilities

(Story posted 4/14/2011)

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds allowed replacement of Kaibab National Forest deteriorating restroom facilities at White Horse Lake and Ten-X campgrounds and construction of a new facility at Kaibab Lake Campground.

CXT, Inc., a company that specializes in concrete restrooms, earned the contract that provided jobs for one crane operator and two laborers. BBH Consulting, Inc. completed the landscaping around the restrooms.

The upgraded facilities have improved accessibility for people of all abilities and will enhance visitors' experiences on the forest while eliminating backlog maintenance at the campgrounds.

Program Project Name: Coronado National Forest Historic Structures Deferred Maintenance and Accessibility Projects

Local Project Name: Florida Workstation Adaptive Re-use and Rehabilitation
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Coronado
Ranger District: Nogales
Nearby City(ies): Green Valley
Congressional District(s): AZ01, AZ07, AZ08
County(ies): AZ: Graham, Pima, Santa Cruz
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3qk8cvd
Modified Date: 8/19/2011

Story:

Florida Station Rehabilitation Benefits Many

(Story posted 4/14/2011)

Florida Station is the administrative headquarters for the 80-square-mile Santa Rita Experimental Range (SRER), founded in 1902, the oldest experimental range in the country. Florida Station is owned by the United States Forest Service (USFS). Through a special-use permit, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) at the University of Arizona is currently using the facility as a research station for environmental education outreach and for hosting visiting students and scientists. Over the past few years, existing and new partnerships were reinforced and formed to help complete the preservation and rehabilitation projects at the site.

Florida Station is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places “both for its association with Depression relief programs and for the architectural qualities that reflect the construction methods and styles characteristic of Forest Service administrative facilities of the 1930s” (Gillespie, 2003). The 14 remaining buildings and structures at Florida Station were constructed between 1922 and 1936. The buildings are simple, rectangular wood-framed buildings with gable/hipped roofs and clapboard siding. The site maintains a high level of

integrity with minor changes in materials that are easily reversible.

The complex is associated with Depression-era relief programs (CCC and WPA), with funding coming from the federal government. While the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was present in the area at Madera Canyon, it does not appear that they participated directly in the construction of any buildings. However, the CCC is credited with building the stone retaining walls, the roads, the entry gate, and the ice house at Florida Station.

In 2009, Poster Frost Mirto, a local architectural firm specializing in historic preservation, was contracted to provide conceptual designs for six buildings at Florida Station, including the Bunkhouse and Shop Building Garage. This work followed the important preliminary investigations completed by Professor Brooks Jeffery and Landscape Architecture Graduate Student Teresa Gredig from the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (CALA) at the University of Arizona. In their report, Jeffery and Gredig made treatment recommendations and created a preliminary program for the rehabilitation of specific buildings. At the same time, a group of core stakeholders, entitled the Santa Rita Initiative, was convened to help guide the planning process.

The programmatic needs identified early in the planning phases of this project included:

• Classroom space for presentations and lectures.
• Additional bedroom space for short-term overnight lodgers.
• Additional bathrooms and showers for overnight visitors.
• Improved residential unit for medium to longer term residency (sabbaticals, longer-term research)
• Provide facilities that meet with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
• More efficient use of existing storage areas and new storage areas for groups using the facility.
• Proposals should address long and short term maintenance requirements.

Following the schematic design phase, the Forest Service, using money available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), initiated a number of construction projects at the site. The worn sewer system was replaced and new standing seam metal roofs were added to all the buildings. A new, stand-alone restroom building was constructed at the core of the site to provide adequate ADA accessible facilities for both day and overnight visitors. Furthermore, rehabilitation of two original historic buildings was completed; the Workshop was converted to a classroom space and improvements to the Bunkhouse were completed. Specific details on these two buildings follow.

Bunkhouse (C5) Rehabilitation
The Bunkhouse is the primary residential building serving short-term overnight visitors to the site. Users may include both local and out-of-state university classes groups completing multi-day research projects. Other users include groups from local retirement communities who come to Florida Station to enjoy the natural surroundings. Serving upwards of 15 people, the Bunkhouse included only one shared bathroom with little privacy and no accessible fixtures.

To accommodate the required changes, a small shed addition on the west side of the existing Bunkhouse was removed and replaced with a larger addition with the same basic shed form. This new addition allowed for the creation of separate shower and other bath facilities that are fully accessible. The laundry room was also maintained in the new shed addition. An accessible entrance was created to allow a wider range of groups to use the Bunkhouse. In the existing building, a second bathroom and shower room were created. Two bedrooms were combined to create a fully accessible bedroom. The door openings at the other four bedrooms were made wider to provide better accessibility throughout the building. The kitchen was rehabilitated to provide better flow for groups using the facility. A mechanical system was installed to provide year-round comfort to visitors. Historic double-hung wood windows were repaired and non-compatible T-111 siding was removed to reveal the original wood clapboards. The historic exterior color scheme of white walls and green trim was returned the building to inject more of the historic nature of the site.

Workshop (C17) Rehabilitation
One of the greatest needs at Florida Station was a classroom space to host lectures and presentations. The existing Workshop Building, located adjacent to Florida Creek, a natural amenity to the site, was identified as the best option for converting an existing space to a classroom. Converting the Workshop to a classroom presented a number of design challenges including no accessible entry and the presence of wood trusses that would potentially interfere with presentations. The program called for the ability to host between 40 and 50 visitors while offering a small kitchen and storage.

The goal of the rehabilitation was maintain the rustic character of the original workshop while meeting the requirements of a modern educational facility. Two historic preservation approaches were utilized to accomplish this goal. First, whenever possible, original historic materials were maintained. The original T & G wood floors were preserved and are an important character-defining feature of the classroom space. The second approach was utilized where historic materials could not be preserved. The wood trusses, an important character-defining feature of the interior, could not be preserved without impacting the openness required for presentations. The design solution resolves this issue by preserving two trusses at the south end of the classroom space while vaulting the majority of the space. The two remaining trusses provide reference to the original structure and create a more intimate space adjacent to two workstations. At the vaulted space, where trusses were removed, a one-inch reveal was created at the new exposed plywood ceiling to “reveal” the location of the original structure.

Accessibility was addressed through a new ramp and deck at the east side of the building. New door and window openings along the east wall of the building provides entrance to the classroom space while bringing in natural light and views of the natural environment along Florida Creek. The new openings, comprised of aluminum clad windows and doors, are clearly a modern intervention, distinguishable from the earlier wood openings. Beyond the new openings, the deck will facilitate outdoor learning opportunities at the site. Existing sliding wood windows were preserved and new openings were designed to allow passive ventilation of the interior. A mechanical heating and cooling system was introduced to the

building to allow for use throughout the year. As with the Bunkhouse, the original color scheme of the building was applied to the exterior.

The work completed at Florida Station preserves this important historic site by allowing it to accommodate a new generation of researchers and the greater public. At a time of increasing alienation and discordance between humans and the natural world, Florida Station is an important facility that can help reconnect the public with this wonderful ecosystem. As demonstrated by the success of these recent efforts, the collaboration between the Forest Service, University of Arizona, and a number of other local partners is strong and will continue to grow as the site enters its second century of service.

Program Project Name: Apache Zone Recreation Hazard Tree

Local Project Name: Apache Zone Recreation Hazard Tree Removal
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Apache/Sitgreaves
Nearby City(ies): Clifton
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Apache
Modified Date: 4/19/2011

Story:

Recreation Site Hazardous Tree Removal Protects Visitors

(Story posted 4/14/2011)

On the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, agency personnel work tours were extended and two contractors were hired to conduct hazardous fuel reduction and public safety projects within campgrounds and recreation sites on the Alpine and Springerville Ranger districts. Throughout the fall of 2009, specially trained Forest Service personnel identified trees that were potentially dangerous to forest visitors.

Within the campgrounds and recreation sites, each tree was evaluated to identify any potential weaknesses from disease to physical damages such as lightning strikes that could make the tree structurally unsound. These trees were then marked to be removed by either Forest Service personnel or one of the two contractors selected through a bidding process. The work was tedious, with ever-changing conditions in the forest and the dynamics of locating danger trees.

Actual removal of the identified trees began the summer of 2010 and continued through the fall. The heavy winter and snow accumulation delayed much of the work. Over 1,000 trees were identified, covering 355 acres of high-use recreation areas. For example, a tree located in Hanagan Campground on the Alpine Ranger District had a disease that rotted the trunk wood, making it weak and susceptible to high winds. The spring winds had snapped the base of the tree; however, adjacent trees caught the broken tree before it landed on the road into

the campground, causing an immediate hazard to travelers. A highly skilled contract crew removed the hazard using chainsaws and techniques unique to tree removal operations.

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

Local Project Name: Christopher-Hunter WUI
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Tonto
Nearby City(ies): Christopher Creek, Hunter Creek, Gordon Canyon Estates
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Gila
Modified Date: 4/20/2011

Story:

Tonto National Forest Uses Recovery Act Funds to Protect Rural Communities from Wildfire Hazard

(Story posted 4/14/2011)

The Tonto National Forest used Recovery Act funds to complete a long-range hazardous fuels reduction strategy to protect local communities from wildfire risk. In 2001, the Payson Ranger District began implementation of a long-range, far-reaching, landscape-scale, three-pronged fuels reduction strategy to reduce catastrophic wildfire danger in Mogollon Rim Country, to restore natural ecological systems, and to develop and foster sustainable forest conditions and watersheds.

Christopher Creek, Hunter Creek, and Gordon Canyon Estates are rural communities located on lands adjacent to the Payson Ranger District at its eastern edge. The area around these communities is densely forested by ponderosa pine and nearly impenetrable manzanita and heavy brush understory.

In 2009, a 33-foot wide fuel break was created completely around these three aforementioned at-risk communities. In December 2009, mastication (grinding and mulching) of debris piles began on the 647-acre fuel break around these rural communities and was completed in 2010.

Recovery Act funds were used for the thinning work. Additional fuels funding was allocated by Region 3 of the Forest Service for the contractual grinding and mulching work. The thinning and mastication contractor for this project was Enviro-Land Management Services of Phoenix, Arizona.

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

Local Project Name: Verde WUI

Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Tonto
Ranger District: Payson
Nearby City(ies): Geronimo Estates, Beaver Valley, and Whispering Pines
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Gila
Modified Date: 4/19/2011

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Help Protect Communities from Wildfire

(Story posted 4/14/2011)

In 2001, the Payson Ranger District began implementation of a long-range, far-reaching, landscape-scale, three-pronged fuels reduction strategy to reduce catastrophic wildfire danger to Mogollon Rim Country to restore natural ecological systems and to develop and foster sustainable forest conditions and watersheds.

Geronimo Estates, Beaver Valley, and Whispering Pines are rural mountain communities located on private land in the heart of the Payson Ranger District and surrounded by public lands of the Tonto National Forest. The area is choked with a heavy concentration of nearly impenetrable manzanita, thick brush understory, and ponderosa pine.

In fall of 2009, Recovery Act-funded workers created a fuel break on the north side of Geronimo Estates and the west side of Beaver Valley. Workers also widened the existing fuel break on the west side of Whispering Pines. The 648 acres of fuels reduction work for this project is another key component in the District's strategic fire risk reduction plan and was completed in April 2010.

Program Project Name: Rim Vista Trail Paving/ Mobility Disability Accessability

Local Project Name: Rim Vista Trail Reconstruction
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Apache/Sitgreaves
Ranger District: Black Mesa
Nearby City(ies): Overgaard
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Navajo
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3ellp85
Modified Date: 6/21/2011

Story:
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest Improves Trail Recreational Opportunities

(Story posted 4/18/2011)

Recovery Act funding allowed the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest to reconstruct and pave one mile of the Rim Vista Trail to tie the previously constructed surfaced trail from the scenic overlooks along the Mogollon Rim to the Mogollon Campground. The entire trail now provides accessibility to persons of all abilities for over three miles along the rim.

Located in the Woods Canyon Lake Recreation Area, the trail allows people to access the lake, the 156-unit Aspen Campground and amphitheater, and the Rocky Point Picnic area by foot and/or bicycle in lieu of driving.

Two separate contractors located in Navajo County were awarded the work to widen the existing foot trail to five feet and install asphalt pavement and concrete water crossings.

Workers finished the project in September 2010 that will improve access to breathtaking views along the Mogollon Rim and reduce motorized vehicle use in the recreation area by providing access from the campground to the Rim for scenic viewing by non-motorized means. The improvements will also protect the trail from heavy moisture events and reduce sediment flow into nearby watersheds.

Program Project Name: Saffel Canyon Trail System

Local Project Name: Saffel Canyon Trail Reconstruction
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Apache/Sitgreaves
Ranger District: Springerville
Nearby City(ies): Springerville
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Apache, Navajo
Modified Date: 6/15/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support OHV Trail Reconstruction

(Story posted 4/18/2011)

On the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, Recovery Act funds helped reconstruct 26 miles of the popular Saffel Canyon OHV Trail. Work consisted of construction of erosion control structures to provide watershed protection and protect the trail tread and spot surfacing of 26 miles of trail with aggregate to stabilize the trail tread to prevent loss of native soils and minimize sedimentation from the trail.

Located 15 minutes from the communities of Eagar and Springerville, the trail is heavily used by both the local communities and visitors coming to the White Mountains for OHV opportunities. Its presence enhances the local tourism economy.

The local OHV group obtained a grant in excess of $200,000 for the Saffel Canyon Trail to match the federal funding received for additional work and will continue to seek grants in the future for continued maintenance.

Contracts were issued to three separate contractors located in Apache County for materials and equipment. The project completed in September 2010 benefits public safety and protects the environment through reduction of sediment into nearby watersheds. Forest visitors are enjoying the improved visual quality and overall enhanced recreational opportunities.

Program Project Name: Buffalo Crossing and Raccoon Campgrounds Vault Restroom Facility Replacements with Associated Walkways.

Local Project Name: Buffalo Crossing and Raccoon Campgrounds Vault Restroom Facility Replacements with Associated Walkways.
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Apache/Sitgreaves
Ranger District: Alpine
Nearby City(ies): Alpine
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Apache
Modified Date: 4/20/2011

Story:

Campground Improvements Benefits Visitors

(Story posted 4/19/2011)

In Arizona, Recovery Act-funded improvements to two Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests campgrounds that began last fall will be finished before the 2011 summer season ends. Last year's work included removal and replacement of 1960s-era restrooms in Buffalo Crossing and Raccoon campgrounds located on the East Fork of the Black River Recreation Area.

Contractors will soon build associated walkways to complete the project. The work is providing meaningful jobs while enhancing public health and safety and improving opportunities for people of all abilities to enjoy the area. The new restrooms comply with state and federal regulations, will reduce annual maintenance costs, and eliminate potential environmental concerns for the nearby Black River.

Program Project Name: Luna Lake Water System Reconstruction

Local Project Name: Luna Lake Potable Water System Replacement
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Apache/Sitgreaves

Ranger District: Alpine
Nearby City(ies): Alpine
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Apache
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/43n2lpj
Modified Date: 6/30/2011

Story:
Recreation Area Upgrades Benefit Visitors

(Story posted 4/14/2011)

The Luna Lake Recreation Area on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest is located near the community of Alpine, Arizona, on the Alpine Ranger District in Apache County. The recreation site is important to the town of Alpine's economy in helping to attract visitors to the area. The campground, consisting of 40 single unit camp sites and three group camp sites, was built in the early 1970s, and since then waterline improvements have consisted of patching the leaks.

The existing water lines were galvanized pipe and were very corroded. The solar well could not keep up with the water use from the recreationists with all of the leaks that continued to occur. This project replaced the waterline distribution system from the new storage tank to all points of service--hydrants with high density polyethylene pipe approved for potable water. The non-ABA compliant not approved for potable water hydrants were all replaced with hydrants that are ABA compliant and approved for potable water. The 8-A contractor awarded the contract for this project completed work in November 2010.

Project benefits include improved public health and safety while minimizing the water shortage for public use in the campground; a water system that complies with state and federal regulations; reduced annual maintenance costs and elimination of deferred maintenance at that site; and enhanced experiences for the public.

Program Project Name: Water Canyon Potable Water Project

Local Project Name: Water Canyon Administrative Site Potable Water Project
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Apache/Sitgreaves
Ranger District: Springerville
Nearby City(ies): Springerville, Eager
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Apache
Modified Date: 5/19/2011

Story:
Water Canyon Administrative Site Benefits from Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 5/16/2011)

The Water Canyon Administrative Site is located three and a half miles south of Eagar, Arizona, in Apache County. The site has been used as an administrative site since 1908. Water Canyon continues to serve the Forest Service as a site for a family residence, barn, and a work center for the Springerville Ranger District. The work center provides space for equipment storage including fire engines, tankers, and a bulldozer along with other smaller motorized and non-motorized equipment for the district's fire crews.

The site has been without a potable water since the existing well failed in 2004. The well was a relatively shallow at 120 feet. With a prolonged drought in the area, this well quit producing sufficient water for domestic and non-domestic use. Information obtained from local well drillers and reports written by Forest Service geologists and hydrologists dating back to 1957 concluded that the water baring strata was at least 1,000 feet below ground surface.

The forest continued to pursue different avenues to resolve the water issue. Primarily, the forest queried the Town of Eagar regarding the feasibility of extending the town's water main to the Water Canyon Admin Site. The distance was approximately 2.2 miles. However, heritage data indicated the new water main would have to pass through a Native American site where it was believed there had been a village and a burial ground. This site was not on National Forest Lands. Regardless, it posed a formidable challenge to the project. In the end, the forest decided to drill a new well.

After advertising and evaluating the bids, the Forest Service awarded the contract to BMJS Contracting of Happy Jack, Arizona, for $157,016 on August 5, 2010. The scope of work included drilling a new one thousand foot-well hole, installing steel casing, and equipping it with a submersible pump. Other associated work included fencing the well head; cleaning the water storage tank; replacing water lines to the house and barn; upgrading the small pump house with insulation, wallboard, a heater, and a new booster pump to ensure the system maintained adequate water pressure. The Forest Service issued the Notice to Proceed to BMJS on August 25, 2010, with a beginning date of August 30, 2010.

The well driller, Willis Well Drilling, of Snowflake, Arizona, began drilling the new well on September 20, 2010. Technical challenges slowed the drillers progress, but he completed drilling on October 27, 2010. He completed installation of the steel casing by November 1. After pump testing the well, forest employees were assured the well would produce between 15 and 20 gallons of water per minute, well within specifications.

Willis Drilling continued to install the well pump and controls, completing their work by December 6, 2010. BMJS Contracting had already completed the tank cleaning, and once the well was completed, began to excavate the water line trenches and renovation work on the existing pump house. They completed the water line replacements and pump house rehabilitation on December 17. Due to inclement winter weather, the project temporarily shut down until after the new year. The major work item remaining was well abandonment and

punch list items.

After a break in the weather, Willis Drilling was able to complete the well abandonment, and BMJS completed all punch list items by February 20, 2011. The well has been working correctly, producing sufficient quantities of water for both domestic and non-domestic uses.

Program Project Name: Santa Rita Abandoned Mine Safety Mitigation/Closures

Local Project Name: Santa Rita Mine AML Closures
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Coronado
Nearby City(ies): Tucson
Congressional District(s): AZ08
County(ies): AZ: Pima, Santa Cruz
Modified Date: 5/24/2011

Story:

Coronado National Forest Uses Recovery Act Funds to Reduce Abandoned Mine Hazards

(Story posted 5/19/2011)

Abandoned mine workings represent a significant hazard on federal public lands that are interspersed with urban populations. This was the case in the Santa Rita Mountains within the Coronado National Forest in Green Valley, Arizona, near Tucson in Pima County.

The Santa Rita Mountains are isolated mountain ranges, referred to as Sky Islands, which are spread across southern Arizona, separated by intervening valleys that are frequently adjacent to significant population centers surrounded by low density urban spread. This proximity results in casual but frequent recreational use of federal public lands. The Forest landscape includes numerous abandoned mine workings ranging from small prospects to other mine features associated with extensive underground workings developed during past mining activities. A mine feature (feature) is defined as an adit, shaft, trench, and/or waste rock source. Adits are horizontal tunnels, and shafts are vertical tunnels.

The Santa Rita Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) project was built on work done by Bat Conservation International and the State of Arizona Mining Inspector's Office. The Forest Service and the State of Arizona is engaged in an on-going effort to remediate the dangers posed by abandoned mine features.

The AML project offered the opportunity to physically close 31 adits and shafts that were approximately five to 15 or more feet wide and five to over 150 feet deep. These mine features were extremely dangerous to the public if one was to fall or enter into these features. Workers plugged these features and sealed them with polyurethane foam, then covered them with soil. Prior to plugging, a biological assessment and archaeological survey was conducted.

• The AML project was completed on February 4, 2011.
• Two temporary jobs were created with temporary laborers hired to work on closing abandoned mines. Additionally, four other regular employees spent time on this project.
• The AML project primarily consisted of construction activities associated with the mitigation of physical hazards at mine features. These construction activities included closure methods using polyurethane foam, bat-friendly grates, bat-friendly cupolas, and backfill.
• Safety remediation at abandoned mine lands is beneficial to all forest users as it eliminates safety hazards. In addition, the environmental studies during project planning target recognition and measurement of possible impacts to existing wildlife in and around abandoned mine lands and historic resources typically found at abandoned mines lands. As a result, mitigation measures are implemented as part of the safety remediation. As an example, a mine closure method may consist of a bat-friendly grate, which will eliminate the safety hazard in preventing human and wildlife traffic while allowing existing bat habitat to continue.

Program Project Name: Big Lake Waste Water Collection System

Local Project Name: Big Lake Wastewater Collection System
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Apache/Sitgreaves
Ranger District: Alpine
Nearby City(ies): Eager & Springerville, AZ
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Apache
Modified Date: 1/18/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Big Lake Recreation Area Improvements Enhance Safety, Increase Efficiency

(Story posted 9/28/2011)

The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests has been systematically repairing and replacing components of the Big Lake Recreation Area utility systems over the past several years.

This Recovery Act project was designed to repair and replace portions of the sewage collection system and replace electrical distribution system components. The utility systems—water, sewer and electric, are aging—having been in service for almost 40 years. The sewer system has approximately 20,000 linear feet of sewer line, over 100 manholes, a lift station, and a sewage treatment system.
Under this project, recovery Act-funded contractors replaced approximately 1,000 feet of sewer line; sealed and repaired 70 manholes; repaired three major line breaks; and replaced electrical cabinets. The sewer-related repairs have reduced the amount of ground and surface water inflow and infiltration (I & I) into the sanitary sewer system. This I & I reduction

improves the sewage treatment process and increases the service life of the lift station pumps.

Also under this contract, workers replaced four aged High Voltage Electric Cabinets in an ongoing effort to update and modernize the power distribution infrastructure.
The contractor began work the last week of August 2010, beginning with manhole repairs and sewer line excavation. Final work was completed during the first week of June 2011.

The work eliminated health and safety concerns, eliminated deferred maintenance, and increased operational efficient that also saves energy and resources.

Program Project Name: Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests - Big Lake Asphalt Patching, Sealing, Striping, Aggregate Replacement

Local Project Name: Big Lake Asphalt patching, Sealing, Striping, and Aggregate Replacement
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Apache/Sitgreaves
Ranger District: Springerville
Nearby City(ies): Springerville & Eager, AZ
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Apache
Modified Date: 1/18/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Road Repairs Bring Jobs, Other Benefits

(Story posted 9/28/2011)

On the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, the Big Lake Recreation Area is the second most visited recreation site. Located in Apache County on the Springerville Ranger District approximately 25 miles from the Towns of Springerville and Eagar;19 miles from Alpine; and 25 miles from Greer, the area is one of the most economically depressed counties in Arizona, Apache County, and Recovery Act-funded work to provide a safe transportation system and reduce the deferred maintenance backlog by $900,000 is using local contractors to stimulate the economy.

Project work includes patching sections of pavement that were removed for sewer line repairs; pot hole patching; crack sealing as needed; fog sealing and applying slurry seals on all asphalt surfaces; and re-striping the pavement. Workers are resurfacing aggregate campground roadways and spurs with ½” minus aggregate and applying soil stabilizer to meet accessibility requirements. The surfaces included are the 8115 road; roads in Rainbow, Brookchar, Cutthroat, and Grayling campgrounds; and parking lots at South Cove, Big Lake and the Marina boat launches along with parking lot access roads.

Five local contractors won work awards for this project. One contractor expressed his

gratitude for receiving a delivery order for a portion of the work, stating, “I was just starting the paperwork to lay off all of my employees. I had been able to fund them through the winter but there just was not any more work. and I could not keep them on any longer. With this job I was able to keep them employed.”
The project was originally scheduled to be completed by the end of June 2011, but due to the Wallow Fire, construction was halted. All facets of the projects should be completed by the end of October 2011, weather willing.

The local community, county, and campground concessionaires in the area were very supportive of the project because of the potential local impact it could have on the economy.

Program Project Name: Rainbow and Brookchar Campground Restroom Facility Replacements and associated sidewalks

Local Project Name: Rainbow and Brookchar Campground Restroom Facility Replacements and associated sidewalks
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Apache/Sitgreaves
Ranger District: Springerville
Nearby City(ies): Springerville & Eager, AZ
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Apache
Modified Date: 1/18/2012

Story:

Visitors Benefit from Recovery Act-funded Campground Facility Improvements

(Story posted 9/28/2011)

On the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, a local contractor is working to repair restrooms at popular Big Lake Recreation area campgrounds located in Apache County on the Springerville Ranger District approximately 25 miles from the Towns of Springerville and Eagar;19 miles from Alpine; and 25 miles from Greer.

Project work includes replacing nine restrooms dating back to the 1970s that do not meet accessibility standards and are not water-efficient as well as upgrading the existing electrical services to the buildings to meet local, state, and national codes and replacing walkways to allow access to people of all abilities. The existing flush toilets were high volume flush (7.5 gal./flush); the new ones are low volume (1.5 gal/flush). Replacement of these nine buildings has the potential to reduce water consumption by over 21,000 gallons per day!

The contractor finished six of the nine installations by the fall of 2010. Weather did not permit preparation and installation of the remaining three at that time, which were installed in May 2011. The construction of the walkways was halted due to the Wallow fire evacuation of this area. The contractor has since resumed construction and should complete the remaining concrete and electrical work by November 2011.

The local communities of Alpine, Springerville, and Eagar, the county, the campground concessionaire and the store permitee located in the Big Lake Recreation Area were very supportive of the project. Positive comments from visitors using the facilities since being constructed have been overwhelming.

Program Project Name: Luna Lake Vault Restroom Facility Replacements and associated walkways

Local Project Name: Luna Lake Vault Restroom Facility Replacements and associated walkways
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Apache/Sitgreaves
Ranger District: Alpine
Nearby City(ies): Alpine, AZ
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Apache
Modified Date: 1/18/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Big Lake Recreation Area Improvements Enhance Safety, Increase Efficiency

(Story posted 9/28/2011)

Recovery Act-funded work in the Luna Lake Recreation Area on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests involves upgrading restrooms to allow access for people of all abilities. The Luna Lake Recreation Area is located near the community of Alpine, Arizona, administered by the Alpine Ranger District. It is an important recreation site to the town of Alpine to attract visitors to the area. The project is located in one of the most economically depressed counties in Arizona, Apache County, and local contractors are completing the work.

The campground, consisting of 40 single unit sites and three group sites, was built in the early 1970s, and minimum reconstruction has occurred in recent years. Three of the eight original vault restrooms have been replaced in the last three years. This project is replacing the remaining three vault restrooms in the Luna Lake single unit area of the campground and the remaining two vault restrooms in the Luna Lake Group A site to complete replacement of all of the facilities in this recreation area. The current vaults are not lined and therefore do not meet Arizona Department of Environmental Quality requirements.

Three contractors substantially completed work in 2010 with the only the walkway replacements remaining when weather forced a shutdown of the work. The Wallow fire caused a delay to resume the project, but it is now again under construction and will be completed by October 2011.

The local community of Alpine, the county, and the campground concessionaire were very

supportive of the project because of the potential local impact it could have on the economy.

Program Project Name: Forest-wide Hardened Stream Crossings Phase II

Local Project Name: Forestwide Hardened Stream Crossings
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Coronado
Nearby City(ies): Mowry, AZ; Tucson, AZ
Congressional District(s): AZ01, AZ07, AZ08
County(ies): AZ: Graham, Pima, Santa Cruz
Modified Date: 2/10/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Maintenance Projects Promote Safety, Reduce Erosion

(Story posted 9/28/2011)

On the Coronado National Forest, Recovery Act-funded workers installed engineered grade-controlling permanent sheet steel weirs in creek crossings just beyond the downstream side of the roadway at ten drainage crossing locations to control flow-induced disturbance of the drainage at the stream crossing during stream flows, thus ensuring the crossings are drivable without emergency maintenance after storm-flow.

Workers used interlocking sheet steel piling segments of pre-cut length as the body of the weir at each stream crossing except for two crossings, where they instead used large riprap, due to the presence of bedrock that precluded excavation for the sheet steel piles. Steel weirs required excavation of a trench deep enough to seat the majority of the sheet piling length, both to prevent scour from exposing more than half the pile length (and thus causing potential structural failure) and also to limit the exposed drop-off that the weir presents adjacent to the road. A steel cap was welded to the top of the sheet piling segments to provide a safe surface for contact by pedestrians, tires and road maintenance equipment. When viewed from up- or down-stream the top surface of each weir has a flat-bottomed “V” shape and will be engineered to pass the entire projected 100-year runoff event through the “V.”

By hardening road crossings that involve dry or intermittent washes and streams with a concrete structure, engineers can reduce the ecological affects of the transportation system while mitigating a situation that has potential safety risks to the recreating public.

Program Project Name: Forest-wide Road Realignment and Decommissioning

Local Project Name: High Creek Access Project
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Coronado
Ranger District: Safford

Nearby City(ies): Willcox, AZ
Congressional District(s): AZ01, AZ07, AZ08
County(ies): AZ: Graham, Pima, Santa Cruz
Modified Date: 1/18/2012

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Support Motorized Vehicle Access

(Story posted 9/29/2011)

On the Coronado National Forest, Recovery Act-funded Arizona contractors restored legal motorized public access to the High Creek area of the Galiuro Mountains by building an authorized and designated National Forest System road (NFSR) that meets agency engineering standards.

Specific work included reconstruction and heavy maintenance on NFSR 693A, including a hardened stream crossing through another Recovery Act project at Harrison Canyon. Workers also built 0.7 miles of new road that became part of NFSR 693A, reconstructed 0.2 miles of unauthorized road that became part of NFSR 693A, and decommissioned 0.6 miles of unauthorized road that was being used as part of the access to High Creek without benefit of environmental compliance or proper road location. All work was finished by March 2011.

The Forest Service worked with Arizona Game and Fish as well as the Turkey Federation to accomplish project goals.

Program Project Name: Coronado National Forest - Bridge Replacements at Madera Canyon and Silver Creek

Local Project Name: Silver Creek Bridge Replacement, Madera Bridges
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Coronado
Ranger District: Douglas
Nearby City(ies): Portal & Green Valley, AZ
Congressional District(s): AZ08
County(ies): AZ: Santa Cruz
Modified Date: 2/14/2012

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Bridge Work Enhances Traveler Safety

(Story posted 9/28/2011)

On the Coronado National Forest, Recovery Act-funded workers are replacing bridges to improve traveler safety. Workers are replacing the structurally deficient Silver Creek bridge and functionally and hydrologically deficient Madera bridges.

The work in the project involves infrastructure improvements through replacement of two functionally obsolete 1940s-era single-lane bridges (on a double lane road) in Madera Canyon and a structurally deficient two-lane bridge at Silver Creek. The bridges are on the only routes to significant recreational tourism sites. Double-lane access will enable better emergency/fire response to the affected area, thus improving visitor safety. The project of the two bridges in Madera Canyon in Santa Cruz County will offer jobs to an economically depressed area in a remote section of Santa Cruz County. The local labor pool in Cochise County is small, and this work will have a disproportionate beneficial effect in the project area of Silver Creek.

Program Project Name: World's Fair Mine Acid Drainage Remediation

Local Project Name: World's Fair Mine Remediation
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Coronado
Ranger District: Nogales
Nearby City(ies): Patagonia, AZ
Congressional District(s): AZ08
County(ies): AZ: Santa Cruz
Modified Date: 1/18/2012

Story:

Small Town of Patagonia Benefits from Recovery Act-funded Environmental Cleanup

(Story posted 9/28/2011)

Past mining activities left footprints littered with abandoned mines throughout the State of Arizona; the small town of Patagonia is no different. In fact, the area surrounding the small town of Patagonia has many of these abandoned mines in its backyard. One of these abandoned mines is the World’s Fair Mine, situated in Alum Gulch watershed within the Coronado National Forest in Santa Cruz County. This 157-year old mine was first operated by Spanish miners in 1853 with mine operations continuing intermittently through the 1910s. Mining for silver increased between 1910 and 1950, and operations ceased in the mid-1950s.

The past mining activities left 12,000 cubic yards of waste rock containing elevated levels of arsenic and lead and a main adit discharging acid mine drainage. The mine’s internal workings have a web of approximately 15,000 feet of tunnels, and shafts developed to a depth of 450 feet.

In 2006, the Forest Service Southwestern Region initiated an environmental cleanup using its Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) authority. A strategy was developed to clean up the lead and arsenic contamination and

remediate the Site. Initially, the biggest obstacle was a lack of funding to complete the entire cleanup estimated at $1,500,000. Forest Service decision-makers were able to secure funding for only half of the cleanup, which consisted of the removal and consolidation of 12,000 cubic yards of waste rock. The second half of the cleanup was estimated at $ 1,000,000, which was defined as final closure of the main adit. The color of the water flowing out of the adit was orange, indicating low pH and elevated levels of iron.

The first half of the cleanup was completed in 2007. In 2010, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided the funds needed to complete the second half of the cleanup and rid the watershed of acid mine drainage and lead-contaminated waste rock. Local county vendors contributed to the cleanup by providing concrete, rock materials, and heavy equipment. The local economy flourished as spending increased at nearby businesses such as hotels and restaurants. In addition, environmental specialists from the nearby city of Tucson also reaped the benefits as they were hired for their knowledge of the local geology and remediation expertise.

While only a few jobs were created through this effort, the town of Patagonia has witnessed a reduction in the long-term environmental impacts to nearby Patagonia Lake. The environmental cleanup is a success! The Forest Service has achieved the remediation goals of protecting human health and the environment while bringing additional revenue to the small town of Patagonia and Santa Cruz County.

Program Project Name: Apache Ecosystem Restoration

Local Project Name: Ecosystem Management in Apache County
Region: Southwest Region
Nearby City(ies): Springerville, AZ
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Apache
Modified Date: 2/10/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Work Brings Jobs, Supports Forest Health

(Story posted 9/29/2011)

Using USDA Forest Service Recovery Act funds, ground work began in early 2011 to restore approximately 4,500 acres of pinion-juniper woodlands in rural northeastern Arizona to a more natural, healthy, and sustainable condition. Local crews operating heavy equipment are working to remove overstocking of pine and juniper trees from the rolling hills of this southern Apache County rangeland.

The overstocking conditions contribute to increased fire danger, as well as degradation of watershed conditions and wildlife habitat. The treatment consists of selective thinning and

grinding of encroachment trees, leaving large oldgrowth trees in a less dense and more widelyspaced arrangement. Results will include reducing fuel load and creating a more fire resistant vegetative mosaic across the landscape, with open areas to serve as fire breaks; creating more diverse, productive, and sustainable wildlife habitat at a landscape scale; and improving watershed conditions by decreasing erosion, thereby improving water quality. Water yield should be improved as well with decreased vegetative demand for surface and ground water.

The contractors are taking advantage of favorable fall weather and ground conditions to continue making progress. Coordination between Arizona Game and Fish Department, Arizona State Land Department, and Arizona State Forestry allows for coordination and early inspection of prescriptions with the contractors. Denis Humphrey, Range Manager for the Arizona State Land Department, observes that the treatment work "… has opened the door to improved range and watershed conditions, with late summer rains giving rise to improved grass cover and decreased erosion potential." Treatment has resulted in improved habitat conditions for mule deer due to increased browse and forage.

The full project is expected to take approximately two tears for completion, with final ground work to be completed by late 2012. The Apache Ecosystem Restoration project is being implemented through a partnership between the Arizona State Forestry Division and the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and is utilizing local contractors for ontheground restoration work.

Project partners report that work is currently being implemented on the ground by two local businesses with four contract employees doing mechanized harvesting. In addition, five staff members of the Arizona Game and Fish Department and two staff members of Arizona State Forestry have been partially supported by the Recovery Act funding.

Program Project Name: Groom Creek/Crown King Fire Districts

Local Project Name: Forest Fuels Treatment in Multiple Counties
Region: Southwest Region
Nearby City(ies): Prescott, AZ
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Yavapai
Modified Date: 3/1/2012

Story:

Central Arizona Recovery Act-funded Hazardous Fuels Reduction Work Well Underway

(Story posted 9/29/2011)

In several rural communities, USDA Forest Service Recovery Act funds are being used to support hazardous fuels reduction, forest health protection, rehabilitation, and hazard mitigation activities. Most components are being implemented through sub-grants with local

fire departments that began in mid-2010 and are scheduled for completion by mid-2012.

The Crown King Fire District fuels crew is working with AmeriCorps to treat acreages in the east and northeast part of town. Workers have accomplished about two-thirds of the approximately 40 acres of planned treatment.

The Groom Creek Fire District plans to treat 100 acres and has completed approximately two-thirds of the work, creating a fuel break from the entrance of Goldwater Lake and south along Senator Highway to Friendly Pines Road and from Mt. Trittle Road to the entrance of Goldwater Lake involving vegetation five inches in diameter and smaller. The prescription model is consistent with that being used by the Prescott National Forest, which accommodates a diversity of species type, age, and grouping aesthetics. In February 2011, crews started the overstory thinning project. A majority of the biomass generated is being chipped and donated to local summer camps for use in horse corrals and boarding facilities. Firewood-grade materials are being made available to low-income families in the project vicinity.

Program Project Name: ShowLow FD

Local Project Name: Forest Fuels Treatment in Multiple Counties
Region: Southwest Region
Nearby City(ies): Show Low, AZ
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Navajo
Modified Date: 12/19/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Help Meet Firewise Standards

(Story posted 9/29/2011)

Recovery Act funds are helping several rural White Mountain area communities remove hazardous fuels to better meet Firewise Communities program standards, which is a National Fire Protection Association effort co-sponsored by the USDA Forest Service, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the National Association of State Foresters that encourages local solutions for wildfire safety by involving homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, firefighters, and others to better protect people and property from wildfire risks.

Most work, including hazardous fuels reduction, forest health protection, rehabilitation, and hazard mitigation activities, is being implemented through subgrants with local fire departments. The Show Low project is located in Navajo County, Arizona, and all other project sites are in Yavapai County, Arizona. Work on all local components that began in mid-2010 is scheduled for completion by mid-2012.

In the Show Low area, the Show Low Fire Department is treating approximately 200 acres

utilizing its fuels crew while creating several part-time positions. To date, workers have completed work on 72 acres.

Program Project Name: Government Canyon - Lynx Creek State Land and City of Prescott Communication Sites

Local Project Name: Forest Fuels Treatment in Multiple Counties
Region: Southwest Region
Nearby City(ies): Prescott and Perkinsville, AZ
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Yavapai
Modified Date: 12/20/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Protect Central Arizona Homes from Wildfire

(Story posted 9/29/2011)

In several rural communities, Recovery Act Funds are being used to support hazardous fuels reduction, forest health protection, rehabilitation, and hazard mitigation activities. Most components are being implemented through subgrants with local fire departments that began in mid 2010 and are scheduled for completion by mid 2012.
In one project workers will reduce hazardous fuels and create defensible space on approximately 75 acres in three areas within the City of Prescott. Approximately 18 acres in Highland Center and 36 acres in Thumb Butte Open Space are finished, and coordination for work on the 19-acre North Reservoir Communications Site has been completed with fuel treatments set to begin in late 2011.

Arizona State Forestry is managing two project areas near Prescott, with contractors and Arizona Forestry fuels crews accomplishing work on nearly 700 acres in Government Canyon and Lynx Creek areas that is well underway.

Three project blocks have been completed, totaling approximately 190 acres of ponderosa pine forest and a variety of other vegetation types. For this phase, the objective was to thin from below to increase stand health and vigor as well as reduce fire hazard. Workers utilized low-impact logging techniques that minimized soil disturbance and road construction. Following the tree thinning completion, fire hazard was reduced for 50 houses directly and approximately 200 indirectly. The residual stand should have increased growth due to more natural spacing of the trees and this should improve overall stand health.

Archeological clearances for the remaining project acres are underway, and staff is working on required procurement steps to allow completion of the remaining brush crush portion of the project. The work is supporting new jobs for contractors and state employees while also helping the Prescott Fire Department retain employees.

Program Project Name: Forestwide Recreation Site Buildings deferred maintenance projects

Local Project Name: Forestwide Rec Site Buildings deferred maintenance projects
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Prescott
Nearby City(ies): Prescott, AZ
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Yavapai
Modified Date: 2/10/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Maintenance Project Supports Numerous Objectives

(Story posted 9/29/2011)

This project addressed the deferred maintenance on recreations sites throughout the Prescott National Forest. There were several distinct components. One focus was on removing obsolete blight-ridden restrooms from the forest environment and return the sites to more natural conditions. A second objective was to remove and replace obsolete restrooms in high-use areas with modern, vandal-resistant, universal accessible restrooms. A third objective was a cultural resource survey of existing facilities on the forest to determine the historical context of each facility.

Workers evaluated 32 sites between September 1825, 2010. Each location was subjected to a reconnaissance-level architectural survey to determine the potential cultural significance of existing buildings, structures, and sites. The primary focus of the architectural survey was on buildings and structures that were 50 years of age or older at the time of the evaluation. However, all buildings and structures constructed prior to 1990 were evaluated. The historic properties evaluations documented in this report were performed in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and were conducted in support of projects planned in association with the management of Prescott National Forest. The resources were evaluated to ascertain if they rise to the level of significance and retain integrity to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Evaluations included the analysis of the current condition of four sites previously listed in the National Register (Palace Station, Groom Creek Schoolhouse, Crown King Administrative Site, and Walnut Creek Administrative Site). The Groom Creek Administrative Site has also been previously determined eligible as a district. All were found to retain integrity.

Program Project Name: White Mountain Apache Tribe - Forest Service Tribal Forest Protection Act Project

Local Project Name: WMAT/FS Los Burros TFPA
Region: Southwest Region

Forest: Apache/Sitgreaves
Ranger District: Lakeside
Nearby City(ies): Lakeside, AZ
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Apache
Modified Date: 1/18/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Tribal Forest Protection Act Project Underway

(Story posted 9/29/2011)

The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest is working with the White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT) to treat, restore and plant thousands of acres using Recovery Act funds under the auspices of the Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA) that provides the authority for the WMAT to do work on National Forest System-administered lands in order to restore those lands and protect adjacent tribal lands.

In fall 2009, the Forest and the WMAT established locations for the TFPA project, estimated at 4,800 acres divided into four Task Orders: Brushy at 1,226 acres; Pierce at 1,549 acres; Lake Bear at 1,179 acres; and Porter at 751 acres.
The project has been divided into three phases: Phase I, layout and preparation of task orders; Phase II, implementation; and Phase III; implementation of pre-commercial thinning.

Phases I and III will be implemented by WMAT and Forest Service personnel, having a total value of $1,000,000. Phase II implemented by White Mountain Stewardship Contractors (WMS).

In spring 2010, Forest Service personnel started mentoring the WMAT crew, which involved layout, marking, and cruising the Brushy and Pierce task orders. Phase I was completed in the winter of 2010 on both Brushy and Pierce task orders. The purpose of mentoring the WMAT crew was to develop them into a contract crew to allow them to work independently on the remaining two task orders and potentially bid on upcoming Forest Service marking and cruising contracts.

In spring 2011, WMAT began preparation work on Lake Bear and Porter task orders with an estimated completion date of winter 2011. In summer 2011, the Brushy Task order was awarded and the WMS implemented and completed the work by late summer. In fall 2011, Phase III began on Brushy with a WMAT crew, and work is currently underway.

The Forest estimates completion of all phases within the task orders by fall 2012.

The following objectives and benefits are expected:

Fuel Reduction—significantly reduced fuel hazards adjacent to and proximal to private and Reservation land (Wildland Urban Interface).

Forest Health and Restoration—Thinning results in reduced tree densities, thereby providing for higher tree vigor and an increased ability to fend off disease and insect attack. Further, reduced densities and fuel treatments tend to reduce fire damage and severity for forest and ground vegetation. Tree and ground vegetation survival is usually much higher in open stands. Open stands more closely resemble pre-settlement forest conditions.
Wildlife Habitat and Range—Thinning the forest allows considerably more light to reach the forest floor, leading to much-improved production of forage species: grasses, herbaceous vegetation, and browse.
Soil and Watershed—Improved ground vegetation cover provides for more organic contributions to the topsoil layer and decreases soil erosion.
Social and Economical—provide jobs for both local and reservation individuals, along with training and development of natural resource skills.

Program Project Name: Rodeo-Chedeski Fire Reforestation Site Preparation

Local Project Name: Timberland and Pinedale R-C Site Prep & Fuels Treatment Contracts
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Apache/Sitgreaves
Ranger District: Lakeside
Nearby City(ies): Pinedale & Timberland Acres, AZ
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Coconino, Navajo
Modified Date: 1/18/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Fuels Work Provides Many Benefits

(Story posted 9/29/2011)

On the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, Recovery Act-funded contractors used three dozers to pile the majority of dead standing and down wood debris that was the result of the Rodeo-Chediski Fire (2002). The areas that were treated were high priority areas adjacent or proximal to the communities of Pinedale and Timberland Acres in the wildland urban interface.

The project completed in mid-2010 included the following benefits:

Regeneration Site Preparation—Dozers piling slash created mechanical site disturbance in order to expose mineral soil and prepare a seed bed for natural ponderosa pine regeneration.

Hazardous Fuel Reduction—The machine piling of the majority of the dead slash (to be burned later) and altering or crushing much of the residual slash (not piled) significantly reduced the fuel hazards adjacent to and proximal to private land.

Visual Quality—Views were significantly improved for adjacent property owners, etc.

Watershed and Soil—The result of crushing and altering residual slash will improve the breakdown of organic material and aid in the restoration of damaged and/or eroded topsoil. Over time, the effects of these treatment(s) should increasingly reduce soil erosion.

Wildlife Habitat and Range—Adequate amounts of residual standing and down dead wood was retained to provide for wildlife habitat. The resulting improvements to soil and ground vegetation should lead to improve production of forage species: grasses, herbaceous vegetation, and browse.

Program Project Name: Pinyon-Juniper Thinning

Local Project Name: Los Burros North Thinning and Fuels Treatment
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Apache/Sitgreaves
Ranger District: Lakeside
Nearby City(ies): Lakeside, AZ
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Apache, Greenlee, Navajo
Modified Date: 1/19/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Hazardous Fuels Reduction Work Supports Multiple Objectives

(Story posted 9/29/2011 and updated 1/19/2012)

On the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, local contractors are conducting hazardous fuel reduction activities in wildland-urban-interface high-priority areas adjacent to or near the community of Vernon. Since July 2010, workers have been conducting chainsaw thinning and hand piling of primarily ponderosa pine and juniper species up to nine inches in diameter and will have treated just over 1,200 acres when the project is finished in spring 2012.

In late 2011 winter weather (snow) temporarily shut the project down, leaving approximately 80 acres to be thinned and piled when work resumes in the spring. In addition to providing forest industry work, the thinning and hand piling activities are significantly reducing catastrophic wildfire risk and improving forest health while enhancing wildlife forage and reducing soil erosion.

Program Project Name: Bundled White Mountain Stewardship Contract Task Orders

Local Project Name: West Chevlon & Wolf A Task Orders
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Apache/Sitgreaves
Nearby City(ies): ShowLow, AZ

Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Apache
Modified Date: 2/10/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Hazardous Fuel Reduction Work

(Story posted 9/29/2011)

On the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, Recovery Act-funded work is progressing under two major task orders. The West Chevelon Task Order, currently in progress, began November 9, 2010. Work has been progressing on this task order, meeting contract requirements and acceptable work standards. The task order was suspended during the winter for approximately three months. Work resumed in the spring. Currently, work resumed after an earlier summer suspension for other projects. The work should be finished by mid-November.

The Wolfe A Task Order started October 18, 2010 and was completed August 15, 2011. These projects provided local employers and their employees opportunities to keep working and supported spending in local communities. The products produced from these task orders include lumber, heating pellets and biomass for producing electrical power.

Program Project Name: White Mountain Stewardship

Local Project Name: WMS Task Orders
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Apache/Sitgreaves
Nearby City(ies): Nutrioso & Greer, AZ
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Apache, Navajo
Modified Date: 10/31/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Forest Restoration Work Provides Multiple Benefits

(Story posted 9/29/2011)

Recovery Act-funded workers have been treating thousands of acres under the White Mountain Stewardship Contract, the first large 10-year stewardship contract in the nation that emphasizes large-scale forest restoration activities to improve forest health, enhance rural development, and utilize previously unmarketable small-diameter trees.

Since 2010 local contractors have removed nearly 250,000 tons of biomass that is being used to fuel a wood-burning electrical power plant or produce residential wood pellets. In addition to providing jobs in the woods, the project on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest

is strengthening the local forest products industry and contributing to efforts to promote renewable energy and reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Project work is planned for completion this coming winter if weather conditions permit.

Program Project Name: Nutrioso Restoration

Local Project Name: Nutrioso WUI PJ Restoration
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Apache/Sitgreaves
Ranger District: Alpine
Nearby City(ies): Nutrioso, AZ
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Apache
Modified Date: 1/18/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Fuels Work Reduces Wildfire Risk, Enhances Habitat

(Story posted 9/30/2011)

Recovery Act-funded workers conducted high-intensity thinning to reduce catastrophic wildland fire risk to adjoining private properties and to protect aquatic species watersheds as outlined in the Nutrioso Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Hazardous fuels reduction work in one of the contributing headwaters to the Little Colorado River began in October 2010 and was finished in April 2011.

The work on public lands also supported forest health, especially range enhancement for a multitude of species that frequent this area, such as winter forage for large game animals, while protecting the community of Nutrioso, which consists of approximately 300 year-round residents and is listed in the Federal Register as a Community-at-Risk.

Program Project Name: Forest Wide Trail Maintenance (YCC Crews)

Local Project Name: Forest Wide Trail Mtc (YCC)
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Coronado
Nearby City(ies): Safford, Siera Vista, Nogales & Douglas, AZ
Congressional District(s): AZ01, AZ07, AZ08
County(ies): AZ: Graham, Pima, Santa Cruz
Modified Date: 2/10/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded trail Maintenance projects Benefit Youth, Recreationists

(Story posted 9/29/2011)

The Coronado National Forest Trail Maintenance project is currently supported by youth conservation corps (YCC) from across the United States consisting of the following organizations: Northwest Youth Corps (NYC) from Oregon; Coconino Rural Environmental Corps (CREC) from Flagstaff, Arizona; and Southwest Conservation Corps from Tucson, Arizona. Trail work is being accomplished on four of the five ranger districts (RDs)—Douglas RD, Nogales RD, Sierra Vista RD, and Safford RD—on the Coronado National Forest. In this project, YCC crews are responsible for maintaining a total of 64 trails or 258 miles of trail. A majority of work that is being accomplished consists of the following:

• Building new trail
• Trail maintenance
• Building drainage structures
• Building cairns
• Maintaining switchbacks
• Logging trees
• Rehabilitating trail systems
• Installing trail signs

Reflections of these projects have been extremely positive from the YCC organizations. NYC Youth Corps Director Joe Waksmundski indicated that this project developed an extremely positive relationship with the Coronado National Forest. These projects have enabled NYC to train young women and men in leadership and trail maintenance but also being able to enjoy the work with the gorgeous scenery. The project has allowed NYC to experience work in both backcountry and wilderness settings. One project out of the 33 weeks of work that NYC is proud of was the work accomplished on the Witch Ridge Trail system. During the 10 weeks of work, NYC crews were able to rehabilitate 9.84 miles of existing trail; build 2.77 miles of trail; build 23 feet of retaining wall; and install five drainage structures. The project enabled NYC to complete difficult work in a high desert environment.

CREC Senior Projects and Partnership Coordinator Allison Laramee also indicated a positive relationship between CREC and the Coronado National Forest. Over the last two years with funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, CREC has maintained over 51 miles of trail; brushed out over 21 miles of trail; constructed 170 trail structures; and removed over 1,208 logs from the trail using crosscut saws. The best project that CREC accomplished during the project consisted of one crew removing over 178 dead and down logs from Crest, Snowshed, and Mormon trails during an eight-day project using crosscut saws.

An anonymous crew member from CREC reflected on the work experience and accomplishments on the Coronado National Forest while working on the South Taylor Canyon Trail. The first thing that came to mind when thinking of work was the Newtonian definition, and it occurred to me that our work at CREC is a prime example of applying restorative and corrective forces over the land, to the nitty-gritty of pitting the force of our chainsaws against trees three times our own age, or employing mechanical advantage to move rocks three times our weight. So much of our work at CREC is contingent upon choosing the right tool to get the job done. We find great pride in beating expectations and are always striving to improve our work.

Even on a good day, our job is demanding. Harsh climates, demanding tasks, close quarters, and simple living are all part for the course, but two of the last three spikes have raised the bar for what our crew is able to work through and has defined how far our work ethic will carry us to meet and exceed objectives. Our work requires ample grit, and within the first two months we have pushed through the ravages of flu and giardia, the big hard sun, and our new favorite form of precipitation—graupel.

For a vignette into the bomber work ethic our crew has built at CREC, one needs to look no further than our last spike to South Taylor Canyon in the Coronado National Forest. Our goal was to brush three and a half miles of old two-track running straight up the fall line that had seen little activity in 25 years. If we had time we were to brush another trail along the ridge line and to build tread if we ran out of things to do. Day one arrived and our crew was already missing our supervisor and me, thanks to our contraction of giardia during the break. Would we let giardia win? Would we let it put us in the “pain-cave” to mope and give up? No. We had already pushed through a flu-infested, freezing-rain mud-fest, and we would push through with the same tactics that had saved us before. Laughing at our situation, making jokes about giardia butler and giardia of the mouth, going all out on theme days and taking refuge in cavemen TV, guitar riffs and the beauty of the full moon saw us through. By the end of spike, despite protozoa ripping into us without remorse, we had brushed all of South Taylor Canyon Trail, the ridge line, managed to install nearly two miles of tread and threw in a series of drains. We are all out here working for different reasons, but we are all out here, for better or worse, striving to be the best.

SCC Program Director Attlia Boros indicated a positive working relationship with the Coronado National Forest on the project. SCC crews maintained 53,468 feet of trail; constructed 648 feet of new trail; cleared 42,966 feet of corridor; constructed 46 cairns; and also constructed other trail features such as rock water bars, rock steps, and drains. These accomplishments were completed with five different stays on the forest.

CREC and NYC are still performing trail maintenance projects for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in FY 2012. SCC has completed their projects on the Coronado National Forest.

Program Project Name: White Mountain Apache Tribe Hazardous Fuels Reduction

Local Project Name: WMAT Haz Fuels Reduction
Region: Southwest Region
Nearby City(ies): Cibeque, Carrizo, Cedar Creek, AZ
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Apache
Modified Date: 12/20/2011

Story:

Reservation Uses Recovery Act Funds to Protect Communities, Enhance Watersheds

(Story posted 9/29/2011)

A Recovery Act-funded project to treat hazardous fuels on 3,565 acres within the Fort Apache Indian Reservation around the communities of Cibique, Carrizo, and Cedar Creek; accomplish watershed enhancements on 5,000 acres within the boundaries of the nearly 500,000-acre 2002 Rodeo-Chediski fire; protect 19 tribal community cemeteries; and restore 41 springs is well underway.

As of late June, White Mountain Apache Tribal workers have accomplished the following:
• completed hazardous fuels reduction on 1,697 acres
• seeded 1,936 acres affected by the Rodeo-Chediski fire
• placed log erosion control barriers on 910 acres
• maintained and cleaned 57 culverts
• implemented bank/channel protection at 26 sites
• removed roadside hazard trees along 48 miles of reservation roads
• protected 41 springs and 16 cemeteries
• replaced or repaired 110 miles of fencing

Program Project Name: White Mountain Apache Tribe Nursery Development for Post-Fire Rehabilitation

Local Project Name: WMAT Native Plant Nursery
Region: Southwest Region
Nearby City(ies): White River, AZ
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Apache
Modified Date: 1/19/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Tribal Nursery Opens

(Story posted 9/30/2011)

On August 17, 2011, the USDA Forest Service Recovery Act-funded Native Plant Nursery was the site of a grand opening to commemorate the $2.4 million, two-year, five-phase project that is the first of its kind in Indian Country. The White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT) Nursery Team completed its first two phases, Planning, Phase I and Design, Phase II, in June 2010 after which the team facilitated and managed Phase III, the Construction Phase.

The WMAT's Native Plant Nursery project was initiated in response to the Fort Apache Bureau of Indian Affair's decision to shut down the McNary Nursery in 2008 due to the devastating damage to the greenhouse facilities caused by an accidental gas line explosion. Fortunately nobody was hurt in the explosion; however, the accident left the WMAT without the necessary resources to support the Tribe's reforestation and native plant watershed restoration efforts on the 280,000 acres destroyed by the Rodeo-Chediski Fire in 2002. With

the 2011 Wallow Fire burning over 500,000 acres in Arizona and New Mexico, the need for seedlings has become even greater.

In addition to cultivating seedlings and native plants; the WMAT Nursery project has provided jobs for the WMAT community, which experiences annual unemployment rates of 70 percent on average. Tribal Chairman Ronnie Lupe said the nursery will be an economic boon for the tribe. Native Plant Nursery workers have sown some 93,000 seedlings and expect them to be ready to plant in spring 2012.

Program Project Name: Drake Wood to Energy

Local Project Name: Drake Wood to Energy
Region: Southwest Region
Nearby City(ies): Drake, AZ
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Yavapai
Modified Date: 1/19/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Project to Support Woody Biomass Utilization

(Story posted 10/3/2011)

The Arizona State Forestry Division is managing USDA Forest Service Recovery Act funds to help develop and implement a process for safe and cost-effective mechanized removal, processing, and transportation of biomass from at-risk lands for delivery to biomass facilities. The biomass generated from forest management activities will initially be utilized by Drake Biomass, LLC to offset the burning of coal in the manufacture of cement.

The grantees have completed field trials for various pieces equipment to harvest and bundle brush species (pinion, juniper, and chaparral) and are working with manufacturers to modify their equipment to make an efficient device with which to harvest these woody biomass species with shapes that are challenging to collect for use. The grantees have also tested grinders and chippers and have selected a large grinder to be used in the Prescott Valley. All of this activity is in anticipation of working with Drake Cement to convert its large cement plant to wood heat. The conversion is currently working through the financial aspects.

This project is helping develop and sustain employment opportunities and businesses for the harvesting, processing, transportation, and procurement of biomass on a long-term basis.

Program Project Name: Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest Trails Improvement

Local Project Name: Trail Maintenance & Brushing
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Apache/Sitgreaves

Nearby City(ies): Springerville, Lakeview, Egar, AZ
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Apache, Navajo
Modified Date: 2/10/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Enhance Recreational Opportunities

(Story posted 10/3/2011)

In cooperation with the Coconino Rural Environmental Corps (CREC), the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests will accomplish 328 miles of non-contiguous heavy trail maintenance and brushing across the landscape. Recovery Act-funded workers have completed clearing trees and logs along trail corridors with the use of chainsaws and handtools; clearing brush from trails; completing tread work; and cleaning and installing drainage structures associated with non- motorized trails.

The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests directly support a number of locally based economies, which were once heavily supported by timber production and other commodity driven industries. As such, the project was located within a number of underrepresented counties, including one of the most economically depressed counties (Apache County, Arizona) within the United States of America.

The project was undertaken in Fiscal Year 2009 with hopes of completion in Fiscal Year 2012. Unforeseen delay in project completion was due (in part) to Arizona's largest wildfire in history (the Wallow Fire).

Project benefits include the following:

• Public health and safety
• Protection of watersheds associated with trails maintained
• Reduction of annual maintenance costs
• Elimination of deferred maintenance for existing infrastructure
• Improved (recreational) user comfort, bringing more visitors into the local communities
• Supporting a young American workforce with stewardship education and job training

Key partners and state involvement include the following:

The Coconino Rural Environmental Corps (CREC) has historical traditions dating back to the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCCs), which was established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. CREC prides itself on building programs that aid in the health and sustainability of communities. In a professional capacity, CREC aided the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests in completion of the project by providing logistical and financial support as an in-kind contributor to the project.

Program Project Name: Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest Trails Improvement
Local Project Name: Trail Maintenance CREC
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Apache/Sitgreaves
Nearby City(ies): Springerville, Eager, Pinetop-Lakeside, Show Low, AZ
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Apache, Navajo
Modified Date: 2/10/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Enhance Recreational Opportunities

(Story posted 10/5/2011)

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Program Project Name: Forest-wide Water System Upgrades and Deferred Maintenance

Local Project Name: D1-5 Water System Upgrades
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Coronado
Nearby City(ies): Tucson, Nogales, Douglas, Safford & Sierra Vista, AZ
Congressional District(s): AZ01, AZ07, AZ08
County(ies): AZ: Graham, Pima, Santa Cruz
Modified Date: 1/12/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Project Supports Water System Repairs

(Story posted 10/5/2011)

On the Coronado National Forest, Recovery Act-funded work to design and construct or reconstruct potable water systems on all five ranger districts that began in early 2010 and recently ended will ensure safe drinking water is available at existing recreation and administrative sites. Contractors conducted various activities to upgrade or replace aging water systems, including the following:

• recoat an existing steel water tank
• drill and develop three potable water wells
• build photovoltaic power systems for two solar well pumps
• build both photovoltaic and grid power electrical systems
• build water distribution systems
• build pumping and chlorination systems
• build six water works utility buildings
• build chain-link fencing around new wells and water works buildings
• install numerous water valves, meters, valve boxes, and hydrants
• install two water fill stations
• install two fire hose racks
• install numerous small potable water tanks

In addition to enhancing public safety and recreational experiences, the work was designed and constructed to minimize maintenance and operation demands, thus contributing to ongoing reduced deferred maintenance

Program Project Name: North Phoenix Abandoned Mine Safety Mitigation / Closures

Local Project Name: North Phoenix AML Closure Project

Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Tonto
Nearby City(ies): Phoenix & Prescott, AZ
Congressional District(s): AZ01, AZ02
County(ies): AZ: Maricopa, Yavapai
Modified Date: 2/10/2012

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Enhance Abandoned Mine Safety

(Story posted 10/11/2011)

The urban interface along the north and northwestern edge of Phoenix and its suburbs is historically an area known for gold mining and as a result, the area is littered with abandoned mine shafts and adits (known as mine features). Adits are horizontal tunnels, and shafts are vertical tunnels created by past mining activities. The highest density of features is found near Black Canyon City, New River, and into and around the towns of Mayer, Dewey and Humboldt. These are areas are within the Tonto National Forest.

These areas are also areas of high visitation by hikers, 4-wheelers and campers primarily coming from the Phoenix metro area. Many of the roads used by these visitors are old mining roads, and they lead directly to some of the most dangerous features. There are many instances of deep shafts within feet of the roadway, and they pose serious hazards to travelers. The Forest Service and the State of Arizona is engaged in an on-going effort to remediate the dangers posed by abandoned mine features.

The Bradshaw Ranger District of the Prescott National Forest is also known for historic mining activities.

Through this project, the USDA Forest Service, Tonto and Prescott national forests, physically plugged 66 adits and shafts that were approximately 4 to 20+ feet wide and 10 to 100+ feet deep. Prior to plugging, biological assessments and archaeological surveys were conducted. These mine features can be extremely dangerous to the public if one was to fall or enter into these features. These features were plugged and sealed with polyurethane foam and then covered with soil.

Program Project Name: Bundled Mechanical WUI Treatment

Local Project Name: Bundled Mechanical WUI Treatment
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Prescott
Nearby City(ies): Prescott, Cherry, Dewey
Congressional District(s): AZ01
County(ies): AZ: Yavapai
Modified Date: 3/14/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Help Protect Communities, Enhance Forest Health

(Story posted 3/9/2012)

The Prescott Basin nestled in the pine and mountains of central Arizona is an area that has played an important role in Arizona's history and development as a state. This area, including the city of Prescott and numerous satellite communities, is a wildland-urban interface with homes built among the pines and adjacent Prescott National Forest lands.

In 2002, the Indian Fire burned six homes, threatened hundreds of lives, and caused major evacuations. Prior to to the wildfire, the community's "at risk" status was known and being addressed by federal, state, and local agencies, but the wildfire exemplified the need to be proactive in dealing with the threat. Affected agencies initiated a cooperative effort to plan and implement a process designed to reduce wildfire risks. The Prescott Area Wildland Urban Interface Commission is coordinating many of these efforts with outcomes being implementation of successful treatments within communities and on private lands and treatments on lands managed by federal, state, and local agencies. The treatments within this project have reduced risks from wildfires to the people within the Prescott Basin through construction and maintenance of an effective fuelbreak system.

Using Recovery Act funds, the Prescott National Forest contracted for hazardous fuels reduction work on 5,868 acres to develop a fuelbreak system in and around the communities of Prescott, Cherry, and Dewey. Workers are masticating all brush species within the project area to provide fire managers with a fuelbreak system while improving wildlife habitat, soil stabilization, and watershed conditions. Thus far work has been completed on approximately 5,000 acres with plans to complete all project work by May.

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
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
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

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
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
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
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
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)

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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
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
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
Congressional District(s): CA02, OR04, WA04
County(ies): CA: Siskiyou; OR: Benton; WA: Chelan, King
Modified Date: 8/24/2011

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

(Story posted 4/14/2010 and updated 8/15/2011)

A suite of research projects is using $2,240,000 of economic recovery funds to create high-tech and field jobs that support the work of leading fisheries and watershed scientists and natural resource professionals from the Forest Service and their partners (the University of

Washington, Oregon State University, other research institutions, and the USDI Bureau of Land Management). Most of these projects will continue through 2012 or 2013.

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 providing clean water in ways that anticipate the effects of wildfire and climate change. These research projects will bring together interrelated factors that have been identified as strongly affecting the habitat for threatened fish species.

Workers hired with Recovery Act funds are helping with the study of landscape-scale factors relating to salmonid habitat; helping investigate the effectiveness of alternative forest management practices, including stream restoration, on fish habitat; analyzing long-term trends in water quality data from Forest Service experimental forests to evaluate effects of fire, forest harvest, and a changing climate on stream chemistry; and helping to assess the potential effects of climate change on fish habitat and populations in the Northwest.

The results of this effort will be reported in peer-reviewed journals and used in decision-support models by land and fisheries managers and policymakers. 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 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

Congressional District(s): CA02

County(ies): CA: Siskiyou

Related Photo(s) Link: http://www.netmaptools.org/

Modified Date: 12/29/2011

Story:

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

(Story posted 4/14/2010 and updated 7/25/2011)

Federal land managers are increasingly called upon 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 situation has often proven difficult because of a lack of consistent, uniform environmental databases and of 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.

Gordon Reeves of the Pacific Northwest Research 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), California. The project objective is to develop decision support tools in the form of GIS layers, digital databases, and analytical tools pertinent to watershed-related environmental data (an ESI-developed system called NetMap) for 25 National Forests in the western states and to help USDA Forest Service specialists in the employment of these tools in various analyses. Other partners on this work are the Pacific Northwest and Pacific Southwest regions of the Forest Service's National Forest System.

Outcomes: ESI used its Recovery Act funds to hire three analytical modelers and one GIS technician to accomplish this project. In bringing together interrelated factors that have been identified as strongly affecting the habitat for threatened fish species, GIS coverage and watershed databases have been assembled for 17 National Forests within the Pacific Northwest Region. Training sessions have been held to help resource specialists in carrying out landscape-scale analyses to identify and map areas with high potential for restoring fish habitat and assess plans for riparian area management and road networks. New analysis tools for predicting the recruitment of large wood debris to streams have been developed and assistance has been provided for their applications. YouTube videos (Go to http://www.netmaptools.org/) videos were also produced that describe the use of NetMap tools for predicting fish habitat attributes and for roads analysis.

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

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.
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

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.
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
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/6gv438u
Modified Date: 4/13/2011

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
Congressional District(s): CA04, CA17, CA19, CA21, CA22, CA24
County(ies): CA: Fresno, Kern, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Sierra, Ventura
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/6jods6a
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/63uzw9x
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/67w42z5
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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
Congressional District(s): CA02
County(ies): CA: Siskiyou
Modified Date: 6/11/2012

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Blue Ledge Copper Mine Toxic Waste Clean-Up Under Way

(Story posted 7/30/2010)

Nearly $9.8 million in Recovery Act funds have been awarded to Engineering/Remediation Resources Group, Inc. of Martinez, California, 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, affecting 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, California, 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
Congressional District(s): CA04
County(ies): CA: El Dorado
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/5tjo3us
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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
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
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
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
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
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

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
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
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

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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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

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
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: 2/9/2012

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 serve 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
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
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

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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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)

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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)

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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)

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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.
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.
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
Congressional District(s): CA17, CA22, CA23, CA24
County(ies): CA: Kern, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara
Related Photo(s) Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ssrs/story?id=5684
Modified Date: 3/1/2011

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
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
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
Congressional District(s): CA01
County(ies): CA: Humboldt
Modified Date: 2/8/2012

Story:

Forest Service Recovery Act Funds Renewable Energy Restart Project

(Story posted 12/10/2010 and updated 2/8/2012)

In mid-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.

Recovery Act funds were used to purchase equipment to modernize the existing facility. The re-powering investment in equipment allowed for the handling of biomass, a renewable energy source, unlike natural gas or coal.

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.

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.
At the startup the plant had about five months of chips on hand to begin the wood-to-energy conversion.

The Blue Lake facility had been operational since mid-2010, and the plant is connected to the California Independent System Operator power grid. The plant was making power at the time the grant was closed in summer 2011 but is now shut down and seeking more financing to complete additional overhauls.

When the plant is operational, 10 people will be employed at the facility. The plant will indirectly support other jobs such as vendors and suppliers. 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
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
Congressional District(s): CA03
County(ies): CA: Stanislaus
Modified Date: 6/21/2011

Story:
Recovery Act-Funded Biomass Project Benefits Natural Resources, Economy

(Story posted 6/14/2011)

In many forested regions in the western United States, including the Sierra Nevada, there has been a significant increase in the growth of small-diameter trees and understory vegetation. Overstocked stands can increase the risk of insect, disease, fire, and drought damage, and they are costly to manage. Finding economical and marketable uses for this material, called biomass, can help alleviate these problems and could provide opportunities for local communities to benefit while helping to offset forest management costs.

The Granite Saw Log Biomass project on the Stanislaus National Forest generated material that helped retain more than 200 jobs involving truckers, loggers, and production facility workers. Recovery Act funds paid for 185 acres of plantation thinning within a much bigger contract. The total contract thinned 2,639 acres of plantation and 128 acres of natural stands; masticated 40 acres; and completed 307 road construction items. The project removed more than 58,150 tons of biomass and 20,964 CCF of sawlogs. Approximately 1,800 CCF of sawlogs was removed from the 185 acres of Recovery Act thinning.

The pine sawlogs were trucked to the Sierra Forest Products sawmill in Terra Bella to be processed into dimensional lumber. The biomass was delivered to Pacific Ultra Power in Chinese Camp. A portion of the smaller sawlogs and biomass logs went to California Wood Shavings in Tuolumne County to be processed into wood shavings for animal bedding.

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
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
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

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

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

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

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
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
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

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
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
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
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
Congressional District(s): CA02
County(ies): CA: Trinity
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/6k2rebq
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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.
Congressional District(s): CA26
County(ies): CA: Los Angeles
Related Photo(s) Link: http://prdp2fs.ess.usda.gov/detail/recovery/accomplishments/photos-video/?cid=stelprdb5358177
Modified Date: 6/11/2012

Story:

Forest Officials Use Recovery Act Funds to Build New Administrative 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) certified, 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.
Congressional District(s): CA26
County(ies): CA: Los Angeles
Modified Date: 5/11/2011

Story:

Forest Service Utilizes Recovery Act Funds to Repair Fire-damaged Bridge

(Story posted 1/14/2011 and updated 5/9/2011)

The Forest Service contracted with a local firm to fix a deteriorating bridge on Angeles National Forest.

The Camp Colby Bridge was a decades-old “Bailey” steel girder bridge, which spans Big Tujunga Creek. This 50-year-old bridge was slowly eroding, and the 2009 Station Fire also damaged it. The bridge showed 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 completed it in February 2011. MGP Construction replaced the deck with an upgraded steel-grated material, conducted spot painting, and installed new yellow and black reflective markers at each end of the bridge.

About a third of the bridge was fire-damaged, so workers sanded and repainted 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.
Congressional District(s): CA25, CA26
County(ies): CA: Los Angeles
Modified Date: 5/11/2011

Story:
Forest Officials Contract for New Roofing, Seek ‘Longevity’ in the Repairs

(Story posted 1/14/2011 and updated 5/9/2011)

Using Forest Service Recovery Act funds, federal officials 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 repaired several structures, including a barracks, engine garages, a visitor center, and utility buildings.

The Angeles contracted with Reva Murphy Associates out of Livermore, California, for the renovation.

The Murphy employees replaced sheeting and roofing on each building. They typically used 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 finished in May 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
Congressional District(s): CA26
County(ies): CA: Los Angeles
Modified Date: 5/11/2011

Story:

Angeles Forest Contracts with Firm to Clean Up Debris at Former Missile Site

(Story posted 1/14/2011 and updated 5/9/2011)

Using Recovery Act funds, the Forest Service 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, handled the clean-up. Workers demolished the building remains and hauled off the debris in trucks.

The plan returned the site “to a state of nature,” meaning the land has been restored to its natural state. Work on the project began in September 2010 and was completed in April 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
Congressional District(s): CA26
County(ies): CA: Butte, Los Angeles
Modified Date: 5/11/2011

Story:
Forest Service Contracts to Renovate Chilao Campground Restroom Facilities

(Story posted 1/14/2011 and updated 5/9/2011)

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 June 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
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
Congressional District(s): CA25, CA26
County(ies): CA: Los Angeles
Modified Date: 5/11/2011

Story:

Forest Service Contract Project to Replace Forest Water Tanks and Install Fences to Ensure Security

(Story posted 1/14/2011 and updated 5/9/2011)

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

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

Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/6l8qvgm

Modified Date: 12/29/2011

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.

Program Project Name: Wilderness Trail Projects

Local Project Name: Wilderness Trails and Forest Wide Trail Crew
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Los Padres
Ranger District: Monterey
Nearby City(ies): Santa Barbara, Monterey, Ventura, Santa Maria
Congressional District(s): CA22, CA23, CA24, CA25
County(ies): CA: Los Angeles, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura
Modified Date: 4/7/2011

Story:

Los Padres Wilderness Trails Spring Back to Life

(Story posted 4/1/2011)

Visitors to the Los Padres National Forest are noticing widespread wilderness trail improvements thanks to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) that funded additional project work across the forest. Nearly $2.3 million was allocated to the forest for wilderness trail rehabilitation and maintenance that was divided among the five ranger districts.

Of the 1.75 million acres that comprise the forest, 48 percent is designated wilderness. However, many popular trails in several wilderness areas had been severely degraded and damaged by large landscape fires over the past several years. As a result, some sections of trails had been difficult to traverse or had been closed to the public.

Through Recovery Act funding, dozens of local jobs were created and 191 miles of wilderness trails were rehabilitated in the Santa Lucia, Garcia, Machesna Mountain, Ventana, Sespe, Chumash and San Rafael wilderness areas.

"The Recovery Act funds allowed us to open up key wilderness trails that hadn't been maintained to Forest Service standards in over a decade and rehabilitate trails in the San Rafael Wilderness that had been damaged in the Zaca and La Brea fires as well as storm damage after those fires," said Santa Lucia District Recreation Officer Ken Kunert. "The intent of the Recovery Act was to put people back to work and improve infrastructure on public lands, and we accomplished both."

The much-needed trail work on the Santa Lucia District began in March 2010 and was completed over a five-month period. Four seasonal wilderness rangers and a packer-support person were hired, as well as California Conservation Corps (CCC) members from the Los Padres CCC center based in San Luis Obispo. The CCC employs corpsmembers 18-25 years old, sometimes at-risk youth working to improve their employability through work experience and education.

Mike Anderson, CCC conservation supervisor, said, "Recovery Act trail projects helped employ and give amazing lifetime experiences to most of the 80 CCC corpsmembers located in San Luis Obispo and 25 corpsmembers located in Santa Maria."

CCC corpsmember Kenny Martinez said his experience with the Forest Service was an unforgettable one.

"I didn't expect the places I would be working to be so beautiful," he said. "I learned a lot about removing brush and plant life, and the trails were amazing."

Fellow corpsmember Kyle Martin stated, "The trails were in desperate need of help. After hiking four miles it was a rewarding experience meeting people riding horseback tell us how much they appreciated the work we were doing."

With the help of the hardworking CCC crews and Los Padres seasonal employees, 52.5 miles of wilderness trails in the Santa Lucia District were rehabilitated and maintained, which created multiple recreation opportunities by offering short day-use trips or long-loop hiking and equestrian riding trips to the public.

On the Santa Barbara Ranger District, CCC crews worked alongside two seasonal trail technicians, animal packers, and archaeologists for three months to reconstruct 20 miles of trails in the Santa Cruz Drainage that were severely affected by the 2007 Zaca Fire.

"Trails needed more than maintenance," explained Santa Barbara District Wilderness Ranger Kerry Kellogg. "The trails that we worked on needed to be reshaped, rebuilt and reestablished. The Zaca Fire greatly increased the work that needed to be done on the trail system. Hillside material loosened by the burn raveled down on side-sloping trails, often covering them completely. This process continued for two years after the fire and some trails were totally obliterated. Without Recovery Act funding, many trails would be on the verge of disappearing."

Kellogg said he was concerned that access for hikers was limited by the poor trail conditions.

"Our goal through rebuilding trails is to provide the public opportunities to go back in and access areas of the wilderness that had been difficult to get to, and Recovery Act funds provided enough money to truly do what needed to be done," he said.

Opening up trail access to the public in the Ventana Wilderness was also a key goal through Recovery Act funding on the Monterey Ranger District. According to Wilderness Ranger Patrick Bailey, "Trails in the Ventana Wilderness have been in critical need of rehabilitation and maintenance. It has been difficult for us to do consistent trail maintenance because of large landscape fires that have occurred about every 10 years since the Marble Cone Fire in 1977."

The Sequoia National Forest's 30-member Porterville organized trail crew were hired and performed heavy maintenance on 35 miles of trail that were denuded by the Indians/Basin Fire in 2008. Over a five-month period, the Porterville Crew worked with a Forest Service crew on the Big Sur network of trails and were able to create loop hiking via different connecting trail systems and opened up access to the heavily-used Pineridge Trail. Crews also opened up primitive trail camps that were very difficult to access because of rock slides and slopes that were destabilized from fires and rains.

"Before the Recovery Act work was done, trails were one way in, same way out," said Bailey. "We've now provided hikers with loop through hiking and loop opportunities."

The Porterville Crew was also employed on the Mt. Pinos District for several months where they rehabilitated and posted new signs on 75 miles of trail, including 30 miles of trail located in the Day Fire burn area. Access back into the Sespe Wilderness was reestablished through the removal of numerous fallen trees that were blocking sections of trails.

"Some trails in the Sespe and Chumash Wilderness areas had not been maintained for 10 to 15 years, and portions of trails were non-existent," according to Leah Ahler, Mt. Pinos District Recovery Act trail project leader. "Many trail signs were in horrible condition, broken, unreadable or missing altogether."

The Forest Service used a "green" company to install new route markers, trail signs, and wilderness boundary signs made from recyclable plastic. With the new signs in place, wilderness travelers will be able to follow their trail routes more easily.

"I am proud of the extra effort our employees put forward to accomplish this additional work," said Los Padres Forest Supervisor Peggy Hernandez. "The thousands of visitors who come to the Los Padres every year to hike and camp in the wilderness will be pleasantly surprised when they see the work that's been done."

With nearly 200 miles of improvements, the trails on Los Padres National Forest are in their best shape in years. Come on out and see for yourself!

Program Project Name: Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit South Lake Tahoe Partners Fuels Project

Local Project Name: LTBMU South Lake Tahoe Partners Fuels Project
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Lake Tahoe Basin
Nearby City(ies): South Lake Tahoe
Congressional District(s): CA04
County(ies): CA: El Dorado, Placer; NV: Douglas, Washoe
Modified Date: 5/19/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project Reduces Wildland Fire Danger

(Story posted 5/17/2011)

On July 27, 2009, the Tahoe Fire and Fuels team, through Nevada FireSafe Council, was awarded $3,589,000 Forest Service Recovery Act grant designated primarily for fuels reduction work and related activities on non-federal properties within the Placer County and Eldorado County portions of the Lake Tahoe Basin. A small amount of funding was also provided for defensible space related education and outreach efforts in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The funds were secured through the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.

Work began in fall 2009 and ended in January 2011, affecting 1,398 acres on 40 distinct projects. Projects were selected based on the threat of catastrophic loss due to wildfire presented to communities from fuel loading on the property; the willingness of the property owner to participate; and the availability of resources to get the project completed in a timely manner.

Thanks to the achievements of the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team, particularly within jurisdictions of the Lake Valley Fire Protection District, the Fallen Leaf Fire Department, the North Tahoe Fire Protection District and the City of South Lake Tahoe Fire Department, the total number of acres thinned through this grant was 929, which exceeded the amount called for in the original proposal (806) by 125 acres, or 15 percent. In addition to the 929 acres that have been completely treated, an additional 100 acres have been thinned and await pile burning; thinning has commenced on 70 more acres; and forestry/permitting work has commenced on 299 acres. The work on projects that await pile burning, are in progress, or have been planned will be completed with additional funding or when additional funding has been secured.

By district, 629 acres were affected in North Tahoe FPD (45 percent of the total); 357 acres in the City of Lake Tahoe (26 percent); 238 acres in Lake Valley FPD (17 percent); 124 acres in Meeks Bay FPD (9 percent); and 50 acres in Fallen Leaf FD (5 percent). All work was done on non-federal property. The total includes property owned by the State of California, California State Parks, California Tahoe Conservancy, the Tahoe City Public Utilities District, and individual private property owners.

Mechanized equipment from the private sector and hand crews from the public and private sectors were employed to complete the work. Private contractors were used to provide operational oversight and GIS services during the project. These serve as examples of Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team projects that have been ongoing since 2008 and will continue through 2011 and beyond if funding is available.

In addition to the shaded fuel break work, funds were allocated for a basin-wide defensible space education and outreach effort. Two local public relations firms collaborated with fire professionals in the basin to create the “Get Defensive” campaign. The campaign, which included direct mailings, radio advertisements, and television promotions, went live in spring 2010 and will continue throughout 2011. It is estimated that the campaign has reached more than 150,000 residents and visitors since its inception. To complete the education and outreach effort, a local education non-profit was hired to create an educational video and curriculum for pre-teen children based on the Living with Fire program designed by University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. The video and curriculum are currently being distributed to classrooms in the Lake Tahoe Basin and have been made available to schools on a regional level.

Nearly 92,000 man hours were spent on these projects. This translates to the creation of 42 full-time jobs over the 17-month period. The Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team is grateful to the partners within the Basin who supported this ambitious fuels reduction program and the team’s ongoing work, particularly the United States Forest Service (LTBMU), the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Board.

Program Project Name: Regionwide Fuels Reduction Project

Local Project Name: Granite Stewardship Biomass Removal - Thinning WRHR0109
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Stanislaus
Ranger District: Groveland
Nearby City(ies): Groveland
Congressional District(s): CA19
County(ies): CA: Mariposa, Tuolumne
Modified Date: 5/19/2011

Story:

Stanislaus National Forest Achieves Vital Hazardous Fuels Reduction Work

(Story posted 5/17/2010)

On the Stanislaus National Forest, Recovery Act-funded hazardous fuels reduction work took place in 2009 as part of a contract for thinning stands on 2,700 acres. The stands planted after the devastating 1973 Granite Fire had become overly dense with vegetation, creating a fire risk and unhealthy watershed conditions. By thinning the stands to reduce ladder fuels

and the number of trees per acre, the remaining trees will be healthier and more resistant to the effects of drought, insects, and disease and wildfires.

In June 2009, Sierra Resource Management out of Jamestown, California, began thinning work and the accompanying clean-up, subsoiling, and erosion work. Logging concluded for the Recovery Act-funded work on July 21, 2009. The last Timber Statement of Account for Recovery Act-funded sawlog/biomass removal took place in August 2009. Final acceptance occurred December 9, 2009 after the contractor completed burning landing slash piles.

Program Project Name: Blue Lake Power, LLC

Local Project Name: Blue Lake Power Roundwood Project
Region: Forest Products Laboratory
Nearby City(ies): Blue Lake, CA
Congressional District(s): CA02
County(ies): CA: Shasta
Modified Date: 2/8/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Grant Canceled

(Story posted 2/8/2012)

USDA Forest Service Recovery Act funds earmarked to support upgrades and retrofits to a co-generation facility in Blue Lake, California will not be used for that purpose after Forest service officials determined the grant would not be a good investment. The grant was canceled after circumstances changed significantly before the funds were released to the grantee.

Program Project Name: Invasive Plant Region-wide

Local Project Name: Integrated Pest Management of Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants in California
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Nearby City(ies): various throughout the state
Congressional District(s): CA05
County(ies): 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
Modified Date: 9/21/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Invasive Plant Management Brings Jobs, Protects Resources

(Story posted 9/8/2011)

A USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry Recovery Act grant to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), the state agency with the overall mandate to manage the noxious weed and invasive plant program, is helping retain and create jobs while tackling the ongoing challenge of combating noxious weeds.

CDFA sub-granted funds to approximately 40 other entities—mainly counties, local weed management areas, and resource conservation districts—although a few state agencies and non-profits were also included. Recovery Act-funded work throughout the state in managing invasive plants associated with forested lands has continued since late 2009. Work that has involved public education, prevention, surveys, mapping, control activities, and monitoring should be finished by December 2011. Since the grant began, workers have treated over 3,500 acres and surveyed over 150,000 acres.

The California state budget has been affected by the economic downturn, and in turn, the ability of the state to provide funding at the local level for invasive plant work has decreased. This Recovery Act funding has allowed the local governments and non-profits to maintain many positions that would have been lost while also hiring seasonal workers to conduct control work and surveys.

Program Project Name: Invasive Plant Distressed County

Local Project Name: Invasive Plant Management on State and Private Lands within Siskiyou and Los Angeles Counties

Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Nearby City(ies): various

Congressional District(s): CA02, CA05, CA22

County(ies): CA: Los Angeles, Siskiyou

Modified Date: 9/12/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Invasive Plant Management

(Story posted 9/8/2011)

In Los Angeles and Siskiyou counties a USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry Recovery Act-funded grant has been supporting work to conduct an integrated pest management program against invasive plants associated with forested lands.

The Forest Service issued the grant to the California Department of Food and Agriculture, which in turn sub-granted to the Siskiyou County agriculture department and a Los Angeles County local resource conservation district to conduct control and prevention activities; surveys and monitoring; and public education. The projects have put several people to work,

who thus far have surveyed about 7,000 acres and treated around 75 acres in these counties where high unemployment exists. Most work will be completed by the end of 2011.

Program Project Name: Insect and Disease Region-wide Project

Local Project Name: Pest Detection in the Tropical Urban Forest, Restoration and Sudden Oak Death mitigation

Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Nearby City(ies): Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Tumon Bay, Guam

Congressional District(s): CA06, CA07, CA08, CA09, CA10, CA11, CA12, CA13, CA14, CA15, CA16, CA24, CA25, GU00

County(ies): CA: Alameda, Contra Costa, Humboldt, Lake, Los Angeles, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma; GU: Guam; HI: Hawaii

Modified Date: 1/20/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Research Studies Work to Eradicate Tropical Pests

(Story posted 9/22/2011)

A three-pronged Recovery Act-funded research and outreach grant has been supporting forest health in California, Guam, and Hawaii.

Reducing Sudden Oak Death and Combating the Goldspotted Oak Borer

In California, project implementation and outreach efforts to combat sudden oak death are underway. Sudden Oak Death is a tree disease caused by the plant pathogen Phytophthora ramorum. The disease kills some oak species and has had devastating effects on forests in California and Oregon. In addition, efforts are underway to the stop an oak insect pest, the goldspotted oak borer that has been linked to elevated levels of oak mortality ongoing in San Diego County.

Funds are supporting the California Oak Mortality Task Force (COMTF) created in 2000 by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the California Forest Pest Council to bring together public agencies, non-profit organizations, and private interests to address sudden oak death in California in a comprehensive and coordinated manner.

Other Recovery Act-funded activities include the following:

- extension of sudden oak death science and management to California's North Coast
- funding a services contract for coordinator of goldspotted oak borer management
- determining the rate and pattern of spread of goldspotted oak borer and its impact on red oak woodlands in Southern California
- hiring a public information officer for sudden oak death and goldspotted oak borer
- supporting a goldspotted oak borer education and outreach program in San Diego County

For example, three experienced sudden oak death extension experts have been conducting public information activities in the eight counties where this disease is most active. The

number of SOD extension events these experts have arranged and led has been exhaustive, and as a result of these events—the Web pages that they manage, the television spots they set up and handle, and many other activities in which they participate—the word is definitely getting out on how Californians can best contend with this otherwise formidable disease.

Work to determine the rate and pattern of spread of goldspotted oak borer and its impact on red oak woodlands in Southern California is also progressing. Partners acquired 2011 aerial imagery from Eagle Aerial Imaging in two sections that cover the entire infestation and margin areas within San Diego County and are utilizing this imagery to review, analyze, and correct previously completed oak woodland vegetation maps that various agencies have created.

Cycad Restoration and Coconut Rhinocerus Beetle Suppression

In Guam, a scale insect, cycad aulacaspis scale (CAS), invaded in 2003, causing some Guam habitats have experienced more than 90 percent mortality of the pre-2003 cycas micronesica (cycad) population. Cycads are seed plants typically characterized by a stout and woody (ligneous) trunk with a crown of large, hard and stiff, evergreen leaves.

Although CAS has been brought under partial biological control via the introduction of Rhyzobius lophanthae, numerous pre-existing threats have combined to create several cascading threats to the plant population. The efficacy of Rhyzobius control has shown erratic patterns over time, and Cycas plants with heavy CAS infestations are still commonly found. Mature trees command the greatest level of protection from the Rhyzobius predator, and for some reason the predator is not protecting new seedlings as they emerge. The loss of so many individuals of a dominant native forest species in such a short amount of time has undoubtedly altered ecosystem characteristics as never before.

Recovery Act funds are supporting efforts to monitor cycad plant population census and structure to determine demographic changes as plants continue to die and survey the persistence of the cascading insect threats and ecosystem changes while determining various reasons for the failure of new cycad seedlings to establish.
During September 2007, an infestation of an invasive insect, the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) was discovered on Guam. Adults of this large scarab beetle kill coconuts and other palms when they bore into the crown to feed on sap, and grubs feed on decaying coconut logs and stumps. Without significant control efforts, CRB can be expected to kill at least 50 percent of Guam's coconut palms and related plants. The damage and losses to resort, park, and residential shade and ornamental plants on Guam will affect the aesthetic appeal of important properties and tourist areas. Some losses in recreational use and revenue due to diminished scenic appeal are likely. Costs associated with hazard tree removal, tree replacement, and regulatory actions are expected to increase. A permanent infestation could lead to additional interstate and international quarantine restrictions, affecting Guam, its trade partners, and other states.

A Recovery Act-supported eradication project is being managed as an emergency under the Incident Command System and employs two major tactics: sanitation and trapping.

Sanitation is focused on detection and destruction of breeding sites.
During the past few months, CRB has escaped from the quarantine zone along the northeast coast of Guam and has spread to inland areas where adults have established breeding sites in large compost piles, some of which exceed 200 cubic yards. In addition, during March 2011, a large infestation of CRB was discovered at the northern tip of Guam.

Coconut rhinoceros is a difficult insect to detect, eradicate or control. To date, no natural CRB biocontrol has been observed on Guam. Without density-dependent, self-propagating biocontrol, Guam is primed for a CRB population explosion. Large numbers of adult beetles will initiate a positive feedback loop in which palms are killed, producing more food for grubs which will transform into ever increasing numbers of adults until food becomes limiting. If a massive CRB population occurs, risk of accidental export to other islands and elsewhere will increase.

Researchers are working to develop recommendations for emergency treatment of the large, recently-infested compost piles. To date, an efficacious insecticide for use on large piles of infested compost has not been found. In addition, an unexpected observation led to a better understanding of the biology of CRB on Guam. Researchers discovered that a significant number of CRB are going through their entire development cycle in the crowns of coconut palms. Arboreal development of CRB has not been reported elsewhere. Following this discovery, the sanitation strategy was modified to include removal of unwanted coconut palms that are likely to enable CRB arboreal development.

Early Detection of Pests in the Tropical Urban Forest

USDA Forest Service Recovery Act funds are supporting efforts to survey for invasive insects and pathogens in urban forest areas near ports of entry into Hawaii. Thus far monitoring work underway since early 2011 using traps in strategically selected urban areas has not detected any new invasive organisms attacking Hawaii’s native tree species. In addition to providing work for scientists, the project is helping ensure conservation of Hawaii’s unique ecosystems through the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources-administered grant that will allow monitoring activities to continue until the end of 2012.

Development of Koa Tree Micro and Macro Propagation

In Hawaii, researchers are working to increase koa tree rooting success. Researchers have screened seedlings from a large number of different koa parents and have found that there is a very wide amount of variation in the ability of these families to “throw roots” when the rooted cuttings approach is used as the means used to achieve macro propagation. They have also found ways of increasing the rate of rooting success dramatically by developing a set of best practices to induce rooting.
As a results of these advances, it is possible to make commercially-acceptable levels of rooted cuttings from most (although not all) families of Acacia koa. Because of this success, it has not been necessary to develop means of micro-production of this species.

Program Project Name: Region-wide Reduction of Hazardous Fuels for Woody Biomass

Local Project Name: PNF BKRD Clarks Aspen
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Plumas
Ranger District: Beckwourth
Nearby City(ies): Janesville, CA
Congressional District(s): CA04
County(ies): CA: Lassen, Plumas
Modified Date: 1/17/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Stewardship Project to Offer Many Benefits

(Story posted 9/15/2011)

The Clarks Aspen (Thompson Aspen) Recovery Act-funded Stewardship Project will improve the health and viability of local aspen stands, provide local jobs, and support a nearby electrical power plant that uses sustainable biomass.

This Recovery Act project will create critical short-term jobs while improving the health of aspen stands on the east-side Plumas National Forest through conifer removal. Aspen stands on the forest have slowly degraded over time due to conifer encroachment, and this project will help revitalize these stands. In addition to increasing aspen stand health, biomass material removed will help power a local co-generation power plant. The use of alternative fuels will help decrease the reliance on fossil fuels as woody biomass is a sustainable product.

Although yet to start, the three-year term of the project contract will allow the contractor to do long-term business planning. The contractor is presently operating on other contracts on the Plumas National Forest and the Thompson Aspen project will allow him to keep his employees working after he completes his current obligations.

In this rural area, small businesses are vital to local economies and communities and are also essential to the infrastructure needed to accomplish projects on National Forests that are necessary for fuels reduction and forest health. The biomass from this project will go to Honey Lake Power in Wendell, California. HLP is one of the largest employers in this very remote region of California, with 25 employees and 85 indirect jobs.

Program Project Name: Region-wide Reduction of Hazardous Fuels for Woody Biomass

Local Project Name: PNF-MTH-Meadow Valley Biomass Decks
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Plumas
Ranger District: Mt. Hough

Nearby City(ies): Meadow Valley and Quincy, California
Congressional District(s): CA04
County(ies): CA: Plumas
Modified Date: 1/17/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Stewardship Project Supports Numerous Goals

(Story posted 9/29/2011)

On the Plumas National Forest, the Meadow Valley Recovery Act-funded Stewardship Project finished in August 2010 reduced hazardous wildland fuels by removing landing piles resulting from past timber sales in the Meadow Valley area. These landing piles had been generated with plans to utilize the small-diameter wood as biomass, but market conditions and transportation difficulties had resulted in the piles being left after the sales ended. Their location relative to residual trees and proximity to rural homes made burning the piles difficult. Local residents and visitors use the area for motorized and non-motorized recreational riding on the National Forest System and other non-system roads and trails, so the visual impacts and concerns of arson prompted the Forest Service to look for alternative treatment options.

Utilizing Recovery Act funding, an Integrated Resource Service Contract was put out for bid, and a local logging company was awarded the job. This company brought in heavy equipment to chip almost 2,000 tons of biomass, which was used to produce energy. Wood-to-energy projects such as this support the nation's goal to reduce our use and reliance on fossil fuels. The proceeds from the biomass value and other Recovery Act funds were utilized to rehabilitate the nine landing locations and temporary access roads.

In addition to the landing treatments, the contractor performed road maintenance and improvements on just over eight miles of National Forest System roads and trails. Many of the road and trail surfaces were severely rutted; ditches were plugged; and other water drainage structures were either compromised or non-existent. Workers graded the road surfaces and upgraded water drainage structures. These treatments allowed for improved recreational and public safety access while also improving water quality.

Program Project Name: Region-wide Reduction of Hazardous Fuels for Woody Biomass

Local Project Name: PNF-MTH-Empire Biomass, Mt Hough Biomass Removal
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Plumas
Ranger District: Mt. Hough
Nearby City(ies): Quincy
Congressional District(s): CA04
County(ies): CA: Plumas

Modified Date: 1/17/2012

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Stewardship Project Provides Jobs, Supports the Environment

(Story posted 9/29/2011 and updated 1/3/2012)

Recovery Act-funded workers helped improve overall forest health conditions and vegetative diversity while reducing the threat of large-scale, high-intensity wildfires on Plumas National Forest land adjacent to communities. The Mt. Hough Empire Stewardship Project allowed for a combination of treatments within a footprint between other large-scale treatment types to tie together a defensible fuel profile zone (DFPZ.)*

Local contractors began work last winter to masticate 197 acres over multiple treatment blocks and accomplish hand thinning and piling of small-diameter trees and brush along corridors on 88 acres. In thinning operations on 45 acres, workers mechanically harvested over 1,200 tons of small-diameter trees, which were chipped and utilized as biomass to produce energy.

Work began again in fall 2011 when the logging season wound down, and the project was finished on 12/29/2011. The small-diameter trees were chipped and delivered to a co-generation plant located in Quincy, California, to generate electricity.

Most of this work was accomplished during mild winter weather in the winter, a time when logging companies frequently are without work. Contractors also performed road maintenance and improvements on a few miles of National Forest System roads and trails to improve recreational and public safety access while also enhancing water quality.

*DFPZs are areas where vegetation has been reduced to levels where fire intensity and rate of spread will decrease and allow for safer firefighter access.

Program Project Name: Region-wide Reduction of Hazardous Fuels for Woody Biomass

Local Project Name: Plumas Biomass Utilization
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Plumas
Nearby City(ies): Quincy, Greenville, Taylorsville, Chester, Downieville and others
Congressional District(s): CA04
County(ies): CA: Plumas, Sierra
Modified Date: 1/17/2012

Story:
Plumas National Forest Recovery Act-funded Study to Provide Long-term Benefits

(Story posted 9/29/2011)

The Plumas Biomass Utilization project complements short-term Recovery Act support for biomass removal projects on the Plumas National Forest with a project intended to support long-term capacity for economical biomass utilization, the result being significant local job creation; maintaining and enhancing local biomass infrastructure for the future; reducing hazardous fuels; and enhancing forest health and wildfire resiliency.

This project is being implemented through a Cooperative Agreement between the Plumas National Forest and the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment. Sierra Institute is a local organization based in Taylorsville, California, that has an impressive track record developing partnerships integrating natural resource management with socio-economics and sustaining rural communities.

Unemployment in Plumas County is over 16 percent, well above the state and national averages. A very high percentage of the land base is National Forest System lands, making management of these lands and the sustainability of the local economy closely intertwined. A very high risk of catastrophic wildfire also exists due to buildup of small-diameter fuels along with a challenge in making the removal of that biomass economical in the face of a declining local infrastructure to support wood-to-energy processing.

Products from this project will include (among many facets) supply and market analyses, field trials of different transportation systems on an actual biomass removal project, and assessment of solutions for biomass transportation challenges on road systems on the Plumas and adjacent lands. The outcome will be to help the Forest Service and local communities identify feasible next steps to improve the economics of biomass removal on National Forest System lands and sustain and improve local infrastructure, without which one cannot achieve either economic improvement or ecological restoration objectives.

Program Project Name: Region-wide Reduction of Hazardous Fuels for Woody Biomass

Local Project Name: Lost Sunton Shear/Remove, Blue Mountain Mechanical ARRA Stewardship, Carr Juniper Shear/Remove (Stewardship)

Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Forest: Modoc

Nearby City(ies): Tule Lake, Alturas, CA

Congressional District(s): CA02, CA04

County(ies): CA: Lassen, Modoc, Siskiyou

Modified Date: 1/17/2012

Story:

Modoc National Forest Recovery Act-funded Projects Support Forest Health

(Story posted 10/12/2011)

On the Modoc National Forest, Recovery Act-funded hazardous fuels reduction projects are underway to support healthy forests and ecosystems adjacent to communities; reduce the use and reliance on fossil fuels; and generate clean energy from renewable resources.

The Lost Sunton project entails removing young growth western juniper in three areas on the Big Valley Ranger District. The objectives are to reduce the fuel loading near Lost Valley Mountain and to regenerate bitterbrush and mountain mahogany for wildlife in the other two areas—-Spring Hill and Indian Springs. Presently, the project is approximately one-third complete.

The Blue Mountain Stewardship Project is designed to improve and maintain forest health on approximately 1,900 acres of eastside pine forest and sage steppe on the Devil's Garden Ranger District through mechanical thinning of junipers and small pines. The project is expected to increase native browse and forage species used by mule deer and elk. Thinning will restore species composition and tree densities that more closely resemble pre-settlement conditions in eastside pine forests and help remove encroaching junipers from sage steppe habitats to facilitate future use of prescribed and natural fire to manage forest health and fuel loads.

The Carr Allotment Juniper Project is located on the Doublehead Ranger District and is designed to treat western juniper on 1,000 acres of National Forest System lands to improve rangeland health and wildlife habitat. Currently, western juniper is displacing native grasses, forbs, and shrubs within the project area that is important to livestock and wildlife and is within the Clear Lake Active Management Area (AMA) for sage-grouse. The AMA was established in the immediate area around Clear Lake National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) as the priority area for the sage-grouse population and habitat management until the population is capable of expanding to other locations.

Workers will remove all junipers except for old growth in order to release the shrubs, such as sagebrush and bitterbrush, native grasses and forbs, and a spring that lies within the project area. Contractors will conduct mechanical thinning on 1,000 acres; 806 acres will be mechanical with limited restrictions and 194 acres will be winter thinned over snow or frozen ground.

Workers will conduct hand treatments over the same 1,000 acres to remove juniper trees that are less than 18 inches in height. Implementation began at the end of September. The removed junipers are being used as sawlogs and sold to REACH, Inc. in Klamath Falls, Oregon. REACH, Inc., a non-profit organization, produces juniper wood products such as decking, landscape bark, flooring, square posts, peeled poles, paneling, and lumber while promoting equality and acceptance of people of all abilities.

The Carr Juniper Project will complement other projects funded by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service on adjacent private lands within the project area designed to increase habitat for greater sage-grouse, a candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Spring 2013 is the anticipated completion date.

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

Local Project Name: Blue Ledge Mine Abstract for EPA 2012 Hardrock Mining Conference
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Rogue River-Siskiyou
Ranger District: Siskiyou Mountains
Nearby City(ies): Ashland, OR
Congressional District(s): CA02
County(ies): CA: Siskiyou
Related Photo(s) Link: http://prdp2fs.ess.usda.gov/detail/recovery/accomplishments/photos-video/?cid=stelprdb5361317
Modified Date: 6/11/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Project Work to be featured at EPA Hardrock Mining Conference

(Story posted 1/25/2012)

In early April, USDA Forest Service project managers will report on the successful Recovery Act-funded Blue Ledge Mine Removal Action on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Hardrock Mining Conference in Denver, which is a forum for the exchange of scientific information on current and future environmental issues that shape the future of the mining industry. Last fall, contractors successfully completed a non-time-critical removal action at the Blue Ledge Mine superfund site situated on patented land in remote, rugged mountains just south of the Oregon-California border. Effectiveness monitoring and site maintenance is scheduled for three years, after which the EPA will take over the site. The abstract follows.

Proposed U.S. EPA Hardrock Mining Conference 2012 Oral Presentation Topic: Restoration

Title: Blue Ledge Mine Removal Action, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest

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The US Forest Service successfully completed a $15 million non-time-critical removal action at the Blue Ledge Mine superfund site in the fall of 2011. The site is situated on patented land in remote, rugged mountains just south of the Oregon-California border. With over two miles of underground workings on ten levels, it was one of the largest mines in mineral-rich SW Oregon and northern California from 1902 through the 1920s, with intermittent development continuing through the 1940s. The mine is a massive sulfide deposit that was primarily developed for copper and zinc, but also yielded gold, silver, and lead. High grade ore was hand sorted and sent to the smelter in Tacoma, Washington. Miners dumped over 150,000 tons of sulfide-rich waste rock on the extremely steep mountain slopes located below 13 adits. Four distinct waste rock piles covered more than 12 acres. The waste rock piles became the source of highly toxic metal-rich acid mine drainage (AMD) that discharged 600,000 gallons per day into drainages at peak flow during spring runoff. For over 100 years the AMD destroyed virtually all aquatic life in the four miles of Joe Creek that passes directly below the waste rock piles.

The two-season long removal action focused on AMD source control by excavating over 66,500 cubic yards of waste rock from the steep slopes and hauling it to a sealed repository. The repository was constructed about 1.5 miles from the mine. Steep cliffs, poor access, and extremely hazardous conditions presented substantial challenges to the contractor. Cleanup standards required waste rock removal down to background metals concentrations in the soil, or within ½” of bedrock, whichever came first. The contractor chose to use up to three spider excavators to climb up the 380-450 waste rock piles to excavate the waste rock from the top down, until the pile could be reached by conventional excavators and dozers. As many as 20 laborers in rock climbing gear/ropes followed closely behind the spider excavators. Laborers used picks, shovels and brooms to clear waste rock down to bedrock. Handheld X- ray fluorescence equipment was used to field verify cleanup success, followed by laboratory confirmation. Five off-highway 35-ton articulated dump trucks hauled over 5,000 loads of waste rock down steep access roads, with some constructed at 30 percent grades. Helicopters ferried a mini excavator, 30,000 lbs of reclamation materials, and 20,000 pounds of steel for 10 bat gates custom constructed at the adit portals.

Reclamation included placing clean topsoil on the more gentle slopes, planting 10,000 native shrubs and trees grown for the project, riprap lining 1,500 feet of drainage channel banks, installing 600 square yards of slope stabilization mesh, and placing native grass seed and mulch on about 20 acres of disturbed ground. Approximately 1,300 feet of log wattles and 2,600 feet of straw wattles were installed on the steep slopes where clean soil remained following waste rock removal. All disturbed soils were covered with straw, hydromulch, bark mulch, slash or riprap. Ten innovative basins were constructed in the drainages below the waste rock piles to treat eroded residual waste rock sediment, metals, and low pH runoff. Effectiveness monitoring and site maintenance is scheduled for three years, after which the EPA will take over the site.

The successful public lands cleanup was funded with $12.5 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and $2.5 million from a CERCLA cost-recovery claim negotiated between the Department of Justice and ASARCO. URS from Portland, Oregon

provided the removal design. The general contractor was Engineering/Remediation Resources Group located in Martinez, California. The earthworks subcontractor was Granite Construction from Sacramento, California. As many as 50 on-site workers and engineering support staff benefited from working on the project. Twenty-three workers were newly hired. More than $4 million was spent in the economically depressed local counties.

Program Project Name: Renovation Makes Honeymoon Campground Safe and Accessible

Local Project Name: Honeymoon Flat Reconstruction Campground
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Humboldt & Toiy
Ranger District: Bridgeport
Nearby City(ies): Bridgeport, CA
Congressional District(s): CA25
County(ies): CA: Mono
Modified Date: 2/14/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Popular Campground Facelift

(Story posted 2/13/2012)

In July 2011 on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Bridgeport Ranger District, Recovery Act-funded contractors completed reconstruction of the Honeymoon Flat Campground nestled on Robinson creek among aspens and Jeffrey pines.

In addition to replacing campsite features with accessible fire rings, grills, tables, tent pads, and bear boxes, work at the popular campground included realigning the roads and spurs and replacing the water distribution system and hydrants. The improvements will help protect the nearby riparian area; provide safe drinking water; and allow for people of all abilities to enjoy the area.

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
Congressional District(s): CO03
County(ies): CO: Grand, Jackson, Routt
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/446hryn
Modified Date: 4/13/2011

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
Congressional District(s): CO02
County(ies): CO: Grand
Modified Date: 9/8/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Biomass Grinding, Hauling, and Processing

(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 receiving a USDA Forest Service Recovery Act-funded grant, Confluence Energy has been able to increase wood pellet production by 25 percent for its daily volume. At the beginning of the grant, the flow of material through the company's process started slowly and ramped up through the year. Confluence Energy was able to add five to six incremental jobs.

The wood pellet industry is experiencing a very difficult year. The grant helped the company

keep operating and ensure that it is a low-cost provider. The purchase of fuel and parts in the community also impacted other businesses in Kremmling, Colorado. Confluence Energy estimates 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
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
Congressional District(s): CO04
County(ies): CO: Weld
Modified Date: 1/24/2012

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 Margerat Moon Trailhead Construction
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Arapaho/Roosevelt
Ranger District: Canyon Lakes
Nearby City(ies): Fort Collins, Colorado
Congressional District(s): CO04
County(ies): CO: Larimer
Modified Date: 3/16/2011

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
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
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3wn75wc
Modified Date: 1/12/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support New Station Headquarters Laboratory

(Story posted 5/13/2009 and updated 9/22/2011))

On August 27, 2010, the Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS) dedicated its new Forestry Sciences Research Laboratory in Fort Collins, Colorado. The 21,000-square foot two-story building costing just over $5.3 million was built with about $1.5 million of Recovery Act funds, adding an additional 6,000 square feet to what was initially funded. During the nine-month construction project beginning in late 2009, the effort produced approximately 19 full-time jobs.

At the afternoon event Secretary Tom Vilsack delivered the keynote address while Chief Tom Tidwell, Governor Bill Ritter, Fort Collins Mayor Doug Hutchinson, and Congressional Representatives provided remarks. Facility tours also took place.

Located on the Colorado State University campus to promote research collaboration and student mentoring, three innovative labs within this building will support critical research on climate change; air quality; forest ecosystem processes and restoration; and water resources. The new building adjacent to the existing RMRS building houses both office and lab space and has garnered a ‘silver’ certification rating through the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program.

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
Congressional District(s): CO05
County(ies): CO: Routt
Modified Date: 2/17/2012

Story:

Steamboat Springs Benefits 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. 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)."

The senator’s statement is confirmed by Trent Jones, Rogue Resources controller, who said, “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: 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, CO04, CO05
County(ies): CO: Garfield, Grand, Jackson, Rio Blanco, Routt
Modified Date: 3/2/2011

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: 2/23/2011

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: 2/17/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Work Benefits Youth

(Story posted 11/24/2010)

The Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA) 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.

CYCA 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. CYCA provides state-wide 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: 2/23/2011

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
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3bkjjll
Modified Date: 4/12/2011

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
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
Congressional District(s): CO05
County(ies): CO: Teller
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3ld3bxv
Modified Date: 4/13/2011

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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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 Deferred 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: 4/12/2011

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.

Program Project Name: Community Wildfire Protection Plan Implementation

Local Project Name: Anchor Point Group
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Nearby City(ies): Boulder
Congressional District(s): CO02, CO04
County(ies): CO: Boulder, Gilpin, Grand, Larimer
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3uobzvt
Modified Date: 4/13/2011

Story:

Wildland-urban Interface Projects Enhance Safety in Four Colorado Counties

(Story posted 3/2/2011)

Taking a proposed project on paper and making it a reality on the ground takes time and patience, particularly when multiple landowners are involved. On the Arapaho and Roosevelt national forests, wildland-urban interface projects have become a reality in several counties.

Anchor Point Group, LLC, a wildfire management consulting firm based in Boulder, Colorado that specializes in services related to wildland-urban interface issues, chose to implement

projects in Boulder, Gilpin, Grand and Larimer counties. The proposed project areas had high or very high wildfire risk ratings and existing Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs). Winter and spring meetings and on-site visits held in 2010 began to pay off in July and August of that year, and several fuels mitigation projects were put out for bid.

In September 2010, seven projects were active and utilized the services of six contractors. As the initial projects were completed, others began. Most contractors cut the trees by hand with chainsaws; however, some also used mechanized equipment on several projects. Contractors came from fire departments, county mitigations crews and the private sector.

Storm'n the Rockies successfully bid on two Grand County projects. Earl Storm has owned the business for 13 years, and employs four people who use traditional logging equipment to cut, process and remove the trees. Storm also is a volunteer firefighter.

Steve White, president of a homeowners association that benefited from Storm'n the Rockies work, recently wrote, "It looked like someone cleaned a very dirty house. The finished project was way beyond my expectations and puts a nice cap to our 10-year struggle with the tree problems that have cost more than $250,000. I can't say enough positive about their work."

Similar accolades were given to Summit Forestry for two completed projects in Larimer County. Tony Mahon started Summit Forestry in 2004, and is no stranger to fire mitigation work. Recently, Summit Forestry completed a third project in Larimer County. He employed 12 people this season.

In Gilpin County, a seven-person Native Ecology crew thinned 200-foot wide corridors across a half-mile of lodgepole pine forest to complete the north half of the Yankee Hill shaded fuelbreak. Although the main objective was fuels reduction, trees infected with dwarf mistletoe also were removed, allowing clumps of aspen to expand.

Not far from the Fourmile Canyon Fire perimeter, four firefighters from two fire protection districts worked together to complete a 19-acre shaded fuelbreak in Boulder County. Two of the firefighters are involved in fire mitigation work year-round; the other two help when needed.

In January, Anchor Point Group hired Matt Lloyd as a forestry/fire technician. Lloyd is responsible for the 11 projects in Larimer and Grand counties and is involved in Community Wildfire Protection Plan development. He was previously an engine crew member on the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest, Canyon Lakes Ranger District in Fort Collins.

"This position has allowed me to gain a great deal of supervisory, time management and project management experience, and reinvigorated my forestry knowledge," said Lloyd.

In April, Dave Oettinger filled the new forest manager position at Anchor Point. He is responsible for the contractual side of the projects and has a supervisory role. Oettinger was previously an urban forester and is excited to work in the wildland-urban interface.

“The impact this job has had on me has been tremendous,” said Oettinger. “It is really rewarding to help communities improve their forest health and reduce the threat from wildfire, and I work with a great bunch of people.”

As autumn 2010 passed, three of the four counties evacuated residents in the wildland-urban interface due to human-caused wildfires. Three Anchor Point projects were within a mile of the fire perimeters. The fire prevention price tag is high, with implementation costs between $1,400 to $3,500 an acre depending on the terrain and market for wood products, but to do nothing is far more costly in the end.

Program Project Name: High priority Forest Restoration and Fuels Mitigation

Local Project Name: El Paso County Sheriff’s Office
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Pike-San Isabel
Nearby City(ies): Fort Carson, Colorado Springs
Congressional District(s): CO05
County(ies): CO: El Paso
Modified Date: 3/31/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Work Supports Community Wildfire Protection Plan

(Story posted 3/22/2011)

El Paso County is Colorado’s most populous county and encompasses more than 2,158 square miles. Created in 1996, the Southwest Highway 115 Fire Protection District covers 20 square miles in southwest El Paso County and the northeast tip of Fremont County.

The district abuts federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service on the west and Cheyenne Mountain State Park on the north, and the U.S. Army Fort Carson installation runs the length of the district on the east side of State Highway 115. The open ground adjacent to the highway fractures into steep hills and valleys that contain a variety of shrubs and trees. Vegetation can be dense in the valleys and on north-facing slopes.

The Southwest Highway 115 FPD Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)was completed in September 2007. At that time, an estimated 1,200 homes were located in the district. Ingress/egress routes topped the fuels treatment priorities listed in the CWPP. On the south end of the district, entry signs adjacent to the highway announce subdivisions. Although the squat pine trees do not hide the homes on knolls and hillsides, the dense groups of trees near roads and homes compromise fire safety. Further north on Highway 115 the vegetation changes to ponderosa pine and Gambel oak. Subdivision signs are absent and some auxiliary roads can be mistaken for wide driveways. Consequently, little evidence exists of the numerous homes tucked away on the narrow roads.

In April 2008, the 9,600-acre TA 25 Fire began east of Highway 115 during military training, prompting residents across the highway to evacuate. Due to the narrow roads, evacuations were difficult at best. Two-way traffic for residents and fire engines was not guaranteed, as vegetation obscured oncoming traffic and hugged the shoulders of the road. And some roads offered no alternative exit from the area. The evacuation confirmed the need to reduce roadside vegetation.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act sub-grant awarded by the Colorado State Forest Service to the Emergency Services Division of the El Paso County Sheriff's Office is being used to reduce the amount of live and dead vegetation along auxiliary roads in the Southwest Highway 115 Fire Protection District. Where landowners have given permission, vegetation is being thinned to provide residents safer emergency passage.

Knotty Pines, Inc., a local fuels mitigation business, was selected from the Request for Proposals candidates to set up and implement the 145-acre Recovery Act project. Owner Andrew Notbohm has been in the wildfire mitigation business seven years. A second Request for Proposals was issued to find a private company to represent the county as project manager. Duties included ensuring grant expectations/standards were met and assisting with landowner contacts.

Project outreach began in July 2010. Despite the evacuation of many area residents in 2008, Knotty Pines and Kiva Dog discovered fuels reduction can still be a hard sell. As the team of three contact property owners on a road slated for treatment, the responses range from those who are eager to participate, the few who are adamantly opposed, and those who say yes--with conditions. The objective is to create 200-foot wide, treated road corridors. Depending on participation and topography, the road may run through the middle of the corridor, or on the edge.

David Mann of Kiva Dog Enterprises is the contract administrator. Mann, a retired U.S. Forest Service employee, spent his 30-year career in forest management and fire. His experience makes him a good fit for the job. As the person responsible for quality control, he works with landowners and tree service contractors.

Knotty Pines selected Tall Timbers Tree and Shrub Service, a Colorado Springs-based business, to cut and chip excess vegetation. Tall Timbers has been in business since 2000. During the growing season, the business has a spray crew, two residential tree service crews, and a crew that works in outlying areas where native vegetation is prevalent. "The El Paso County project made it 100 percent easier this winter," said Dave Carpenter, owner of Tall Timbers. "Instead of employing two to three people this winter, I have been able to employ 10."

In October, crew members received some homemade gratitude from a local landowner who stopped on the road to give them Rice Krispie® treats, a jug of iced tea and cups. Crew members' eyes lit up and wide smiles spread across dirty faces. The landowner thanked them all, hopped back in her truck and was on her way. It made their day.

To date, vegetation along three roads has been reduced, which equates to 69 acres of treatment. A fourth road is in progress.

Program Project Name: Improvements for Accessible Fishing Opportunities

Local Project Name: Improve Accessible Fishing Opportunities
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Rio Grande
Ranger District: Conejos Peak
Nearby City(ies): South Fork, Creede, Antonito
Congressional District(s): CO03
County(ies): CO: Conejos, Rio Grande
Modified Date: 3/31/2011

Story:

Rio Grande National Forest Expands Fishing Opportunities

(Story posted 3/25/2011)

Fishing is one of America's favorite pastimes, but it is sometimes difficult to do in the Rocky Mountains for people with mobility challenges. On the Rio Grande National Forest, 26 recreation area reservoirs provide angling opportunities for various trout species, but until recently only two provided fishing piers and improved accessibility for anglers of all abilities. This Recovery Act project involved purchasing and installing six accessible fishing piers and developing accompanying hardened accessible trails.

A small business owner installed the piers at the most popular fishing lakes on the Rio Grande National Forest. Those sites are as follows: Alberta Lake, Big Meadows Reservoir, Road Canyon Reservoir, Shaw Lake, Spectacle Lake, and Tucker Ponds. The new piers include railings that conform to accessibility guidelines. Key partner Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) helped identify the highest priority sites to install the piers and stock catchable fish in these areas.

Program Project Name: Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects

Local Project Name: Recovery Act Dead Tree Removal and Hazardous Fuels Reduction in Developed Recreation Sites
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Arapaho/Roosevelt
Nearby City(ies): Fort Collins
Congressional District(s): CO04
County(ies): CO: Boulder, Clear Creek, Grand
Modified Date: 4/21/2011

Story:
Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests Use Recovery Act Funds to Mitigate Mountain Pine Beetle Epidemic Effects

(Story posted 4/13/2011)

On the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests, efforts to address the mountain pine beetle epidemic throughout north central Colorado got a boost from Recovery Act funds. A substantial number of trees had been killed by mountain pine beetles in developed recreation sites on the Roosevelt National Forest in Larimer County, creating a hazardous fuels buildup that increased the wildfire hazard to facilities and a safety hazard to the recreating public.

This project involved removing the dead trees in the late summer of 2010. This project was critical in allowing the Forest Service to address the impacts of the mountain pine beetle epidemic and keep recreation sites open and available to the public. Without this funding it is likely that some high-use sites would have been closed due to the increased wildfire and safety hazard.

Program Project Name: Brainard Lake Recreation Area Portal to Improve Safety and Protect Resources

Local Project Name: Brainard Lake Recreation Area Portal to Improve Safety and Protect Resources
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Arapaho/Roosevelt
Ranger District: Boulder
Nearby City(ies): Boulder, Ward
Congressional District(s): CO02
County(ies): CO: Boulder
Modified Date: 8/18/2011

Story:
Portal Project Enhances Recreation Opportunities at Popular Brainard Lake

(Story posted 8/3/2011)

The Brainard Portal project on the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest is designed to improve public safety, reduce vehicle congestion, and enhance recreation opportunities at this popular site. The project includes constructing a parking lot, a fee/information booth, a restroom, a warming shelter, and a section of trail that connects the new facilities to Brainard Lake Recreation Area's (BLRA) existing trail system. The project has been accomplished in partnership with Federal Highway Administration Central Federal Lands Highway Division. The project's general contractor and subcontractors are from the local area.

Project work has been underway for two summer seasons; this summer's work involves

replacing a water storage tank and underground water pipelines originally installed in the early 1970s. The project should be finished by the end of August.

The BLRA is a highly visited Colorado site that lies within an easy two-hour drive from Denver, Boulder, and Fort Collins. Its alpine lakes and majestic scenery make it a popular day-use and overnight destination for outdoor enthusiasts from the local Front Range communities and from all over the United States and foreign countries as well.

Program Project Name: Regionwide Historic Building Restorations

Local Project Name: Mt Roosevelt Tower Restoration
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Black Hills
Ranger District: Northern Hills
Nearby City(ies): Spearfish, SD
Congressional District(s): CO02, CO03, CO05, SD00, WY00
County(ies): CO: Conejos, Dolores, Eagle, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Lake, Saguache; SD: Custer, Lawrence; WY: Park
Modified Date: 9/7/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Supports Mount Roosevelt Friendship Tower Restoration

(Story posted 9/6/2011)

On the Black Hills National Forest, Mount Roosevelt, also called Friendship Tower, has undergone Recovery Act-funded construction to reinforce the base and fully restore the monument for public use. The tower was in deteriorated condition and in danger of failing; the stairs had been demolished because of unsafe conditions, and the tower's stone base was cracked and damaged.

The project included replacing the exterior staircase to the tower with local stone to match the tower; interior grouting of the loose rubble tower base; constructing a foundation to support the tower; repointing and replacing deteriorated native stone masonry; building a roof to protect the tower from water intrusion; and building a handrail and guardrail on stairs along with a guardrail on the tower platform.

Box Elder Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center students and a stone mason specializing in historical restoration worked from June through August 2010 to restore and repair the tower's original rock masonry. This past June contractors worked to build the roof and internal circular stair guardrails. Job Corps program students are currently building exterior guardrails and should finish the work in the next few weeks.

Seth Bullock built the tower in 1919 in honor of his friend President Theodore Roosevelt. Bullock wanted to create a memorial of his friend's life and a place where people could view

wide open spaces (the “Big Lonesome”) of which Bullock and Roosevelt had become so fond during their lives. Bullock was Deadwood’s first sheriff, founded the town of Belle Fourche, and was a U.S. Marshal for South Dakota. He was also an early forest supervisor on the Black Hills National Forest, appointed to the task by President Roosevelt.

This project repaired a popular and important historical monument visited frequently by the public. It provided on-the-job training and experience for several Job Corps program students as well as providing local economic benefits to suppliers, equipment rental businesses, and local contractors.

Marissa Karchut, north zone archaeologist on the Forest, said, “We are preserving this monument for our kids and grandkids.”

Program Project Name: Colorado Springs Utilities

Local Project Name: Co-firing Woody Biomass with Coal to Generate Electric Energy
Region: Forest Products Laboratory
Nearby City(ies): Colorado Springs
Congressional District(s): CO05
County(ies): CO: El Paso
Modified Date: 2/8/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Research to Promote Biomass Utilization

(Story posted 1/18/2012)

USDA Forest Service Recovery Act-funded research to promote the design, construction, start up, commissioning, and operation of a woody biomass co-firing injection system has brought to fruition a newly discovered pulverized coal (PC) burner technology that will allow woody biomass to be a more viable method for a co-fired/co-combusted PC utility boiler. Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) is engaged in investigating, researching, and developing this technology that could move the project operational date up by several years.

When it becomes operational as early as 2014, the system to create electrical power will require 100,000 dry-tons of woody biomass fuel annually that is expected to come from beetle-killed trees on federal, state, and private lands. In addition to providing long-term forest industry jobs, the system will promote forest health and reduce catastrophic wildland fire danger.

Program Project Name: Green Mountain Recreation Site Improvements Support Local Economy and Public Health

Local Project Name: Cow Creek South Campground Intersection Improvements; Cow Creek South Campground Improvements
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: White River
Ranger District: Dillon
Nearby City(ies): Silverthorne, CO
Congressional District(s): CO02
County(ies): CO: Summit
Modified Date: 1/24/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Green Mountain Reservoir Recreation Improvements

Story posted 9/14/2011)

Green Mountain Reservoir (GMR) is located approximately 20 miles north of Silverthorne, Colorado on CO State Highway 9. The Green Mountain Recreation Site Improvements project consists of two primary phases. The first phase relocates the campground access road intersection on Colorado State Highway 9 to address safety issues for vehicles accessing the recreation site. The second phase constructs a new campground loop and associated host sites on the east side of the reservoir. The existing camping facilities are comprised mainly of user-created sites along the lake shore, which cause shoreline resource damage.

The long-term vision for the site is to construct three or four more campground loops on the site as well as a centralized boat launch facility. The centralized boat launch on the reservoir will be a key element in preventing the spread of tow aquatic nuisance species (ANS), the Zebra Mussel (Dreissena polymorpha) and the Quagga Mussel (Dreissena bugensis), which have become a threat to the health of the aquatic environment. This threat has resulted in a need to limit boater access and conduct inspections to prevent the introduction of ANS into the reservoir. This unforeseen shift in management to limit boater access has resulted in a need to substantially modify the management plan for GMR.

The intersection reconstruction work started August 1, 2011 and is approximately 50 percent complete. The campground construction work started at the same time and is approximately 25 percent complete. The project's contractor is Tropical Contracting, LLC of Arvada, Colorado.

Program Project Name: Veterans Jobs Trail Project

Local Project Name: Rio Grande Veterans Jobs Trail Project
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Rio Grande
Nearby City(ies): Antonito, Creede, Monte Vista, Saguache, and South Fork
Congressional District(s): CO03
County(ies): CO: Conejos

Modified Date: 11/2/2011

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Put Military Veterans to Work

(Story posted 9/21/2011)

The Rio Grande National Forest, in partnership with the Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC,) put military veterans to work on trail maintenance projects funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act during 2010 and 2011.

Trail maintenance on non-motorized trails included improving the tread and drainage as well removing fallen trees and litter. The SCC veteran trail crews accomplished work on over 250 miles of trail for the Rio Grande National Forest.

The effort was 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.

Program Project Name: Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects

Local Project Name: Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Arapaho/Roosevelt
Ranger District: Estes-Poudre
Nearby City(ies): Fort Collins, Boulder, Estes Park, Nederland, Jamestown, Ward, Redfeather, Crystal Lake, Colorado
Congressional District(s): CO02, CO04
County(ies): CO: Boulder, Clear Creek, Gilpin, Larimer
Modified Date: 1/30/2012

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Hazardous Fuel Reduction Treatments Improve Public Safety

Story posted 9/21/2011)

Recovery Act-funded workers are helping address the mountain pine beetle epidemic calling for hazardous fuels reduction efforts throughout north central Colorado. Mountain pine beetles had killed a substantial number of trees on the Roosevelt National Forest in Larimer County, creating a hazardous fuels buildup that increased the wildfire hazard to communities and a safety hazard to the public and firefighters.

The project involved issuing four task orders under the Front Range Long-term Stewardship contract to remove hazardous fuels in the late summer of 2010 and 2011: the Gold, Miller, West Beaver, and Stringtown task orders. Local contractors have reduced hazardous fuels on approximately 1,800 acres with this project. This project was critical in allowing the USDA Forest Service to address the impacts of the mountain pine beetle epidemic and reduce wildland fire risk to communities.

Program Project Name: Forest-wide Campground Maintenance for Safety and Accessibility #1

Local Project Name: Forest-wide Campground Maintenance for Safety and Accessibility #1
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Arapaho/Roosevelt
Ranger District: Boulder
Nearby City(ies): Ward, Boulder
Congressional District(s): CO02
County(ies): CO: Boulder
Modified Date: 1/24/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Recreation Facility Restoration Benefits Abound

Story posted 9/21/2011)

At the time of this writing, all Recovery Act-funded project components on the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland mentioned below are complete or very nearly so.

• Construction of numerous accessible vault restrooms in campgrounds on the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests
• Installation of bear-resistant food storage lockers and dumpsters at campgrounds on the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests
• Construction of accessible playground equipment for Olive Ridge Campground on the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests
• Reconstruction/modernization of the potable water system at Pawnee Campground on the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests

Program Project Name: Forest-wide Campground Maintenance for Safety and Accessibility #2

Local Project Name: Forest-wide Campground Maintenance for Safety and Accessibility #2
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Arapaho/Roosevelt
Ranger District: Canyon Lakes
Nearby City(ies): Boulder, Ward
Congressional District(s): CO02
County(ies): CO: Boulder
Modified Date: 1/24/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Facility Restoration Work Increases Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

Story posted 9/22/2011)

Recovery Act-funded campground restoration work is contributing to increased outdoor recreation enjoyment and opportunities for people of all abilities while reducing a backlog of deferred maintenance. Local contractors completed the following:

• Construction of numerous accessible vault restrooms in campgrounds on the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests
• Installation of bear-resistant food storage lockers and dumpsters at campgrounds on the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests
• Construction of accessible playground equipment for Olive Ridge Campground on the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests
• Reconstruction/modernization of the potable water system at Pawnee Campground on the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests

Program Project Name: Campground Facilities Replacements and Reconstruction

Local Project Name: Lake Isabel Cabin - Historic Ranger Station Restoration
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Pike-San Isabel
Ranger District: San Carlos
Nearby City(ies): Canon City, CO
Congressional District(s): CO05
County(ies): CO: Chaffee
Modified Date: 1/24/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Rental Cabin Restoration

Story posted 9/22/2011)

Recovery Act funds supported restoration of a popular rental cabin on the Pike-San Isabel National Forests and Cimarron-Comanche National Grasslands. The Lake Isabel Cabin sits along the Frontier Pathways Scenic Byway in the beautiful Wet Mountains, overlooking Lake Isabel. In 2001 the historic Ranger Station became available to the public for overnight rental through the Pike-San Isabel's Historic Cabin Rental Program.

This site is a favorite of visitors year-round for fishing access and as a "warming Hut" for wintertime visitors skiing and sledding in the area. This cabin sleeps six in bunk beds with a full kitchen, gas heat, and a fireplace.
Recovery Act funds were used to pave the parking lot, roof the cabin, install new siding, and construct a concrete path and patio. Funds were also used to improve a second cabin that will be added to the cabin rental program over the winter.

Program Project Name: Buckeye Reservoir Recreation Area Reconstruction Protects People and Resources

Local Project Name: Buckeye Recreation Area
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Manti-Lasal
Ranger District: Moab
Nearby City(ies): Paradox, Montrose, Naturita, Nucla, Bedrock, Colorado.
Congressional District(s): CO03, UT02
County(ies): CO: Montrose
Related Photo(s) Link: http://prdp2fs.ess.usda.gov/detail/recovery/accomplishments/photos-video/?cid=stelprdb5357818
Modified Date: 6/11/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Workers Enhance Colorado Jewel

(Story posted 1/18/2012)

The Buckeye Recreation Area in southwestern Colorado is a jewel in a spectacular setting. Ponderosa forests, a sparkling blue reservoir, and towering peaks surround it. Until 2010, it consisted of dilapidated facilities and barren shorelines with compacted soils. OHV trails crossed the entire area, and vehicles routinely traveled across the dam.

Two seasons later, wood fences protect the shoreline from vehicular travel, so grass and other plants have grown back. Fifty new campsites with tables, fire-rings, graveled spurs, and new restrooms are available to the public, 19 of which require no fees to use. There are individual sites and group sites. There's a new concrete boat ramp and new gravel roads throughout the recreation area. Recovery Act-funded workers have also installed culverts and cattle guards while obliterating some user-created roads and building graveled pathways. In addition, interpretive and informational signs have been installed, and travel access across the dam is blocked. The recreation area is safer and more attractive while providing more opportunities for recreational use and fewer opportunities for resource

damage.

The project was under the supervision of the Manti-La Sal National Forest facilities engineer Cathy Christensen; contracting officer, Aaron Howe, and Moab/Monticello recreation manager Brian Murdock. Guardian Construction did the construction work.

While visiting the recreation area as work was being finished, Forest Service employees were approached by a man driving a four-wheeler. “This is beautiful work you’re doing here. This is a beautiful place. I hope it’s finished soon.” It was completed a month later. The new recreation area will open for operation this coming spring.

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: 4/15/2011

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.

Program Project Name: Greening and Renovation of Connecticut Forest Service Research Facilities

Local Project Name: Open House Marks Completion of Connecticut Research Facility Renovation

Region: Northeastern Research Station

Nearby City(ies): Hamden, CT

Congressional District(s): CT03

County(ies): CT: New Haven

Modified Date: 11/1/2011

Story:

Open House Celebrates Recovery Act-funded Building "Greening"

(Story posted 9/29/2011)

On September 21, USDA Forest Service officials hosted an open house celebrating the completion of a project that significantly improved the energy efficiency of the Northern Research Station’s (NRS) facility in Hamden, Connecticut, while bringing work to Connecticut-based contractors. Open house plans included agency presentations throughout the day followed by a celebration ceremony with invited dignitaries and building tours.

Recovery Act funds supported the “greening” of the 45-year-old building that included the addition of a solar array that now provides some of the building’s electrical needs as well as new energy-efficient windows and an insulated eastern white cedar façade. Last October, USDA Natural Recourses Conservation Service and Southwest Conservation District staff moved into empty space on the second floor of the Hamden main building as a result of the renovations.

“We have increased the occupancy rate for the building; increased the services included with the space; saved the government over $28,000 a year in space leasing costs; and reduced the Forest Service research dollars going into maintaining the facilities,” said Melody Keena, an NRS research entomologist.

Program Project Name: Greening and Renovation of Connecticut Forest Service Research Facilities

Local Project Name: VIPs View Newly Renovated FS Research Facilities
Region: Northeastern Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Hamden, Connecticut
Congressional District(s): CT03
County(ies): CT: New Haven
Modified Date: 12/15/2011

Story:

Open House Commemorates Recovery Act Project Completion

(Story posted 9/29/2011)

On September 21, 2011, approximately 50 people, including congressional staff and other officials, attended an open house celebrating the completion of a Recovery Act-funded project that significantly improved the energy efficiency of the Northern Research Station’s (NRS) facility in Hamden, Connecticut, while bringing work to Connecticut-based contractors.

Recovery Act funds supported the “greening” of the 45-year-old building that included the addition of a solar array that now provides some of the building’s electrical needs as well as new energy-efficient windows and an insulated eastern white cedar façade. Last October, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Southwest Conservation District staff moved into empty space on the second floor of the Hamden main building as a result of the renovations.

“We have increased the occupancy rate for the building; increased the services included with the space; saved the government over $28,000 a year in space leasing costs; and reduced the Forest Service research dollars going into maintaining the facilities,” said Melody Keena, an NRS research entomologist. Open house plans include agency presentations throughout the day followed by a celebration ceremony with invited dignitaries and building tours.

Delaware

Program Project Name: Delaware Hazardous Fuels Reduction/Ecosystem Improvement Projects

Local Project Name: Delaware hazardous fuels reduction and ecosystem improvement
Region: Northeastern Area S&PF
Nearby City(ies): Various throughout state
Congressional District(s): DE00
County(ies): DE: Kent, New Castle, Sussex
Modified Date: 8/18/2011

Story:

Delaware Forest Service Uses Recovery Act Funds to Reduce Wildfire Risk to Communities

(Story posted 8/9/2011)

Last month the Delaware Forest Service (DFS) completed a USDA Forest Service Recovery Act-funded hazardous fuels reduction and ecosystem improvement project, exceeding the grant targets designed to reduce wildland fire risk near communities and improve forest health.

To complete the work, the DFS hired work crews throughout the grant period. In all, the funding provided for the development of 12 fire management plans, ecosystem improvement projects on more than 1,000 acres, and hazardous fuels treatments on 160 acres benefiting six communities.

Program Project Name: Northern Delaware Forestry Stimulus Project

Local Project Name: Wilmington's Green Return-to-Work Program
Region: Northeastern Area S&PF
Nearby City(ies): Wilmington
Congressional District(s): DE00
County(ies): DE: New Castle
Modified Date: 1/20/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Northern Delaware Return-to-Work (RTW) Program

(Story posted 11/16/2011)

Wilmington's Green Return-to-Work Program has provided a unique opportunity to teach life and job skills and create jobs while greening the city, which is located in New Castle County, Delaware. In collaboration with many partners, Wilmington and the Delaware Center for Horticulture delivered four 13-week sessions that offered return-to-work green job training

and life skills. The program created one supervisory position and 20 jobs for ex-offenders who had the incentive to learn new life and job skills that will help ensure that they have long-term work opportunities for years to come. The on-the-job training benefits both trainees and citizens throughout the city, who will reap the social, economic, and environmental benefits—more than 1,500 newly planted trees and more than 700 trees that have been cared for and pruned in areas of the city where trees and their care have historically been neglected due to lack of funding to support such efforts.

Recovery Act funding supported staff positions within the Delaware Center for Horticulture to ensure continued employment for professionals who are committed to making the city greener. Recovery Act funding was also used to create a city forester position that will continue even after Recovery Act dollars are gone. Having a full-time city forester resulted in many benefits: development of a citywide tree management system, an updated tree ordinance, the planting of 750 trees and care of more than 1,000 trees, wildfire fuel reduction, and assistance with tree-related issues at more than 200 sites in the city.

District of Columbia

Program Project Name: The Mayor's Green Summer Job Corps, Tree Section
Local Project Name: 2010 Mayor's Green Summer Job Corps, Tree Section
Region: Northeastern Area S&PF
Nearby City(ies): D.C.
Congressional District(s): DC00
County(ies): DC: District of Columbia
Modified Date: 1/20/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Urban Forestry Efforts

(Story posted 11/16/2011)

Final report – 2010 Mayor's Green Summer Job Corps, Tree Section

The District Department of Transportation's (DDOT) Urban Forestry Administration (UFA) has been awarded nearly $2.8 million in federal funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) to create green jobs in the District and improve the health of the city's urban tree canopy.

This is one of two significant grant awards for DDOT from the United States Forest Service. DDOT, along with the District Department of the Environment, was also awarded $90,000 for the Mayor's Green Summer Job Corps, Tree Section.
Working with our municipal partners at the District Department of the Environment, UFA served as a financial and technical sponsor of the Mayor's Green Summer Job Corps, Tree Section. The Mayor's Green Summer Job Corps provided an opportunity for District youth to get substantive green-collar work experience as well as general job readiness training while having a measurable positive impact on the District's environment.

Within the Tree teams, about 90 youth and team leaders were engaged in tree maintenance (mulching, watering, and weeding) of public-space trees throughout the city. The Green Summer Tree teams contributed to the health of the District's street and park tree canopy by maintaining street and park trees planted during the spring planting season and the previous year. UFA's outreach team members (four staff) provided classroom based technical training and advice for the program manager and the team leaders and UFA urban foresters (five staff) held field-based trainings to teach corps members the skills needed to successfully complete these projects.

Staff was hired for the program on May 31, 2010; the Green Summer Job Corps started on June 27, 2010 and ended on August 13, 2010. During that time, the Recovery Act grant provided the means to employ the program manager and team leaders full-time. For the summer 2010 program, $50,6999.04 was expended toward the salaries of the 13 employees.

The target of this grant was to fund three full-time employees.

Program Project Name: Washington Parks and People District of Columbia Green Corps

Local Project Name: District of Columbia Green Corps
Region: Northeastern Area S&PF
Nearby City(ies): D.C.
Congressional District(s): DC00
County(ies): DC: District of Columbia
Modified Date: 1/20/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Project Provides Training, Supports Urban Forestry

(Story posted 11/16/2011)

Funded by a grant administered by the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, the Washington Parks & People District of Columbia (WPP DC) Green Corps has trained over 100 inner-city residents in basic job readiness and community greening and urban forestry, as a gateway to dozens of jobs, enterprises, and careers. Selected from a pool of over 600 applicants who have struggled with getting and keeping a job, the Green Corps trainees completed an eight-stage application process to be invited into the Corps.

A partnership between the DC Urban Forestry Administration and Washington Parks & People, the WPP DC Green Corps provides an intensive curriculum of classroom, demonstration, expeditionary, and team-based hands-on field training and impacts in tree identification, planting, and care; community-based land planning and design; invasive removal and native forest and habitat reclamation; stormwater mitigation; stream restoration, and urban wastewood recovery. As part of the training, the Corps teams learn from a wide range of public and private partners who serve as instructors and field demonstrators, including DC Urban Forestry Administration staff. Corps members also visit diverse examples of urban and community forestry and greening as led by public and private partners, including field trips to forests, nurseries, gardens, the Anacostia River, and more. The educational value of this training is being continually tracked and refined with a wide range of teaching and training tools and modalities designed to reach non-traditional learners.

The WPP DC Green Corps is also delivering significant greening impacts and environmental justice benefits in under-served communities and impaired sub-watersheds across the city, including planting of 440 large native trees; removal of tens of thousands of invasive plants; clearing of trash in streambanks, woodland areas, and stormwater catchments; and community outreach and engagement on urban greening and forestry. In the Watts Branch stream valley, the trainees installed new native forest groves beside schools and along the length of the stream corridor, opened a new community greening center, and helped the community plan and test out new stormwater mitigation and green infrastructure approaches.

In impaired areas of the Rock Creek sub-watershed, trainees transformed vacant lots into greens, helped weed and restore an African American burial ground entrance to Rock Creek, and planted trees as part of stream restoration and stormwater mitigation. In the Oxon Run sub-watershed, the DC Green Corps planted forest gardens to enframe a new community farm, cleared invasives, opened sight lines, cleaned streambanks, and promoted community engagement in the watershed and land reclamation planning.

Many WPP DC Green Corps alumni have already surmounted lengthy unemployment to get a wide range of jobs, and some employers have offered to give preferential consideration for employment to exemplary Green Corps alumni. Many alumni are showing new teamwork, responsibility, pride, and leadership strengths. They are also helping their neighborhoods by exemplifying and communicating the value of environmental engagement, responsibility, reclamation, and stewardship. WPP DC Green Corps trainees have produced short documentaries about the power of urban greening and forestry to help meet critical community needs, which can be viewed at: http://washingtonparks.net/videos/#video-11.

Graduates of the 360-hour program receive a completion certificate signed by the DC state forester, accredited Continuing Education Units from the Community College of the District of Columbia, as well as certificates in such "soft skills" and job readiness as Financial Planning, Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation, and Communications.

Florida

Program Project Name: Florida Forest Health Improvement Initiative

Local Project Name: Florida Forest Health Improvement Initiative

Region: Southern Region

Nearby City(ies): Statewide

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
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
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

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

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

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
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
Congressional District(s): FL02
County(ies): FL: Liberty, Wakulla
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3hccj83
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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
Congressional District(s): FL02
County(ies): FL: Leon
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3wt96w3
Modified Date: 6/7/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Maintain Mountain Bike Trail

(Story posted 6/22/2010 and updated 7/14/2010)

Munson Hills Bike Trail is 18 miles long, close to the Capitol in Tallahassee, Florida, 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 the trail and stop resource damage where riders have gone around badly eroded sections.

As of July 2010, the contract involving mountain bike trail maintenance for safety and protection is 50 percent complete; the contractor has moved off to another project and will be back. This break will allow the Forest to see how the surfacing works and how the challenges hold up to traffic. A second contract is being negotiated right now.

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
Congressional District(s): FL02, FL03
County(ies): FL: Marion
Modified Date: 5/24/2011

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Support Important Trail Maintenance Work

(Story posted 6/22/2010 and updated 5/24/2011)

Recovery Act-funded work to rehabilitate the Leon Sinks Interpretive Trail located within the Leon Sinks Geological Area on the Apalachicola National Forest is now complete. The project included rehabilitating wooden boardwalks, viewing platforms, and trailhead facilities and replacing signage on a trail very popular with school groups, families, and individual hikers.

The Leon Sinks Geological Area consists of a layer of limestone, eroded and dissolved by rainwater and groundwater to form caverns, holes, and tunnels in the limestone. This type of terrain is called “karst” and results in many geological features such as wet sinkholes, depressions, natural bridges, and a disappearing stream.

A heavily used hiking trail on the National Forests in Florida, the Leon Sinks Trail spotlights the sinkholes and aquifers characteristic of the area with numerous wooden boardwalks and viewing platforms to protect the fragile environment of the sinks. These 20-year-old wooden structures were in poor condition and in need of replacement. Contractors began work in July 2010.

On April 30, 2011, the Forest marked the completion of the renovations with a ribbon-cutting ceremony to which the public was invited. The Forest hosted an interpretive hike after the ribbon cutting to familiarize attendees with the trail system and the improvements.

The project’s completion results in safer public access to this popular area while protecting sensitive environments.

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
Congressional District(s): FL03
County(ies): FL: Marion
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/6358qm4; http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ssrs/story?id=5988
Modified Date: 8/25/2011

Story:
Recovery Act to Support Lake Eaton Sinkhole and Loop Trail Project

(Story posted 7/16/2010 and updated 8/17/2010)

The Lake Eaton Loop and Sinkhole trails are two very popular trails on the Ocala National Forest. Part of a historic pioneer road that dates back to the 1800s, the trails provide visitors an 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.

As of July 2010, the Lake Eaton boardwalk repairs are about half finished. A contract has been awarded for a concrete restroom, and the building is scheduled for delivery in September. The Lake Eaton kiosks have been designed and are going through final review before being sent off for fabrication. The signs should be ready by November for installation.

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
Congressional District(s): FL02
County(ies): FL: Baker, Columbia, Liberty, Wakulla
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3f492tc
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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
Congressional District(s): FL04
County(ies): FL: Baker
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3g4hu7t
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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
Congressional District(s): FL03, FL08
County(ies): FL: Lake, Marion, Putnam
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3dgsjs7
Modified Date: 4/13/2011

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
Congressional District(s): FL04
County(ies): FL: Baker, Columbia
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3s4a5o8
Modified Date: 4/13/2011

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
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
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

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

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

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: Mountain Bike Trail Maintenance for Safety and Protection

Local Project Name: Munson Hills Off-Road Bicycle Trail
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NFS In Florida
Ranger District: Apalachicola
Nearby City(ies): Tallahassee, FL
Congressional District(s): FL02
County(ies): FL: Leon
Related Photo(s) Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ssrs/story?id=6024
Modified Date: 8/25/2011

Story:

Forest Celebrates Recovery Act-funded Bicycle Trail Renovations

(Story posted 5/27/2011)

In conjunction with National Bike Month, the National Forests in Florida celebrated the renovation of the Munson Hills Off-Road Bicycle Trail on the Apalachicola National Forest on Saturday, May 21, 2011.

This project was funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Seven miles of off-road trails were renovated at Munson Hills. The project took three months to complete and employed six area residents.

The Forest Service worked with many partners to create this off-road trail, which connects to the St. Marks Historic Railroad State Trail. Spanning approximately 20 miles, area residents use this popular recreation site near Tallahassee for bicycling, running, and walking.

The event was marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by an enthusiastic crowd. Guest speaker Jim Wood of the Florida Office of Greenways and Trails kicked off the

ceremony. Wakulla Deputy District Ranger Harold Shenk recognized those individuals who contributed to the restoration and renovation of the trails. Following the ceremony, the Tallahassee Mountain Bike Club led a group bicycle ride.

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

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

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

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

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

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
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

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

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: Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest-Road Slide Repair

Local Project Name: Chattahoochee River Road Repair
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Chattahoochee/Oconee
Ranger District: Chattooga River
Nearby City(ies): Helen, GA
Congressional District(s): GA09
County(ies): GA: White
Modified Date: 6/8/2011

Story:

Road Repair Improves Passage in Popular Recreation Area

(Story posted 5/20/2011)

On the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, the Upper Chattahoochee River Road is the primary access to the upper Chattahoochee River watershed approximately five miles northwest of Helen, Georgia. The road had experienced heavy erosion and significant slippage due to storm damage. Addressing a road slide is important to both visitor safety and potential resource degradation along the Upper Chattahoochee River.

This area is a very popular place for outdoor recreation activities such as camping, hiking, and trout fishing. A small land list had blocked and damaged the road, causing unsafe passage. Recovery Act-funded workers not only made the necessary repairs but did so in a way to minimize the chances of another slide happening in the future through soil nail launcher technology, a technique that has been used extensively on neighboring forests for repairs to hurricane damage.

Program Project Name: Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Deferred Maintenance

Local Project Name: Swords Boat launch parking paving
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Chattahoochee/Oconee

Ranger District: Oconee
Nearby City(ies): Greensboro, GA
Congressional District(s): GA10
County(ies): GA: Greene
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/42do2e8
Modified Date: 8/25/2011

Story:
Boat Launch Work Reduces Deferred Maintenance

(Story posted 5/20/2011)

The Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest is an urban forest that experiences very high recreation use. Recovery Act-funded workers repaired and repaved the Swords Boat Launch on Lake Oconee in Morgan County, Georgia. In addition to reducing the Forest's deferred maintenance backlog, the finished work is enhancing recreation experiences for visitors.

Program Project Name: Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Non-Motorized Trail Maintenance / Decommissioning

Local Project Name: Trails maintenance, repaving and relocation projects
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Chattahoochee/Oconee
Ranger District: Blue Ridge
Nearby City(ies): Blairsville, Helen, Greensboro
Congressional District(s): GA09, GA11
County(ies): GA: Chattooga, Fannin, Gilmer, Greene, Jasper, Lumpkin, Murray, White, Whitfield
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3u8vo3w
Modified Date: 8/24/2011

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Support Recreation Site Repairs

(Story posted 5/20/2011)

On the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, Recovery Act-funded contractors repaired and stabilized trails in two of the most visited developed recreation sites in Georgia, Anna Ruby Fall Scenic Area and Brasstown Bald. Annual visitation in these areas is in the hundreds of thousands. Additional work was completed on lesser used but also popular Oconee National Forest trails.

Project Description
This was a sub-project of the Non-motorized Trail Maintenance/Decommissioning of Trails. Overall project goals include the reduction of erosion and sedimentation, creation of

sustainable trails that will require less maintenance, and providing high-quality recreation opportunities for the public.

The sub-project focused on trail maintenance and restoration for Forest Developed Trail (FDT) 165 (Stanley Gap); 165A (Flat Creek Connector); 165B (Flat Creek Loop); 165C (Upper Green Mountain); 165D (Lower Green Mountain); 165F (Long Branch Connector); 165G (Long Branch Loop); 25 (Smith Creek); and 98 (Lake Conasauga) 138 (Songbird).

Scope of Work: FDT 165, 165A, 165B, 165C, 165D, 165F, 165G
FDT 165 (Stanley Gap), 165A (Flat Creek Connector), 165B (Flat Creek Loop), 165C (Upper Green Mountain), 165D (Lower Green Mountain), 165F (Long Branch) Connector), and 165 G (Long Branch Loop) are all located on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, Blue Ridge Ranger District, Fannin and Gilmer counties, Georgia,in Congressional District 9. The trails collectively make up what is commonly known as the Aska Trails System, comprising both loop as well as point-to-point routes. These trails are all Class 3 standard terra and are managed for bicycle use. This trail system provides the only managed mountain biking opportunity for visitors to the north slope of the Blue Ridge on this district. Hiking is an allowed and regular use of these trails as well.

This project consisted of trail restoration, logging out, and hazard tree removal for 12.4 miles of system trails. This project enhanced the recreational experience for trail users; mitigated riparian impacts by reducing runoff into stream corridors; and reduced soil erosion along the entire length of the system.

Scope of Work: FDT 25
FDT 25 (Smith Creek) is located on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, Blue Ridge Ranger District, White County, Georgia, in Congressional District 9. The trail is a Class 3 standard-terra and is managed for hiking. The trail is heavily used and attracts hikers from all over the southeast. The trail is a popular attraction on the Chattooga River Ranger District and intersects with Forest Developed Trail 15 (Anna Ruby Falls Trail) within the Anna Ruby Falls Recreation Area and connects with Unicoi State Park.

This project consisted of trail restoration, logging out, and hazard tree removal for 4.43 miles of trail. It also addressed erosion concerns and led to protection of water quality and improved visitor experiences.

Scope of Work: FDT 98, 138
FDT 98 (Lake Conasauga) and FDT 138 (Songbird) are located on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, Conasauga Ranger District, Murray County, Georgia, in Congressional District 9. FDT 98, 0.99 miles long, is a Class 4 Standard Terra Trail. FDT 138, 1.37 miles long, is a Class 3 Standard Terra Trail. Both are managed for hiking only. These well-used trails are found within the Lake Conasauga Recreation Area.

This project consisted of trail tread repair and restoration, maintenance of drainage

structures, logging out, and hazard tree removal on 2.36 miles of trail and the repair of one foot bridge.

Program Project Name: Dam Repair and Maintenance

Local Project Name: Rock Creek Dam Repair Project
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Chattahoochee/Oconee
Ranger District: Blue Ridge
Nearby City(ies): Fannin County, Georgia
Congressional District(s): GA09
County(ies): GA: Lumpkin, Murray, Putnam, Union
Modified Date: 5/24/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Rock Creek Dam Repairs Benefit Recreation, Water Resources

(Story posted 5/20/2011)

On the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, Recovery Act-funded contractors repaired the downstream face and improved access to the control valve for the Rock Creek Dam. Rock Creek Dam is located along Forest Service Road 66 in Fannin County, Georgia. The dam is 1.9 miles upstream from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Chattahoochee National Fish Hatchery.

This project repaired the dam in two stages. First, workers repaired the existing reservoir drain gate. Second, the dam face was repaired, including removal of vegetation; grouting cracks; resurfacing the downstream face; and restoring a deteriorated section.

Program Project Name: Restroom Facility Replacement to Reduce Risk

Local Project Name: Restroom Replacements
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Chattahoochee/Oconee
Ranger District: Blue Ridge
Nearby City(ies): Walker County, Rabun County, Union County, and Fannin County, Georgia
Congressional District(s): GA09, GA10, GA11
County(ies): GA: Fannin, Lumpkin, Rabun
Modified Date: 6/9/2011

Story:

Local Contractors Finish Recovery Act-funded Restroom Facility Updates

(Story posted 5/20/2011)

In September 2010, local contractors finished renovating six chemical restroom facilities at four major recreation areas on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest. The finished work allows for healthier, more sustainable environmental conditions; elimination of hazardous substances; and reduced visitor health and safety risks.

The reconstructed facilities do not use chemicals but instead utilize a more natural processing technique. This work to improve visitors' experience; decrease health risks and future backlog maintenance needs; and reduce long-term maintenance expenditures took place at the following locations:

The Pocket Recreation Area in Walker County, Georgia, located in the Consauga Ranger District.
Sarah's Creek Campground in Rabun County, Georgia, located in the Chattooga River Ranger District.
Lake Winfield Scott in Union County, Georgia, located in the Blue Ridge Ranger District.
Mulky Campground and Frank Gross Campground in Fannin County, Georgia, located in the Blue Ridge Ranger District.

Program Project Name: Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest-Road Bridge Maintenance and Repair

Local Project Name: Bridge Maintenance Projects

Region: Southern Region

Forest: Chattahoochee/Oconee

Nearby City(ies): See info in Other Affiliations/Sponsors above.

Congressional District(s): GA08, GA09, GA10

County(ies): GA: Banks, Catoosa, Chattooga, Dawson, Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer, Gordon, Greene, Habersham, Jasper, Jones, Lumpkin, Monroe, Morgan, Murray, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Putnam, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, Walker, White, Whitfield

Modified Date: 5/24/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Bridge Maintenance Repair Supports Safety, Improves Aquatic Resources

(Story posted 5/20/2011)

On the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, Recovery Act-funded contracts brought meaningful work to the area while reducing deferred maintenance on bridges located on major thoroughfares or roads that provide critical access to major developed recreation areas across the forest.

Contractors performed maintenance on 11 bridges throughout the 2010 summer season. Work included reconditioning the roadway approaches; sandblasting and painting the steel

structural members; cleaning the bridge deck drains; removing vegetation; replacing rails and decks; and other minor work as needed.

The project designed to enhance the Forest's transportation infrastructure and visitor safety while improving downstream aquatic resources is complete.

Program Project Name: Replace Wastewater Lift Station at Lake Winfield Scott

Local Project Name: Replace Wastewater Lift Station at Lake Winfield Scott
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Chattahoochee/Oconee
Ranger District: Blue Ridge
Nearby City(ies): Blue Ridge, GA
Congressional District(s): GA09
County(ies): GA: Union
Modified Date: 6/8/2011

Story:

Popular Recreation Area Facility Repairs Benefit Visitors

(Story posted 5/20/2011)

On the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, the Lake Winfield Scott Recreation Area on the Blue Ridge Ranger District in Union County, Georgia, receives the highest use of any developed campground recreational facility and day-use area. This Recovery Act-funded project to make needed repairs to the existing Lake Winfield Scott sewage collection system by replacing an obsolete lift station used to transport wastewater is finished.

Its replacement reduced maintenance needs and created more sanitary conditions for the public while providing work for a local contractor.

Program Project Name: Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest - Bogs Restoration

Local Project Name: Chattahoochee-Oconee Forest-Wide Ecosystem Projects
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Chattahoochee/Oconee
Nearby City(ies): Clayton, GA
Congressional District(s): GA08, GA09, GA10, GA11
County(ies): GA: Dawson, Fannin, Gilmer, Habersham, Rabun
Modified Date: 2/14/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Bog Restoration Project Benefits Turtles

(Story posted 9/15/2011)

On the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, Recovery Act-funded workers restored bogs to natural conditions that had been lost over time primarily due to a long history of wildfire suppression. Regular, periodic fire in these sites favored the more open conditions that allow sunlight to reach the ground and maintain plants and animal communities that are typical of bog ecosystems. Without fire, trees had gradually encroached into the bogs, shading areas and reducing soil moisture.

In Hale Ridge Bog, Hedden Bog, Keener Bog, Palm Swamp, and Water Gauge Bog, contractors removed overstory trees and some understory species not normally associated with bog communities to restore bog habitat that supports species such as the eastern bog turtle. Bog turtles have many natural predators, but the biggest threat to their survival is the fragile nature of their vanishing ecosystem. The work supporting conservation of federally endangered and locally rare species built upon previous collaboration with partners such as the Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and the Chattahoochee Nature Center.

Program Project Name: Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest - Bogs Restoration

Local Project Name: Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest – Bog Restoration

Region: Southern Region

Forest: Chattahoochee/Oconee

Ranger District: Chattooga River

Nearby City(ies): Clayton, GA

Congressional District(s): GA08, GA09, GA10, GA11

County(ies): GA: Chattooga, Dawson, Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer, Gordon, Greene, Habersham, Jasper, Lumpkin, Murray, Putnam, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, Walker, White, Whitfield

Modified Date: 2/14/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Bog Restoration Project Benefits Turtles

(Story posted 9/15/2011)

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turtle. Bog turtles have many natural predators, but the biggest threat to their survival is the fragile nature of their vanishing ecosystem. The work supporting conservation of federally endangered and locally rare species built upon previous collaboration with partners such as the Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and the Chattahoochee Nature Center.

Program Project Name: Facility Maintenance for Safety and Sustainability

Local Project Name: Maintenance At Various Recreation Areas

Region: Southern Region

Forest: Chattahoochee/Oconee

Nearby City(ies): Chatsworth, Blue Ridge, Blairsville, Clayton, Clarkesville, Helen, Cleveland, Dahlonega

Congressional District(s): GA08, GA09, GA10, GA11

County(ies): GA: Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer, Gordon, Greene, Habersham, Jasper, Jones, Lumpkin, Morgan, Murray, Putnam, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, Walker, White

Modified Date: 2/13/2012

Story:

Forest Uses Recovery Act Funds to Address Deferred Maintenance Backlog

(Story posted 9/15/2012)

On the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests, Recovery Act-funded workers conducted activities to address a large backlog of overdue maintenance in many campgrounds and recreation areas. Contractors refurbished campsites with new surfacing, new bathrooms, and general repairs. The improvement in facilities at so many areas enhanced both the safety and the quality of experiences for forest visitors, which is important to local economies in this urban forest that experiences very high recreation use locally as well as out-of-state and international tourism to north Georgia and the surrounding areas.

Program Project Name: Replace Damaged Waterlines

Local Project Name: Waterline Replacement

Region: Southern Region

Forest: Chattahoochee/Oconee

Nearby City(ies): Chatsworth, Blue Ridge, Blairsville, Clayton, Clarkesville, Helen, Cleveland, Dahlonega

Congressional District(s): GA09, GA10

County(ies): GA: Chattooga, Fannin, Gilmer, Lumpkin, Murray, Rabun, Union, White, Whitfield

Modified Date: 2/13/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Water Line Replacements Improve Visitor Experiences

(Story posted 9/15/2012)

On the Chattahoochee National Forest, an urban forest that experiences high recreation facility use, Recovery act-funded workers repaired and replaced parts or all water lines in the following campgrounds: Cooper Creek; DeSoto Falls; Dockery Lake; Lake Conasauga; Lake Russell; Mulky, and Rabun Beach.

This work at so many popular campground improved public safety and the quality of recreational experiences for forest visitors. These water lines were at least 20 years old and were reaching the end of their service life. The completed project reduced health risks and future backlog maintenance needs while extending the life of existing water systems.

Program Project Name: RCW MidStory Control..Chemical (Phase 1)

Local Project Name: Red-cockaded Woodpecker Habitat Midstory Control-Chemical
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Chattahoochee/Oconee
Ranger District: Oconee
Nearby City(ies): Eatonton, GA
Congressional District(s): GA08
County(ies): GA: Jasper, Jones
Modified Date: 12/22/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Project Helps Increase Endangered Woodpecker Habitat

(Story posted 9/16/2011)

Recovery Act funds have contributed to increased habitat for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, and recent monitoring results indicate the project has already been successful in increasing the bird population.

Contractors completed chemical treatments on 500 acres to reduce the density of shrubs and saplings within the midstory of existing and new recruitment sites for the RCW. These additional acres will further improve and extend the corridor that joins the Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge.

Forest employees report 18 new cavity trees while the number of active sites has grown from 19 cluster sites to 23. The Piedmont population is stable and growing.

The treatment was successful in obtaining Forest Plan and RCW Recovery Objectives for the bird whose listing in 1970 as endangered is a direct result of a reduction in mature pine forests, which is their habitat. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service expressed its appreciation of the work that is helping keep the species from sliding to extinction.

Program Project Name: RCW MidStory Control..Mechanical

Local Project Name: Red-cocked Woodpecker Midstory Control-Mechanical
Region: Southern Region
Forest: Chattahoochee/Oconee
Ranger District: Oconee
Nearby City(ies): Eatonton, GA
Congressional District(s): GA08
County(ies): GA: Jasper, Jones
Modified Date: 12/22/2011

Story:

Endangered Woodpecker Gets Help from Recovery Act

(Story posted 9/16/2011)

Recovery Act funds have contributed to improved habitat for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, and recent monitoring results indicate the project has already been successful in increasing the bird population.

A native American-owned contractor completed mechanical fuel treatments on approximately 1,000 acres to enhance opportunities for new recruitment stands, artificial cavities, and existing cluster sites to receive woodpecker fledglings from previous breeding seasons. Forest employees report 18 new cavity trees while the number of active sites has grown from 19 cluster sites to 23. The treatments were successful in obtaining Forest Plan and RCW Recovery Objectives for the bird whose listing in 1970 as endangered is a direct result of a reduction in pine savannahs and open woodlands, which is its habitat.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service expressed its appreciation of the work that is helping keep the species from sliding to extinction.

Guam

Program Project Name: Insect and Disease Region-wide Project

Local Project Name: Pest Detection in the Tropical Urban Forest, Restoration and Sudden Oak Death mitigation

Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Nearby City(ies): Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Tumon Bay, Guam

Congressional District(s): CA06, CA07, CA08, CA09, CA10, CA11, CA12, CA13, CA14, CA15, CA16, CA24, CA25, GU00

County(ies): CA: Alameda, Contra Costa, Humboldt, Lake, Los Angeles, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma; GU: Guam; HI: Hawaii

Modified Date: 1/20/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Research Studies Work to Eradicate Tropical Pests

(Story posted 9/22/2011)

A three-pronged Recovery Act-funded research and outreach grant has been supporting forest health in California, Guam, and Hawaii.

Reducing Sudden Oak Death and Combating the Goldspotted Oak Borer

In California, project implementation and outreach efforts to combat sudden oak death are underway. Sudden Oak Death is a tree disease caused by the plant pathogen Phytophthora ramorum. The disease kills some oak species and has had devastating effects on forests in California and Oregon. In addition, efforts are underway to the stop an oak insect pest, the goldspotted oak borer that has been linked to elevated levels of oak mortality ongoing in San Diego County.

Funds are supporting the California Oak Mortality Task Force (COMTF) created in 2000 by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the California Forest Pest Council to bring together public agencies, non-profit organizations, and private interests to address sudden oak death in California in a comprehensive and coordinated manner.

Other Recovery Act-funded activities include the following:

• extension of sudden oak death science and management to California's North Coast
• funding a services contract for coordinator of goldspotted oak borer management
• determining the rate and pattern of spread of goldspotted oak borer and its impact on red oak woodlands in Southern California
• hiring a public information officer for sudden oak death and goldspotted oak borer
• supporting a goldspotted oak borer education and outreach program in San Diego County

For example, three experienced sudden oak death extension experts have been conducting public information activities in the eight counties where this disease is most active. The number of SOD extension events these experts have arranged and led has been exhaustive,

and as a result of these events—the Web pages that they manage, the television spots they set up and handle, and many other activities in which they participate—the word is definitely getting out on how Californians can best contend with this otherwise formidable disease.

Work to determine the rate and pattern of spread of goldspotted oak borer and its impact on red oak woodlands in Southern California is also progressing. Partners acquired 2011 aerial imagery from Eagle Aerial Imaging in two sections that cover the entire infestation and margin areas within San Diego County and are utilizing this imagery to review, analyze, and correct previously completed oak woodland vegetation maps that various agencies have created.

Cycad Restoration and Coconut Rhinocerus Beetle Suppression

In Guam, a scale insect, cycad aulacaspis scale (CAS), invaded in 2003, causing some Guam habitats have experienced more than 90 percent mortality of the pre-2003 cycas micronesica (cycad) population. Cycads are seed plants typically characterized by a stout and woody (ligneous) trunk with a crown of large, hard and stiff, evergreen leaves.

Although CAS has been brought under partial biological control via the introduction of Rhyzobius lophanthae, numerous pre-existing threats have combined to create several cascading threats to the plant population. The efficacy of Rhyzobius control has shown erratic patterns over time, and Cycas plants with heavy CAS infestations are still commonly found. Mature trees command the greatest level of protection from the Rhyzobius predator, and for some reason the predator is not protecting new seedlings as they emerge. The loss of so many individuals of a dominant native forest species in such a short amount of time has undoubtedly altered ecosystem characteristics as never before.

Recovery Act funds are supporting efforts to monitor cycad plant population census and structure to determine demographic changes as plants continue to die and survey the persistence of the cascading insect threats and ecosystem changes while determining various reasons for the failure of new cycad seedlings to establish.
During September 2007, an infestation of an invasive insect, the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) was discovered on Guam. Adults of this large scarab beetle kill coconuts and other palms when they bore into the crown to feed on sap, and grubs feed on decaying coconut logs and stumps. Without significant control efforts, CRB can be expected to kill at least 50 percent of Guam's coconut palms and related plants. The damage and losses to resort, park, and residential shade and ornamental plants on Guam will affect the aesthetic appeal of important properties and tourist areas. Some losses in recreational use and revenue due to diminished scenic appeal are likely. Costs associated with hazard tree removal, tree replacement, and regulatory actions are expected to increase. A permanent infestation could lead to additional interstate and international quarantine restrictions, affecting Guam, its trade partners, and other states.

A Recovery Act-supported eradication project is being managed as an emergency under the Incident Command System and employs two major tactics: sanitation and trapping. Sanitation is focused on detection and destruction of breeding sites.

During the past few months, CRB has escaped from the quarantine zone along the northeast coast of Guam and has spread to inland areas where adults have established breeding sites in large compost piles, some of which exceed 200 cubic yards. In addition, during March 2011, a large infestation of CRB was discovered at the northern tip of Guam.

Coconut rhinoceros is a difficult insect to detect, eradicate or control. To date, no natural CRB biocontrol has been observed on Guam. Without density-dependent, self-propagating biocontrol, Guam is primed for a CRB population explosion. Large numbers of adult beetles will initiate a positive feedback loop in which palms are killed, producing more food for grubs which will transform into ever increasing numbers of adults until food becomes limiting. If a massive CRB population occurs, risk of accidental export to other islands and elsewhere will increase.

Researchers are working to develop recommendations for emergency treatment of the large, recently-infested compost piles. To date, an efficacious insecticide for use on large piles of infested compost has not been found. In addition, an unexpected observation led to a better understanding of the biology of CRB on Guam. Researchers discovered that a significant number of CRB are going through their entire development cycle in the crowns of coconut palms. Arboreal development of CRB has not been reported elsewhere. Following this discovery, the sanitation strategy was modified to include removal of unwanted coconut palms that are likely to enable CRB arboreal development.

Early Detection of Pests in the Tropical Urban Forest

USDA Forest Service Recovery Act funds are supporting efforts to survey for invasive insects and pathogens in urban forest areas near ports of entry into Hawaii. Thus far monitoring work underway since early 2011 using traps in strategically selected urban areas has not detected any new invasive organisms attacking Hawaii’s native tree species. In addition to providing work for scientists, the project is helping ensure conservation of Hawaii’s unique ecosystems through the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources-administered grant that will allow monitoring activities to continue until the end of 2012.

Development of Koa Tree Micro and Macro Propagation

In Hawaii, researchers are working to increase koa tree rooting success. Researchers have screened seedlings from a large number of different koa parents and have found that there is a very wide amount of variation in the ability of these families to “throw roots” when the rooted cuttings approach is used as the means used to achieve macro propagation. They have also found ways of increasing the rate of rooting success dramatically by developing a set of best practices to induce rooting.
As a results of these advances, it is possible to make commercially-acceptable levels of rooted cuttings from most (although not all) families of Acacia koa. Because of this success, it has not been necessary to develop means of micro-production of this species.

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

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

Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/6l8qvgm

Modified Date: 12/29/2011

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.

Program Project Name: Hawaii/PI Invasive Plants

Local Project Name: Monitoring and Control of Invasive Plants in Hawaii
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Nearby City(ies): various
Congressional District(s): HI01, HI02
County(ies): HI: Hawaii, Honolulu, Kalawao, Kauai, Maui
Modified Date: 2/23/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Invasive Plant Management Underway in Hawaii

(Story posted 9/8/2011)

The USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry is using Recovery Act funds for an integrated pest management program against invasive plants on non-federal lands associated with forested ecosystems in the state of Hawaii. Work involves public education about invasive plants, prevention practices, control efforts, surveys, and monitoring.

Grant administrator Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources has distributed funds to several areas of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife, including the Forest Reserve Program, the Natural Area Reserves Program, and the Wildlife Section for work directly under those programs. In addition, several watershed partnerships throughout the state and

the Invasive Species Committees located on each of the major islands also received funds. The work is ongoing, with about 800 acres treated as of March 31, 2011. These Recovery Act funds have been instrumental in maintaining many field worker positions that would have been eliminated during the recent economic downturn.

Program Project Name: Insect and Disease Region-wide Project

Local Project Name: Pest Detection in the Tropical Urban Forest, Restoration and Sudden Oak Death mitigation

Region: Pacific Southwest Region

Nearby City(ies): Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Tumon Bay, Guam

Congressional District(s): CA06, CA07, CA08, CA09, CA10, CA11, CA12, CA13, CA14, CA15, CA16, CA24, CA25, GU00

County(ies): CA: Alameda, Contra Costa, Humboldt, Lake, Los Angeles, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma; GU: Guam; HI: Hawaii

Modified Date: 1/20/2012

Story:

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(Story posted 9/22/2011)

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Other Recovery Act-funded activities include the following:

• extension of sudden oak death science and management to California's North Coast
• funding a services contract for coordinator of goldspotted oak borer management
• determining the rate and pattern of spread of goldspotted oak borer and its impact on red oak woodlands in Southern California
• hiring a public information officer for sudden oak death and goldspotted oak borer
• supporting a goldspotted oak borer education and outreach program in San Diego County

For example, three experienced sudden oak death extension experts have been conducting public information activities in the eight counties where this disease is most active. The number of SOD extension events these experts have arranged and led has been exhaustive, and as a result of these events—the Web pages that they manage, the television spots they set up and handle, and many other activities in which they participate—the word is definitely getting out on how Californians can best contend with this otherwise formidable disease.

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A Recovery Act-supported eradication project is being managed as an emergency under the Incident Command System and employs two major tactics: sanitation and trapping. Sanitation is focused on detection and destruction of breeding sites.
During the past few months, CRB has escaped from the quarantine zone along the northeast coast of Guam and has spread to inland areas where adults have established breeding sites in large compost piles, some of which exceed 200 cubic yards. In addition, during March 2011, a large infestation of CRB was discovered at the northern tip of Guam.

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Development of Koa Tree Micro and Macro Propagation

In Hawaii, researchers are working to increase koa tree rooting success. Researchers have screened seedlings from a large number of different koa parents and have found that there is a very wide amount of variation in the ability of these families to “throw roots” when the rooted cuttings approach is used as the means used to achieve macro propagation. They have also found ways of increasing the rate of rooting success dramatically by developing a set of best practices to induce rooting.
As a results of these advances, it is possible to make commercially-acceptable levels of rooted cuttings from most (although not all) families of Acacia koa. Because of this success, it has not been necessary to develop means of micro-production of this species.

Program Project Name: Hawaii Fuels

Local Project Name: Wildfire Management - Hazardous Fuels Reduction, State of Hawaii
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Nearby City(ies): Honolulu
Congressional District(s): GU00, HI01, HI02
County(ies): HI: Hawaii, Honolulu, Kauai, Maui
Modified Date: 1/20/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Hazardous Fuels Reduction Work Protects State and Private Property

(Story posted 9/30/2011)

Workers are using a Recovery Act-funded grant to accomplish a suite of hazardous fuel reduction projects throughout the State of Hawai'i. The projects focus on reducing fuel hazards by maintaining and improving existing fuel breaks and treating adjoining properties within and adjacent to state forest reserves and other state land. Projects are planned and in progress on the islands of Hawai'i, Maui, Kaua'i, Moloka'i, Lana'i, and O'ahu.

One of the projects, the Waianae Kai Forest Reserve Project on O'ahu, addresses hazardous fuels in three separate but synergistic phases. In addition to maintaining an existing fuel break, the project also includes creating a grazed fuel break along the perimeter of the reserve by utilizing the cattle from a neighboring ranch. When completed, the grazed fuel break and existing fuel break will then be strategically planted with fire-resistant trees and shrubs to enhance the overall effectiveness. This last phase will be conducted in cooperation with the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and will augment current research studying hazardous fuels in the reserve. Completion is expected in September 2012.

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
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
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Idaho, Shoshone
Modified Date: 8/18/2011

Story:

Sherlock Creek Placer Mining Restoration Project Protects Environment, People

(Story 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 project results will be of great benefit to a true Bull Trout stronghold 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
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
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Adams
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3fr45aa
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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

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

Congressional District(s): ID01

County(ies): ID: Gem

Related Photo(s) Link: http://www.flickr.com/photos/usdagov/archives/date-posted/2010/05/21/

Modified Date: 3/1/2011

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
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Valley
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3f33kkz
Modified Date: 4/12/2011

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
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3nfv9oy
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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

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
Congressional District(s): ID02
County(ies): ID: Caribou
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3sqzwbk
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Adams
Modified Date: 4/13/2011

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-Diameter Timber and Underutilized Woody Biomass

Region: Forest Products Laboratory

Nearby City(ies): Mountain Home

Congressional District(s): ID01

County(ies): ID: Ada

Modified Date: 9/8/2011

Story:

Pellet Mill Expansion to Utilize Small-diameter Timber and Under-utilized Woody Biomass

(Story posted 4/16/2010)

Prior to receiving the 2009 Recovery Act Woody Biomass Utilization grant, Treasure Valley Forest Products near Mountain Home had purchased a lot of equipment and already had a

business producing pellets along with an in-woods crew on board to work in the field. With the grant monies, the company was able to finish building the pellet mill at least three months quicker than anticipated. Prior to receiving the grant funds, Treasure Valley had been using its own cash to fund the building of the pellet mill and continue logging operations.

The company's recovery factors have changed somewhat and this number is anticipated to increase. Because the Recovery Act funds were dispersed toward the end of the wood pellet season, the company did not see much of an increase in production. However, as future seasonal sales continue to increase, the company expects its expanded capability will increase production.

Also because of the grant, Treasure Valley was able to continue working on Forest Service stewardship contracts for thinning operations on National Forest System land.
Treasure Valley anticipates that the impacts 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: 6/23/2011

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 recreation areas. The crew finished the annual trail maintenance and replaced 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's recreation crew, the quality of visitors' outdoor experiences on trails and at recreation sites has been improved along with enhanced public safety.

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

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: 8/18/2011

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. Workers also installed drainage structures 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 lakes. 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, IPNF Roads Manager Diane Hodel 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
Related Photo(s) Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ssrs/story?id=5049
Modified Date: 4/13/2011

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: 6/23/2011

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 included replacing destination signs and alert/warning signs along Forest Roads 100, 250, and 247. The young people also installed various other signs, including route identifiers, motor vehicle use signs on the Palouse Ranger District, and the Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark sign. Sign placement benefits sightseeing travelers 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 aesthetics 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 to 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
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Gem
Related Photo(s) Link:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dw_fVqpXYsU&feature=mfu_in_order&list=UL
Modified Date: 3/1/2011

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
Congressional District(s): ID02
County(ies): ID: Teton
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3q3unxl
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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

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
Congressional District(s): ID02
County(ies): ID: Bonneville
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3dsa6rj
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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

Congressional District(s): ID02

County(ies): ID: Clark

Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/4x6qgbb

Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Boise
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3zt5vvt
Modified Date: 4/13/2011

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
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Adams
Related Photo(s) Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ssrs/story?id=5265
Modified Date: 3/1/2011

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

Congressional District(s): ID01

County(ies): ID: Adams

Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/43lfhug

Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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.

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

Related Photo(s) Link:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m0rh6C_1O00&feature=player_profilepage

Modified Date: 3/1/2011

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
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
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
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
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

Congressional District(s): ID01, ID02

County(ies): ID: Boise, Elmore, Gem, Valley

Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3mucntj

Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Gem
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3nns83z
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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

Congressional District(s): ID02

County(ies): ID: Bannock, Bear Lake, Bonneville, Caribou, Clark, Fremont, Teton

Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3ezzvk2

Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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.

Program Project Name: Ada County Forest Health Improvement

Local Project Name: Ada County Urban Forest Health Improvement Project
Region: Intermountain Region
Nearby City(ies): Boise, Weiser, Nampa, Payette, Meridian.
Congressional District(s): ID01, NV01, NV02
County(ies): ID: Ada
Modified Date: 6/7/2011

Story:

Idaho Communities Benefit from Project to Improve Public Safety and Urban Forest Health

(Story posted 5/24/2011)

The Ada County Urban Forest Health Improvement project addressed a backlog of public tree maintenance. Community trees provide tangible economic, environmental, and social benefits, including improved air and water quality, lower energy costs, and more effective stormwater management while improving community and public health. As with any resource, the value declines if not properly maintained.

The project improved public safety, urban forest health, and longevity of the publicly owned trees. All the communities that received USDA Forest Service recovery Act funding are in Ada, Canyon or Valley counties and were economically disadvantaged. With the economic recession, many cities had laid off tree care crews and were unable to accomplish any maintenance. The project sub-granted funds to cities with established tree management programs and staff available to oversee the maintenance work. In some cities, Recovery Act sub-grants included tree plantings along streets in new subdivisions. Cities were required to

contract with local tree care companies to implement the work.

Decayed boulevard and park trees were a major public safety issue in many of these communities. Recovery Act funding allowed many communities such as Weiser, Payette, Nampa, and Caldwell, Idaho to accomplish major management and hazardous tree care on city property that would not have been completed without additional funds. The project helped keep local tree care businesses employed during recessionary times.

Program Project Name: Ada County Forest Health Improvement

Local Project Name: Kootenai County Urban Forest Health Improvement Project
Region: Intermountain Region
Nearby City(ies): Sandpoint, Hayden Coeur d Alene, and Post Falls Idaho.
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Bonner, Kootenai
Modified Date: 6/7/2011

Story:

Project Supports Public Tree Maintenance

(Story posted 5/25/2011)

The Recovery Act-funded Kootenai County Urban Forest Health Improvement project addressed a backlog of public tree maintenance. Community trees provide tangible economic, environmental, and social benefits, including improved air and water quality, lower energy costs, and more effective stormwater management while improving community and public health. As with any resource, the value declines if not properly maintained.

Several cities in Kootenai and Bonner counties were experiencing tremendous growth until 2008, with the focus on planting new trees to keep pace with disturbed areas. Maintenance of existing trees was deferred, and now several cities facing a financial crisis are seeing a decline in urban tree populations.

The Kootenai and Bonner County project has improved public safety, urban forest health, and longevity of the publicly owned trees. All the communities that received USDA Forest Service Recovery Act funding are in Bonner and Kootenai counties and were affected by the recession, causing many cities to lay off tree care crews, making them unable to accomplish any maintenance.

The project sub-granted Recovery Act funds to cities that have established tree management programs and staff available to oversee the maintenance work. In some cities Recovery Act sub-grants included tree plantings along streets in new subdivisions. Cities were required to contract with local tree care companies to implement the work.

Dead or dying boulevard and park trees were a major public safety issue in many of these communities. Recovery Act funding allowed many communities such as Sandpoint, Hayden, and Post Falls, Idaho to accomplish major management and hazardous tree care on city property that would not have been completed without additional funds. The project also employed local tree care businesses that were greatly affected by the recession.

Program Project Name: Idaho & Clearwater County Roads Projects

Local Project Name: Road 250 - Hidden and Fix Creek culvert Replacement
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Clearwater
Ranger District: North Fork
Nearby City(ies): Pierce, Idaho
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Clearwater, Idaho
Modified Date: 8/2/2011

Story:

Fisheries Habitat Restoration Project Brings Jobs, Benefits Resources

(Story posted 7/11/2011)

Hidden Creek and Fix Creek along the Clearwater River's North Fork are the scenes of USDA Forest Service efforts to restore fisheries habitat. When many of the bridges and roads were originally constructed, some of the drainage culverts were built above the actual streambed.

The culverts posed a problem for fish trying to travel upstream to spawn in the cooler parts of the creeks' headwaters. When problems developed, the fish had no access to traditional spawning areas. The result was depleted fish populations. The Hidden Creek culvert and Fix Creek culvert projects restored access for fish to travel upstream by implementing new Trideck bridges that promote natural stream flow.

Both the Hidden and Fix creek projects were contracted with the same construction company to replace the older style of construction and faulty culverts that had blocked bull trout passage. These two projects have long been overdue, seeing as one of the culverts actually had a cedar tree growing out of the top of it.

Pat Herndon of Stone Ridge construction out of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, began construction on July 1, 2010. The Hidden Creek project was finished on September 1, and Fix Creek was completed on September 30 that same year.

Herndon explained that the influx of projects in the area has greatly increased the workload

for many local contractors. For example, when Herndon received this contract he subcontracted out parts of the project to other local companies within their specialty, including machinery and engineering firms. The project retained or created seven part-time jobs totaling 437 hours.

As important as the project is for bull trout, it also helped Herndon's company to improve its business. He projected its revenues would rise nearly 60 percent to $2.7 million by year's end.

"Because of the stimulus projects, we have been busier this year than we have ever been before," Herndon said.

The stimulus money was "going to make a big difference" to more than just his company's revenues. All of his workers were from Wallace or Coeur d' Alene and most of them come down to this area to ride their all-terrain vehicles and to fish on these same creeks.

Program Project Name: Idaho County Roads Projects 1

Local Project Name: Jungle Point Crushing Pit
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Clearwater
Ranger District: Lochsa
Nearby City(ies): Lowell, Idaho
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Idaho
Modified Date: 8/2/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funding Helps Create Aggregate Stockpile

(Story posted 7/11/2011)

The Jungle Point Crushing Pit stockpile on the Clearwater National Forest will provide the aggregate needed to maintain roads in the area for around ten years, according to Forest Service Contracting Officer's Representative Chuck Fowlds, who oversaw the project.

Seubert Excavators Inc. of Cottonwood, Idaho, completed the contract between August 8, 2010 and October 13, 2010, keeping an average of seven workers busy for nearly two months, according to daily contract diaries.

"We would have kept bidding for jobs, but it definitely was a help to have the Recovery Act projects last year. I wish there were more of them," said Tom Riener, Seubert Excavators vice-president.

Seubert Excavators has worked on five Recovery Act projects, including the Jungle Point

stockpile. Riener went on to give some commentary on the way that the Forest Service has utilized Recovery Act funding as a whole.

“I think it was a huge benefit to use that funding for what they have used it for,” Riener said.

Program Project Name: Clearwater & Latah Counties Road work

Local Project Name: Palouse River Road Resurfacing
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Clearwater
Ranger District: Palouse
Nearby City(ies): Potlatch, Idaho
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Latah
Modified Date: 8/1/2011

Story:

Road Resurfacing Project Benefits Travelers

(Story posted 7/11/2011)

On the Clearwater National Forest, a three-person crew from Seubert Excavators, Inc., of Cottonwood, Idaho, logged 528.5 hours in June and July 2010 while resurfacing a 5.14-mile stretch of Palouse River Road near Laird Park.

According to David Ratliff, who served as project inspector, the last time the road was resurfaced was 15 years ago. “We hope to get the same duration out of it this time around,” Ratliff said.

Aggregate rock for the project was provided from a government source at Harvard Quarry.

Program Project Name: Idaho County Roads Projects 1

Local Project Name: Savage Pass Crushing
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Clearwater
Ranger District: Powell
Nearby City(ies): Powell, Idaho
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Idaho
Modified Date: 8/2/2011

Story:

Aggregate Rock Project Provides Long-term Surface Material

(Story posted 7/11/2011)

On the Clearwater National Forest, Recovery Act-funded contractors processed 52,000 tons of aggregate rock from the Brushy Fork Quarry and stockpiled it at Savage Pass, enough surface material to maintain area roads along the upper reaches of the Lochsa for as many as ten years, according to Forest Service Contracting Officer's Representative Chuck Fowlds.

The original plan was to remove the rock from Savage Pass Quarry. As there was not enough rock present at Savage Pass, the processing operation was moved about 25 miles north to Brushy Fork, Fowlds said. Transportation of the rock from Brushy Fork to Savage Pass required a large fleet of sub-contracted, owner-operated trucks.

Thirty-two individuals worked for nearly 5,000 hours on the project. The contractor was Cook and Sons Construction from White Bird, Idaho.

Program Project Name: Clearwater & Latah Counties Road work

Local Project Name: Vassar Aggregate Resurfacing
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Clearwater
Ranger District: Palouse
Nearby City(ies): Potlatch, Idaho
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Latah
Modified Date: 8/1/2011

Story:

Recreationists Benefit from Road Resurfacing Work

(Story posted 7/11/2011)

In 2010, the Vassar Connection Road Aggregate project resulted in the resurfacing and repair of six miles of a highly-used recreation road as one of the Recovery Act projects on the Clearwater National Forest.

The project, contracted to Moscow-based North Idaho Crushing, ran from June 25 to its completion on August 4. This project focused the company's resources entire workforce on the road's completion. Owned and operated by three brothers, Randy, Rick, and Kurt McCall, the company employs 10 people, all of whom worked on the project. According to contractor records, the project resulted in 11 part-time jobs. Workers logged a total of 1,949 hours.

Contractors for this project installed two lift structures of three inches each on the road. They first laid down a plastic grid that covered the road to prevent wash outs. Dump trucks next covered the road with aggregate rock of varying sizes so that the rocks fit together and will

stay in place even through rough conditions.

The road has been subject to washouts that happen with heavy rainfall and snowmelt. The resulting washboards and potholes make travel difficult in adverse conditions.

The rock for the roadwork came from the Bovill Rock Quarry, located about five miles away. The owners of North Idaho Crushing said that this job is not a typical project for them, and they were thankful for the extra work.

"This project has helped to keep us busy this year and has also brought in a great deal of revenue," said Kurt McCall.

He also said that they typically work for the Idaho Department of Lands, timber companies, and the Forest Service.

Projects like this will help recreational visitors to travel safely, as well as ensuring access to trails throughout the area. The McCall brothers also said that every one of them likes to travel to this area for the all-terrain vehicle trails and off-road recreational opportunities, both in the summer and the winter.

"Sometimes this road can be very rough during the winter and spring, and this work should make it a lot easier to get where you want to go," Kurt McCall added.

All of the brothers mentioned that they felt that this work would help the local economy, due to the fact that they are local contractors who also employ local workers who spend their money within the local economy.

The McCall brothers say they like to think of their operation as a family business that takes care of their own. Work that benefits the local economy, they say, is "investing in our area, and benefits everyone."

Program Project Name: Clearwater National Forest - Clearwater County Facility Projects

Local Project Name: Apgar and Wild Goose Campgrounds Water System Improvements
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Clearwater
Ranger District: Lochsa
Nearby City(ies): Lowell, Idaho
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Idaho
Modified Date: 8/1/2011

Story:

Campground Renovations Benefit Workers, Recreationists

(Story posted 7/12/2011)

On the Clearwater National Forest, contractors renovated the water systems at both Apgar and Wild Goose campgrounds near Highway 12. Wild Goose Campground is 53 miles east of Orofino, Idaho, and Apgar is 60 miles.

Northwest Concrete, a Lewiston-based construction company contracted by Piedmont Environmental Sciences Inc., performed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act project. Jason Hamilton, Northwest Concrete owner, began work on the $65,270 project on September 13, 2010, installing a new water system, including plumbing, concrete, and a hydrant system. Northwest Concrete also installed new piping and a proper drainage system at both sites, remaining conscientious of the environmental and recreational impacts of the excavation and installation. The project was completed on October 19, 2010.

Hamilton said he enjoyed working with the Forest Service and plans to bid on future contracts himself, instead working through outside firms like the North Carolina-based Piedmont. “We're set up now with the Forest Service,” he said.

Future business was only part of the benefit for Hamilton. “It helped me out, but it helped out my employees more,” Hamilton said, who hires almost exclusively from the greater-Lewiston area. The project provided two part-time workers--a laborer and power equipment operator--236 hours of work.

Program Project Name: Clearwater County Roads Projects

Local Project Name: Bradford Bridge
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Clearwater
Ranger District: Lochsa
Nearby City(ies): Pierce, Idaho
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Clearwater
Modified Date: 8/2/2011

Story:

Bradford Bridge Replacement Promotes Traveler Safety

(Story posted 7/12/2011)

C.L. Heilman Co.,Inc., of Coeur D’ Alene, Idaho received a Recovery Act-funded contract through the USDA Forest Service to replace the Bradford Bridge over Lolo Creek on the Clearwater National Forest.

A crew of three began the project September 13, 2010, spending five weeks on the project that will allow continued access to areas west of Kamiah-Pierce Road 100.

Workers replaced the old steel and timber bridge, which was no longer suitable for use, with a 90-foot concrete structure at a cost of about $330,000. The project was completed October 29, 2010.

“The stimulus definitely helped me; I had a good year last year,” said Craig Heilman, company president.

Program Project Name: Clearwater National Forest - Clearwater County Facility Projects

Local Project Name: Eagle Point Lookout Repairs
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Clearwater
Ranger District: North Fork
Nearby City(ies): Pierce, Idaho
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Clearwater
Modified Date: 8/1/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Supports Lookout Repairs

(Story posted 7/12/2011)

The Eagle Point and Scurvy Mountain lookouts, northeast of Pierce, Idaho, on the North Fork Ranger District of the Clearwater National Forest received the necessary repairs that had been deferred in recent years thanks to $132,461 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding.

Spokane-based contractor Wesslen Construction began work August 23, 2010, repairing the lookout tower at Eagle Point, replacing the tower's bracing, adjusting the guy cables, and tightening the bolts. Workers also upgraded the tower's handrails, catwalks, stairs, landings, and lookout cab and installed a new stove.
was installed.

At both lookouts, Wesslen installed new lightning protection systems.

The Recovery Act-funded project was completed on September 28, 2010. Five part-time workers split 523 hours of labor.

Wesslen owner Jerry Wesslen, who regularly works with the Forest Service and on other civil works projects, said he only got one of the “flurry” of potential contracts stemming from the stimulus funding but appreciates the steady work volume coming from the Forest Service to his local business.

Program Project Name: Clearwater National Forest - Clearwater County Facility Projects

Local Project Name: Kooskia Heat Pump Replacements
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Clearwater
Ranger District: Lochsa
Nearby City(ies): Kooskia, Idaho
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Idaho
Modified Date: 8/1/2011

Story:

Heat Pump Replacements Bring Work, Support Sustainable Operations

(Story posted 7/12/2011)

Grangeville-based contractor Quality Heating and Air Conditioning replaced five electric heating pumps in four buildings at the Clearwater National Forest Lochsa Ranger Station in Kooskia, Idaho, in order to increase efficiency and make the station more sustainable.

Funding for the Clearwater National Forest project came from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and employed three local north Idaho construction workers who completed 108 hours of work. The project began September 7, 2010 and ran to September 16, 2010.

Quality Heating and Air Conditioning removed and disposed of the old heating pumps, condensing units, and blowers, replacing them with new high efficiency versions in the Lochsa Ranger Station Office, Fire Office, Timber Office, and residence and daycare facilities. The existing thermostats were also replaced with new, programmable thermostats.

Quality Heating owner Robert Stinson said the contract came at just the right time to keep his guys working while the local economy was “dead in the water.”

“It was a good project for both of us (my company and the Forest Service),” Stinson said of the sustainability project.

With the economic downturn cutting the number of homes he worked on from 50 a year to seven last year, Stinson said he just appreciated the work.

Program Project Name: Clearwater County Roads Projects

Local Project Name: Log Landing Rehabilitation
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Clearwater
Nearby City(ies): Pierce, Idaho, and Kooskia, Idaho

Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Clearwater, Idaho
Modified Date: 8/18/2011

Story:
Log Landing Rehabilitation Benefits Resources, Economy

(Story posted 7/12/2011)

In 2010, Orofino-based contractor Dale Barger cleaned up 25 log landing sites across the North Fork and Lochsa districts of the Clearwater National Forest as part of a Recovery Act-funded project.

Barger worked from May 29 until September 20, 2010, cleaning up landings near Smith Creek, Mystery Creek, Austin Ridge, Eldorado Ridge, Yakus Creek, and Musselshell. He removed stumps, logs, trash, and other debris from the landing sites. He also decompacted soils to the specified depth and size at each site, following up each decompaction by clump planting native shrubs and forbs and seeding the rest of the site. Barger also removed the collected debris from National Forest System land.

The project's intent, aside from stimulating the local economy through the government contract, was to encourage more productive vegetative growth at each of the 25 landings and to clean up unsightly debris to benefit visitors and natural resources.

Program Project Name: Clearwater National Forest - Clearwater County Facility Projects

Local Project Name: Palouse Painting, Window Replacement and Lighting
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Clearwater
Ranger District: Palouse
Nearby City(ies): Potlatch, Idaho
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Latah
Modified Date: 8/18/2011

Story:
Ranger District Office Gets Recovery Act-funded Facelift

(Story posted 7/12/2011)

On the Clearwater National Forest, the Palouse Ranger District Office in Potlatch, Idaho, got a major facelift in 2010, thanks three Recovery Act-funded renovation projects.

The station received a fresh coat of paint from an Ahsahka, Idaho, painting company Carver

Company Painting. The ranger station office, bunkhouse, residence, warehouse, hand-rails, and trim at the Potlatch station were all prepped, primed, and painted from August 23 to October 22, 2010. The project cost $19,770.90.

Dardan Enterprises from Post Falls, Idaho, replaced 68 aging and inefficient windows with new energy-saving windows as the Forest Service continues to emphasize sustainability. From July 2 to October 29, 2010, two local Dardan employees installed the windows at a cost of $35,209.00.

St. Maries, Idaho-based M&S Electric began replacing the existing light fixtures in the ranger station structures on June 24, 2010. M&S replaced some 69 light fixtures with high-efficiency bulbs that the Forest Service hopes will save them money and energy as they strive towards more sustainable facilities at a cost of $8,782.

With the influx of stimulus dollars, the Forest Service seized on the opportunity to complete work that would have been otherwise deferred while employing members of the local labor force to further the Recovery Act's goal of stimulating local economies.

Program Project Name: Clearwater & Latah Counties Road work

Local Project Name: Rawhide Creek Culvert Replacement
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Clearwater
Ranger District: North Fork
Nearby City(ies): Pierce, Idaho
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Clearwater
Modified Date: 8/2/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Work Benefits Many

(Story posted 7/12/2011)

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act put six Couer d'Alene contractors to work replacing a culvert with a bridge along USFS Road 250 at Rawhide Creek in the North Fork District of the Clearwater National Forest. They worked a total of 177 hours.

Stone Ridge Construction began excavation of the site on June 17, 2010, constructing a bypass road for through-traffic and removing the culvert with as little impact as possible on Rawhide Creek. The existing asphalt along the road also had to be removed and replaced.

Stone Ridge installed a new Trideck bridge with concrete abutments, improving the existing stream flow and biological capacity. Native shrubs and forbs were clump planted at the excavation site, promoting a quicker environmental recovery.

Work on the Recovery Act project was completed on August 12, 2010.

Patrick Herndon, Stone Ridge president, said while he is a consistent Forest Service contractor, the volume of his workload increased thanks to the stimulus last year.

“This year has been a rough year for construction,” Herndon said, but thanks to last year's high revenue he is getting by. “The stimulus definitely helped my business.”

The local economy, Herndon said, had to have benefited from the stimulus because it put money into the hands of localized businesses like his and therefore, into local communities.

Program Project Name: Clearwater National Forest - Clearwater County Facility Projects

Local Project Name: Recreational Rental Repairs
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Clearwater
Ranger District: North Fork
Nearby City(ies): Pierce, Idaho
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Clearwater
Modified Date: 8/1/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Learning, Preserve History

(Story posted 7/12/2011)

In 2010, six young people from the Missoula-based Trapper Creek Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center helped repair three Forest Service facilities on the North Fork Ranger District of the Clearwater National Forest as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The Job Corps crew worked four nine-day “hitches”at the Weitas Guard Station, Weitas Butte Lookout, and Walde Lookout, from July 12 to September 2, 2010. Weitas Creek Outfitters, a local outfitter and caterer, fed and housed crew members during their stay.

Prior to the Recovery Act, the remote Forest Service structures had fallen into disrepair. The Weitas Guard Station, originally built in 1929, had not seen many improvements since the 1960s. The log structures were substantially rotted due to poor drainage around the foundation.

The Job Corps crew tore out and replaced the flooring in the two log cabins at the guard station. They replaced the logs at the upper cabin; installed a new shower and vanity; and cleared rock and dirt from around the foundation to promote improved drainage. At the lower

cabin, because of the stifled drainage, the foundation, chimney, and porch had sunk, and the Job Corps crew had to lift the cabin off its foundation. They then replaced the concrete foundation, chimney, rotting logs, and porch. They gutted the bathroom, replacing the shower, sheet rock, and plumbing.

The Weitas Butte Lookout tower also received a face lift thanks to Recovery Act funding. Workers replaced all the flooring and windows; painted the railing and structure's interior; and adjusted the tower's supports and guy cables.

At the Walde Lookout, the crew replaced nine main logs in a cabin that had fallen victim to weathering and an ant infestation. Crew members replaced the flooring; repainted the cabinets; and rebuilt and leveled the front door and near-by window.

“All in all both projects went well thanks to a lot of good help and good attitudes,“ said Jeff Hensen, a Forest Service engineering technician.

The Recovery Act provided an opportunity for young people to get involved in the economic recovery and to learn some vocational skills and find employment.

Kirby Matthew, a member of the area's Historic Preservation Team, was pleased with the students' performance.

“They had the basics and were very willing to learn. They were willing to do any thing we asked of them and accomplished their tasks in a professional workman-like manner," Matthew said.

The stimulus also was a chance to preserve part of the forest's and American history.

“History is a great importance to everyone; if you don't preserve these structures they will be gone forever,” Hensen said.

Program Project Name: Idaho County Roads Projects 1

Local Project Name: Packer Meadows Road Relocation
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Clearwater
Ranger District: Powell
Nearby City(ies): Powell, Idaho
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Idaho
Modified Date: 8/2/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Project Restores Safe and Reliable Access

(Story posted 7/12/2011)

Packer Meadows Road 373, a major access road near Lolo Pass in the Powell Ranger District of the Clearwater National Forest, has been rerouted at Low Gap in order to restore safe and reliable access to some 13,000 acres of public land in the Brushy Creek and Spruce Creek areas after culvert failures along the road led to washouts and frequent repairs.

A heavy thunderstorm in June 2002 caused two undersized culverts along a steep switchback of Road 373 to fail, resulting in washouts and sliding of unstable road beds. Major repairs and continued maintenance of the already narrow roadbed caused road closures due to the safety hazard.

Price Contracting of Arlee, Montana; Grangeville-based Camas Gravel Company; and Blast-It from Libby, Montana, built 1.1 miles of new road, decommissioned 0.4 miles of the old route at the road-slide site, and installed two gates at the ends of the old route to divert traffic but maintain access but to bypass the treacherous stream crossing. Project work began in June 2010 and finished at the end of October 2010.

At the decommissioned section, the contractors removed the failed culverts and fill material, returning the stream to its natural dimensions and gradient to prevent erosion and sediment delivery to the stream ecosystem.

The contractors implemented Best Management Practices along the entirety of the new route, maintaining slope stability; minimizing soil distribution and erosion; and reseeding excavated areas.

The new road will also provide a reliable roadway for firefighting crews and will save Forest Service funds in the future from the additional maintenance costs of the old route.

Program Project Name: Clearwater & Latah Counties Road work

Local Project Name: Upper North Fork Pavement Rehabilitation
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Clearwater
Ranger District: North Fork
Nearby City(ies): Pierce, Idaho
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Clearwater
Modified Date: 8/2/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Pavement Repair Project Benefits Travelers, Resources

(Story posted 7/12/2011)

Contractors refurbished pavement on the Clearwater National Forest's popular Pierce-Superior Road 250, thanks to funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Utah-based contractor Quality Paving and Patching, acting as a sub-contractor for Bonneville Asphalt and Repair, removed the existing asphalt in eroded and cracked areas of the National Forest System road, patching large sections and filling potholes. While some sections had to be removed and replaced using a saw-cut technique, other areas were given a “skin patch,” a new layer of asphalt applied directly over the existing asphalt. Quality Paving and Patching then chip sealed the remedied areas.

While no new jobs were added to the area as the Utah-based company utilized their own workforce for the project some 600 miles away from home, Quality owner Dave Coyner and his crew stayed in a local motel for the duration of the project and bought supplies, including their asphalt, from local companies.

“I would say it definitely impacted the community,” Coyner said.

As for the benefit of the project, concerns existed about spending money to repair “eight miles of paved road in the middle of nowhere,” especially when it connects to dirt roads at both ends.

The Forest Service considered not paving the remote stretch, originally paved as part of timber collaborative between the Forest Service and private land owners before the land became part of the Clearwater National Forest. However, the steep stretch of roadway would have been easily eroded and washboarded had the pavement not been maintained. The Forest Service will save the costs of blading the isolated roadway two to three times a year and keep the road safer for travelers thanks to the Recovery Act-funded paving project.

Coyner said Quality Paving and Patching usually does at least one job a year for “Uncle Sam,” and he and his crew will return to the Clearwater again in 2011 for three separate projects.

Bonneville began work on the project on June 15, 2010 and completed the project on August 15, 2010. The project maintained/created nine part-time jobs working 802 hours.

Program Project Name: Managing Noxious Weeds and Invasive Species - Benewah and Shoshone

Local Project Name: Noxious Weeds and Invasive Species in Shoshone County, Idaho
Region: Northern Region
Nearby City(ies): Wallace, Idaho
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Shoshone
Modified Date: 12/13/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Supports Noxious Weed and Hazardous Fuels Reduction in Shoshone County, Idaho

(Story posted 8/3/2011)

With a buildup of forest fuels in Shoshone County, Idaho, believed to be higher than conditions preceding the infamous 1910 Fire, the potential for a catastrophic fire is very much on the minds of the Shoshone County commissioners. Commissioner Vince Rinaldi said the county was elated to receive roughly $1 million in USDA Forest Service Recovery Act funds for noxious weed and fuels reduction work.

The project is one of three in northern Idaho and Montana coordinated through Janet Valle, Regions 1 and 4 noxious weed grant coordinator for the Forest Service's State and Private Forestry. In working with the Idaho and Montana departments of agriculture, Valle saw the potential to combine noxious weed treatments with fuels reduction work to reduce fire hazard in forested areas like Shoshone County.

Commissioner Jon Cantamessa said the need to both reduce noxious weeds and offer young people employment was recognized by the northern Idaho Resource Advisory Committee or RAC a few years ago, and the Recovery Act project allowed that need to be addressed.

The employment contribution to the county is important. Commissioner Cantamessa noted, "This isn't a community that retains many young people after graduation" due to the lack of employment options. The project gave nine local young people jobs. The funding has allowed the county to get a bit ahead of the noxious weeds and hopefully keep up with them, the commissioner said.

It was a significant that the county was able to purchase additional weed equipment through the project so the weed work can continue when the projects ends in September 2013. Commissioner Larry Yergler said the equipment purchased not only contributes to the county's ability to respond to noxious weeds but also supported the local businesses where the equipment was purchased.

The Shoshone County effort is marked by close cooperation of weed and fuels reduction entities working in the county. The project coordinator hired to lead the project, Rick Stillwell, works closely with Greg Rapp, Shoshone County weed supervisor, and the Shoshone County public works department. Through that cooperative effort, the project has been able to inventory and map both known and new weed locations. In conjunction with the weeds work, the project was able to keep employed a local fuels reduction crew whose funding was about to run out.

To increase public awareness of noxious weeds, Stillwell wrote a series of articles for the local newspaper, the Shoshone News Press, that include identification and treatment information about the primary weed species the project is battling: viper's bugloss,

knotweed, hounds tongue, and scotch broom.

Program Project Name: Managing Noxious Weeds and Invasive Species - Benewah and Shoshone

Local Project Name: Noxious Weeds and Invasive Species in Benewah County, Idaho
Region: Northern Region
Nearby City(ies): St Maries, Idaho
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Benewah
Modified Date: 12/13/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Dollars Help Battle Noxious Weeds

(Story posted 8/3/2011)

Youth, seniors, state parks, and state lands in Benewah County, Idaho, are getting a boost from a USDA Forest Service Recovery Act program aimed at reducing noxious weeds and fire hazards on private and public land across the county.

The three-year, roughly $1 million program has hired 15 local residents to work on two critical aspects of fuels reduction: treating noxious weeds and overgrown forests. The crew members, led by two local school teachers, spend the field season cutting brush; limbing and thinning trees; and spraying weeds on private and public lands to reduce fire hazards.

Combining both the weed treatment and forest fuels work has been very effective for the Benewah County project. Project Coordinator Dale Pritchard said combining the brushing and limbing with the noxious weed work provided a huge benefit in increased work efficiency. When conditions aren’t right for weed spraying, crews shift to brushing and limbing and keep fully occupied all day.

From the start, Pritchard and Assistant Project Coordinator Lance McDaniel resolved that Recovery Act projects needed to make a difference in two ways in Benewah County: to both reduce weeds and fire hazards while developing the work skills of the mostly college-age crew members. Crew member development includes training in herbicide application and equipment operation and focusing on skills to get and keep a job. Another positive benefit from the Recovery Act funding was Benewah County’s increased ability to respond to noxious weeds through the purchase of additional weed treatment equipment.

To ensure the new program was responsive to local needs, Pritchard and McDaniel spent the early days contacting private landowners who might be interested in participating. In addition a steering committee with local, county, and state agencies and large landowners was formed to help guide the project’s work.

As a result of those meetings and discussions, some goals for landowner participation

evolved. Priorities included individual private landowners who were interested in getting a handle on the fuels situation on their property and indicated they'd be willing to keep up the treatments once the initial work was completed. Those landowners who physically couldn't do the work, such as seniors and individuals with disabilities, are also on the priority list.

Most of the lands where the crews work are overgrown with brush, small trees, and weeds. Many of the landowners participating in the voluntary program tell Pritchard and McDaniel they're pretty overwhelmed by the situation and have no access to portions of their property. The brushing, limbing, and thinning reduce the fire potential and provide access to treat the weeds, which also contribute to the fire danger.

As St. Maries landowners Patty and Ed Moya relate, it's kind of daunting looking at the weeds and brush that developed on their property. Once the crew removed the brush and weeds along the road where they were concerned about fire danger, the Moyas were impressed with how much safer and better their property looked. Ed Moya thinks now he'll be able to keep up with the brush and weeds.

One of the projects completed in 2010 involved the roadside spraying of spotted knapweed on state lands managed by the Idaho Department of Lands. The department had funds for purchasing herbicides but no equipment or trained staff to tackle the work. Once the need for the work was identified by the Benewah project's steering committee, the Recovery Act crews worked in partnership with the Department of Lands to treat the roadsides in 2010 and planned to do additional work on state lands in 2011.

The Benewah County project also supports noxious weed biocontrol activities in a local state park. Heyburn State Park, located south of Coeur d'Alene, hosts 170,000 visitors a year and includes recreational residence leases within its boundaries. Heyburn Park managers were faced with an infestation of the noxious weeds common tansy and spotted knapweed on a remote 40-acre riparian site. Chemical spraying of the site wasn't considered feasible or desirable. After discussion with the Benewah project's steering committee, a herd of goats was brought to graze the park site, which successfully reduced the weed infestation.

State and Private Forestry's State Noxious Weed Grant Coordinator for Regions 1 and 4, Janet Valle, recognized the Recovery Act offered a unique opportunity to address the growing threat of increased fire hazard from noxious weeds on forested lands. Working closely with her counterparts in the Idaho and Montana Departments of Agriculture, Valle coordinated the submittal of Recovery Act proposals to reduce noxious weeds and fuels. Benewah County is definitely benefiting from those efforts.

Program Project Name: Osprey Public Water Hook-up

Local Project Name: Osprey Campground public Water Hook-Up
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Idaho Panhandle
Ranger District: Priest Lake
Nearby City(ies): Priest Lake, Idaho

Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Bonner
Modified Date: 2/14/2012

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Water Replacement Projects Benefit Recreationists, Local Residents

(Story posted 9/22/2011)

On the Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Recovery Act-funded workers completed a water line project designed to provide municipal water for the Osprey and Outlet campgrounds as a replacement for current systems that draw and purify water from Priest Lake.

Work began in September 2010 and was finished by June 2011. The project replaced 5,230 feet of four-inch water line for the campgrounds as well as leaving future capacity for Priest Lake residents. Key partners included the Outlet Water Association and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. The project ensures clean water for the campgrounds and replaces the existing surface water source.

Program Project Name: Hoyt Campground Facilities

Local Project Name: Avery Ranger Station Shower and Laundry Facility
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Idaho Panhandle
Ranger District: Avery
Nearby City(ies): Avery, Idaho
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Shoshone
Modified Date: 2/14/2012

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Support Work Center Rehabilitation

(Story posted 9/22/2011)

In 2009, the Idaho Panhandle National Forests awarded a Recovery Act-funded contract to local workers to build two bathrooms facilities and a laundry room at the Hoyt Flat Work Center on the Avery Ranger District.

By February 2010, contractors had finished work including demolition, concrete work, carpentry, insulation, doors, windows, finishes, specialties, mechanical, and electrical work to complete the project. The construction took place within an existing warehouse.

Program Project Name: Potter Creek Bridge & Kootenai County Road Decommissioning

Local Project Name: Potter Creek Bridge Replacement
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Idaho Panhandle
Nearby City(ies): Sagle, Idaho
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Kootenai
Modified Date: 2/10/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Bridge Replacement Offers Many Benefits

(Story posted 9/22/2011)

On the Idaho Panhandle National Forest on the Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District, local Recovery Act-funded workers replaced an existing structurally deficient treated timber bridge with a new pre-stressed concrete, single-span bridge. Work took place in 2010.

Hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, hiking, and huckleberry picking are among the popular recreational pastimes contributing to local economies, and the bridge replacement better protects a sensitive waterway; allows the stream to function more naturally; and protects public safety.

Program Project Name: Idaho Panhandle National Forest - Shoshone County Facility Projects

Local Project Name: Shoshone Park Picnic Pavilion Repair
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Idaho Panhandle
Nearby City(ies): Mullan, Idaho
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Shoshone
Modified Date: 2/10/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Picnic Pavilion Update Provides Stability

(Story posted 9/22/2011)

On the Idaho Panhandle National Forest, Recovery Act-funded workers rebuilt and rehabilitated a popular historic recreation site. At Shoshone Park Picnic Area on the Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District, contractors added new railings to the picnic pavilion and replaced a gravel surface. The original railings provided stability to the structure and had

been removed in 1957. Workers also built a new fireplace structure. The original had been removed in 1957. The fireplace was the stability the building needed and was added under this contract.

Program Project Name: Bonner County Roads Projects 2

Local Project Name: Forest Wide BMP Upgrades -West Gold Road Reconstruction
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Idaho Panhandle
Ranger District: Sandpoint
Nearby City(ies): Sandpoint, Idaho
Congressional District(s): ID01, MT00
County(ies): ID: Bonner
Modified Date: 2/14/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Provide Meaningful Work, Protect Resources

(Story posted 9/22/2011)

The Idaho Panhandle National Forests awarded a Recovery Act-funded contract to Woods Crushing & Hauling, Inc., to reconstruct roads. The contractor implemented the West Gold Road reconstruction project work on June 7, 2010 and completed it on July 30, 2010. The project location is located in Bonner County, Idaho about 30 miles south of Sandpoint, Idaho.

The contract involved reconstruction of National Forest System roads 332, 278, and 2707. Work consisted of road reconditioning; roadway brushing; culvert installation; rolling dip construction; and hauling and placing aggregate material supplied by the Forest Service and from commercial rock sources.

The project was completed to bring the road system up to standard and to protect the infrastructure and resources. The work that was completed was in a key watershed drainage that has Bull-trout, a listed threatened and endangered species. This work will greatly reduce the sediment in this drainage. The work was also required for a timber sale in the area to allow for safe haul of timber products. The timber sale is for hazardous fuel reduction and forest health and restoration. Steve Peck, Wood’s Crushing & Hauling superintendent, was quoted as saying, “If it was not for Forest Service contracts this year, our company would not have any work this year.”

Program Project Name: Forest-wide White Pine Pruning for Blister Rust Control

Local Project Name: White Pine Pruning for Blister Rust Control
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Idaho Panhandle
Nearby City(ies): St. Maries, Coeur d'Alene, Avery, & Smelterville, Idaho

Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Shoshone
Modified Date: 2/10/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support White Pine Restoration Efforts

(Story posted 9/22/2011)

On the Idaho Panhandle National Forest on the Coeur d'Alene River and St. Joe ranger districts, Recovery Act-funded workers have pruned over 3,400 acres of young forest stands to reduce the risk of blister rust infection in white pine trees. This work provides a significant contribution to restoring forest health.

Prior to 1930, western white pine was the dominant tree species in much of the moist, mid-elevation, northern Rocky Mountain forests. It was also the most economically valuable tree species and provided a mainstay of the local forest industry. Since that time an accidentally introduced exotic disease (white pine blister rust) has decimated white pine. White pine dominated forests today occupy less than 10 percent of their historic area. The forests that replaced the white pine are more prone to other serious disease and insect problems and are both less productive and less valuable than the historic white pine forests.

Today foresters are planting improved white pine seedlings that have been selectively bred for resistance to the blister rust disease. Although these white pine seedlings are resistant, they are not immune to the disease.

The blister rust disease infects white pine trees through their needles. Once the rust gets into the tree needles, the disease travels down the branch to the main stem of the tree. When the main stem is infected, the tree usually dies. The rust disease spores require a very high humidity environment to successfully infect a tree. The highest humidity environment in the forest occurs within the first few feet above the ground. Pruning off the lower branches (usually the bottom eight feet) of young white pine trees can greatly reduce the risk of these trees getting a lethal blister rust infection. This greatly improves the chances of white pine surviving to maturity. Forests with their historic white pine restored are likely to be healthier and more productive than they would be without the white pine.

Both the contractors and the local crews hired for this work did precisely the white pine pruning work described above. They were sent to young forest stands that had a significant white pine component. They worked their way through these stands, pruning off the lower eight feet of branches on currently healthy white pine—thus greatly increasing their chances of those white pine surviving to maturity.

The local crews of young people who were hired for this project benefited from paid work in a healthy outdoors environment. This work also provided these young people an opportunity to learn about the dynamics of their local forests.

Program Project Name: Sustainable forest bioenergy production (FWE, HD)

Local Project Name: Forest Biomass Utilization Decreases Wildfire Risk and Dependence on Foreign Oil

Region: Rocky Mountain Research Station

Nearby City(ies): Halfway, OR; Missoula, MT; Diamond Lake, OR; Pullman, WA; Moscow, ID

Congressional District(s): ID02, MT00, OR02, WA05

County(ies): ID: Latah; MT: Missoula; OR: Baker, Douglas; WA: Whitman

Modified Date: 9/27/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Research May Facilitate New Forest Product Uses

(Story posted 9/22/2011)

In Washington, Idaho, and Montana, USDA Forest Service Recovery Act-funded studies concerning how pyrolysis* produces potentially useful new forest products called bio-oil and bio-char*are continuing. Researchers at the Rocky Mountain Research Station, University of Montana, University of Idaho, Washington State University, and other partners have published test results for a proto-type pyrolysis reactor that creates the charcoal-like bio-char and also creates bio-oil and synthetic gas as the reactor processes biomass from forest restoration projects.

Another team has also tested bio-char for applications as a soilless nursery media for growing plants. More research results are expected sometime this fall. Besides providing research and development jobs, this important project involving pyrolysis could facilitate new uses and markets for forest products to help reduce national dependence on foreign oil, support new industries in rural areas, and reduce greenhouse gases.

*Pyrolysis is the heating of an organic material, such as biomass, in the absence of oxygen. Because no oxygen is present, the material does not combust, but the chemical compounds (i.e. cellulose, hemicelluloses, and lignin) that make up that material thermally decompose into combustible gases and charcoal. Most of these combustible gases can be condensed into a combustible liquid, called bio-oil, though there are some permanent gases (CO¬2, CO, H2, light hydrocarbons). Thus, pyrolysis of biomass produces three products: one liquid, bio-oil; one solid, bio-char; and one gaseous, syngas (USDA Agricultural Research Service 2011).

Program Project Name: Idaho Silver Valley - Hazardous Fuels Treatment (partially funded under 10%)

Local Project Name: Silver Valley Hazardous Fuels Treatment

Region: Northern Region

Nearby City(ies): Wallace, Kellogg, Pinehurst, Smelterville, Cataldo, Wardner

Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Shoshone
Modified Date: 10/3/2011

Story:
Recovery Act Work Provides Jobs, Protects Communities

(Story posted 9/26/2011)

In northern Idaho's pristine Silver Valley, USDA Forest Service Recovery Act-funded hazardous fuel reduction work to protect communities and improve forest health will be finished this fall.

Local timber industry and county employees facing layoffs prior to the Recovery Act have been working to reduce the threat of insect and disease epidemics and wildland fire risk to adjacent communities by thinning and pruning overstocked tree stands. Acting on the need for hazardous fuel reduction treatments outlined in the Shoshone County Wildfire Protection Plan, several entities, including project administrator Idaho Department of Lands, collaborated to identify and prioritize treatment areas.

Thus far workers have assessed nearly 4,000 acres and treated just over 900 acres in this effort that has brought employment to administrators, foresters, geographic information system specialists, heavy equipment operators, log truck drivers, and thinning crews.

Program Project Name: North Idaho Counties - Hazardous Fuel Reduction on Private Lands

Local Project Name: Northern Idaho Counties CWPP Hazardous Fuels Treatment
Region: Northern Region
Nearby City(ies): Sandpoint, St Maries, Bonners Ferry, Coeur d'Alene
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai
Modified Date: 2/7/2012

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Support CWPPs

(Story posed 9/26/2011)

By fall 2011, workers will have completed hazardous fuel reduction on approximately 2,000 acres of private lands in the wildland urban interface in Boundary, Benewah, Bonner and Kootenai counties as identified in county wildfire protection plans (CWPP). Local wildfire protection plans can take a variety of forms based on the needs of the people involved in their development and may address issues such as wildfire response, hazard mitigation, community preparedness, or structure protection.

This project issued grants to the counties who in turn contracted for the work to be accomplished. Local forest workers who were unemployed, underemployed, or laid off due to the decline in the timber industry have been carrying out activities such as commercial thinning (carefully selected cut of merchantable timber to thin forests surrounding the communities); intensive treatment of hazardous fuels through labor-intensive hand-cutting; pre-commercial thinning (thinning of young, immature, over-stocked trees); piling and burning of potential fuels; under burning (controlled, low-intensity fire to clear undergrowth) and roadside fuels reduction. Approximately 25 communities have been directly helped by making them more resilient to catastrophic wildfire effects.

Program Project Name: Sinclair/Brush/Smith Lake Docks

Local Project Name: Smith, Brush & Sinclair Lake Dock Replacements
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Idaho Panhandle
Nearby City(ies): Sandpoint & Bonners Ferry, Idaho
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Boundary
Modified Date: 2/10/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Boat Dock Systems Benefit Recreationists

(Story posted 10/3/2011 and updated 12/6/2011)

On the Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Recovery Act-funded workers recently completed rehabilitating three fishing/swimming/boat dock systems on three separate lakes within the Bonners Ferry Ranger District to enhance public safety and recreational opportunities for people of all abilities. A local contractor replaced dock systems at Sinclair, Brush, and Smith lakes with engineered aluminum floating docks and precast concrete abutments and gangways designed to be nearly maintenance free; work underway since mid-2010 also included erosion control and removing and disposing of existing docks and gangways.

The integrity of the original decades-old docks had been compromised by rotting boards, deteriorating floats, corroding hardware, and vandalism. In addition to providing work for installers and suppliers, the project offers a long-term contribution to the tourism economy in an area where outdoor recreation, especially fishing, is a popular pastime.

Program Project Name: Idaho Panhandle National Forest-Shoshone County Roads Projects

Local Project Name: Road 151 and 950 Non-ERFO Repair
Region: Northern Region

Forest: Idaho Panhandle
Nearby City(ies): Kellogg, Idaho
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Shoshone
Modified Date: 2/10/2012

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Road Work Underway

(Story posted 10/3/2011)

On the Idaho Panhandle National Forest on the Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District, Recovery Act-funded road repair work is ongoing. Contractors are replacing an existing structurally deficient treated timber wall with a new Hilfiker retaining wall and installing an arch pipe in a location were the pipe had been washed out. The completed work will ensure safer forest travel while protecting resources from erosion.

Program Project Name: Painting Contract for Administrative and Recreation White/Green Structures

Local Project Name: Bonners Ferry Ranger District Painting
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Idaho Panhandle
Ranger District: Bonners Ferry
Nearby City(ies): Bonners Ferry, Idaho
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Boundary
Modified Date: 2/14/2012

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Painting Project Provides Work, Preserves History

(Story posted 10/3/2011)

On the Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Recovery Act-funded workers painted the Bonners Ferry Ranger Station in Bonners Ferry and the historic Snyder Guard Station up the Moyie River north of Bonners Ferry. Both of these facilities have historic buildings, so there were specific requirements included in the contract for the preservation of these structures during preparation. It was also determined as part of the contract requirements that several buildings contained lead-based paint that had to be handled and disposed of properly.

The local contractor started project work in February 2010 and finished it by July 2010. There were two contract modifications, one to add the work needed to mitigate for lead based paint and one for painting the window trim on the Bonners Ferry Ranger Station administrative office building green to match the older buildings.

Program Project Name: Sawtooth National Forest Recreation Maintenance Makes Facilities Safer and Accessible

Local Project Name: Sawtooth N.F. Recreation Maintenance Makes Facilities Safer and Accessible

Region: Intermountain Region

Forest: Sawtooth

Ranger District: Fairfield

Nearby City(ies): Stanley, Clayton, Featherville, and Hansen, Idaho

Congressional District(s): ID02

County(ies): ID: Blaine, Cassia, Custer, Elmore

Related Photo(s) Link: http://prdp2fs.ess.usda.gov/detail/recovery/accomplishments/photos-video/?cid=stelprdb5358142

Modified Date: 6/11/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Numerous Activities
(Story posted 1/19/2012

The Sawtooth National Forest Recreation Deferred Maintenance Reduction Recovery Act-funded project included the following major work projects:
• Replacement of the boat ramp at Elk Creek and installation of a new boat ramp at Snyder Springs on the Salmon River
• Full reconstruction of the Bethine and Frank Church Overlook
• Accessibility upgrades and completion of deferred maintenance at the Redfish Guard Station and Sawtooth Valley Work Center that will allow facilities to be included in the Recreation Rental Program
• Designating dispersed camping areas at Forest Service Flats and relocating roads to allow meadow rehabilitation in this extremely popular ATV use area

The project also included several smaller projects that improved visitor experience:
• Designing, fabricating, and installing new interpretive signs at Baumgartner Nature Trail and the Bethine and Frank Church Overlook
• Completing an interpretive plan for the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (NRA)
• Replacing outdated restrooms and placing new restrooms in high use areas

These projects will improve the recreation experiences of float boaters, campers, ATV riders, and other recreationists while correcting resource damage that has resulted from these recreational uses. All of the projects were completed at highly used and popular recreation sites on the Sawtooth National Forest. Most of the projects were completed by contract although the FS Flats project was completed by the Sawtooth construction and maintenance crew. A number of local people were employed on these projects. Contractors who came from outside the local area used local services and bought supplies while in the area, contributing to local businesses during the life of the project.

The project began in the fall of 2009. The majority of the work was completed by December of 2010, and all projects are now complete with the exception of the final version of the Sawtooth NRA interpretive plan, which is expected to be delivered by the end of January 2012.

Program Project Name: Kootenai County Forest Health Improvement

Local Project Name: Kootenai and Bonner Counties, Idaho Forest Health Improvement
Region: Northern Region
Nearby City(ies): Coeur d'Alene, ID; Hayden, ID; Post Falls, ID; Sandpoint, ID
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Bonner, Kootenai
Modified Date: 4/5/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Urban Forestry Projects

(Story posted 3/28/2012)

In Kootenai and Bonner counties, USDA Forest Service Recovery Act-funded urban forestry project work to reduce public safety hazards and improve urban forest health on public property in Kootenai and Bonner counties by addressing a backlog of public tree maintenance is complete. The Recovery Act grant closed in March 2012.

As grant administrator, the State of Idaho sub-awarded funds to three Kootenai County communities one Bonner County community for contracted tree pruning and removal. The communities of Coeur d'Alene, Hayden, Post Falls, and Sandpoint have experienced tremendous growth recently while facing a dramatic loss of jobs in the current economy. Due to funding constraints, public tree maintenance is often deferred even though community trees provide tangible economic, environmental and social benefits including improved air and water quality, lower energy cost through shading, and more effective storm water management.

Altogether the four northern Idaho communities removed 483 hazardous or dead trees and pruned 1,803 high priority trees. A certified arborist supervised all the work.

This Recovery Act funding helped increase public safety by allowing communities to identify high-risk trees and mitigate risk through tree removal or pruning. The work accomplished increased the health, value, and longevity of the public tree resource in these communities for the benefit and enjoyment of all citizens.

Program Project Name: Forest-wide Trail Maintenance on the Salmon-Challis National Forest, including the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness

Local Project Name: Lake Creek Trail
Region: Intermountain Region

Forest: Salmon-Challis
Nearby City(ies): Mackay, Idaho
Congressional District(s): ID01, ID02
County(ies): ID: Custer, Lemhi
Modified Date: 4/4/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Trail Work Supports Safety, Adventure

(Story posted 4/3/2012)

On the Salmon-Challis National Forest, numerous Recovery Act-funded projects have helped bring local jobs to enhance local economies and contribute to recreational enjoyment and safety. Big Pine Construction completed the trail rehabilitation project on the Lake Creek Motorized Trail on the Lost River Ranger District. The motorized trail is heavily used and is a popular trail ride for family camping adventures. The project made the trail safe and reduced erosion problems.

The 3,380 miles of wilderness and non-wilderness trail on the Salmon-Challis National Forest are the recreation destination choice for thousands each year. They provide a transportation network for a healthy outfitter and guide industry, vital to the economy of these counties that exhibit high unemployment rates.

In recent years large wildfires and insect infestations have had a serious impact on 60 percent of the Forest's trails. Thousands of trees have fallen, and rock and mudslides have made some sections impassable. Forest-wide, a Recovery Act-funded trail maintenance effort is bringing at least 100 miles of trail up to standard to alleviate travel barriers; improve water quality and public safety; protect Chinook salmon and steelhead trout habitat; and mitigate impacts to historic trails.

The Forest has strong working relationships with partnership groups, and this project work is extending those relationships by providing jobs and numerous educational volunteer opportunities.

Program Project Name: Forest-wide Trail Maintenance on the Salmon-Challis National Forest, including the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness

Local Project Name: Middle Fork River Trail
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Salmon-Challis
Ranger District: Middle Fork
Nearby City(ies): Stanley, Idaho
Congressional District(s): ID01, ID02
County(ies): ID: Lemhi
Modified Date: 4/4/2012

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Work Improves Historic Wilderness Trail

(Story posted 4/3/2012)

On the Salmon-Challis National Forest, numerous Recovery Act-funded projects help put people to work while enhancing local economies and contributing to recreational enjoyment and safety. A local contractor completed work on the Middle Fork River Trail on the Middle Fork Ranger District by repairing on-going safety hazards along this main travel route that is an historic pack trail and provides access to the heart of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness.

The 3,380 miles of wilderness and non-wilderness trail on the Salmon-Challis National Forest are the recreation destination choice for thousands each year. They provide a transportation network for a healthy outfitter and guide industry, vital to the economy of these counties that exhibit high unemployment rates.

In recent years large wildfires and insect infestations have had a serious impact on 60 percent of the Forest's trails. Thousands of trees have fallen, and rock and mudslides have made some sections impassable.

Forest-wide, a Recovery Act-funded trail maintenance effort is bringing at least 100 miles of trail up to standard to alleviate travel barriers; improve water quality and public safety; protect Chinook salmon and steelhead trout habitat; and mitigate impacts to historic trails. The Forest has strong working relationships with partnership groups, and this project work is extending those relationships by providing jobs and numerous educational volunteer opportunities.

Program Project Name: Forest-wide Trail Maintenance on the Salmon-Challis National Forest, including the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness

Local Project Name: Snowbank Motorized Trail
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Salmon-Challis
Ranger District: Lost River
Nearby City(ies): Mackay, Idaho
Congressional District(s): ID01, ID02
County(ies): ID: Custer, Lemhi
Modified Date: 4/4/2012

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Trail Maintenance Work

(Story posted 4/3/2012)

On the Salmon-Challis National Forest, numerous Recovery Act-funded projects help put people to work while enhancing local economies and contributing to recreational enjoyment and safety. On the Lost River Ranger District, a local contractor performed much-needed heavy maintenance on the Snowbank Motorized Trail to bring it up to safety standards for motorcycles.

The 3,380 miles of wilderness and non-wilderness trail on the Salmon-Challis National Forest are the recreation destination choice for thousands each year. They provide a transportation network for a healthy outfitter and guide industry, vital to the economy of these counties that exhibit high unemployment rates.

In recent years large wildfires and insect infestations have had a serious impact on 60 percent of the Forest's trails. Thousands of trees have fallen, and rock and mudslides have made some sections impassable. Forest-wide, a Recovery Act-funded trail maintenance effort is bringing at least 100 miles of trail up to standard to alleviate travel barriers; improve water quality and public safety; protect Chinook salmon and steelhead trout habitat; and mitigate impacts to historic trails.

The Forest has strong working relationships with partnership groups, and this project work is extending those relationships by providing jobs and numerous educational volunteer opportunities.

Program Project Name: Forest-wide Trail Maintenance on the Salmon-Challis National Forest, including the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness

Local Project Name: Rapid River and Loon Creek Trails
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Salmon-Challis
Ranger District: Middle Fork
Nearby City(ies): Stanley, Idaho
Congressional District(s): ID01, ID02
County(ies): ID: Custer, Lemhi
Modified Date: 4/4/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Trail Work Benefits Youth, Recreationists

(Story posted 4/3/2012)

On the Salmon-Challis National Forest, numerous Recovery Act-funded projects have helped bring local jobs to enhance local economies and contribute to recreational enjoyment and safety. The Montana Conservation Corps spent portions of two work seasons in the southwest corner of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness to complete 37 miles of heavy trail maintenance. These historic stock and hiker trails needed serious drainage and switchback rehabilitation and many hundreds of trees removed to meet the needs of back country trail users. Forest Service packers worked with the crews to make sure they had the

necessary supplies and instructional help to complete the work on time and safely.

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Program Project Name: Forest-wide Trail Maintenance on the Salmon-Challis National Forest, including the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness

Local Project Name: Pistol Creek and the Filly/West Filly Cutoff Trails
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Salmon-Challis
Nearby City(ies): Near Shoup, Idaho and Yellow Pine, Idaho
Congressional District(s): ID01, ID02
County(ies): ID: Custer, Lemhi
Modified Date: 4/4/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Trail Work Benefits Youth, Recreationists

(Story posted 4/3/2012)

On the Salmon-Challis National Forest, numerous Recovery Act-funded projects have helped youth benefit from job skills and environmental education gained while contributing to recreational enjoyment and safety. The Northwest Conservation Corps (NYC) completed 36 miles of trail rehabilitation and tree removal in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. They spent portions of two seasons working alongside Forest Service employees to complete work on the West Filly cut-off and Filly Creek of the North Fork Ranger District. They also worked with Forest employees and volunteers on a large portion of the Pistol Creek Trail on the Middle Fork Ranger District.

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Program Project Name: Forest-wide Trail Maintenance on the Salmon-Challis National Forest, including the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness

Local Project Name: Forest-wide Motorized Route Signing
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Salmon-Challis
Nearby City(ies): Salmon, Idaho and Challis, Idaho
Congressional District(s): ID01, ID02
County(ies): ID: Custer, Lemhi
Modified Date: 4/4/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Marker Installations Provide Travel Management Support

(Story posted 4/3/2012)

On the Salmon-Challis National Forest, numerous Recovery Act-funded projects have contributed to recreational enjoyment and safety. A Recovery act-funded contractor spent the 2010 field season helping the Salmon-Challis National Forest implement its new Motorized Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) decision. This project took the crew to all corners of the Forest outside of the wilderness areas, where workers "planted" route markers on each and every open motorcycle and ATV trail for the separate types of allowable use.

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Program Project Name: Nez Perce National Historic Trail Trails Work

Local Project Name: Nez Perce National Historic Trails Work
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Clearwater
Nearby City(ies): Lolo Hot Springs, Montana; Powell, Idaho
Congressional District(s): ID01
County(ies): ID: Clearwater
Modified Date: 6/18/2012

Story:

National Historic Trail Work Benefits Tribe, Recreationists

(Story posted 3/30/2012 and updated 6/14/2012)

The Clearwater National Forest in Idaho is working with the Nez Perce Tribe to address Nez Perce National Historic Trail maintenance needs using Recovery Act funds. The work is affording young Nez Perce Tribal members an opportunity to learn critical trail maintenance and bridge building skills, as well as training in first aid, defensive driving, and ATV and chainsaw operation.

In 2010, a four-person trail crew and their supervisor performed important trail preservation activities when they began replacing segments of the Weitas puncheon boardwalk, which provides access across a fragile meadow along the trail. During the 2011 field season the crew spent long hours clearing numerous windfall trees, removing debris, naturalizing sawed logs to maintain visual integrity, cleaning water bars, and working to maintain a historic feel. The crew also began tearing out old segments of the 390-foot puncheon bridge.

This season crews will continue to repair sections of the boardwalk bridge across Weitas Meadows. Three ten-foot sections of the 390-foot structure remain to be rebuilt to create a wider access and hand rails to make this portion of the trail more accessible and horse friendly. The trail work will help maintain this national landmark created in 1986 as part of the National Trails System Act, and forest visitors will benefit from improved recreation experiences.

Program Project Name: Salmon-Challis National Forest-Salmon River Bridges

Local Project Name: Salmon-Challis National Forest Bridge Replacements
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Salmon-Challis
Nearby City(ies): Salmon

Congressional District(s): ID02
County(ies): ID: Lemhi
Modified Date: 7/10/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Bridge Replacements Bring Work, Benefit Many

(Story posted 7/9/2012)

In Idaho on the Salmon-Challis National Forest, contractors continue to make progress on three Recovery Act-funded bridge replacements on the heavily-traveled Salmon River Road.

The Federal Highway Administration is overseeing the design-build work that began in August 2010 to replace 1950s-era structures crossing Cove, Little Pine, and Pine creeks on the road that supports high volumes of recreational, residential, and commercial traffic.

Earlier this summer workers, most of whom are from the Salmon-North Fork area, placed girders in anticipation of pouring concrete to complete the bridges' deck portions as summer progresses. In addition to removing the outdated bridges as part of the project, workers are also reconditioning roadways and placing aggregate to increase public safety and provide a reliable evacuation route during wildland fire events that can frequently occur in this area. The contractor is looking into the recycling potential for most of the materials removed from the site.

The general contractor's project manager said public reactions to the project that should be finished by November of this year have been favorable, as have a local Salmon newspaper's reports. He indicated cooperation with the Forest Service ranger district and supervisor's office has also been very good.

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

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

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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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.
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.
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.

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.
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.
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.

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.
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
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.

Program Project Name: Restoring Jobs / Restoring Habitats: Jobs that Bring Health Back to Forest, Wetlands and Watersheds

Local Project Name: Calumet Project Tour
Region: Northeastern Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Chicago, IL
Congressional District(s): IL01, IL02
County(ies): IL: Cook
Modified Date: 4/19/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Put Former Steel Workers Back to Work

(Story posted 4/15/2011)

To help get former steel and manufacturing workers back to work while improving urban natural resources, the Forest Service awarded two Recovery Act grants to urban nonprofit organizations. The Greencorps Chicago-Calumet program was established with a $1.1 million Forest Service Recovery Act grant awarded to the Chicago Department of Environment. The Wildlife Habitat Council received a $292,000 grant to hire former steel and manufacturing workers for their crew.

On July 21, 2010, Michael Rains, Forest Service Northern Research Station director, joined two Recovery Act green jobs crews, Chicago Wilderness' Melinda Pruett-Jones, the Field Museum's Laurel Ross, Chicago Department of Environment's Aaron Durnbaugh and Nicole Kamins, and others for a tour of Hegewisch Marsh in southeastern Chicago.

One work crew from Greencorps Chicago-Calumet was on hand to describe the hands-on environmental restoration work they were doing at Hegewisch Marsh and other local natural areas. A second crew from the Wildlife Habitat Council in Portage, Indiana, came to meet their Chicago counterparts and share their experiences. After the tour, the two crews worked together at Hegewisch Marsh for the rest of the day, clearing ½ acre of non-native purple loosestrife plants and removing 700 pounds of purple loosestrife flowering spikes to discourage regrowth.

The Greencorps Chicago-Calumet crew is made up mostly of individuals who were out-of-work before this green jobs opportunity came along. In June 2010, the crew removed hundreds of pounds of invasive garlic mustard, purple loosestrife, and reed canary grass at the Beaubien Woods Forest Preserve. They also selectively cut down cottonwood trees and buckthorn shrubs to encourage expansion of the limited prairie areas and to make room for other native tree species. At the Pullman State Historic Site in Chicago, the crew recently worked on a native planting project and did maintenance work on natural areas of the site. The goal there is to preserve breeding habitat for the brown thrasher, an Illinois bird of concern.

Greencorps Chicago-Calumet crew member Cashus Riley had this to say about the work he is doing: "The Greencorps program is important because it gives knowledge to its workers about the environment and how it impacts our lives. Before the program, a weed was just a weed, a tree was just a tree, and the word invasive meant someone coming into your home. I

have received much information on what native species mean, how something may look pretty, but if it is not controlled it will snuff out the life of everything in its surroundings."

The crew has completed training in first aid, pesticide application, defensive driving, Plant Basics 101, chainsaw use and safety, and insect identification. They also participated in ongoing learning exercises in identifying tree species. In the fall, the crew completed Forest Service Wildland Firefighting certification, received OSHA training, and took part in Arborist training.

Greencorps Chicago-Calumet crew member Brenda Elmore says she is "very eager to learn more about going green." She added, "We have made so many changes on every site we've worked on. Just to know we are making a difference means the world to me." Crew member A. R. Stratton, Jr. agrees: "Greencorps is important to me because I am a part of…saving our world and making it a better place for you and for me."

Program Project Name: Restoring Jobs / Restoring Habitats: Jobs that Bring Health Back to Forest, Wetlands and Watersheds

Local Project Name: Update on Calumet Area Restoration of Critical Habitats -- Bringing Health Back to Chicago's Watersheds, Wetlands and Forests

Region: Northeastern Research Station

Nearby City(ies): Chicago, IL

Congressional District(s): IL01, IL02

County(ies): IL: Cook

Modified Date: 8/23/2011

Story:

Update on Calumet Area Restoration of Critical Habitats -- Bringing Health Back to Chicago's Watersheds, Wetlands and Forests

(Story written 6/27/2011 and posted 7/22/2011)

Greencorps Chicago members recently completed an ecological restoration project at Hegewisch Marsh in the Calumet region of southeast Chicago and northwest Indiana under the auspices of a Recovery Act project supported by the USDA Forest Service. Greencorps members removed invasive plant species from this 130-acre wetland and last fall completed a 100-acre prescribed burn there to help rehabilitate this valuable natural area in the midst of the city.

Greencorps-Chicago trains and hires disadvantaged workers with significant barriers to employment, including the formerly incarcerated. Through this training program, participants become licensed pesticide applicators and are trained in tree trimming and prescribed fire management among other job skills. They put these skills to use in the Chicago Park District and Forest Preserve District of Cook County to improve ecological conditions throughout the Chicago area.

Since January, the Greencorps crews have accomplished the following:
• Removed 46 large silver maples from Green Lake Savanna, an Illinois Nature Preserve, to encourage the return of the endangered Karner blue butterfly.
• Completed clearing projects at Kickapoo Woods and Eggers Woods, freeing 1.5 acres from invasive species like buckthorn and mulberry.
• Removed over 3,500 lbs of garbage from the Hegewisch Marsh along with another 50 automobile tires.

Crews will graduate in the third or fourth week of November 2011.

Program Project Name: Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects/Readiness greater than 120 days

Local Project Name: Healthy Forests and Fuels Reduction
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Superior
Nearby City(ies): Tofte, Eveleth, Ely, Cook
Congressional District(s): IL11, IL12, IL19, MI01, MI02, MN08, OH06, VT00, WI07, WI08
County(ies): IL: Hardin, Jackson, Johnson, Pope, Will; MI: Lake, Newaygo, Oscoda; MN: Cook, Lake, Saint Louis; OH: Gallia, Lawrence; VT: Addison, Bennington, Rutland, Windham, Windsor; WI: Bayfield, Florence, Forest, Oconto, Price, Vilas
Modified Date: 8/24/2011

Story:
Superior National Forest Recovery Act-funded Work Provides Many Benefits

(Story posted 8/22/2011)

On the Superior National Forest, a Recovery Act-funded wildland fire management project involved hazardous fuel reduction, harvests, and forest regeneration to provide employment opportunities within the timber industry in Minnesota. As part of the Caribou Stewardship Project, workers harvested approximately 450 acres of timber, and piled and burned slash. Workers also treated 196 acres on the west zone to reduce fuels. A total of 2,750 acres were prepared for harvest. In addition, workers “marked to standard” 50 miles of national forest boundaries. The forest is now healthier, and mangers will see the benefits of the work for many years.

Program Project Name: Public Community and Forestry Program

Local Project Name: Community Forest Program
Region: Northeastern Area S&PF
Nearby City(ies): Elgin
Congressional District(s): IL14, OH17
County(ies): IL: Cook, Kane

Modified Date: 10/12/2011

Story:

City of Elgin Benefits from Recovery Act-funded Urban Forestry Work

(Story posted 8/23/2011)

In 2009, the USDA Forest Service selected the City of Elgin to receive significant Recovery Act-funded community forestry services. The City hired the Davey Tree Expert Company to provide these services—which included planning; tree planting and maintenance; and natural resource improvement projects—comprising a unique and multi-faceted city-wide project.

The primary purpose of any Recovery Act-funded project is to maintain jobs, reinstate jobs, or stimulate job creation. The Elgin project accomplished this by hiring and retaining staff to conduct forest health management activities on the City's lands to achieve a safer, productive, and more sustainable community forest and create a more efficient and effective municipal forest management program.

Much has been accomplished by this 18-month public-private partnership project that was stimulated and supported by the Recovery Act. Recovery Act accomplishments in Elgin include the following:

Risk Tree Reduction Analysis and Implementation
• 803 high-risk trees removed by Davey Tree
• 70 high- and severe-risk trees pruned by Davey Tree
• Additional risk reduction removals and prunes performed by Elgin City crews

Ash Tree Removal or Treatment
• 1,528 healthy public ash trees identified for preservation treated for EAB
• 200 parks trees treated for a five-year period from additional, leveraged ash tree conservation funding from Valent USA Corporation

Park and Street Tree Planting Plan and Implementation
• 1,104 new and replacement trees planted by Davey Tree
• Additional trees planted by Elgin City crews Community Outreach and Education Campaign
• Developed the Fit Forest public outreach campaign
• Conducted multiple community awareness events
• Created urban forestry issues and benefits education materials found at www.cityofelgin.org

• Prepared EAB educational materials

Tree Streets Benefit analysis
• Calculated the total value of Elgin's inventoried tree population to be over $72,858,000
• Determined Elgin receives over $4 in benefits for every $1 spent on public trees

The Fit Forest Urban Wood Waste Utilization Analysis and Plan

• Analyzed current and future wood waste amounts
• Completed a plan for efficient utilization or proper disposal

Invasive Species Readiness Plan
• Investigated current insect and disease threats to Elgin's forest
•Completed a plan for minimizing damage and future threats

Urban Tree Canopy Analysis
• Completed urban tree canopy analysis for the entirety and its neighborhoods
• Produced GIS-based maps and statistical data for future planning and monitoring

Natural Resource Inventories of Elgin Planning Boundary
• Completed urban forest canopy analysis for the Elgin Planning Boundary
• Conducted an assessment of natural resources and identified priority areas for protection with the Elgin Planning Boundary

Natural Ecosystem Restoration Plans and Implementation for Priority Elgin Parks
• Mapped the location of park trails and natural features such as streams and wetlands in six parks
• Conducted vegetation inventories in six parks
• Mapped locations of invasive species
• Identified locations for potential restoration projects
• Created native habitat restoration plans for six parks
• Implemented various components of the restoration recommendations in four parks including restoring a bur oak savanna and performing invasive species control
• Planned and implemented a storm water detention basin "green retrofit" project

Jobs and Economy
• Several FTE (full-time equivalent) tree care and urban forestry jobs created or retained
• Immersed over $1 million dollars into the local economy to diverse businesses, such as tree service firms, landscapers, tree nurseries, hotels, restaurants, graphic designers, printers, and manufacturers

What's Next for Elgin?
A sustainable community forestry program requires a combination of organized leadership; comprehensive information about the tree population; dedicated personnel and contractors; effective public education; and the support of the residents and businesses. As a result of the Recovery Act project, the City of Elgin has built a firm foundation in each and every one of these important areas. Implementing the recommendations of the Elgin Urban Forest Master Plan will help the City have a community forest and a municipal forest management program that are both sustainable and will both contribute to the City's beauty and the health and safety of its trees and citizens.

Program Project Name: Region-wide Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects/Readiness

Local Project Name: Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects/Readiness
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Chippewa
Nearby City(ies): Lake, Cook, and St. Louis counties
Congressional District(s): IL11, IN08, IN09, MI01, MN08, OH06, OH07, OH18
County(ies): IL: Will; IN: Brown, Crawford, Jackson, Martin, Monroe, Orange, Perry; MI: Alger, Chippewa, Delta, Gogebic, Ontonagon, Schoolcraft; MN: Beltrami, Cass, Cook, Itasca, Lake, Saint Louis; OH: Athens, Hocking, Lawrence, Perry, Washington
Modified Date: 2/14/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Hazardous Fuels Reduction Activities

(Story posted 10/12/2011)

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was implemented on the Superior National Forest during the summer of 2009. Projects were identified for hazardous fuels treatment on private land in high-risk areas as identified in community wildfire protection plans (CWPPs).

Three northeastern Minnesota counties (Cook, Lake, St. Louis) completed county-wide CWPPs beginning in 2004 through 2008. CWPP's were developed collaboratively between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Forest Service, county commissioners and emergency management, area volunteer fire departments, and private citizens. The plans identify areas that are at risk because of hazardous fire conditions and actions that can be taken to improve those conditions.

The Fernberg Corridor/Kawishiwi Triangle wildland-urban interface (WUI) area was identified in the Lake County CWPP as a high priority for fuels reduction. It is considered a high-risk area due to high fire occurrence, high density of permanent and seasonal residences, and multiple resorts and outfitting businesses. With the heavy fuel loading of spruce-budworm damaged balsam fir, many residents do not have adequate defensible space. Within this WUI area, the Sunset Road community participated in fuels reduction, and 21 landowners improved their defensible space for a total of 90 acres.

In St. Louis County, the Ely Area WUI is identified as a high priority for fuels reduction. The Burntside Ridge Trail Road Association participated in improving their defensible space, with 20 homeowners completing 186 acres.
Thirteen private contractors worked on these projects. One new small business was opened (Ely Brush Clearing) to take advantage of the work being offered and several existing contractors hired additional employees, as well as buying new equipment.
In Cook County, Lutsen WUI area was identified as a high priority for fuels reduction work due to the buildup of understory fuels and the remoteness of private property.

One particular area within the larger WUI area, Tait Lake, has been working on fuel hazard clean up; access and egress improvement; and accessible fire department tools for the past

five years. The Tait Lake area is comprised of several parcels of private property and common property that belongs to an association. The Recovery Act funds are being used to finalize fuel reduction work in the area. The Tait Lake Homeowners Association has been working to do fuels reduction work on 120 acres of common property with the Recovery Act funds. At this time approximately 60 acres have been completed. One contractor, Oneil Tree Service, has been working on the project. This contract has been present in the county for several years. The company has hired two to six employees to help with the work.

A side benefit to homeowners being educated on their role in fire safety and creating defensible space was the sense of community that was fostered. The Sunset Road Association held a Chipper Days and got many homeowners involved in improving the area's access and egress by cutting and chipping brush and fuels along the roadway. This community is also applying to receive Firewise Community status.

The Burntside Ridge Trail Road Association also has plans to continue to improve their access and egress and is continuing with fuels reductions on other private land. Workers treated 20 acres of this property in July 2011.

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
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.

Program Project Name: Gree Insfrastructure Jobs in Urban - Industricl Areas.

Local Project Name: “Green Jobs”--Officially know as The Green Infrastructure Jobs Program

Region: Northeastern Area S&PF
Nearby City(ies): Chesterton
Congressional District(s): IN01, MD04
County(ies): IN: Lake, Porter
Modified Date: 1/20/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Conservation Vocation Training Program

(Story posted 9/22/2011)

"Green Jobs" started a conservation vocation training program focused on reapplying the technical knowledge and expertise of laid off steel and manufacturing employees in northwest Indiana to address the green infrastructure needs of the region's urban-industrial lands.

The partners in the effort have gone beyond the hiring portion to promote the success of the program through multiple channels. Internal audiences have been made aware of the hiring and training model developed from the USDA Forest Service Recovery Act grant and newsletters and the Chicago Tribune have covered this unique effort.

A tally of the outreach and headlines garnered by Green Jobs follows:

"Ex-steelworkers forge careers in conservation
New training program lets laid-off workers retool skills"
May 21, 2010|By Mary Owen, Special to the Chicago Tribune

HARD TIMES REQUIRE FRESH IDEAS
Laid Off Workers Learn New Skills in the Preserves
http://www.heinzetrust.org/News/PDF/2010-Fall-Newsletter.pdf .

Hope in Hard Times
Laid-off workers learn new skills in land trust preserves
http://www.landtrustalliance.org/about/saving-land/spring-2011/SvLd-Spr11-Conservation%20News.pdf

Workshop and seminar presentations are listed below:

- US Forest Service Midewin NTP - Wildlife Habitat Council Summit 2011. July 26-27, 2011 at the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.

- Indiana Urban Forestry Council, 2011 Summer Conference: Restoring the Urban Forest. July 13, 2011. Chesterton, Indiana. Presentation: Green Jobs Restoring Urban Forests

- Great Lakes Society for Ecological Restoration Chapter Meeting, Linkages between Ecological Restoration and Ecosystem Sustainability. April 1-3, 2011. University of Illinois

Springfield. Title: Advancing Ecological Restoration on Industrial Facilities in Indiana and Illinois.
https://www.ser.org/mwgl/pdf/3202011Schedule&AbstractsMWGLSER.pdf

- The Biosphere Ethics Initiative: toward a local ethic of the Indiana Dunes region
Center for Humans and Nature: North American Global Responsibilities Program
Two presentations: Building Green Infrastructures in Urban Areas (With BP Whiting Refinery Director of Government and Community Relations, Brad Etlin) And Connecting Industries and Ecosystem Restoration in the Calumet Region. Windblown Hill, Libertyville, Illinois and Michigan City, Indiana USA. 14-17 September 2010 Workshop

- Calumet Summit Connectedness March 2010. Title: Connecting Ecological Restoration to Calumet Industries. April 27 -28, 2010. Purdue University Calumet, Hammond, Indiana
http://www.csu.edu/cerc/documents/GoldfarbDaniel-ConnectingRestorationtoLocalIndustry_000.pdf

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Forest: Chippewa
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County(ies): IL: Will; IN: Brown, Crawford, Jackson, Martin, Monroe, Orange, Perry; MI: Alger, Chippewa, Delta, Gogebic, Ontonagon, Schoolcraft; MN: Beltrami, Cass, Cook, Itasca, Lake, Saint Louis; OH: Athens, Hocking, Lawrence, Perry, Washington
Modified Date: 2/14/2012

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Iowa

Program Project Name: Forest Regeneration Center Enhancement
Local Project Name: Forestry Sustainability Project
Region: Northeastern Area S&PF
Nearby City(ies): Ames
Congressional District(s): IA04
County(ies): IA: Lee, Story
Modified Date: 1/20/2012

Story:

State Forest Nursery Receives Recovery Act-funded Improvements

(Story posted 9/13/2011)

"The State Forest Nursery in Ames Iowa has become more energy efficient, growing better seedlings, and provide better customer service while creating private sector work using American made materials," wrote District Forester and Nursery Supervisor Aaron Lumley.

"One of the biggest improvements to the nursery has been the conversion from conventional forced air and radiant heaters to geothermal heating and cooling. The installation of five five-ton pumps and wells has made the utility bill drop allowing for more funding to use elsewhere to grow high quality seedlings. Another energy savings has come in the shape of a radiant energy blanket. The blanket reflects the sun’s rays in the summer keeping the building cooler and in the winter reflecting the geothermal generated heat back into the building to keep it warmer. While reviewing the building for energy loss, the exterior doors were noticed as being non-insulated, so replacing all exterior doors with solid insulated metal doors increased the R-value again by not allowing heat to escape.

"The nursery coolers used to keep seedlings at the proper temperature while over wintering or before shipping can be a huge cost. Recovery Act funds were used to install economizers on our coolers to help save on cold days. The economizer opens a vent in the roof when temperatures are below freezing to help defray costs of the cooling units. The cold air is pumped into the cooler using fans to circulate the air on two of our three coolers. The roof itself was a major concern as well since leaking had been occurring, so recoating the roof with a sealant and plugging any holes was completed the first year with nice dry results.

"Since the nursery was built in the 1940s, the original fence has been deteriorating to the point where deer were able to walk in freely and tree seedlings became a popular treat. A new fence was installed that upgraded the old barb wire four-foot fence to a six-foot foot chain link fence with a three-strand barb-wire top. Another field practice that was out of date for the nursery was fumigation that had not been done for 20+ years. Weeds and soil pathogens have weekend the quality of the seedlings, so professional fumigation was completed on the open spaces where tree seedlings were not currently planted with high

hopes of growing much better seedlings.

"One major project that was completed utilizing Recovery Act funds is the new order system for the nursery. The new system was updated to allow more functionality, support by our IT bureau, and is upgradeable for any future changes. Customers can now order tree seedlings directly from the website, look up old orders to see what was purchased previously, and most importantly see the inventory live. Other benefits include our field foresters being able to access the system to see what is available; nursery staff to track what is lifted, graded, and shipped; and reporting that shows costs."

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
Congressional District(s): KY05
County(ies): KY: Bath, Clay, Estill, Lee, Leslie, Menifee, Morgan, Powell, Rowan, Wolfe
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3my43jm
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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
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
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
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
Congressional District(s): KY01
County(ies): KY: Trigg
Related Photo(s) Link: http://prdp2fs.ess.usda.gov/detail/recovery/accomplishments/photos-video/?cid=stelprdb5358456

Modified Date: 6/11/2012

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
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
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
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
Congressional District(s): KY01
County(ies): KY: Lyon
Related Photo(s) Link: http://prdp2fs.ess.usda.gov/detail/recovery/accomplishments/photos-video/?cid=stelprdb5358914
Modified Date: 6/11/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Wood-to-Energy Project for Lyon County Schools

(Story posted 8/3/2010 and updated 10/14/2011 and 1/12/12)

The Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area (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 are being created to plan, design, and implement the projects in these two LBL gateway communities.

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 included Forest Service, Trigg County, and Lyon County officials collaboration on a plan and timeline over 18 months to kick off the biofuels project.

Contractor Perry Bartsch Jr. Construction Company of Asheville, North Carolina for the Lyon County High School project started earth work in mid-August 2011 in preparing the site for the construction of the new metal building that will house the new biomass boiler system. The metal building materials had been delivered to the high school as well. PBJr subcontracted with local companies for some construction work and materials. In late September the metal building was completed and the biomass boiler system was delivered for the Lyon County project. The piping and other miscellaneous construction components were also underway with plans to accept wood chips and start the final testing process in about a month. The high school boiler became officially operational on January 6, 2012.

The one-million dollar grant paid for startup costs, fees, construction, and the boiler itself while providing construction and manufacturing jobs. The wood-to-energy project is predicted to save up to $10,000 annually in heating costs while creating a local market for small-diameter wood and trees typically of low value in traditional lumber markets in addition to ongoing forest industry jobs. The Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area oversaw the project designed to serve as a demonstration of wood-to-energy technology for other communities. Wood fuel has several environmental and economic advantages over fossil fuel, one being that wood is a renewable resource.

LBL Public affairs Officer Kathryn Harper 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 the January 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
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
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
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
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
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.

Maine

Program Project Name: Fuels for Public Buildings

Local Project Name: Wood-to-Energy Recovery Act Funds Bring Jobs, Energy Savings to Maine

Region: Northeastern Area S&PF

Nearby City(ies): 22 locations throughout the State of Maine

Congressional District(s): ME01

County(ies): ME: Aroostook, Franklin, Hancock, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Washington

Modified Date: 10/12/2011

Story:

Wood-to-Energy Recovery Act Funds Bring Jobs, Energy Savings to Maine

(Story posted 6/7/2011)

In August 2009, a total of $11.4 million in Recovery Act funds was made available to the State of Maine for grants to help primarily rural, economically depressed counties support the conversion of heating systems to wood/dual-fuel heating systems for an estimated 15 public buildings, resulting in greater fuel efficiency and use of a renewable energy source. The grant program was designed to create and retain jobs in Maine; achieve energy savings through wood-to-energy installations; reduce dependence on non-renewable energy resources; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and support sustainable forestry.

Beginning in fall 2009, the Maine Forest Service (MFS), under the Maine Department of Conservation, began the first of three application rounds for biomass heat and energy installation projects for funding through USDA Forest Service Recovery-Act monies. As of May 2011, 22 Recovery Act grants had been awarded to schools, universities, medical centers, and other public buildings around Maine for the installation of wood-energy boilers.

Through the fuel conversion process, the Recovery Act funding is creating and supporting jobs among licensed solid wood-fuel professionals, contractors, and engineering firms. Long-term, the use of the recovery funds will benefit loggers and other forest-product professionals. Maine's forest industry has a significant impact on the state's economy. The Recovery Act funding is expected to promote wood-to-energy (biomass) activities to also help achieve a national goal of healthy, sustainable forests, state officials said.

Not only are the awards adding jobs through the construction phase of these projects, but they will also save recipients between one-half to two-thirds on their annual heating bills while reducing dependency on foreign oil, according to Tom Wood, MFS senior planner.

On January 6, 2011, officials gathered for the installation of the first wood-to-energy boiler in Maine financed primarily by USDA Forest Service Recovery Act funds through the Maine Forest Service. The 2.3 million BTU* boiler was lifted by crane and placed through the open

roof of the Poland Regional High School/Bruce M. Whittier Middle School into its permanent location. This school project was among the first grant applications to be approved, and the boiler was the first to be installed since the program began. The new wood-to-energy system now supplies hot water heat to the 134,000-square-foot school. This state-of-the-art biomass system is replacing 47,000 gallons of fuel oil per year, at an estimated annual savings to the school of more $125,000. School officials reported the new wood-to-energy system fulfilled the school's dire need for a stable boiler system. "It couldn't be coming at a more opportune time," Poland Regional High School Principal Cari Medd said. "Our number one boiler let go almost a year and a half ago, and our second boiler is on its last legs."

The one-time funds will be spent or committed within two years. "This program is about harvesting, processing, transporting, and consuming more Maine wood. This all adds up to more Maine jobs," Governor Paul LePage said.

*In North America, the term "BTU" is used to describe the heat value (energy content) of fuels and also to describe the power of heating and cooling systems, such as furnaces and air conditioners.

Program Project Name: Fuels for Public Buildings

Local Project Name: Maine Fuels for Public buildings

Region: Northeastern Area S&PF

Nearby City(ies): Multiple

Congressional District(s): ME01

County(ies): ME: Aroostook, Franklin, Hancock, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Washington

Related Photo(s) Link: http://prdp2fs.ess.usda.gov/detail/recovery/accomplishments/photos-video/?cid=stelprdb5358381

Modified Date: 6/11/2012

Story:

USDA Official Touts Recovery Act-funded Maine Public Building Heating System Conversions

(Story posted 8/18/2011)

USDA Forest Service Recovery Act-funded contractors are on schedule to convert heating systems from fossil fuel to biomass or wood burning systems at 22 public buildings across the state of Maine by June 2012. As grant administrator, the Maine Forest Service awarded funds in the third and final application round to 11 new recipients in late May.

While construction is complete at three school locations, conversion progress at the remaining sites located at schools, universities, municipal buildings, and hospitals varies, with expectations to test and commission many of the systems during the upcoming heating season. Besides providing short-term construction jobs and long-term forestry industry jobs,

the program will reduce fuel costs and reliance on foreign oil.

Acting Deputy Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment Doug Crandall recently held media availability on biomass topics for Maine journalists. Recovery-act supported biomass projects carried out through the Northeastern Area were featured. Crandall pointed to Maine as a national success story in the use of Recovery Act funds to convert public facilities from heating with fossil fuels to renewable biomass.

The Bangor News interviewed Crandall for its piece: Federal official praises Maine's use of biomass stimulus funds. The full article is at: http://bangordailynews.com/2011/08/04/politics/federal-official-praises-maine%E2%80%99s-use-of-biomass-stimulus-funds/?ref=latest.

Program Project Name: Massabesic Experimental Forest Road Maintenance and Improvements

Local Project Name: Massabesic Experimental Forest Access Improved
Region: Northeastern Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Alfred and Lyman, Maine
Congressional District(s): ME01
County(ies): ME: Penobscot, York
Modified Date: 2/8/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Project Supports Forest Research

(Story posted 9/28/2011)

New England forest managers have benefited from research conducted on the Massabesic Experimental Forest in southwestern Maine for more than 70 years. Continued access to the Massabesic's pine-oak management and wildlife experiments is being improved through Recovery Act-funded road improvements. Prior to this project, access to the Northern Research Station research projects was slowed by the condition of the road network. One of the bridges had deteriorated to the point it could no longer support vehicle traffic.

During the summer of 2011, White Mountain National Forest engineering staff oversaw contracts that have significantly improved access. Workers graded and resurfaced three miles of road and replaced several culverts that had previously blocked the passage of fish and other aquatic organisms.

Another 2.5 miles of road improvement remain to be completed. The bridge replacement project is slated for completion in the summer of 2012.

Program Project Name: Massabesic Experimental Forest Road Related Ecosystem Enhancements

Local Project Name: Massabesic Experimental Forest Road Improvements Enhance Ecosystem
Region: Northeastern Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Alfred and Lyman, ME
Congressional District(s): ME01
County(ies): ME: Penobscot, York
Modified Date: 2/8/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Project Work Supports Safety, Enhances Research Capabilities

(Story posted 9/28/2011)

New England forest managers have benefited from research conducted on the Massabesic Experimental Forest in southwestern Maine for more than 70 years. Continued access to the Massabesic's pine-oak management and wildlife experiments is being improved through Recovery Act-funded road improvements. Prior to this project, access to the Northern Research Station research projects was slowed by the condition of the road network. One of the bridges had deteriorated to the point it could no longer support vehicle traffic.

During the summer of 2011, White Mountain National Forest engineering staff oversaw contracts that have significantly improved access. Contractors graded and resurfaced three miles of road and replaced several culverts that had previously blocked the passage of fish and other aquatic organisms.

Another 2.5 miles of road improvement remain to be completed. The bridge replacement project is slated for completion in the summer of 2012.

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

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.

Program Project Name: Restoring Baltimore’s Ecosystems through Site Improvements

Local Project Name: Ecosystem Restoration at Baltimore's Druid Hill Park
Region: Northeastern Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Baltimore, MD
Congressional District(s): MD07
County(ies): MD: Baltimore
Modified Date: 2/8/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Parks and People Foundation

(Story posted 9/29/2011)

On July 12, 2010, Jackie Carrera, president and CEO of the Parks and People Foundation joined Senator Benjamin Cardin, Congressman Elijah Cummings, Morgan Grove of the USDA Forest Service, and other local leaders at an overgrown, dilapidated nine-acre parcel of Druid Hill Park near the Auchentoroly Terrace section of Baltimore.

The delegation was on hand to see first-hand how the work of the Parks and People Foundation's "Green Up, Clean Up' teams were beginning work on a $897,000 Recovery Act project awarded to Parks and People in January 2010. Through this funding, the Parks and People Foundation will restore the parkland in the Druid Hill Park at Auchentoroly Terrace to its original condition. In addition to creating recreational opportunities for the community and reducing crime, benefits of the park restoration include improved ecosystem and forestry health, addition to the tree canopy, and improved air and water quality.

In reference to the new green jobs and their impact on Baltimore and the Chesapeake Bay, Congressman Elijah Cummings said, "We will have created a better environment for future generations; that's what this is all about."

A spring 2012 groundbreaking is planned for construction of the Druid Hill Ecology Center, which is to be located at the Druid Hill Park site.

"Partnerships like the one that Parks and People has with the USDA Forest Service are absolutely critical to the work we're doing locally in Baltimore," said Jackie Carrera. Check the Parks and People Foundation's website at www.parksandpeople.org for more updates.

Massachusetts

Program Project Name: Massachusetts Asian Longhorn Beetle Area Watershed Health and Ecological Enhancement

Local Project Name: Recovery Act-Funded Work to Replace Beetle-Killed Trees in Residential Areas Provides Jobs, Training

Region: Northeastern Area S&PF

Nearby City(ies): Worcester and surrounding towns

Congressional District(s): MA03

County(ies): MA: Barnstable, Berkshire, Bristol, Dukes, Essex, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, Nantucket, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, Worcester

Modified Date: 6/7/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-Funded Work to Replace Beetle-Killed Trees in Residential Areas Provides Jobs, Training

(Story posted 6/7/2011)

In Massachusetts, Recovery Act-funded work to mitigate the effects of the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) epidemic is ongoing. The primary purpose of this project is to maintain jobs, reinstate jobs, and stimulate the creation of jobs through the Massachusetts State Forester by restoring the forest canopy of communities affected by the large-scale removal of trees as part of the ALB eradication program. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is using a USDA Forest Service Recovery Act grant to provide training and jobs through community programs to replace ALB-infested trees and maintain replanted trees.

In Worcester, the first class of the Worcester's Young Adult Foresters program recently graduated after receiving training in forestry as well as business skills, such as how to interview and apply for a job. Last fall DCR began replanting trees to replace the nearly 30,000 that have been cut down and removed from Worcester and surrounding towns to mitigate the beetle's effects since the epidemic began in 2008. The new graduates will be working with the City of Worcester Forestry Department to maintain replanted trees daily through the summer and fall to help ensure they thrive in the efforts to reforest the city. To date, about 3,800 trees have been replanted. "The goal is to have an additional 5,000 in the ground by July," said Shannon Williams, a DCR forester. Bigelow Nurseries of Northboro is supplying the trees, which are several different species.

The Young Adult Foresters program will include 45 members hired to plant trees daily during planting season. DCR hopes to have 15,000 trees planted and more than 200 young people participate in this valuable on-the-job training by the time the program ends next spring.

Worker Jose Herrera remembers the trees that used to line his Hawley Street neighborhood. The trees fell victim to the Asian longhorned beetle and were removed, taking with them a

little something from everyone, including memories, shade, and sound barriers.

“It's kind of empty,” said Herrera, age 23. “Whenever I would walk in my neighborhood, I would remember seeing trees. Now it's just empty. Something is missing from that whole block where I used to live. It used to be whenever you see trees, it meant you are home.”

Quiava Brown of Worcester, the program supervisor, was recommended to the program by the state DCR, where he had been a seasonal worker. He said the program gives him a change to work with struggling young adults, as he once was, and teach them a skill. He said he is inspired by students, such as trainee Carlos Lopez, who have been shown to be leaders and dedicated to not only learning but bettering the community.

“We've learned how to unite, to work as one to save the environment,” Lopez said. “Between the Asian longhorned beetle and the ice storm, we lost a lot of trees. Ten years from now, five years from now, our kids' generation can say, ‘My grandfather took the time out of his day to plant trees so we can breathe better, so we can walk down a street and not just see houses and buildings, but trees. There are a lot of memories with these trees, and when they were torn down, a part of each person left with them, and you won't be able to get that back. But wait 10, 20 years from now. You can be on your porch, look out at a tree and say, ‘I did that.'”

(Some story elements contributed by Donna Boynton, Worcester Telegram and Gazette staff)

Program Project Name: Southeast Massachusetts Hazardous Fuels Mitigation and Ecosystem Restoration

Local Project Name: Manuel F. Correllus State Forest prescribed burn
Region: Northeastern Area S&PF
Nearby City(ies): Martha's Vineyard
Congressional District(s): MA10
County(ies): MA: Barnstable, Dukes, Plymouth
Modified Date: 8/17/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Project Helps Protect Communities from Wildfire

(Story posted 8/9/2011)

A USDA Forest Service Recovery Act-funded program to help maintain or create jobs while helping reduce wildfire threats to communities and resources on state and private lands involved many facets, including increasing fire planning in high-risk areas; helping communities develop Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs); emphasizing and expanding the Firewise Communities program; implementing Firewise treatments in communities; and conducting hazard mitigation activities through fuels reduction and community defensibility. As an example of the types of activities the project enabled, below is

an excerpt from a follow-up report of a November 2, 2010 prescribed burn in the Manuel F. Correllus Sate Forest near Martha's Vineyard:

All: Just a quick update on the burn this past Tuesday.

The burn went very well and we completed 42.5 acres on Tuesday in the NE-1 burn unit. While I would have like to see a bit more duff-layer consumption…the burn accomplished most of the objectives set-forth in the burn plan, and I am very pleased with the results after spending three hours in the unit yesterday. The site had a considerable amount of precipitation the past two months, which kept the duff layer moist, but the surface fuels responded very well. We implemented several different firing techniques (flanking, point source, strip head, backing) on this burn, and it was interesting to observe the fire behavior and effects each of these firing patterns had on the fuels. While it has been wet and we have been losing daylight/drying going into the burn, we had a very small window of opportunity and seized it.

I want to thank everyone that participated and helped make this burn a complete success. It was the largest burn completed this year…and none of this would have been possible without the dedication and professionalism…shown during the course of this burning season…Let's stay heads up moving forward into future burns.

Sincerely,

Aaron J. Whiddon
Fire District #1
D.C.R. Forest Fire Control and Forestry
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Program Project Name: Massachusetts Native Species (Invasive) Ecological Restoration

Local Project Name: Native Species Ecological Restoration

Region: Northeastern Area S&PF

Nearby City(ies): Westfield, MA

Congressional District(s): MA01, MA03

County(ies): MA: Barnstable, Berkshire, Bristol, Dukes, Essex, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, Nantucket, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, Worcester

Modified Date: 1/20/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Invasive Species Assessment Work

(Story posted 10/3/2011)

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) – Westfield River Watershed Invasive Species Partnership (WISP) passed along this summary of summer 2011 work using USDA Forest Service

Recovery Act funds:

The invasives assistant completed her job with WISP in late August. During her 10 weeks of work she assessed invasive species presence at approximately 700 data points in 35 areas on public and private lands across the watershed. She also hosted a volunteer training for eight volunteers on invasive species and GPS on August 13, 2011. She continued work on an introductory outreach PowerPoint about WISP.
We completed development of and printing of a “Landowners Guide to Invasive Species”.
The pre-proposal to Fish and Wildlife Foundation Pulling Together Initiative grant was accepted, and work was begun on a full proposal with Silvio O. Conte Fish and Wildlife Refuge (due October 15, 2011). The grant, if funded, would provide funding to hire a coordinator and technical assistance for six similar groups, including WISP, across the watershed.

Staff also attended the Cummington Fair to distribute WISP outreach materials.
We continued an investigation of options for the management of invasive species data collected during this grant by surveying groups across the state about a possible collaboration on a state-wide database (iMap Invasives or EDDmapS).

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
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
Related Photo(s) Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ssrs/story?id=5333

Modified Date: 3/1/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Help Close Abandoned Mines

(Story posted 11/30/2010)

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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.

Industrial Maintenance Services, Inc. (IMS) from Escanaba, 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. 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.

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

Related Photo(s) Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ssrs/story?id=5576

Modified Date: 3/1/2011

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.

Program Project Name: Emerald Ash Borer Containment and Ecosystem Restoration

Local Project Name: Taking Root:
Region: Northeastern Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Detroit, Michigan
Congressional District(s): MI07, MI08, MI09, MI10, MI11, MI12, MI13, MI14, MI15, OH09
County(ies): MI: Keweenaw, Mackinac, Macomb, Monroe, Schoolcraft, Wayne; OH: Lucas
Modified Date: 8/17/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Tree Planting Initiative

(Story posted 4/15/2011)

The USDA Forest Service (USFS) and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and

Environment (DNRE) have partnered with The Greening of Detroit and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) in a major Southeast Michigan tree planting initiative. This project was funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) of 2009. The USFS Northern Research Station provided a grant to the DNRE totaling $192,000 to fund the tree planting program with the goals of creating jobs, stimulating the local economy, and enhancing the area's critical green infrastructure.

Tree planting efforts began in October 2010 in several areas of MDOT's Metro region. The first phase of the project included 344 new trees planted in the medians of Telegraph Road, Woodward Avenue, and Vernier Road. The Greening of Detroit is working with DNRE and MDOT officials on each of the targeted sites, selecting a diverse and appropriate selection of shade, ornamental and evergreen tree species.

In addition to reforesting some of metro-Detroit's busiest thoroughfares, this project also serves as an important learning opportunity for trainees in The Greening of Detroit's workforce Development Program. Through this project 17 planting specialists were trained and employed. The majority of the trees planted were sourced locally from Michigan nurseries, providing another boost to the local economy.

"We are excited to partner with the Forest Service, The Greening of Detroit, and MDOT to provide economic development through tree planting in southeast Michigan," stated Kevin Sayers of the DNRE's Urban and Community Forestry program. "This project is an example of an efficient use of Recovery Act Funds," added Rebecca Salminen Witt, The Greening of Detroit president. "By forming a partnership between state and federal agencies and a non-profit organization, we have been able to create a project that maximizes benefits to southeast Michigan's environment while preparing a new workforce for entry into the green industry."

The final phase of this project will conclude with 356 trees being planted in the spring of 2011 in MDOT's University and Metro regions, primarily in selected freeway "clover leafs" along 1-94, I-75, and US-23.

Program Project Name: Deferred Maintenance of Recreation and Administrative Sites across Ottawa, Hiawatha and Huron-Manistee National Forests

Local Project Name: Michigan Toilet and Storage Building Reconstruction
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Hiawatha
Nearby City(ies): Munising, St. Ignace/Sault Ste. Marie, and Rapid River/Manistique Districts
Congressional District(s): MI01, MI02
County(ies): MI: Alger, Chippewa, Delta, Mackinac, Muskegon, Schoolcraft
Modified Date: 4/26/2011

Story:

Facility Replacements Benefit Hiawatha National Forest Visitors

(Story posted 4/21/2011)

On the Hiawatha National Forest, Recovery Act funds were used to replace 15 restroom buildings at various recreation sites on the Forest, reducing deferred maintenance and providing accessibility for people of all abilities. Seaberg Contracting, Inc. of Munising, Michigan, installed prefabricated buildings purchased through existing contracts with CXT, Inc.

The work contributed to public health and safety while supporting local tourism economies by offering more attractive recreational opportunities for visitors.

Program Project Name: Hiawatha, Huron-Manistee, and Ottawa National Forests – Jobs for Michigan, Roads Critical Deferred Maintenance Reduction Projects

Local Project Name: AuTrain Road
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Hiawatha
Ranger District: Munising
Nearby City(ies): Munising, AuTrain
Congressional District(s): MI01
County(ies): MI: Alger
Modified Date: 5/13/2011

Story:

Road Reconstruction Project Successful Cooperative Effort

(Story posted 4/21/2011)

Construction on the Recovery Act-funded AuTrain Road Reconstruction project was completed in 2010. The project, which resurfaced a total of 2.96 miles of the Buck Bay Road (FR2276), Campground Road (FR2596), and the AuTrain Lake Campground and Boat Accesses, has been accomplished cooperatively by Hiawatha National Forest and Alger County Road Commission (ACRC). The Forest provided Recovery Act funding while the ACRC implemented the project with its work crews and subcontractors. Work began in 2009 and was completed in 2010.

"We were excited that weather conditions allowed the project to move ahead earlier than expected," said Forest Supervisor Tom Schmidt.

In spring 2010, before weight restrictions were imposed on the roads, ACRC crews replaced 16 culverts on the campground road. Then workers finished the sideslopes along the Buck Bay Road and upgraded the AuTrain Lake Day Use Area parking lot and boat ramp.

According to ACRC Engineer/Manager Bob Lindbeck, the poor soil beneath both surfaces

was replaced to improve drainage, enhancing the lifespan of the new pavement that was installed in summer 2010.

Lindbeck noted, "For the convenience of campground users, our crews worked hard in order to have the gravel in place at the boat launch and day-use area, as well as in the two AuTrain Campground loops, by late May."

Of course, the work was weather-dependent. However, the partners agreed that the goal was to minimize impact on campground operations. They also agreed that this Recovery Act-funded project had multiple benefits for the National Forest, community, local workers, and visitors alike.

Supervisor Schmidt noted, "This is an excellent example of successful interagency cooperation. With one project we can improve our road systems, provide for public health and safety, protect natural resources, and enable access to the National Forest."

Lindbeck echoed this sentiment, saying, "Working together on joint-jurisdiction projects allows us to pool our resources. This project benefited the Road Commission, helping to round out the budget that provides for our employees. It also provided a benefit to several local businesses providing materials and services."

Clearly, both partners are excited about the project, with Lindbeck adding, "The Alger County Road Commission and its employees are proud of what we accomplished with this project."

Surveying the work while it was still in progress, ACRC Foreman Dave Maki and his crew put it this way: "When we get done here, this facility is going to be really nice for local people and visitors to use." By all accounts, it looks like they were right!

Program Project Name: Jobs to Improve Upper Michigan Fish Passage-1

Local Project Name: Aquatic Organism Passage Culvert Replacement
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Hiawatha
Ranger District: Munising
Nearby City(ies): Au Train
Congressional District(s): MI01
County(ies): MI: Alger
Modified Date: 4/26/2011

Story:

Hiawatha National Forest Works with County Road Commission to Maintain Drainage Structures

(Story posted 4/21/2011)

Forest Service Recovery Act funds replaced two existing drainage structures on the Hiawatha National Forest. Alger County Road Commission crews accomplished the work through an existing cooperative road maintenance agreement. The project eliminated deferred maintenance and improved the crossings to aquatic organism passage (AOP) standards.

Both projects were Rock River Road crossings, one a concrete box culvert on the BS Creek and the other a metal arch pipe on a Rock River tributary. Workers began the projects in early July 2010 and finished by mid-September 2010.

Program Project Name: Jobs to Improve Upper Michigan Forest Fish Passage - 2

Local Project Name: AOP Watershed Restoration Design
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Hiawatha
Nearby City(ies): Munising, Manistique, Rapid River, Sault Ste. Marie and St. Ignace
Congressional District(s): MI01
County(ies): MI: Alger, Chippewa, Delta, Mackinac, Marquette, Schoolcraft
Modified Date: 4/26/2011

Story:

Road and Stream Crossing Structure Designs Support Fish Passage

(Story posted 4/21/2011)

On the Hiawatha National Forest, five engineering firms from the Upper Peninsula completed designs for 21 road/stream crossing structures designed to meet aquatic organism passage (AOP) standards to facilitate movement for fish and other aquatic organisms, including relatively small, resident fish; aquatic amphibians and reptiles; and large invertebrates.

The Recovery Act-funded work consisted of site surveys followed by designs of high priority road stream crossings selected from a list of previously inventoried and assessed crossings. Project work focused on restoring safe upstream and downstream fish passage to streams and stream reaches that have become isolated by culverts, dams, and other artificial obstructions. Engineers also addressed ways to prevent or minimize harm to fish at stream diversions and water intakes. For migratory species of fish and aquatic wildlife, successful completion of their life cycle hinges on having access to and safe effective passage between reproduction, feeding, and refuge habitats.

Program Project Name: Phase 1 - Trail Bridge Repair and Replacement

Local Project Name: Grand Island NRA NL Creek Bridge Replacement & Rim Trail Culvert Replacement
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Hiawatha

Ranger District: Munising
Nearby City(ies): Munising
Congressional District(s): MI01
County(ies): MI: Alger
Modified Date: 4/27/2011

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Bridge, Culvert Replacements Support Public Safety, Protect Natural Resources

(Story posted 4/27/2011)

Recovery Act-funded bridge and culvert replacement work in 2010 on the Hiawatha National Forest brought employment to the area while ensuring resource protection and visitor safety. The first portion replaced a condemned bridge that serves as a critical east-west trail link at Grand Island National Recreation Area in Alger County. IMS, Inc. of Wells, Michigan, demolished the existing bridge and installed the replacement structure.

The second portion of the project replaced deteriorated culverts on the rim trail at Grand Island National Recreation Area. Workers from Seaberg Construction of Munising, Michigan Work removed and replaced failed trail-crossing culverts.

Project work improved recreational opportunities, fish passage, and transportation infrastructure in the popular Grand Island Recreation Area on the Hiawatha National Forest to ensure healthy, sustainable conditions exist far into the future.

Program Project Name: Hiawatha, Huron-Manistee, and Ottawa National Forests – Jobs for Michigan, Roads Critical Deferred Maintenance Reduction Projects
Local Project Name: Mackinac Trail Project
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Hiawatha
Ranger District: St Ignace
Nearby City(ies): St. Ignace, MI
Congressional District(s): MI01
County(ies): MI: Mackinac
Modified Date: 5/17/2011

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Road Resurfacing Project Repairs Aging Surfaces

(Story posted 5/13/2011)

Hiawatha National Forest Supervisor Tom Schmidt and project partner Mackinac County Road Commission (MCRC) announced in early May 2010 that a contractor would begin reconstruction of Mackinac Trail/Forest Highway 26 in mid-May 2010.

MCRC Engineer/Manager Dirk Heckman explained that the $1 million project was expected to be complete in mid-July. The road was open during the resurfacing, though at times it was limited to one lane of traffic. Contractors worked to minimize delays and inconveniences for the duration of the resurfacing work.

According to Forest Service transportation engineer Colin Nugent, the Mackinac Trail Reconstruction project was one of a series of Hiawatha National Forest projects that repaired and reconstructed aging roads.

“A portion of the Mackinac Trail was resurfaced several years ago,” says Nugent. “This project continued that effort.”

Approximately three miles of road were resurfaced through an agreement with MCRC. The Forest Service provided the funding while MCRC oversaw the contracting. Both Heckman and Nugent expressed appreciation for the partnership and for Michigan Department of Transportation's help in the contracting process.

Program Project Name: Enhance Safety and Condition of Forest Highway in Delta County

Local Project Name: County Road 513
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Hiawatha
Ranger District: Rapid River
Nearby City(ies): Rapid River and Stonington, MI
Congressional District(s): MI01
County(ies): MI: Delta
Modified Date: 5/17/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Enhance Traveler Safety in Upper Michigan

(Story posted 5/13/2011)

Work to provide safe access to high visibility Great Lakes recreation sites in Delta County, Upper Michigan also brought private-sector jobs, boosting more than one facet of the local economy.

In June 2010, workers began widening and re-surfacing Delta County Road 513 as part of a nine-month cooperative project with the county. Work was finished by the end of the 2010 construction season, and the road was open during the resurfacing though at times travel

was limited to one lane of traffic.

The project is benefiting the local community and visitors by providing safer and easier travel to school and work as well as easier access to high-use Hiawatha National Forest recreation sites on the northern shore of Lake Michigan, such as Peninsula Point Lighthouse and Bay de Noc Campground.

The project, which also adds value to communities by enhancing local resources, involved resurfacing approximately 11.2 miles, from US-2 to the Stonington Community Center. Completion of this project along with the adjacent Squaw Creek Bridge project has now provided safer access for area residents and visitors who enjoy the Forest campground and historic site accessed by the road.

A partnership with Delta County Road Commission was integral to the success of this project.

Program Project Name: Dukes, Lower Peninsula, Udell Experimental Forest Road Maintenance and Improvements

Local Project Name: Udell Fire Tower Road Reconstruction
Region: Northeastern Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Wellston, MI
Congressional District(s): MI01, MI02
County(ies): MI: Manistee, Marquette, Newaygo
Modified Date: 9/16/2011

Story:

Udell Experimental Forest Road Reconstruction Enhances Watersheds

(Story posted 10/22/2010)

In the spring of 2010, the Manistee County Road Commission reconstructed Udell Fire Tower Road through a Recovery Act-funded project agreement with the Forest Service. The Northern Research Station initiated this project in an effort to enhance the ecosystem within experimental forest areas throughout the region. This project was located within the Udell Experimental Forest on the Cadillac-Manistee Ranger District.

This particular roadway has a steep gradient in many sections and significant erosion was occurring, causing heavy sediment loads to be discharged into adjacent watersheds. The construction goal was to correct drainage ways by means of diverting water runoff from the roadway and minimizing this sediment runoff. Workers established proper ditch lines and re-established vegetation to collect and transport runoff. After establishing the proper roadway prism, workers capped it with recycled crushed concrete aggregate to provide a stable long-term base.

The Udell Experimental Forest offers research opportunities, and maintenance of the Udell Hills Fire Tower Road is an investment in maintaining that research infrastructure. In addition to providing access deeper into the Udell Experimental Forest, this project also improved access to the historic Udell Fire Tower. The fire tower is the only one of its kind remaining in lower Michigan and is a popular historic site on the forest. This road also provides access to the Udell Radio Tower. The radio tower is used in several capacities, including emergency communications during fires.

Not only has this project improved the roadway to the experimental forest, visitors now have better access to the Udell Fire Tower, and safety has been improved for both employees and visitors.

Program Project Name: Emerald Ash Borer Containment and Ecosystem Restoration

Local Project Name: EAB Ecosystem Restoration: Detroit
Region: Northeastern Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Detroit, Michigan
Congressional District(s): MI07, MI08, MI09, MI10, MI11, MI12, MI13, MI14, MI15, OH09
County(ies): MI: Keweenaw, Mackinac, Macomb, Monroe, Schoolcraft, Wayne; OH: Lucas
Modified Date: 8/1/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Project Makes the News

(Story posted 7/22/2011)

On May 30, 2011, the Michigan Department of Transportation issued a news release concerning a Recovery Act-funded emerald ash borer ecosystem restoration project. The Detroit News ran the following story as a result.

Stimulus helping fund tree-planting efforts in Metro Detroit

PAUL EGAN
Detroit News Lansing Bureau

Lansing--Federal stimulus money is being used to plant hundreds of trees along roads and city streets in Detroit and southeast Michigan. Officials say the $200,000 is creating jobs and assisting training while beautifying the landscape.

The stimulus money came to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources through the U.S. Forest Service. Natural Resources teamed with the Michigan Department of Transportation and the nonprofit organization The Greening of Detroit to get the trees planted, the department said in a news release.

In the first phase, 344 trees were planted in the medians of Telegraph Road, Woodward Avenue and Vernier Avenue.

In the second phase, 331 trees were planted in the Ann Arbor area.

Therese Poland, a research entomologist with the U.S. Forest Service, said she's not aware of federal stimulus money being used for other tree-planting programs in Michigan, though $700,000 went to DTE Energy to remove trees killed by the emerald ash borer beetle and $2.5 million went to an Upper Peninsula project designed to save a forested area that had been recently invaded by the ash borer.

Money allocated through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 had to be spent within two years, and the planting program will be completed soon, she said. "They wanted to create jobs as quickly as possible."

Rebecca Salminen Witt, president of The Greening of Detroit, said the federally funded program is one of several funding streams that have allowed her agency to plant more than 65,000 trees in Detroit since 1989. Other backers include the DTE Energy Foundation and the Erb Family Foundation. So the group's work won't stop when the stimulus money dries up.

Detroit isn't as heavily covered in concrete as many cities, but still is short of the U.S. standard of 40 percent canopy cover, she said.

Ash trees in southeast Michigan have been decimated in recent years by the emerald ash borer. Before that, disease claimed thousands of elm trees.

The federal money is assisting in The Greening of Detroit's "biggest planting season ever," with the planting of about 3,500 trees, she said. "We're really excited to be partnering…on this project."

Salminen Witt said her organization tries to plant trees that are different from the ones growing in an area. Hornbeams, hackberries, London planes, swamp white oaks and lindens are among the species planted. They are even planting elm varieties believed to be resistant to Dutch elm disease, she said.

The planting funded by the stimulus money allowed 17 planting specialists to be trained and employed, according to the Department of Natural Resources.

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Program Project Name: Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects/Readiness greater than 120 days

Local Project Name: Healthy Forests and Fuels Reduction
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Superior
Nearby City(ies): Tofte, Eveleth, Ely, Cook
Congressional District(s): IL11, IL12, IL19, MI01, MI02, MN08, OH06, VT00, WI07, WI08
County(ies): IL: Hardin, Jackson, Johnson, Pope, Will; MI: Lake, Newaygo, Oscoda; MN: Cook, Lake, Saint Louis; OH: Gallia, Lawrence; VT: Addison, Bennington, Rutland, Windham, Windsor; WI: Bayfield, Florence, Forest, Oconto, Price, Vilas
Modified Date: 8/24/2011

Story:
Superior National Forest Recovery Act-funded Work Provides Many Benefits

(Story posted 8/22/2011)

On the Superior National Forest, a Recovery Act-funded wildland fire management project involved hazardous fuel reduction, harvests, and forest regeneration to provide employment opportunities within the timber industry in Minnesota. As part of the Caribou Stewardship Project, workers harvested approximately 450 acres of timber, and piled and burned slash. Workers also treated 196 acres on the west zone to reduce fuels. A total of 2,750 acres were prepared for harvest. In addition, workers “marked to standard” 50 miles of national forest boundaries. The forest is now healthier, and mangers will see the benefits of the work for many years.

Program Project Name: Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects/Readiness less than or equal to 120 days

Local Project Name: Climate Change Monitoring
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Superior
Nearby City(ies): Eleveth, Ely, Cook, Duluth, Tofte, Aurora, Grand Marais
Congressional District(s): MI01, MI02, MI04, MN08
County(ies): MI: Alcona, Crawford, Delta, Iosco, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Newaygo, Oceana, Oscoda, Wexford; MN: Cook, Lake, Saint Louis; WV: Grant, Greenbrier, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Randolph, Tucker
Modified Date: 8/23/2011

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Climate Change Research Underway

(Story posted 8/22/2011)

In partnership with the Northern Research Station, Superior National Forest staff is working to quantify changes in forest vegetation related to climate patterns using Recovery Act Funds. Last season’s fieldwork along with additional inventory data are providing estimates of forest-wide carbon storage and cycling. Ecological simulation models are being used to

assess the likely impact of a changing climate on forest growth. Preliminary results indicate larger reductions in forest-wide carbon stocks under elevated natural disturbance rates than increased harvest.

Program Project Name: Dukes, Lower Peninsula, and Udell Experimental Forest Road and Related Ecosystem Enhancements

Local Project Name: Udell Fire Tower Road Reconstruction
Region: Northeastern Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Wellston, MI
Congressional District(s): MI01, MI02
County(ies): MI: Manistee, Marquette, Newaygo
Modified Date: 2/8/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Road Work Supports Safety, Protects Resources

(Story posted 9/16/2011)

Success Story from the Huron-Manistee National Forest on October 22, 2010:

In the spring of 2010, the Manistee County Road Commission reconstructed Udell Fire Tower Road through a Recovery Act-funded project agreement with the Forest Service.
This project was initiated by Northern Research Station in an effort to enhance the ecosystem within experimental forest areas throughout the region. This project is located within the Udell Experimental Forest on the Cadillac-Manistee Ranger District.

This particular roadway has a steep gradient in many sections, and significant erosion was occurring causing sediment loads to be discharged into adjacent watersheds. The goal of the construction was to correct drainage ways by means of diverting water runoff from the roadway and minimizing this sediment runoff. Workers established proper ditch lines and re-established vegetation to collect and transport runoff. Once the proper roadway prism was established, it was capped with recycled crushed concrete aggregate to provide a stable long-term base.

The Udell Experimental Forest offers research opportunities, and maintenance of the Udell Hills Fire Tower Road is an investment in maintaining that research infrastructure. In addition to providing access deeper into the Udell Experimental Forest, this project also improved access to the historic Udell Fire Tower, which is the only one of its kind remaining in Lower Michigan and is a popular historic site on the forest. This road also provides access to the Udell Radio Tower. The radio tower is used in several capacities, including emergency communications during fires.

Not only has this project improved the roadway to the experimental forest but visitors now have better access to the Udell Fire Tower, and safety has been improved for both employees and visitors.

Program Project Name: Dukes, Lower Peninsula, Udell Experimental Forest Road Maintenance and Improvements

Local Project Name: Dukes Experimental Forest Road Reconstruction
Region: Northeastern Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Marquette, MI
Congressional District(s): MI01, MI02
County(ies): MI: Manistee, Marquette, Newaygo
Modified Date: 2/8/2012

Story:

News Release Outlines Recovery Act Project Work

(Story posted 9/16/2011)

Hiawatha National Forest news release issued May 14, 2010:
Forest Service and Road Commission Implement Recovery Act Projects

Dukes, MI –Two more Recovery Act-funded projects are about to hit the ground on the USDA Forest Service's Hiawatha National Forest. Today Hiawatha Forest Supervisor Tom Schmidt announced that project partner Marquette County Road Commission (MCRC) will begin work this month on several roads and culverts within the Hiawatha's Dukes Experimental Forest. The work will be accomplished cooperatively by the Hiawatha and MCRC. The Forest Service is providing Recovery Act funding through its Northern Research Station while the MCRC is implementing the projects with its work crews and subcontractors.

According to Forest Service transportation engineer Colin Nugent, the projects (totaling $632,000) will reconstruct a total of 10.6 miles of Forest Roads 2904, 2907, 2915, 2916, 2918 and 2921 and replace aging culverts.

Jim Iwanicki, MCRC engineer/manager, added that during the projects, the road will be open except for brief closures (1-2 hours) as aging culverts are replaced. He explained, "Delays and inconveniences will be minimized by making temporary routes around roadwork and by using media announcements for any temporary closures that might cause significant inconveniences."

The projects are expected to be complete by November 2010. The Hiawatha National Forest and MCRC appreciate the patience of the motoring public during this effort.

Both Iwanicki and Nugent expressed appreciation for the partnership between the two agencies. In addition to the direct effect of accomplishing road improvements on jointly managed roads, the projects will also indirectly assist the road commission budget, helping MCRC provide year-round employment and year-round service on the entire MCRC road system.

According to Nugent, the Dukes road improvement projects are part of a series of upcoming Hiawatha National Forest projects that will repair and reconstruct aging roads and provide aquatic organism passage through improved culverts. For more information about the Dukes project, please contact Colin Nugent (906-789-3359) or Jim Iwanicki (906-486-4491).

Program Project Name: Implementation of Mitigation Strategies Based on the Slowing Ash Mortality Effort in the Upper Peninsula

Local Project Name: SLAM--Slow Ash Mortality
Region: Northeastern Area S&PF
Nearby City(ies): Delta, Houghton, Mackinac, Schoolcraft
Congressional District(s): MI01, MI08
County(ies): MI: Delta, Houghton, Mackinac, Schoolcraft
Modified Date: 11/2/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support SLAM Project

(Story posted 9/21/2011)

USDA Forest Service Recovery Act-funded support to slow expansion of emerald ash borer (EAB)-caused tree mortality will end soon, but much has been accomplished over the multi-year partnership effort underway in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Emerald ash borer (EAB), an exotic pest from Asia, was discovered in southeast Michigan in 2002. Since then, this invader has killed an estimated 40 million ash trees in lower Michigan. EAB populations have now been found in at least 14 other states and two Canadian provinces, costing public and private landowners millions of dollars.

"Everyone agrees that we need to do something besides stand back and watch the ash trees die." So goes the reasoning behind the project to SLAM, which stands for SL.ow A.sh M.ortality, said Deborah McCullough, professor of forest entomology at Michigan State University (MSU).

The SLAM project is a collaborative effort involving MSU, the USDA Forest Service, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Michigan Technological University (MTU), the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA), the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and Michigan Conservation Districts in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The goal of the SL.A.M. pilot project in Michigan's Upper Peninsula is to delay and slow the expansion of ash mortality by reducing populations of the beetle in newly-infested sites outside of known EAB infestations.

SLAM (SL.ow A.sh M.ortality) project activities have been providing work for project coordinators, data management specialists, and field and public outreach staff to carry out site-specific activities, including conducting community tree inventories and developing management plans; applying systemic insecticides; attracting or concentrating EAB in girdled trees that are subsequently destroyed before the next generation of adults can emerge; and

educating the public about how to recognize and manage EAB.

"It's not common to have people from this many agencies collaborate on a project," said John Bedford, MDA pest response program manager. "We all share a goal of developing an integrated management plan for EAB outlier sites that can eventually be used in other states."

After the Recovery Act funds have been expended in late November, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry forest health funds will continue to support the collaborative effort that includes the Forest Service, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and several state entities in Michigan. Recovery Act work outcomes will be available in 2012, but full results will not be obtainable until all work is done late in 2013.

Program Project Name: Region-wide Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects/Readiness

Local Project Name: Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects/Readiness
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Chippewa
Nearby City(ies): Lake, Cook, and St. Louis counties
Congressional District(s): IL11, IN08, IN09, MI01, MN08, OH06, OH07, OH18
County(ies): IL: Will; IN: Brown, Crawford, Jackson, Martin, Monroe, Orange, Perry; MI: Alger, Chippewa, Delta, Gogebic, Ontonagon, Schoolcraft; MN: Beltrami, Cass, Cook, Itasca, Lake, Saint Louis; OH: Athens, Hocking, Lawrence, Perry, Washington
Modified Date: 2/14/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Hazardous Fuels Reduction Activities

(Story posted 10/12/2011)

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was implemented on the Superior National Forest during the summer of 2009. Projects were identified for hazardous fuels treatment on private land in high-risk areas as identified in community wildfire protection plans (CWPPs).

Three northeastern Minnesota counties (Cook, Lake, St. Louis) completed county-wide CWPPs beginning in 2004 through 2008. CWPP’s were developed collaboratively between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Forest Service, county commissioners and emergency management, area volunteer fire departments, and private citizens. The plans identify areas that are at risk because of hazardous fire conditions and actions that can be taken to improve those conditions.

The Fernberg Corridor/Kawishiwi Triangle wildland-urban interface (WUI) area was identified in the Lake County CWPP as a high priority for fuels reduction. It is considered a high-risk area due to high fire occurrence, high density of permanent and seasonal residences, and multiple resorts and outfitting businesses. With the heavy fuel loading of spruce-budworm

damaged balsam fir, many residents do not have adequate defensible space. Within this WUI area, the Sunset Road community participated in fuels reduction, and 21 landowners improved their defensible space for a total of 90 acres.

In St. Louis County, the Ely Area WUI is identified as a high priority for fuels reduction. The Burntside Ridge Trail Road Association participated in improving their defensible space, with 20 homeowners completing 186 acres.
Thirteen private contractors worked on these projects. One new small business was opened (Ely Brush Clearing) to take advantage of the work being offered and several existing contractors hired additional employees, as well as buying new equipment.
In Cook County, Lutsen WUI area was identified as a high priority for fuels reduction work due to the buildup of understory fuels and the remoteness of private property.

One particular area within the larger WUI area, Tait Lake, has been working on fuel hazard clean up; access and egress improvement; and accessible fire department tools for the past five years. The Tait Lake area is comprised of several parcels of private property and common property that belongs to an association. The Recovery Act funds are being used to finalize fuel reduction work in the area. The Tait Lake Homeowners Association has been working to do fuels reduction work on 120 acres of common property with the Recovery Act funds. At this time approximately 60 acres have been completed. One contractor, Oneil Tree Service, has been working on the project. This contract has been present in the county for several years. The company has hired two to six employees to help with the work.

A side benefit to homeowners being educated on their role in fire safety and creating defensible space was the sense of community that was fostered. The Sunset Road Association held a Chipper Days and got many homeowners involved in improving the area's access and egress by cutting and chipping brush and fuels along the roadway. This community is also applying to receive Firewise Community status.

The Burntside Ridge Trail Road Association also has plans to continue to improve their access and egress and is continuing with fuels reductions on other private land. Workers treated 20 acres of this property in July 2011.

Program Project Name: Invasive Species Control

Local Project Name: Fort Custer Recreation Area invasive species control
Region: Northeastern Area S&PF
Nearby City(ies): Fort Custer Recreation Area
Congressional District(s): MI01, MI02, MI03, MI04, MI06, MI07, MI08, MI10, MI15

County(ies): MI: Alcona, Alger, Allegan, Alpena, Antrim, Arenac, Baraga, Barry, Bay, Benzie, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Clare, Clinton, Crawford, Delta, Dickinson, Eaton, Emmet, Genesee, Gladwin, Gogebic, Grand Traverse, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Houghton, Huron, Ingham, Ionia, Iosco, Iron, Isabella, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kalkaska, Kent, Keweenaw, Lake, Lapeer, Leelanau, Lenawee, Livingston, Luce, Mackinac, Macomb, Manistee, Marquette, Mason, Mecosta, Menominee, Midland, Missaukee, Monroe, Montcalm, Montmorency, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oakland, Oceana, Ogemaw, Ontonagon, Osceola, Oscoda, Otsego, Ottawa, Presque Isle, Roscommon, Saginaw, Saint Clair, Saint Joseph, Sanilac, Schoolcraft, Shiawassee, Tuscola, Van Buren, Washtenaw, Wayne, Wexford

Modified Date: 1/20/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Project Supports Forest Health

(Story posted 11/16/2011)

USDA Forest Service Recovery Act project funding is supporting Fort Custer Recreation Area (FCRA) black locust control. The FCRA project is described in the grant narrative as “black locust control” with the area treated encompassing some 50 to 60 acres. The site is a mixture of oak barrens, oak forest, and prairie remnants. Over the years, black locust has significantly invaded all three of those habitat types.

The stated purpose of the project follows:
“…to continue the ongoing control of invasive black locust in targeted locations adjacent to recent prairie plantings and initiate control within rare plant populations, and high-quality oak barrens. Entire clones would be treated wherever possible to increase the probability of successful long-term control. The sites that would be treated as part of this project currently support or will provide habitat for species such as Henslow's sparrow, grasshopper sparrow, downy sunflower, false boneset, white false indigo, and leadplant. The primary treatment locations will help to protect the high investment of Department of Natural Resources time and funds into these sites and complete a major step in the restoration of the historic Coguaiak Prairie. All areas are highly visible to the public (adjacent to prairie plantings, hiking and biking trails, and along roads) and will serve to further the restoration of one of the largest grasslands is southwestern Michigan.”

By late October 2011, much of the work to manage three situations at this site had been completed. The first is prairie restoration. These sites were old prairie remnants that had become invaded by black locust and had grown up to become nearly pure stands of mature black locust trees. The plan called for complete land clearing of these sites and replanting with native prairie plants. The typical methodology on these sites was an aerial application of herbicide to kill all the mature trees, followed by cutting and chipping of all the woody debris, and finally stump grinding to allow operability of the site. These sites will receive chemical spot treatments in the spring to kill off any resprouting locust and subsequently planted back to prairie. Long-term maintenance will be accomplished prescribed fire.

A second scenario at the site involved mature oak or oak mixed forest that has become invaded by black locust. Within these stands locust of all sizes existed. The plan on these

sites was to girdle and herbicide the larger stems. Smaller stems will be either cut-stump treated or basal barked. Long-term maintenance will be prescribed fire and chemical if needed.

A final scenario was small-stem locust thickets that have invaded small opening or edges of larger openings. These thickets are surprisingly thick and dense, with each locust stem being adorned with large compliments of stout sharp thorns. These sites are/will be treated with either foliar spray or basal; bark treated; and long-term maintained by prescribed fire.

The invasive plant control project at FCRA appears to be a well planned and executed operation that should be able to meet all of the projects objectives. However, there are a number of additional aspects to this project that deserve mention. Firstly, the black locust control project at FCRA was an effort that was already planned and underway prior to the appearance of Recovery Act funding.

Some locust removal and prairie restoration had already occurred on the site in the year or two prior, but the Recovery Act funding allowed the state to expand the scope of the project and execute the project in a shorter period of time, without negatively affecting existing funding sources or delaying other projects. The Recovery Act funding came at a very opportune time for work planned at FCRA. The entire restoration project was really forced by a significant blow-down event that had occurred in the FCRA just a couple of years earlier. The blow-down affected the project initiation by necessitating the need for some type of salvage or fuels reduction operation, but it also highlighted the black locust issue when a proliferation of black locust quickly appeared in the disturbed areas.

Much of the work mentioned at FCRA mentions the use of fire as a long-term management tool. Often burns are conducted jointly with the adjacent National Guard’s Fort Custer Training Center. Burns are frequently conducted at the site, and such burns can be conducted safely without negatively affecting or endangering nearby landowners. There is also strong local public and visitor support for burning and little or no public opposition.

While mentioned earlier, it should be stressed that this site does contain a large number of state-listed threatened, endangered, and species of special concern. High-value sites should always be a priority in any invasive plant control projects. FCRA managers have also developed their own on-site seed plots for all the prairie species used in their prairie plantings. FCRA owned, but previously leased, agriculture fields have been pressed into service for cultivating a number of key restoration species that allows FCRA to use local seed sources and produce high quality planting material at very low cost.

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
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: 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

Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3m6r9zt

Modified Date: 4/13/2011

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."

Program Project Name: Cutfoot, Pike Bay, and Marcell Experimental Forest Road Related Ecosystem Enhancements

Local Project Name: Cutfoot, Pike Bay, and Marcell Experimental Forest (EF) Road-Related Ecosystem Enhancements
Region: Northeastern Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Cass Lake, MN (Pike Bay and Cutfoot); Grand Rapids, MN (Marcell)
Congressional District(s): MN08
County(ies): MN: Cass, Itasca, Koochiching
Modified Date: 4/20/2011

Story:

Experimental Forests Benefit from Recovery Act-funded Road Maintenance Work

(Story posted 4/15/2011)

The Chippewa National Forest in Minnesota includes three experimental research forests, established in 1932 and 1960. All three of the Experimental Forests received much-needed road maintenance work thanks to American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funding.

The Recovery Act projects allowed road maintenance as well as water crossing improvements within the Pike Bay, Cutfoot, and Marcell experimental forests. The road maintenance portion entailed clearing, mowing, shaping and gravel resurfacing of many miles of roads in and around the experimental forests. The goal was to restore roads to a condition similar to when they were first constructed.
Through a partnership agreement with Leech Lake Tribal Roads Department, the rehabilitation of 39.4 miles of multiple forest roads within the Pike Bay and Cutfoot experimental forests was awarded to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe on September 29, 2009. Work began in January 2010 and was finished in the autumn of 2010.

William J. Schwartz & Sons, Inc of Bovey, Minnesota, began work on June 3, 2010, to clear, mow, shape, install culverts, and resurface gravel on 6.3 miles of roadway within the Marcell Experimental Forest. The work was completed in July 2010.

The second part of this Recovery Act project included culvert replacement of structures on three water crossings on the Eagles Nest Road in the Cutfoot Experimental Forest. These crossings had been identified as posing issues to Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) and other concerns. The construction contract on the water crossings project was completed in January 2011 by Erickson Building and Co. Inc. of St. Michael, Minnesota.

Program Project Name: Bois Forte Development Corporation

Local Project Name: Bois Forte Woody Biomass Processing Equipment
Region: Forest Products Laboratory
Nearby City(ies): Nett Lake
Congressional District(s): MN08
County(ies): MN: Saint Louis
Modified Date: 5/19/2011

Story:
Forest Products Lab Recovery Act Grant Benefits Chippewa Tribe

(Story posted 5/18/2011)

In 2009 the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa was awarded a $250,000 Recovery Act grant to purchase biomass processing equipment. The Tribe is in northern Minnesota, about 80 miles from the Canadian border. The predominant landscape is forestlands. Logging once was a large employer but recent mill closures has affected the forested landscape as well as reduced employment opportunities in forestry. The Recovery Act grant allowed acquiring equipment to help provide full-time high-wage jobs to between 20 to 30 tribal members. In a landscape dominated by forestlands, this type of employment keeps tribal members in harmony with the landscape.

On July 22, 2009, a request for proposals was released for a horizontal grinder. Only one quote was received. A contingency then attended the Northstar Expo in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, on September 18, 2009, where several biomass equipment vendors were having demonstrations on-site. Based on discussions with several vendors, the tribe changed its focus from a wood grinder to a wood chipper. Tribal leaders also held discussions with Laurential Energy Authority (LEA), the tribe's primary market for processed biomass. LEA preferred chipped material over ground material and was willing to pay a premium price for it.

The logging equipment is being used to chip woody biomass that is taken to the LEA plant. The Tribe received several quotes for chippers and eventually decided on a Morbark chipper. That equipment was outfitted with specific accessories for the Tribe's biomass and the equipment was delivered on July 28, 2010. The Tribe held training for the operators in October and acquired a chip transport trailer in the meantime.

In the first part of 2011, the Tribe conducted a pilot project where LEA hired the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa to operate the chipper at their wood yard to chip round wood for LEA. Discussions are ongoing with extending this lease arrangement with LEA.

Program Project Name: Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects/Readiness greater than 120 days

Local Project Name: Healthy Forests and Fuels Reduction

Region: Eastern Region

Forest: Superior

Nearby City(ies): Tofte, Eveleth, Ely, Cook

Congressional District(s): IL11, IL12, IL19, MI01, MI02, MN08, OH06, VT00, WI07, WI08

County(ies): IL: Hardin, Jackson, Johnson, Pope, Will; MI: Lake, Newaygo, Oscoda; MN: Cook, Lake, Saint Louis; OH: Gallia, Lawrence; VT: Addison, Bennington, Rutland, Windham, Windsor; WI: Bayfield, Florence, Forest, Oconto, Price, Vilas

Modified Date: 8/24/2011

Story:
Superior National Forest Recovery Act-funded Work Provides Many Benefits

(Story posted 8/22/2011)

On the Superior National Forest, a Recovery Act-funded wildland fire management project involved hazardous fuel reduction, harvests, and forest regeneration to provide employment opportunities within the timber industry in Minnesota. As part of the Caribou Stewardship Project, workers harvested approximately 450 acres of timber, and piled and burned slash. Workers also treated 196 acres on the west zone to reduce fuels. A total of 2,750 acres were prepared for harvest. In addition, workers “marked to standard” 50 miles of national forest boundaries. The forest is now healthier, and mangers will see the benefits of the work for many years.

Program Project Name: Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects/Readiness less than or equal to 120 days

Local Project Name: Climate Change Monitoring
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Superior
Nearby City(ies): Eleveth, Ely, Cook, Duluth, Tofte, Aurora, Grand Marais
Congressional District(s): MI01, MI02, MI04, MN08
County(ies): MI: Alcona, Crawford, Delta, Iosco, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Newaygo, Oceana, Oscoda, Wexford; MN: Cook, Lake, Saint Louis; WV: Grant, Greenbrier, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Randolph, Tucker
Modified Date: 8/23/2011

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Climate Change Research Underway

(Story posted 8/22/2011)

In partnership with the Northern Research Station, Superior National Forest staff is working to quantify changes in forest vegetation related to climate patterns using Recovery Act Funds. Last season’s fieldwork along with additional inventory data are providing estimates of forest-wide carbon storage and cycling. Ecological simulation models are being used to assess the likely impact of a changing climate on forest growth. Preliminary results indicate larger reductions in forest-wide carbon stocks under elevated natural disturbance rates than increased harvest.

Program Project Name: Bellerud Energy, LLC

Local Project Name: Bellerud Forest to Energy Collaboration
Region: Forest Products Laboratory
Nearby City(ies): Pine River

Congressional District(s): MN08
County(ies): MN: Cass; ND: Cass
Modified Date: 1/11/2012

Story:
Recovery Act Project Ends Prematurely following Grant Recipient's Death

(Story posted 9/8/2011)

A Recovery Act project designed to help establish a biomass briquetting facility near Pine River, Minnesota, to help decrease forest restoration and fire suppression costs on the Chippewa National Forest has ended prematurely. The primary operative in the effort to create a feasible market for biomass in central Cass County died in spring 2011, and project work subsequently ended.

The Fargo, North Dakota-based grant applicant had planned to purchase the first of four briquetters with this grant to establish a manufacturing facility. All of the funds except approximately $33,500 spent for engineering services were deobligated and returned to the federal government.

Program Project Name: Cutfoot, Pike Bay, and Marcell Experimental Forest Road Related Ecosystem Enhancements

Local Project Name: Cutfoot, Pike Bay, and Marcell Experimental Forest Road Related Ecosystem Enhancements
Region: Northeastern Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Grand Rapids, MN
Congressional District(s): MN08
County(ies): MN: Cass, Itasca, Koochiching
Modified Date: 2/8/2012

Story:
Recovery Act Project Work Benefits Research, Tribe

(Story posted 9/16/2011)

From a Chippewa National Forest Recovery Act Success Story dated 7/10/2010:

The Chippewa National Forest includes three experimental research forests, established in 1932 and 1960. All three of the experimental forests will receive much-needed road maintenance work thanks to the Recovery Act! Recovery Act funding will provide for road maintenance as well as water crossing improvements within the Pike Bay, Cut Foot Sioux, and Marcell experimental forests. The road maintenance portion entails clearing, mowing, shaping and gravel resurfacing of many miles of roads in and around the experimental forests. The goal is to restore roads to a condition similar to when first constructed.

Through a partnership agreement with Leech Lake Tribal Roads Department, the rehabilitation of 39.4 miles of multiple forest roads within the Pike Bay and Cut Foot experimental forests was awarded to Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe on September 29, 2009; work began in January 2010. Work also started on June 3, 2010 on 6.3 miles of clearing, mowing, shaping, culvert installation and gravel resurfacing within the Marcell Experimental Forest, under a construction contract awarded to a local contractor.

The second part of this Recovery Act project includes culvert replacement of structures on three water crossings on the Eagles Nest Road in the Cut Foot Experimental Forest. These crossings have been identified as posing issues to Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) and other concerns. The construction contract on the water crossings project has been awarded to a private contractor, with work scheduled to begin this fall.

The Experimental Forest Road Maintenance Recovery Act project was proposed by the Forest Service Research Station in St. Paul and will be implemented by the Chippewa National Forest. The network of roads in an experimental forest provides researchers access to ongoing projects and studies such as long term soil productivity, red pine management, and carbon sequestration. Like other roads within the Chippewa National Forest, well maintained roads decrease erosion and impacts to water quality. Recovery Act projects provide the Chippewa National Forest with a unique opportunity to create jobs in our communities while implementing projects to benefit the land and our communities.

Program Project Name: Cutfoot, Pike Bay, and Marcell Experimental Forest Road Maintenance and Improvements

Local Project Name: Cutfoot, Pike Bay, and Marcell Experimental Forest Road Maintenance and Improvements

Region: Northeastern Research Station

Nearby City(ies): Grand Rapids, MN

Congressional District(s): MN08

County(ies): MN: Cass, Itasca, Koochiching

Modified Date: 12/16/2011

Story:

Chippewa National Forest Uses Recovery Act Funds to Upgrade Experimental Forest Roads

(Story posted 7/10/2010)

The Chippewa National Forest includes three experimental research forests, established in 1932 and 1960. All three of the experimental forests will receive much-needed road maintenance work thanks to the Recovery Act! Recovery Act funding will provide for road maintenance as well as water crossing improvements within the Pike Bay, Cutfoot Sioux, and Marcell experimental forests.

The road maintenance portion entails clearing, mowing, shaping, and gravel resurfacing of many miles of roads in and around the experimental forests. The goal is to restore roads to a condition similar to when first constructed.

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The Experimental Forest Road Maintenance Recovery Act project was proposed by the Forest Service Research Station in St. Paul and will be implemented by the Chippewa National Forest. The network of roads in an experimental forest provides researchers access to ongoing projects and studies such as long term soil productivity, red pine management, and carbon sequestration. Like other roads within the Chippewa National Forest, well-maintained roads decrease erosion and impacts to water quality. Recovery Act projects provide the Chippewa National Forest with a unique opportunity to create jobs in local communities while implementing projects to benefit the land and communities.

A diverse set of road maintenance activities will be undertaken through Recovery Act-funded projects. Road maintenance projects are identified through extensive analysis of resource conditions and public needs. Stabilizing or relocating roads too close to lakes and streams will prevent erosion and protect water quality. Decommissioning roads and restoring native vegetation helps snow and rainfall to be quickly absorbed into the land and reduces erosion and flooding.

Individuals hired under the Recovery Act will complete this labor-intensive work through a number of approaches, depending on the specific project area and needs: installing physical barriers at road entrances; replanting road beds; limiting erosion; removing fills and culverts; reestablishing drainage-ways; stabilizing road shoulders; and totally obliterating roads and reshaping roadbeds to match the surrounding area.

Program Project Name: Region-wide Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects/Readiness

Local Project Name: Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects/Readiness
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Chippewa
Nearby City(ies): Lake, Cook, and St. Louis counties
Congressional District(s): IL11, IN08, IN09, MI01, MN08, OH06, OH07, OH18

County(ies): IL: Will; IN: Brown, Crawford, Jackson, Martin, Monroe, Orange, Perry; MI: Alger, Chippewa, Delta, Gogebic, Ontonagon, Schoolcraft; MN: Beltrami, Cass, Cook, Itasca, Lake, Saint Louis; OH: Athens, Hocking, Lawrence, Perry, Washington
Modified Date: 2/14/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Hazardous Fuels Reduction Activities

(Story posted 10/12/2011)

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was implemented on the Superior National Forest during the summer of 2009. Projects were identified for hazardous fuels treatment on private land in high-risk areas as identified in community wildfire protection plans (CWPPs).

Three northeastern Minnesota counties (Cook, Lake, St. Louis) completed county-wide CWPPs beginning in 2004 through 2008. CWPP's were developed collaboratively between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Forest Service, county commissioners and emergency management, area volunteer fire departments, and private citizens. The plans identify areas that are at risk because of hazardous fire conditions and actions that can be taken to improve those conditions.

The Fernberg Corridor/Kawishiwi Triangle wildland-urban interface (WUI) area was identified in the Lake County CWPP as a high priority for fuels reduction. It is considered a high-risk area due to high fire occurrence, high density of permanent and seasonal residences, and multiple resorts and outfitting businesses. With the heavy fuel loading of spruce-budworm damaged balsam fir, many residents do not have adequate defensible space. Within this WUI area, the Sunset Road community participated in fuels reduction, and 21 landowners improved their defensible space for a total of 90 acres.

In St. Louis County, the Ely Area WUI is identified as a high priority for fuels reduction. The Burntside Ridge Trail Road Association participated in improving their defensible space, with 20 homeowners completing 186 acres.
Thirteen private contractors worked on these projects. One new small business was opened (Ely Brush Clearing) to take advantage of the work being offered and several existing contractors hired additional employees, as well as buying new equipment.
In Cook County, Lutsen WUI area was identified as a high priority for fuels reduction work due to the buildup of understory fuels and the remoteness of private property.

One particular area within the larger WUI area, Tait Lake, has been working on fuel hazard clean up; access and egress improvement; and accessible fire department tools for the past five years. The Tait Lake area is comprised of several parcels of private property and common property that belongs to an association. The Recovery Act funds are being used to finalize fuel reduction work in the area. The Tait Lake Homeowners Association has been working to do fuels reduction work on 120 acres of common property with the Recovery Act funds. At this time approximately 60 acres have been completed. One contractor, Oneil Tree

Service, has been working on the project. This contract has been present in the county for several years. The company has hired two to six employees to help with the work.

A side benefit to homeowners being educated on their role in fire safety and creating defensible space was the sense of community that was fostered. The Sunset Road Association held a Chipper Days and got many homeowners involved in improving the area's access and egress by cutting and chipping brush and fuels along the roadway. This community is also applying to receive Firewise Community status.

The Burntside Ridge Trail Road Association also has plans to continue to improve their access and egress and is continuing with fuels reductions on other private land. Workers treated 20 acres of this property in July 2011.

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
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
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

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

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

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,

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
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.

Program Project Name: Missouri Fuel for Schools Program Partnership - Partnership with Mark Twain National Forest

Local Project Name: Missouri Fuels for Schools

Region: Northeastern Area S&PF

Forest: Mark Twain

Nearby City(ies): Eminence, Gainesville, Mountain View, Perryville, Steelville, and Ellington

Congressional District(s): MO08

County(ies): MO: Barry, Bollinger, Butler, Carter, Crawford, Dent, Douglas, Howell, Iron, Madison, Oregon, Ozark, Perry, Phelps, Pulaski, Reynolds, Ripley, Shannon, Stone, Taney, Texas, Washington, Wayne, Wright

Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/5s8luzj

Modified Date: 6/29/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Fuels for Schools Project Brings Jobs, Reduced Energy Costs, and Healthier Forests

(Story posted 6/23/2011)

Six southern Missouri schools are using USDA Forest Service Recovery Act grants to install boiler systems that will use woody biomass from local public and private forest land to heat their facilities. The projects designed to help reduce dependence on fossil fuels; reduce energy costs; create or retain jobs; and support healthy forests and the state’s forest industry have been underway since last fall and are expected to be finished in late summer. The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), in cooperation with the Forest Service’s State & Private Forestry program, awarded almost $6 million in grants to public schools for Fuels for Schools projects.

The week of October 18, 2010, officials hosted groundbreaking ceremonies at five schools to celebrate the start of Recovery Act-funded Missouri Fuels for Schools project construction. Speakers and guests of honor included federal, state, and local officials. Since then, work has been ongoing.

At Eminence R-I Elementary, the project went to bid unsuccessfully three times. Determined to move forward, the principal and the project coordinator located an HVAC contractor to

design the project. Anthony Heating and Air of Mountain Grove worked with the project engineer to design a viable project within budget. Anthony started work on June 6. The wood heating system centers on two Central Boiler cord-wood furnaces. These super-efficient, affordable, wood furnaces use the cheapest fuel available, cord-wood, and have the highest efficiency rating that EPA has given. The project coordinator is looking forward to showing other small school administrators and school board members, as well as other government officials, this project.

In the Gainesville R-V School District, between 60 and 65 people are working on this project daily, as the district has an additional $1.1 million project to replace windows; add a chiller to the biomass project that will be powered by the wood-chip boiler; and other deferred maintenance projects. This project will use AFS wood-chip heating equipment, and its design is totally different from the other five projects. The AFS equipment and pre-engineered building are scheduled to be installed in June. The District is also installing a new gas fired back-up boiler in the new biomass building.

The Mountain View-Birch Tree Liberty High School project has been slow to start, and progress has been slow. The project architect is now getting weekly progress reports, and the project coordinator is making weekly inspections. The Messersmith Manufacturing equipment is ready to deliver.

In Perry County, the project was in danger of imploding when bids were opened and the low bid was $300,000 over the grant amount. The architect and engineer were directed to redesign a less expensive project and renegotiate the bid with the low bidder, which they successfully did. The selected contractor, Brockmiller Construction, has begun work, and MDC is extending the completion date to August 15. Messersmith Manufacturing has the boiler and combustor ready to deliver.

The Steelville R-III School District’s project is on schedule. Messersmith Manufacturing has the wood-chip heating equipment ready to deliver. Crawford Construction, the general contractor, has all of the new biomass building concrete work completed and all of the underground hydronic piping installed. The pre-engineered building for wood chip storage and heating equipment is also installed. Everyone is pleased with the quality of the general contractor’s work and timeliness. This project has been under budget since bid opening.

In the Southern Reynolds County R-II School District, the concrete work for the new biomass building, the underground hydronic piping, all interior piping, and the pre-engineered building are all complete. The general contractor, RL Persons of Poplar Bluff, is now waiting for the Messersmith wood-chip heating equipment. This project has progressed the fastest since bids were opened.

The finished projects will result in significant energy savings annually while establishing markets for small-diameter trees, thereby becoming a tool to reduce fuel loading , greenhouse gas emissions, and restore natural forest communities on both public and private forest lands. The six projects will serve as examples to other businesses, public buildings, and schools throughout Missouri that are interested in energy savings through the use of

biomass energy systems. Best of all, the projects are promoting local job creation and retention for construction, manufacturing, and woods products industry workers.

More information is available at www.missourifuelsforschools.totorcd.org.

Program Project Name: Missouri Fuel for Schools Program Partnership - Partnership with Mark Twain National Forest

Local Project Name: Missouri Fuels for Schools Ribbon Cuttings

Region: Northeastern Area S&PF

Nearby City(ies): Gainesville, Perryville, S. Reynolds, Eminence, Mountain View, Steelville

Congressional District(s): MO07, MO08

County(ies): MO: Barry, Bollinger, Butler, Carter, Crawford, Dent, Douglas, Howell, Iron, Madison, Oregon, Ozark, Perry, Phelps, Pulaski, Reynolds, Ripley, Shannon, Stone, Taney, Texas, Washington, Wayne, Wright

Modified Date: 12/23/2011

Story:

Kick the Tires and Light the Fires
by R."Fitz" Fitzhenry, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry

(Story posted 11/16/2011)

Last autumn I went to a week of groundbreakings for Missouri Fuels for Schools projects. Our partners invited me again this year to celebrate the results at ribbon cuttings at six rural schools in and around the Ozarks.

Common sense was the 2010 theme, and it tracked through to 2011. The schools successfully used Recovery Act funding from the Forest Service to convert aging heating plants to woody-biomass systems. They'll burn small-diameter wood from the overstocked forests right beyond their schoolyard, improving wildlife habitat and reducing wildfire risk while using local companies and resources to keep their students warm. Common sense prevails on the bottom line as well, with schools saving $22,000 to $41,000 each annually in heating costs.

I like the tone of coverage from the ribbon cuttings: "Conservationists excited to bring woody biomass boilers online." Those conservationists are as follows: the Missouri Departments of Conservation and Natural Resources; principals, superintendents, and school boards; architects, engineers, manufacturers, and contractors; Federal politicians and local mayors; and kids.

Missouri's new renewable energy heating plants boast state-of-the-art control technologies, with systems that can be monitored remotely through the Web or by Smartphone. Data gathered will help plant operators and the state understand system performance over time, and economics and science curriculum can be developed around it. The heating plants even have ESP—-literally—electrostatic precipitators that reduce particulate emissions ten to one.

That’s important in dispelling myths, as these are high-efficiency plants, not the “smokers” often associated with outdoor wood boilers.

The most memorable statements of the week came from those with the most at stake. For me, Michael Anthony’s words replay. His small business, Anthony Heating & Air, completed the smallest project at the smallest school of the six, but he got it 100 percent right. “This project put good wages in the pockets of good workers,” said Anthony. “It put bread on people's tables.”

Congratulations to Anthony and the other contractors, engineers, and architects. Congratulations to the manufacturers of these American-made fireboxes and boilers. Congratulations to the State of Missouri. And especially, congratulations to the kids of the school districts leading the way toward green energy:

• Gainesville R-V School District
• Mountain View-Birch Tree Liberty High School
• Eminence R-I Elementary School
• Southern Reynolds County R-II School District
• Steelville R-III School District
• Perry County 32 School District.

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
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Park
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3thmta4
Modified Date: 4/13/2011

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: 8/18/2011

Story:

Flathead National Forest in Montana Working on Recovery Act Recreation Projects

(Story 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 should 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 for 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: 9/26/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funding Replaces Northern Montana Aging Wooden Bridges

(Story 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-inch x 91-inch corrugated metal arch pipes and culverts were repaired to improve aquatic 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
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3v75rx9
Modified Date: 4/6/2012

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 when Recovery Act-funded construction started in July. Specifically, people using the Shields River and Smith Creek roads in the Crazy Mountains; Mill Creek Road in the Paradise Valley; Hyalite Canyon Road south of Bozeman; and 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 Hood Creek Campground renovation. Hood Creek Campground was closed from about the end of July through 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 6 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, reconstruction work on the Smith Creek and Shields River roads 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 were made possible through the additional Recovery Act 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, Sanders
Modified Date: 2/16/2012

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. 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, known as 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 benefited 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, 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
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Flathead
Modified Date: 2/16/2012

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 crew is one of two Recovery Act-funded trail crews that are working through the summer on the district in various locations, taking on piece by piece an impressive list of projects outlined by the recreation program managers.

The Plains/Thompson Falls District in Sanders County typically operates 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 trail 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 Recovery 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, 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
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Sanders
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3vdanyy
Modified Date: 4/12/2011

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: 6/8/2011

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Replacement of Aging Wooden Bridges in Montana

(Story posted 10/10/2009)

This Recovery Act project replaced 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 to be replaced with 142" x 91" 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, was 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
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
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Ravalli
Related Photo(s) Link: http://www.flickr.com/photos/fsnorthernregion/5142992297/
Modified Date: 3/1/2012

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
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
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Lincoln
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3txeu5y
Modified Date: 6/8/2011

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.

From July 16 to 23, 2010, prime contractor URECO Inc.and paving sub-contractor Knife River applied the new surfacing on McKillop Road. Twenty-three 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
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3qrcx2c
Modified Date: 6/23/2011

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 improvements 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.

Program Project Name: Bitterroot National Forest-Ravalli County Roads Projects

Local Project Name: Ravalli County Roads Project
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Bitterroot N.F.
Nearby City(ies): Darby, Hamilton, Sula, Stevensville
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Ravalli
Modified Date: 8/23/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Bitterroot National Forest Road Improvements

(Story posted 8/1/2011)

On the Bitterroot National Forest, a $2.8 million Recovery Act-funded Ravalli County Roads project is helping address critical needs for roadways on the Forest. The finished work will benefit travelers and forest resources.

The Forest is working with the Ravalli County Weed District, Trapper Creek Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center, and the Back Country Horsemen to accomplish the following: reconstruction of three timber bridges (Indian Creek, Sheephead Creek, Swift Creek); Forest-wide brushing of road corridors, gravel work, sign replacement, and herbicide application to treat invasive weeds; reconstruct of the trailhead parking area and horse trailer pull-through parking at Mill Canyon; surfacing of Forest Road 1328; and installation of trailhead information signs.

Program Project Name: Bitterroot National Forest - Ravalli County Facility Projects

Local Project Name: Ravalli County facilities project
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Bitterroot N.F.
Nearby City(ies): Darby, Hamilton, Sula, Stevensville
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Ravalli

Related Photo(s) Link:
http://www.flickr.com/photos/fsnorthernregion/5985135801/in/photostream;
http://www.flickr.com/photos/fsnorthernregion/5985135359/in/photostream;
http://www.flickr.com/photos/fsnorthernregion/page2/

Modified Date: 8/23/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Upgrade Bitterroot National Forest Facilities

(Story posted 8/1/2011)

On the Bitterroot National Forest, a $3.4 million Recovery Act project to update 23 Forest Service administrative facilities built in the 1950s and currently in disrepair is underway.

Work includes upgrades to improve safety for forest visitors and employees, making the facilities energy efficient and environmentally-friendly and reducing deferred maintenance.

The project also includes reconstructing or refurbishing numerous recreation sites, campgrounds, and historic buildings in partnership with the Trapper Creek Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center and the Back Country Horsemen.

Workers installed a new pavilion, restroom, picnic tables, group fire ring, gravel pathways, and parking areas at the Rock Creek Group Site at Lake Como. They also reconstructed Upper Como Campground, including replacing fire rings and picnic tables, installing four walk-in tent camp sites, two new restrooms, and a new loop with additional campsites, doubling the current capacity. The campground recently re-opened for business.

This fall workers will install a new boat dock and begin expanding the Lake Como Boat Launch parking area.

Other work includes the following: building a new picnic area shelter at East Fork Guard Station on the Sula Ranger District; restoring the Historic Woods Cabin at Lake Como; replacing outdated information boards, registration boxes, and interpretive signs forest wide; and new surfacing of road and parking spurs at Warm Springs Campground.

Program Project Name: Managing Noxious Weeds & Invasive Species - Lincoln Co.

Local Project Name: Managing Noxious Weeds and Invasive Species in Lincoln County, Montana

Region: Northern Region

Nearby City(ies): Libby and Troy, Montana

Congressional District(s): MT00

County(ies): MT: Lincoln

Modified Date: 8/17/2011

Story:

Lincoln County, Montana Benefits from Recovery Act-funded Weed, Fuels Reduction Treatments

(Story posted 8/3/2011)

A USDA Forest Service Recovery Act-funded project to reduce noxious weeds and fire hazards across the Lincoln County is benefiting the landscape while providing jobs for local residents.

Dan Williams, Lincoln County weed supervisor, said, “It’s been a real good partnership. Lincoln County may have done the work on the ground but Janet Valle, the Forest Service’s noxious weed grant coordinator, has been supporting us every step of the way.”

Lincoln County used some of its funds to hire local residents to conduct weed treatments throughout the county. In addition, the county also hired local contractors to conduct part of the site treatments, including brush clearing, tree thinning, and chipping.

Lincoln County’s approach for using the funds was to tackle a number of problem areas near the communities of Libby and Troy. The sites identified to be treated reflect the interests and support of local residents; typically the areas were overgrown with brush, infested with noxious weeds, and posed safety concerns. Clearing weeds and brush in those areas allowed residents to "take back" the public areas, reduce the fire hazard from overgrown brush and weeds, and to once again safely use the sites.

The Flower Creek site in Libby is city property adjacent to a middle school and a number of residences that was overgrown with brush and weeds and used by transients. Clearing and spraying the Flower Creek site reduced the fire danger and safety concerns, and now kids traveling to the school and recreationists can use the site.

Dan and Ed Levert, Lincoln County foresters, developed the approach for restoring the Skidale site near Libby. The former ski area more recently used as a community sledding area was overgrown with brush and small trees and infested with weeds. A local forestry contractor cleared and chipped trees and brush to open up the site, and then a weed crew sprayed the weeds.

On the outskirts of Troy, the Museum site is located on county property, adjacent to an elementary school and the Troy museum, and a railroad spur used in conjunction with museum programs for school kids. The county property also provides folf (Frisbee – golf) enthusiasts a place to test their skills. The course is considered a top area regionally for the sport and for the past six years has been the site of a folf tournament that brings participants from across the west. Like the Flower Creek site, it was overgrown with brush and weeds and was being used as a camp site for transients. The project included hiring a local contractor to remove the overgrown brush and tress to open up the site after which a weed crew sprayed the weeds. Community members then burned the brush piles.

In addition to working on individual sites, project funding supported surveying, monitoring, and treating two focal weed species in Lincoln County. To date over 2,000 acres of hawkweed and 600 acres of rush skeletonweed have been treated within the county. With these efforts, Lincoln County aims to protect weed free areas and keep hawkweed contained in the northwest corner of Montana. The rush skeletonweed team surveyed the Montana/Idaho border to assist with the effort in keeping that noxious weed invader out of the state. Another positive benefit from the Recovery Act funding was Lincoln County's increased ability to respond to noxious weeds through the purchase of additional weed treatment equipment.

Program Project Name: Northwest Montana Forest Pest Management

Local Project Name: NW Montana Forest Pest Management
Region: Northern Region
Nearby City(ies): Kalispell, Libby, Polson Montana
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Flathead, Lake, Lincoln, Sanders
Modified Date: 10/4/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Forest Health

(Story posted 8/10/2011 and updated 9/29/2011)

In Flathead, Lake, Lincoln, and Sanders counties, a USDA Forest Service Recovery Act forest health project is nearly complete and should be finished this coming winter.

Recovery Act-funded workers have been pruning western white pine to delay the advance of white pine blister rust and conserve the species; intensively managing areas affected by Douglas-fir dwarf mistletoe while reducing bark beetle infestation and wildfire risks; and conducting silvicultural treatments for non-industrial private forest lands to mitigate forest health/bark beetle issues, reduce fuels, and promote stewardship in the wildland-urban interface.

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and Lake County Office of Emergency Services have been partners in this forest restoration effort taking place in counties with some of the highest unemployment statistics in the state.

Program Project Name: Sustainable forest bioenergy production (FWE, HD)

Local Project Name: Forest Biomass Utilization Decreases Wildfire Risk and Dependence on Foreign Oil
Region: Rocky Mountain Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Halfway, OR; Missoula, MT; Diamond Lake, OR; Pullman, WA; Moscow, ID
Congressional District(s): ID02, MT00, OR02, WA05

County(ies): ID: Latah; MT: Missoula; OR: Baker, Douglas; WA: Whitman
Modified Date: 9/27/2011

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Research May Facilitate New Forest Product Uses

(Story posted 9/22/2011)

In Washington, Idaho, and Montana, USDA Forest Service Recovery Act-funded studies concerning how pyrolysis* produces potentially useful new forest products called bio-oil and bio-char*are continuing. Researchers at the Rocky Mountain Research Station, University of Montana, University of Idaho, Washington State University, and other partners have published test results for a proto-type pyrolysis reactor that creates the charcoal-like bio-char and also creates bio-oil and synthetic gas as the reactor processes biomass from forest restoration projects.

Another team has also tested bio-char for applications as a soilless nursery media for growing plants. More research results are expected sometime this fall. Besides providing research and development jobs, this important project involving pyrolysis could facilitate new uses and markets for forest products to help reduce national dependence on foreign oil, support new industries in rural areas, and reduce greenhouse gases.

*Pyrolysis is the heating of an organic material, such as biomass, in the absence of oxygen. Because no oxygen is present, the material does not combust, but the chemical compounds (i.e. cellulose, hemicelluloses, and lignin) that make up that material thermally decompose into combustible gases and charcoal. Most of these combustible gases can be condensed into a combustible liquid, called bio-oil, though there are some permanent gases (CO¬2, CO, H2, light hydrocarbons). Thus, pyrolysis of biomass produces three products: one liquid, bio-oil; one solid, bio-char; and one gaseous, syngas (USDA Agricultural Research Service 2011).

Program Project Name: Lincoln County Roads Projects 1 (partially funded by 10%)
Local Project Name: Grave Creek Asphalt
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Kootenai
Ranger District: Fortine
Nearby City(ies): Eureka, Montana
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Lincoln
Modified Date: 2/10/2012

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Support Popular Road Resurfacing Effort

(Story posted 9/29/2011)

On the Kootenai National Forest, Recovery Act-funded workers replaced deteriorating pavement on the Grave Creek Road, which is a very important access to the Ten Lakes Scenic Area. The road serves numerous campgrounds and is also a very popular snowmobile route in the winter.

Prior to the work completed in late June, public concern was evident over the road's condition and whether it could remain open in its poor condition. The overlay will ensure ongoing public access for the future.

Program Project Name: Montana Hazardous Fuels Reduction/Restoration Forestry Projects

Local Project Name: Montana Hazardous Fuels Reduction/Restoration Forestry Projects

Region: Northern Region

Nearby City(ies): Townsend, Kalispell

Congressional District(s): MT00

County(ies): MT: Broadwater, Flathead, Jefferson, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Sanders

Modified Date: 10/4/2011

Story:

Multi-county Recovery Act-funded Efforts Support Forest Restoration, Hazardous Fuels Reduction

(Story posted 9/26/2011)

In ten Montana counties, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has been using USDA Forest Service Recovery Act funds to enhance forest restoration efforts and provide wildfire hazardous fuels reduction treatments to lands managed by state partners and non-industrial private lands within the wildland-urban interface. Many of the projects designed to restore the health and resiliency of forested lands and mitigate the hazardous fuels buildup exacerbated by mountain pine beetle outbreaks are complete, and all work should be finished this fall.

Local forest workers including administrators; foresters; heavy equipment operators; log truck drivers; mechanical and specialized biomass operators and haulers; timber fallers and loggers; and tree/brush-thinning crews have been among those employed with these funds, many of whom would have been laid off or under employed because of the decline in Montana's timber industry.

In Broadwater, Flathead, Jefferson, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, and Sanders counties, the work took place in key drainages identified to protect critical watersheds while maximizing opportunities to use biomass in a variety of locations in

support of jobs for contractors, logging operators, and entrepreneurs within Montana's forest industry. Many project areas have become a showcase to communities and landowners to demonstrate what is possible in terms of forest treatments.

Program Project Name: Lake County Fuels Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration

Local Project Name: Flathead County Stewardship Projects and Energy Conservation
Region: Northern Region
Nearby City(ies): Kalispell, Whitefish, Columbia Falls
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Flathead
Modified Date: 10/4/2011

Story:

Flathead County Uses Recovery Act Funds to Support Forest Restoration, Hazardous Fuels Reduction

(Story posted 9/26/2011)

In Flathead County, a USDA Forest Service Recovery Act-funded grant is supporting forest restoration and hazardous fuels reduction treatments for forested Montana state-administered and non-industrial private lands while providing paychecks for local workers. The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has been managing two grant programs to accomplish this work.

The Flathead Forest Stewardship grant emphasizes treatment areas in the wildland-urban interface and maximum utilization of forest products, including biomass. The Energy Conservation Landscaping grant has been helping Montana communities plant trees that provide energy conserving shade and mitigate air pollution.

Work on both facets of the project will be finished this fall. Administrators, arborists, equipment operators, foresters, laborers, and loggers have been among those employed with these funds, many of whom would have been laid off or under employed because of the decline in Montana's timber industry.

Program Project Name: Sanders County Fuels & Restoration & Stewardship Projects

Local Project Name: Sanders County Fuels, Restoration, and Stewardship Projects
Region: Northern Region
Nearby City(ies): Thompson Falls, Plains
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Sanders
Modified Date: 10/4/2011

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Work Nearly Complete

(Story posted 9/26/2011)

In Sanders County, workers have completed 1,325 acres of hazardous fuels and forest restoration treatments on ten USDA Forest Service Recovery Act-funded hazardous fuels and restoration projects. Stewardship project work involving local forest workers including administrative support, laborers, loggers, mastication contractors, and truck drivers is nearly 90 percent complete and should be finished this fall.

Included in this State and Private Forestry project are two subprograms: the Sanders County Forest Stewardship grant and the Sanders County Forest Restoration/Fuels Mitigation grant. The Sanders County Forest Stewardship grant is enhancing restoration and hazardous fuels reduction efforts on forested Montana state-administered lands and non-industrial private lands. The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation awarded grants through a competitive process with emphasis on treatment areas in the wildland-urban interface (WUI). The Sanders County Forest Restoration/Fuels Mitigation grant was geared toward restoration forestry projects in areas with bark beetle damage in Sanders County.

Both projects shared the goals of creating or retaining jobs for contractors and wood products workers; reducing hazardous fuels in the WUI; and promoting an appropriate mix of species while reduce tree densities on Montana state-managed lands.

Program Project Name: Wildfire Rehab and Restoration - Powell & Sanders Counties

Local Project Name: Wildfire Rehab and Restoration: Powell, Sanders, Mineral Counties
Region: Northern Region
Nearby City(ies): Deer Lodge, Thompson Falls, Plains, Superior
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Mineral, Powell, Sanders
Modified Date: 2/10/2012

Story:
Recovery Act Work Brings Jobs, Supports State and Private Landowners

(Story posted 1/17/2012)

In Mineral. Powell, and Sanders counties, a USDA Forest Service Recovery Act project is helping fill the forest industry employment gap caused by Montana’s timber industry decline. Thus far local contractors have conducted 45 miles of weed treatments; decommissioned several road segments; removed culverts; and established erosion control measures on an over 190-acre area. Workers have also seeded wildfire-disturbed sites with native grasses.

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is administering the grant that is providing jobs for forestry professionals and wildfire restoration experts while helping state and private landowners with wildfire recovery projects and noxious weed control. Activities planned for completion by fall have been identified as high priority by all the area partners in the Multi-Agency Integrated Restoration Strategy, a DNRC-led effort focused on bringing various state and federal agencies together to work on priority landscapes.

Program Project Name: Flathead County Fuels Projects

Local Project Name: Flathead County Fuels Project
Region: Northern Region
Nearby City(ies): Kalispell
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Flathead
Modified Date: 10/4/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Work Reduces Wildfire Risk to Communities

(Story posted 9/26/2011)

In Flathead County, USDA Forest Service Recovery Act-funded workers been reducing hazardous fuels on non-industrial private lands to mitigate wildland fire threat on high-risk acres identified in the Flathead County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has been providing oversight for project treatment areas around the communities of Marion, Whitefish, Echo Lake, and Blaine Lake as well as rural residences along the middle fork of the Flathead rivers.

The work is nearing completion, and thus far forest workers and specialists have treated 584 acres to reduce the risk of wildfire by creating strategic fuel breaks near communities and engaging landowners to treat areas on their property. Project work should be finished by this fall.

Program Project Name: Lake County Fuels Reduction & Ecosystem Restoration

Local Project Name: Lake County Fuels Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration
Region: Northern Region
Nearby City(ies): Polson, Big Fork
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Lake
Modified Date: 10/4/2011

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Work Benefits Workers, Communities

(Story posted 9/26/2011)

USDA Forest Service Recovery Act funds have supported forest restoration and hazardous fuels reduction work through the Lake County Forest Stewardship project, the Swan Valley Stewardship project, and the Lake County Hazardous Fuels reduction project. The Swan Valley Stewardship project has involved fuel treatments within portions of Swan Valley in Missoula and Lake counties.

With Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation oversight, project activities have included priorities outlined in the Lake County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP): mitigating the risk of severe fire by reducing hazardous fuels, especially in the wildland urban interface (WUI); restoring forest resiliency to insects and disease; and creating forest products, including biomass for area programs.

The Lake County Office of Emergency Management and the Swan Ecosystem Center (SEC) have been partners in the effort to employ workers on 38 hazardous fuels and restoration projects where 610 acres have thus far been completed. The county has partnered with SEC to leverage funds to treat more acres, and the SEC completed and paid for hazardous fuels reduction on projects in the same areas.

Local forest workers including administrators; foresters; heavy equipment operators; log truck drivers; mechanical and specialized biomass operators and haulers; timber fallers and loggers; and tree/brush-thinning crews have been among those employed with these funds, many of whom would have been laid off or under employed because of the decline in Montana's timber industry. Work should be finished by fall.

Program Project Name: Lincoln County Roads Projects 1 (partially funded by 10%)

Local Project Name: Sediment Reduction/Bridge Approach Paving
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Kootenai
Nearby City(ies): Libby, Troy, Trout Creek, Eureka
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Lincoln, Sanders
Modified Date: 2/13/2012

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Bridge Approach Paving Supports Water Quality

(Story posted 9/29/2012)

On the Kootenai National Forest a Recovery Act-funded local contractor paved several roadway bridge approaches for 100 feet to reduce sediment reaching creeks. Many roads on the forest are unsurfaced or gravel surfaced. Vehicle tires pick up fine sediments and deposit them on the bridge surfaces, and rain or snow washes these fine sediments into the rivers or streams. By paving the bridge approaches with asphalt, the sediment drops off the tires before the bridge, thus reducing sediment delivery to streams and improving fisheries and water quality.

Program Project Name: Lincoln County Roads Projects 1 (partially funded by 10%)

Local Project Name: Brush Creek Aggregate Placement
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Kootenai
Ranger District: Libby
Nearby City(ies): Libby, Eureka
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Lincoln
Modified Date: 2/13/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Road Surface Replacement Protects nearby Creek

(Story posted 9/29/2012)

On the Kootenai National Forest Libby Ranger District, a large forest fire that took place several years ago had been causing increased sediment delivery to streams. A Montana contractor placed aggregate surfacing on a road adjacent to Brush Creek to harden it and prevent sediment from reaching the creek. The refurbished roadway has improved access to recreation opportunities while reducing environmental impacts, thereby attracting private sector operators and services and generating additional revenues for local communities.

Program Project Name: Lincoln County Roads Projects 2

Local Project Name: Caribou/Blacktail/Callahan Road Decommissioning
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Kootenai
Ranger District: Three Rivers
Nearby City(ies): Troy, Yaak
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Lincoln
Modified Date: 2/9/2012

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Road Decommissioning Protects Watershed

(Story posted 10/21/2011)

On the Kootenai National Forest near Troy and Yaak, Recovery Act-funded local contractors performed road decommissioning work identified in previous National Environmental Policy Act documents as un-needed for future resource management that were contributing sediment to streams. Work took place between July 6 and August 15, 2011. Eliminating old, unneeded roads reduces sediment in waterways and improves water quality. Projects that improve forest infrastructure help meet agency-wide sustainable operations goals by reducing the environmental footprint.

Program Project Name: Lincoln County Roads Projects 2

Local Project Name: D1/D3 Aggregate Placement
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Kootenai
Ranger District: Fortine
Nearby City(ies): Eureka
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Lincoln
Modified Date: 2/9/2012

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Road Rehabilitation Benefits Many

(Story posted 10/21/2011)

On the Kootenai National Forest near Eureka, Recovery Act funds supported several local contractors who replaced aggregate surfacing on five National Forest System roads. The roads were badly in need of aggregate replacement as they were worn down from timber-haul and forest visitor traffic. Work took place from June 1 through July 15, 2010.

Continued access to the national forest on suitable roads has enhanced the tourism economy for local communities as the roads provide access for recreation such as hunting, fishing, picking huckleberries, and driving for pleasure. The road improvements also enhance access for Forest Service employees managing the land for timber harvest and brush reduction to reduce fire hazards.

Program Project Name: Lincoln County Roads Projects 2

Local Project Name: Libby Ranger District Aggregate Placement
Region: Northern Region

Forest: Kootenai
Ranger District: Libby
Nearby City(ies): Libby, MT
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Lincoln
Modified Date: 2/9/2012

Story:
Local Contractors Perform Recovery Act-funded Road Rehabilitation Work

(Story posted 9/29//2011)

On the Kootenai National Forest near Libby, three Recovery Act-funded contractors were hired to place new aggregate surfacing on major collector roads on the forest. The roads were badly in need of new aggregate surfacing. The community has benefited by continued access to the national forest for recreation. Forest Service employees now have suitable access to manage renewable resources. Hardening of road surfaces prevents additional sedimentation to streams and improves fisheries.

Program Project Name: Lincoln County Roads Projects 2

Local Project Name: Three Rivers Aggregate Placement
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Kootenai
Ranger District: Three Rivers
Nearby City(ies): Yaak, Troy
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Lincoln
Modified Date: 2/9/2012

Story:
Local Contractors Resurface Roads Using Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 10/21/2011)

In mid-July 2011 on the Kootenai National Forest near Troy and Yaak, two Recovery Act-funded local contractors began to place new aggregate surfacing on worn out National Forest System gravel roads. Local communities will benefit by continued access to the national forest for recreation. Forest Service employees will have suitable access to manage renewable resources. Hardening of road surfaces prevents additional sedimentation to streams and improves fisheries.

Program Project Name: Lincoln County Roads Projects 2

Local Project Name: Three Rivers Major Culverts

Region: Northern Region
Forest: Kootenai
Ranger District: Three Rivers
Nearby City(ies): Troy
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Lincoln
Modified Date: 2/9/2012

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Culvert Replacements Enhance Fish Passage

(Story posted 10/21/2011)

In mid-August, Recovery Act-funded a local contractor began replacing three undersized major culverts that blocked fish passage with two bridges and one bottomless arch pipe. The replacements will provide fish passage and passage of other aquatic organisms while continuing to provide access to the public and Forest Service administration traffic for forest management.

These crossings are North Creek crossing on the Spread Creek road, Madge Creek crossing on the Camp Creek road, and Iron Creek on the Iron Creek road.

Program Project Name: Lincoln County Roads Projects 2

Local Project Name: Road work on Grizzly and Little Beaver
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Kootenai
Nearby City(ies): Trout Creek, MT and Yaak, MT
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Lincoln, Sanders
Modified Date: 2/9/2012

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Road Work Enables Hazardous Fuels Reduction Work

(Story posted 10/4/2011)

On the Kootenai National Forest, Recovery Act-funded reconstruction roadwork on the Little Grizzly and Beaver roads enabled a low-value timber salvage project to reduce hazardous fuels to move forward.

Program Project Name: Lincoln County Roads Projects 2

Local Project Name: Boulder Creek Culvert Replacement

Region: Northern Region
Forest: Kootenai
Ranger District: Rexford
Nearby City(ies): Eureka, MT
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Lincoln
Modified Date: 2/9/2012

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Culvert Replacement Enables Fish Passage

(Story posted 10/4/2011)

On the Kootenai National Forest, a Recovery Act-funded local contractor installed a new large culvert to replace an undersized existing culvert that did not provide fish passage. Work took place from August 15 through October 15, 2010.

Program Project Name: Lincoln County Roads Projects 2

Local Project Name: Westslope Cutthroat Connectivity
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Kootenai
Ranger District: Cabinet
Nearby City(ies): Thompson Falls, MT
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Sanders
Modified Date: 3/16/2012

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Water Structure Replacements to Enable Fish Passage

(Story posted 10/4/2011) and updated 2/15/2012)

On the Kootenai National Forest, a Recovery Act-funded local contractor has been hired to remove three barriers to westslope cutthroat migration in the Clark Fork River Basin. Workers will remove and dispose of one large culvert. They will also remove a gabion structure that was damaged by previous flooding and build a drivable ford that will allow fish passage. Workers will also replace one large culvert with a large bottomless arch that will allow passage for fish and other aquatic organisms. The contractor will begin work in June or July 2012, depending on snow and spring runoff conditions, with plans to finish the project by fall.

Program Project Name: Lincoln County Roads Projects 2

Local Project Name: Rexford Bench Campground Paving

Region: Northern Region
Forest: Kootenai
Ranger District: Rexford
Nearby City(ies): Eureka, MT
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Lincoln
Modified Date: 2/9/2012

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Campground Paving Benefits Visitors

(Story posted 10/21/2011)

On the Kootenai National Forest, a Recovery Act-funded local contractor replaced deteriorating asphalt pavement in a high-use campground and overlaid the surface with new asphalt. Project work at Rexford Bench Campground near Eureka took place from June 28 through July 1, 2010, just in time for the Fourth of July holiday.

Program Project Name: Helena and Kootenai National Forests - Road Work – Powell and Sanders Counties

Local Project Name: Cabinet Road Decommissioning
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Kootenai
Ranger District: Cabinet
Nearby City(ies): Thompson Falls, MT
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Sanders
Modified Date: 2/9/2012

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Road Decommissioning Work Protects Watershed

(Story posted 10/7/2011)

In Sanders County on the Kootenai National Forest, many unneeded roads from past logging activities still exist, and modern timber harvesting methods don't require as many roads. Recovery Act-funded contractors accomplished approximately 10 miles of road decommissioning work by removing culverts; filling in the road prism; scattering slash; and seeding the ground.

Within a few years no one will even know a road existed. The road removal projects benefits the watershed by reducing the amount of sediment that is washed into streams that harms fisheries. The result is improved water quality and more security to threatened and endangered species.

Program Project Name: Kootenai and Lolo National Forests Cabinet Ranger District Aggregate Placement and Lolo Bridge Maintenance and Repairs

Local Project Name: Cabinet Ranger District Aggregate Placement
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Kootenai
Ranger District: Cabinet
Nearby City(ies): Trout Creek, MT
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Sanders
Modified Date: 2/14/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Traveler Safety

(Story posted 10/7/2011)

On the Kootenai National Forest Cabinet Ranger District Recovery Act-funded workers repaired worn out roads by placing new gravel surfacing on several miles of National Forest System roads. The Pilgrim Creek and Elk Creek roads were built many years ago and were very rough due to ongoing erosion. Workers reconditioned these roads and placed aggregate on some road sections. Local travelers were very pleased to see these roads brought back to a condition that allowed better and safer access to the forest.

Program Project Name: Lolo and Kootenai National Forests- Sanders County Roads Projects 1

Local Project Name: Marten Creek Failing Culverts
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Kootenai
Ranger District: Cabinet
Nearby City(ies): Trout Creek, MT
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Sanders
Modified Date: 2/9/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Culvert Replacements Enhance Traveler Safety, Reduce Erosion

(Story posted 10/7/2011)

On the Kootenai National Forest, Recovery Act-funded local contractors replaced major culverts in the headwaters of the Marten Creek drainage. The original culverts, installed over 30 years ago, were deteriorating and releasing sediment in the stream. Workers installed

new, larger culverts that will handle the stream flow and stop sediment delivery. Workers also reconditioned the road to make it safe for vehicles again. The completed work benefits natural resources and forest visitors by improving access, protecting water quality, and enhancing fish habitat.

Program Project Name: Forest-wide Rental Cabin Deferred Maintenance Reduction

Local Project Name: Old Condon, Swan Guard Station, and Star Meadows rental cabin renovations
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Flathead
Ranger District: Swan Lake
Nearby City(ies): Bigfork, Kalispell, Swan Lake, Condon and Whitefish
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Flathead
Modified Date: 3/27/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Cabin Restorations

(Story posted 3/22/2012)

On the Flathead National Forest Tally Lake Ranger District, Recovery Act-funded workers restored and re-purposed three historic Forest Service sites in danger of being compromised while adding to the public recreation cabin inventory though the National Recreation Reservation Service, a one-stop reservation resource for the recreation facilities and activities offered by several federal agencies.

Restoration efforts that began in May 2010 at Old Condon Ranger Station and the Swan and Star Meadows guard stations were finished in October 2011. Work included replacing roofs, windows, shutters, appliances, propane heaters, and floor coverings in addition to foundation, water, and electrical system upgrades along with painting and staining. Forest Service personnel and local contractors and subcontractors completed the carpentry work and provided furniture.

At the Star Meadows Guard Station, a two-room historic Forest Service rental cabin located 23 miles from Whitefish, Recovery Act funds supported renovations to an additional bunkhouse. The improvements have increased the location’s popularity as a site for large family gatherings.

At the Old Condon Ranger Station, part of a Forest Service compound built in the early 1920s, the ranger's residence has been restored for public use, including electricity and running water. The compound served as a year-round base of operations for what was then called the Condon Ranger District until the current Condon Work Center was constructed in the 1960s.

The property that can comfortably accommodate eight guests and offers great views of the Mission Mountains became available for reservations in 2012. Guests will find a screened porch that leads to a living/dining room with woodstove, gas furnace, and full kitchen. The kitchen includes a refrigerator with freezer and new gas range and oven. Upstairs are three bedrooms with a mix of two double and four single beds. The couch in the living room folds flat as a bed as well.

Recovery Act-funded workers also fully restored and reconstructed the oldest building on the Forest—the Swan Guard Station—which was built in 1909 as a remote ranger station and is located at the south end of Swan Lake near the Village of Swan Lake. The cabin that comfortably accommodates eight people has electricity but no interior plumbing although a restroom and hand pump for water are located just outside the cabin. Propane heat and a woodstove in the living room heat the two-story structure that has also been added to the national recreation residence rental system.

Both newly added sites have been operating at near capacity since being added to inventory available at recreation.gov. The work has helped preserve these sites' historical character and improved energy efficiency while enhancing recreation opportunities and experiences to further support local economies.

Program Project Name: Flathead County Roads Projects 2

Local Project Name: Forest Service Roads 38, 895 and 913 gravel and asphalt resurfacing
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Flathead
Ranger District: Hungry Horse
Nearby City(ies): Hungry Horse, Columbia Falls, Kalispell, Whitefish
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Flathead
Modified Date: 3/28/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Improve Road Conditions, Protect Resources

(Story posted 3/22/2012)

Flathead County and the Flathead National Forest in northwest Montana offer many outdoor recreation opportunities for area residents and the tens of thousands of annual visitors, all looking for a safe and quality experience. In May 2010, Recovery Act-funded workers began activities to reduce road maintenance and reconstruction backlogs on roads and bridges in areas that access recreation sites on the Spotted Bear and Tally Lake ranger districts.

Contractors are resurfacing 105 miles of National Forest System roads with either gravel or asphalt to increase recreation opportunities and protect watershed health and natural resources

This project also includes culvert replacements at stream crossings to improve streamflow and fish passage and replacing and adding road signs for travel safety. Work will be underway again when weather and travel conditions permit, and all activity is expected to be finished by mid-summer.

Program Project Name: Lincoln County Fuels & Ecosystem Restoration

Local Project Name: Lincoln County, Montana Fuels and Ecosystem Restoration
Region: Northern Region
Nearby City(ies): Libby, Troy
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Lincoln
Related Photo(s) Link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NYuuXN-uQtQ
Modified Date: 3/28/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support County's Efforts to Combat Noxious Weeds, Reduce Fire Hazard

(Story posted 3/27/2012)

A USDA Forest Service Recovery Act-funded project designed to combat noxious weeds and reduce hazardous fuels in Lincoln County is finished.

Dan Williams, county weed supervisor, says of the Recovery Act effort to improve the ecosystem across the county, "It's been a real good partnership. Lincoln County may have done the work on the ground, but Janet Valle, the Forest Service's noxious weed grant coordinator, has been supporting us every step of the way."

Lincoln County received almost $380,000 and used the funding in part to hire local residents to conduct weed treatments throughout the county. In addition, local contractors were hired to conduct part of the site treatments, including brush clearing, tree thinning, and chipping.

Lincoln County's approach for using the funds was to tackle a number of problem areas near the communities of Libby and Troy. The sites identified to be treated reflected the interests and support of local residents; typically the areas were overgrown with brush, infested with noxious weeds, and posed safety concerns. Clearing weeds and brush in those areas allowed residents to "take back" the public areas, reduce the fire hazard from overgrown brush and weeds, and to once again safely use the sites.

The Flower Creek site in Libby is city property adjacent to a middle school and a number of

residences that was overgrown with brush and weeds and used by transients. Clearing and spraying the Flower Creek site reduced the fire danger and safety concerns; now the area can be used by both children traveling to the school and recreationists.

Williams and Ed Levert, Lincoln County forester, developed the approach for restoring the Skidale site near Libby. The former ski area that has been more recently used as a community sledding area was overgrown with brush and small trees and infested with weeds. A local forestry contractor cleared and chipped trees and brush to open up the site up, and crews then sprayed the weeds.

On the outskirts of Troy, the Museum site is located on county property—adjacent to an elementary school and the Troy museum—and a railroad spur used in conjunction with museum programs for school children. The county property also provides folf (Frisbee–golf) enthusiasts a place to test their skills. The course is considered a top area regionally for the sport and for the past six years has been the site of a folf tournament that brings participants from across the West. Like the Flower Creek site, it was overgrown with brush and weeds and was being used as a transient campsite. The project included hiring a local contractor to remove the overgrown brush and trees; the weed crew sprayed the weeds following the opening up of the site. Community members then burned the brush piles.

In addition to working on individual sites, project funding supported surveying, monitoring, and treating two focal weed species in Lincoln County. Over 2,000 acres of hawkweed and 600 acres of rush skeletonweed have been treated within the county. With these efforts, Lincoln County aims to protect weed-free areas and keep hawkweed contained in the northwest corner of Montana. The rush skeletonweed team surveyed the Montana/Idaho border to assist with the effort in keeping that noxious weed invader out of the state.

Another positive benefit from the Recovery Act funding was Lincoln County's increased ability to respond to noxious weeds through the purchase of additional weed treatment equipment. See a Forest Service YouTube video about the project at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NYuuXN-uQtQ.

Program Project Name: Lolo and Helena National Forests - Mineral and Powell County Roads Projects

Local Project Name: Mineral & Powell County Roads Projects
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Lolo
Ranger District: Superior
Nearby City(ies): Superior, Plains, Missoula, MT
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Powell
Modified Date: 3/30/2012

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Used to Improve Roads

(Story posted 3/29/2012)

Using USDA Forest Service Recovery Act funds, small business contractors from rural Montana and Idaho counties performed road maintenance activities on 275 miles of National Forest System roads on the Lolo National Forest in western Montana from 2009 to 2011.

In Mineral, Missoula, Powell, and Sanders counties, contractors graded gravel surfaces; cleaned culverts and ditches; removed roadside brush; and applied dust control. The work involving contracts totaling over a half million dollars led to employment of local road maintenance contractors who improved 60 miles in Mineral County; 140 miles in Missoula County; 20 miles in Powell County; and 55 miles in Sanders County.

Transportation, safety, and environmental improvements were realized through the projects.

The smoother road surfaces and improved sight distances have resulted in safer and more pleasurable driving experiences for recreation and commercial users of forest roads. Maintenance of road drainage systems is preventing stormwater and sediment from flowing into mountain streams and degrading aquatic habitat. Because many of the gravel roads are parallel to streams, the project was important for the protection of water quality. The project also extended the life of the forest infrastructure.

Program Project Name: Finley Flats - Swamp Creek - Camp Salvage

Local Project Name: Finley Flats-Swamp Creek-Camp Salvage
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Lolo
Ranger District: Plains/Thompson
Nearby City(ies): Plains, MT
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Sanders
Modified Date: 5/25/2012

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project Brings Jobs, Enhances Firefighter and Public Safety

(Story posted 3/29/2012)

A Recovery Act-funded project has helped lower catastrophic wildfire risk by reducing hazardous fuels on 162 acres of the Lolo National Forest in Sanders County. Identified in the Sanders County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, the treatment area was adjacent to at-risk communities that have values of over $31 million, including 28 residences, four

businesses, and a regional power line.

In 2009 and 20120, contractors and seasonal workers performed pre-commercial thinning treatments and hand-piled slash to reduce fuels in the Finley Flats area and the Camp Creek drainage. Slash piles were later burned in such a way as to not damage remaining trees.

As a direct result of this project, $125,000 was expended in Sanders County, which had the highest per capita unemployment rate in Montana at the time. This critical fuels reduction project has also improved firefighter and public safety.

Program Project Name: Forest-wide Thinning

Local Project Name: Kootenai WFM-0114-03FHF Forest-wide Thinning Project
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Kootenai
Nearby City(ies): Libby, Troy, Noxon, Thompson Falls, Eureka, Fortine
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Lincoln
Modified Date: 4/3/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Bring Jobs, Improved Forest Health

(Story posted 4/2/2012)

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided $1,270,000 for the Kootenai National Forest to create jobs through thinning, pruning, and weeding contracts in Lincoln and Sanders counties, which have sustained the highest unemployment rates in Montana for the past several years. The treatment acres are located across all Districts on the Kootenai National Forest involving six local communities, including Eureka, Fortine, Libby, Noxon, Thompson Falls, and Troy.

Recovery Act-funded activities have been helping reduce tree stand density and improve health, growth, vigor, and resilience to insects and disease, wildland fire, and potential climate change on 6,745 acres.

Awarded in late 2009, the majority of the contracts have been completed with remaining active contracts scheduled to end this summer.

Program Project Name: Reforestation Maintenance Forest-wide

Local Project Name: Kootenai WFM-0114-06FHF Reforestation Maintenance Forest-wide
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Kootenai

Nearby City(ies): Libby, Troy, Noxon, Thompson Falls, Eureka, and Fortine
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Lincoln, Sanders
Modified Date: 4/3/2012

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Reforestation Efforts

(Story posted 4/2/2012)

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided $360,000 for the Kootenai National Forest to create jobs through reforestation maintenance contracts in Lincoln and Sanders counties.

Recovery Act-funded workers have been maintaining and securing or removing protective tubes, depending on stand conditions, on 1,414 acres located across four of the five ranger districts near the communities of Eureka, Fortine, Libby, Noxon, Thompson Falls, and Troy. Reforestation maintenance is essential work to reduce the potential for mechanical damage to seedlings from the protective tubes that are placed over young trees to reduce elk and deer browsing damage. An additional contract to reforest 367 remote burned acres was included in this group of projects.

Through contracts awarded in late 2009, seedlings have been protected from browse damage, and a burned site has been reforested. Reforestation work on a backlog of stands that the Forest had not been able to treat with traditional funding will be finished this summer.

Program Project Name: Hand Piling Slash from Pre-Commercial Thinning Forest-wide

Local Project Name: ARRA Pre-Commercial Thinning and Hand Piling Project
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Kootenai
Nearby City(ies): Thompson Falls
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Sanders
Modified Date: 4/3/2012

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Thinning Project Contributes to Forest Health

(Story posted 4/2/2012)

On the Kootenai National Forest, Recovery Act-funded workers conducted pre-commercial thinning and hand piling on 367 acres to reduce catastrophic fire risk within the wildland-urban interface. The contract was awarded late in 2009, and work began in spring 2010. Workers burned piles in spring 2011.

Trees were to be cut according to a silvicultural summary prescription stating species preference for each unit. The contract called for 16 x 16 foot spacing, which would average 107 to 120 stems per acre after thinning. This wide spacing was used in order to create large enough openings for hand piling and to prevent the remaining trees from being affected during the pile burning. If a natural opening occurred nearby, some areas were left in a "clump" if all trees were healthy and of the preferred species. Trees taller than two feet were to be cut and no lower live limbs were to be left. Hand piles were to be no closer than 10 feet from trees left standing with a maximum size of six to eight feet in diameter by eight feet in height. Piles were to be covered with Kleen Burn Kraft paper. Silviculture and fire experts worked together to ensure all individual specifications were met according to the contract.

In addition to providing several jobs, the completed work to properly thin overstocked stands while leaving trees of desired species with superior growth and condition means these stands are now free to grow and will be more resilient to insect, disease, and wildfire.

Program Project Name: Kootenai National Forest - Fuels Reduction Projects

Local Project Name: Kootenai WFM-0114-013HF Kootenai NF Fuels Reduction Project
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Kootenai
Nearby City(ies): Libby, Troy, Noxon, Thompson Falls, Eureka, and Fortine
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Lincoln, Sanders
Modified Date: 4/3/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Workers Thin Stands to Reduce Catastrophic Wildfire Risk

(Story posted 4/2/2012)

On the Kootenai National Forest, Recovery Act-funded workers continue to thin a large backlog of tree stands that the Forest had not been able to undertake with traditional funding. Hazardous fuels reduction activities including slashing, piling, and masticating are helping trees of desired species be more resilient to insect and disease outbreaks; catastrophic wildland fire; and potential climate change effects while supporting forest industry jobs in Lincoln and Sanders counties, which have sustained the highest unemployment rates in Montana for the past several years.

While much of the work that began in late 2009 has been completed, all Recovery Act-funded pre-commercial thinning and hand-piling contracts on nearly 5,000 acres near the communities of Eureka, Fortine, Libby, Noxon, Thompson Falls, and Troy will be finished this summer.

Program Project Name: Hand Piling Slash from Pre-Commercial Thinning Forest-wide

Local Project Name: Kootenai WFM-0114-01M Hand Piling Slash from PCT
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Kootenai
Nearby City(ies): Libby, Troy, Noxon, Thompson Falls, Eureka and Fortine,
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Lincoln, Sanders
Modified Date: 4/3/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Project Protects Communities from Catastrophic Wildfire Risk

(Story posted 4/2/2012)

Recovery Act-funded workers have been reducing hazardous fuels on the Kootenai National Forest since 2009 to enhance forest health and reduce catastrophic wildfire risk within the wildland-urban interface near the communities of Eureka, Fortine, Libby, Noxon, Thompson Falls, and Troy.

Pre-commercial thinning and hand-piling contracts were designed to reduce tree stand density and improve health, growth, vigor, and resilience to insect and disease, fire and potential climate change on 1,040 acres were awarded late in 2009. The majority of the contracts have been completed, and the remaining active contracts will be finished this summer. The work has benefited Lincoln and Sanders counties, which have sustained the highest unemployment rates in Montana for the past several years.

Program Project Name: Montana Roads Restoration Project 2

Local Project Name: FY 09 West Fork Rock Creek Road #2071 Reconstruction Phase 4
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Custer
Ranger District: Beartooth
Nearby City(ies): Red Lodge, MT
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Carbon, Gallatin, Lincoln
Modified Date: 4/25/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Fire Restoration Activities

(Story posted 4/12/2012)

On the Custer National Forest Beartooth Ranger District, Recovery Act-funded workers finished the fourth reconstruction phase of the West Fork Rock Creek Road (Forest Service Road #2071). In early June 2009 contractors began a myriad of tasks, including clearing and

grubbing; excavation; hauling and placing embankment material; building a mechanically stabilized earth retaining wall with gabion face; furnishing hauling and placing crushed aggregate base and hot asphalt concrete pavement surfacing; furnishing and installing steel culverts and extensions; chip sealing; pavement marking; guardrail installations; minor bridge repair; seeding; and furnishing and installing traffic signs.

The associated work required temporary traffic control and placement of temporary erosion control devices in the interest of public safety and protecting natural resources on approximately three miles of reconstruction plus an additional two miles of chip seal. Work that addressed safety and evacuation concerns by improving access for fire protection engines and improving vehicle pullout sites was finished by September 2010.

Program Project Name: Montana Roads Restoration Project 1

Local Project Name: FY09 West Fork Rock Creek Road #2071 Reconstruction Phase 3
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Custer
Ranger District: Beartooth
Nearby City(ies): Red Lodge, MT
Congressional District(s): MT00
County(ies): MT: Carbon, Gallatin, Park, Ravalli
Modified Date: 4/25/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Fire Restoration Activities

(Story posted 4/6/2012)

On the Custer National Forest Beartooth Ranger District, workers finished an important reconstruction phase of the West Fork Rock Creek Road (Forest Service Road #2071) with Recovery Act and additional funds. In early June 2009 contractors began a myriad of tasks, including clearing and grubbing; individual tree removal; reestablishing survey control; slope staking the road; slope staking all culverts by hand to ensure proper alignment and lengths; reconstructing the road; excavation; furnishing and placing crushed aggregate; installing signs and a roadway gate; hydroseeding; placing certified weed-free straw wattles; road grading; collecting and placing riprap; and constructing grade sags. Workers also placed culverts in live springs.

The associated work required temporary traffic control and placement of temporary erosion control devices in the interest of public safety and protecting natural resources on approximately three miles of reconstruction plus an additional two miles of chip seal. Work that addressed safety and evacuation concerns by improving access for fire protection engines and improving vehicle pullout sites was finished by September 2010.

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
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
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
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

Congressional District(s): NV02

County(ies): NV: Washoe

Related Photo(s) Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ssrs/story?id=5114

Modified Date: 4/13/2011

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

Congressional District(s): NV02

County(ies): NV: Churchill, Lyon, Carson City

Related Photo(s) Link:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2rdwGRWBs4&feature=youtu.be&a;
http://tinyurl.com/3bte5kw;
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=acN32xtno7s&feature=mfu_in_order&playnext=1&videos=foLQP7DI_0g

Modified Date: 7/10/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds 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 hazardous fuels and ecosystem restoration treatments 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 noxious weed invasions. Noxious weeds are plants the State of Nevada has identified 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, resulting in a decline of stream bank stability and an increase in soil erosion and stream sedimentation, bringing about a decline in the river's water quality while increasing fire danger.

The Carson River Project focused on four areas along the river--Carson Valley (Douglas County); Carson City and 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 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 forests that are a critical wildlife habitat for this dry state.

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

Congressional District(s): NV02

County(ies): NV: Lincoln

Related Photo(s) Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ssrs/story?id=4953

Modified Date: 3/1/2012

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

Congressional District(s): NV02

County(ies): NV: Lincoln

Related Photo(s) Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ssrs/story?id=4955

Modified Date: 4/13/2011

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
Related Photo(s) Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ssrs/story?id=4954
Modified Date: 4/13/2011

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
Congressional District(s): NV02
County(ies): NV: Washoe
Related Photo(s) Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ssrs/story?id=5181
Modified Date: 4/13/2011

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
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/63uzw9x
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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.

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

Related Photo(s) Link:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m0rh6C_1O00&feature=player_profilepage

Modified Date: 3/1/2011

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
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
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
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
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
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.
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.

Program Project Name: Truckee River Riparian Fuels Reduction

Local Project Name: Truckee River Riparian Fuels Reduction Project Funded By ARRA
Region: Intermountain Region
Nearby City(ies): Reno and Sparks, Nevada
Congressional District(s): NV02
County(ies): NV: Washoe
Modified Date: 4/27/2011

Story:

Decade-old Burn Area Gets Recovery Act-funded Restoration Help to Benefit Watershed

(Story posted 4/22/2011)

In eastern California and western Nevada, Recovery Act-funded local contractors continue to

restore the 2001 Martis Fire burn area that drains directly into the Truckee River, affecting water quality in the Truckee watershed that supplies drinking water to Reno and Sparks, Nevada.

The Nevada Department of Agriculture is using a U.S. Forest Service Recovery Act grant to hire contractors to replace flammable noxious weeds with native plants this spring to reduce the threat of wildfire and restore undeveloped and publicly accessible state and private lands adjacent to the Tahoe National Forest.

The 14,500-acres Martis Fire left the region devoid of native vegetation, which resulted in reduced wildlife habitat, increased runoff, reduced water quality, and the spread of noxious weed species, particularly musk thistle. Community partners including Washoe County, Nevada Land Conservancy, and California Department of Fish and Game are helping with the restoration effort that will benefit recreationists, wildlife, and the communities at large. The work should be finished by late fall.

Program Project Name: Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit South Lake Tahoe Partners Fuels Project

Local Project Name: LTBMU South Lake Tahoe Partners Fuels Project
Region: Pacific Southwest Region
Forest: Lake Tahoe Basin
Nearby City(ies): South Lake Tahoe
Congressional District(s): CA04
County(ies): CA: El Dorado, Placer; NV: Douglas, Washoe
Modified Date: 5/19/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project Reduces Wildland Fire Danger

(Story posted 5/17/2011)

On July 27, 2009, the Tahoe Fire and Fuels team, through Nevada FireSafe Council, was awarded $3,589,000 Forest Service Recovery Act grant designated primarily for fuels reduction work and related activities on non-federal properties within the Placer County and Eldorado County portions of the Lake Tahoe Basin. A small amount of funding was also provided for defensible space related education and outreach efforts in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The funds were secured through the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.

Work began in fall 2009 and ended in January 2011, affecting 1,398 acres on 40 distinct projects. Projects were selected based on the threat of catastrophic loss due to wildfire presented to communities from fuel loading on the property; the willingness of the property owner to participate; and the availability of resources to get the project completed in a timely manner.

Thanks to the achievements of the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team, particularly within

jurisdictions of the Lake Valley Fire Protection District, the Fallen Leaf Fire Department, the North Tahoe Fire Protection District and the City of South Lake Tahoe Fire Department, the total number of acres thinned through this grant was 929, which exceeded the amount called for in the original proposal (806) by 125 acres, or 15 percent. In addition to the 929 acres that have been completely treated, an additional 100 acres have been thinned and await pile burning; thinning has commenced on 70 more acres; and forestry/permitting work has commenced on 299 acres. The work on projects that await pile burning, are in progress, or have been planned will be completed with additional funding or when additional funding has been secured.

By district, 629 acres were affected in North Tahoe FPD (45 percent of the total); 357 acres in the City of Lake Tahoe (26 percent); 238 acres in Lake Valley FPD (17 percent); 124 acres in Meeks Bay FPD (9 percent); and 50 acres in Fallen Leaf FD (5 percent). All work was done on non-federal property. The total includes property owned by the State of California, California State Parks, California Tahoe Conservancy, the Tahoe City Public Utilities District, and individual private property owners.

Mechanized equipment from the private sector and hand crews from the public and private sectors were employed to complete the work. Private contractors were used to provide operational oversight and GIS services during the project. These serve as examples of Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team projects that have been ongoing since 2008 and will continue through 2011 and beyond if funding is available.

In addition to the shaded fuel break work, funds were allocated for a basin-wide defensible space education and outreach effort. Two local public relations firms collaborated with fire professionals in the basin to create the “Get Defensive” campaign. The campaign, which included direct mailings, radio advertisements, and television promotions, went live in spring 2010 and will continue throughout 2011. It is estimated that the campaign has reached more than 150,000 residents and visitors since its inception. To complete the education and outreach effort, a local education non-profit was hired to create an educational video and curriculum for pre-teen children based on the Living with Fire program designed by University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. The video and curriculum are currently being distributed to classrooms in the Lake Tahoe Basin and have been made available to schools on a regional level.

Nearly 92,000 man hours were spent on these projects. This translates to the creation of 42 full-time jobs over the 17-month period. The Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team is grateful to the partners within the Basin who supported this ambitious fuels reduction program and the team’s ongoing work, particularly the United States Forest Service (LTBMU), the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Board.

Program Project Name: Mount Rose Recreation Facilities Improvements for Safety and Accessibility

Local Project Name: Mt Rose Campground Reconstruction Project

Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Humboldt & Toiy
Ranger District: Carson
Nearby City(ies): Reno, NV
Congressional District(s): NV02
County(ies): NV: Washoe
Modified Date: 2/14/2012

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Support Numerous Projects

(Story posted 2/13/2012)

In November 2011 on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Carson Ranger District, Recovery Act-funded local contractors completed reconstruction of the Mt. Rose Campground while making safety improvements at the Tahoe Meadows trailhead and Mt. Rose Welcome Center.

In addition to replacing campsite features with accessible fire rings, grills, tables, tent pads, and bear boxes, work at the popular campground included realigning the roads and spurs; drilling a new well; building a holding tank; and replacing water distribution systems, restrooms, and hydrants. The improvements will provide safe drinking water and allow for people of all abilities to enjoy the area.

Program Project Name: Tamarisk removal control and revegetation

Local Project Name: Clark County Riparian Lands Fuels Reduction and Restoration
Region: Intermountain Region
Nearby City(ies): Laughlin, NV, Las Vegas, NV
Congressional District(s): NV01
County(ies): NV: Clark
Modified Date: 3/30/2012

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Support Riparian Ecosystem Functions
(Story posted 3/28/2012)
In Clark County, recovery Act-funded workers are helping improve the ecosystem functions of riparian lands by removing non-native woody biomass and replanting cleared areas with native vegetation. This tamarisk (salt cedar) reduction and removal project encompasses five different locations using the contract services of two businesses: Fred Phillips Consulting for plan development and Native Resources for project implementation. To date, a total of 146 acres have been treated and five acres revegetated. The project will be completed by September 2013.
Warm Springs Natural Area
Along the Muddy River, California palm and dense stands of salt cedar create a dangerous

fuel source for wildland fires. The Warm Springs Natural Area is home to a wide variety of species including 80 to 90 percent of the population of the Moapa dace, an endangered fish species. Falling ash and debris from fires pose a significant threat to the endangered fish.

Fred Phillips Consulting completed fuels reduction and habitat restoration plans for six sites within the natural area. After an accidental fire occurred, the firm completed a post-burn plan to refocus fuels reduction efforts to remove resprouting California palm and salt cedar. The firm Native Resources has completed the removal portion of the post-burn plan by eliminating large groves of palm trees and trimming dead palm fronds from trees designated to be retained. Work on this location is complete.

Big Bend Conservation Area

The Big Bend Conservation Area is a 15-acre parcel purchased by the Southern Nevada Water Authority for habitat restoration. The restoration plan focuses on retreating salt cedar sprouts and Sahara mustard in previously treated sites and removing large stands on an additional 4.6 acres.

Fred Phillips Consulting firm developed fuels reduction and habitat restoration plans that included planting native species to prevent invasive species recolonization. Native Resources firm completed the initial removal portion of the project as well as spraying resprouting salt cedar; mulching cleared material; and removing arrowhead in revegetated areas.

Desert Rose Golf Course

The Desert Rose Golf Course is located in the northwest portion of the Las Vegas Wash, above the first wastewater treatment plant discharge into the channel. The channel banks are infested with the invasive species salt cedar and tall whitetop and littered with garbage from surrounding residential areas.

The Fred Phillips Consulting firm developed a fuels reduction plan for the golf course area to remove invasive species along the channel banks and plant native species to create a more aesthetically pleasing landscape and prevent recolonization of invasive species. Native Resources has completed the removal of the invasive species and litter in this location while conducting about four acres of hazardous fuels reduction.

Clark County Wetlands Park - West 80 site

Clark County Wetlands Park, the largest park in the county, was created to reduce the impacts of wastewater and stormwater runoff flowing into the Las Vegas Wash through the creation of wetlands. The park provides habitat for a number of wildlife species and provides conservation education and interpretative information to park users.

The Fred Phillips Consulting firm developed a hazardous fuels reduction plan for the West 80 site to remove invasive species, such as salt cedar and common reed, and plant native species to provide wildlife habitat and prevent recolonization of invasive species. The Native Resources firm completed fuels reduction work on roughly 42 acres at this site by spraying and removing resprouting salt cedar.

Clark County Wetlands Park - Duck Creek site
The Duck Creek site within Clark County Wetlands Park is a popular area for bird watching and walking, with trails linking to the Wetlands Park Nature Preserve.

The Fred Phillips Consulting firm developed a fuels reduction plan for the Duck Creek site that considered potential fire risk to adjacent homes from invasive species. The plan calls for removal of salt cedar and Sahara mustard from the entire site as well as removal of all invasive species on the west side of the site, adjacent to homes. The Native Resources firm completed fuels reduction on roughly 50 acres by spraying and removing resprouting salt cedar.
These ecosystem improvements will benefit Clark County homeowners, wastewater facilities, and storm water and wastewater conveyance systems by reducing wildland fire risk and enhancing the watershed. The areas will also be safer and more aesthetically pleasing with improved wildlife habitat.

Program Project Name: Arrowcreek and Skinner Fire Restoration

Local Project Name: Arrowcreek and Skinner, Washoe County, Nevada
Region: Intermountain Region
Nearby City(ies): Sparks, NV, Reno, NV
Congressional District(s): NV02
County(ies): NV: Washoe
Modified Date: 5/17/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Long Overdue Ecosystem Restoration Work

(Story posted 4/12/2012)

The Arrowcreek Fire of 2000 burned through 2,788 acres of land of which 1,898 acres of non-federal lands adjacent to forested lands were left with a minimum of 10 percent canopy cover. In 2008, the Skinner Complex Fire of 2008 (also known as the East Lake Fire) affected 960 acres of land of which 384 acres were on non-federals lands adjacent to forested lands, also leaving a minimum of 10 percent canopy cover.

Thus far Recovery Act-funded workers have accomplished about half of the planned activities that include applying defensible space principles near developments; mapping and eradicating noxious and invasive weeds that are competing with native plants; planting and reseeding native shrubs and trees for wildlife habitat improvement; and conducting water quality improvement and soil erosion control measures while reducing the risk of repeat wildfire in the region. The work is also supporting the important Truckee River watershed.

Thus far workers have accomplished the following:
• Ensured temporary best management practices are in place
• Created a gravel staging area

• Installed two temporary stream crossings
• Conducted a hand application of the chemical Matrix to approximately 140 acres
• Aerially applied the chemical Matrix to approximately 465 acres
• Spot treated the herbicide Telar to thistle and perennial pepperweed on approximately 40 acres
• Planted three shrub gardens with approximately 1,165 native shrubs
• Planted two areas with 20 trees
• Installed dri-water tubes and gel packs for 620 plantings
• Drill seeded approximately 75 acres
• Applied straw mulch to drill-seeded sites
• Conducted mechanical weed control on two acres
• Installed five monitoring plots and collected data
• Replaced dri-water packs on 1,620 plants

The restoration work has been prioritized by planting north slopes and riparian corridors first to increase water quality and wildlife habitat while taking advantage of soil moisture. The project is scheduled to be finished in 2013.

Program Project Name: Belli Fire Restoration

Local Project Name: Belli Fire Restoration, Washoe County, Nevada
Region: Intermountain Region
Nearby City(ies): Sparks, NV, Reno, NV
Congressional District(s): NV02
County(ies): NV: Washoe
Modified Date: 4/25/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Fire Restoration Activities

(Story posted 4/12/2012)

Near the communities of Reno and Sparks, USDA Forest Service Recovery Act-funded workers have been conducting wildland fire restoration activities on approximately 1,500 acres of non-federal lands that were burned in the 1996 Belli Fire. Seasonally since 2010, contractors have been chemically and mechanically treating areas for noxious weeds adjacent to homes in the Riverbend Road and Boomtown areas while planting and broadcast-seeding native shrubs, trees, and grasses in riparian corridors and upland areas within the fire boundary.

In addition, workers installed two stream crossings to reduce erosion and improve water quality within the Truckee River watershed. The efforts are also improving wildlife habitat while reducing future catastrophic wildland fire risk in the wildland-urban interface adjacent to federal lands. Spot treatments, re-planting, seeding, and monitoring activities are scheduled to be accomplished in the coming field season.

Program Project Name: Rancho Haven/Red Rock Fire Restoration

Local Project Name: Rancho Haven/Red Rock, Washoe County, Nevada
Region: Intermountain Region
Nearby City(ies): Sparks, NV, Reno, NV
Congressional District(s): NV02
County(ies): NV: Washoe
Modified Date: 5/17/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Fire Restoration Work Supports Ecosystem, Economy

(Story posted 4/19/2012)

The Red Rock (also known as Gooseberry) Fire of 2008 burned 3,038 acres of land of which approximately 841 acres were non-federal land adjacent to forested land managed by the Carson District of the Bureau of Land Management. Located in a major migration corridor for the Truckee Loyalton deer herd, the area has a minimum of 10 percent canopy cover.

Recovery Act-funded workers have been conducting ecosystem restoration activities in the burned area, including mapping invasive weeds; applying herbicide treatments to eradicate invasive and noxious weeds; reseeding and replanting native junipers, shrubs, and grasses for erosion control; improving wildlife habitat, and providing defensible space for nearby development while reducing the risk of repeat wildland fire in the region.

Thus far workers have accomplished the following:
• Drill-seeded 139 acres
• Installed 800 feet of fence and repaired 7,920 feet of fence
• Spot-sprayed 32 acres of herbicide and re-treated 33 acres with herbicide
• Developed two springs and installed erosion wattles
• Seeded 6,100 feet and installed hydro mulch near a spring
• Installed two wildlife escape ladders in stock tanks at the spring
• Installed barbed wire fence with metal posts around the spring
• Installed monitoring plots and collected monitoring data

In addition, the following tasks were accomplished:
• Purchased seed and broadcast seeded 86 acres of the Huffaker Hills Fire
• Relocated and placed native boulders to control foot traffic on existing paths
• Graded out existing rocks and soil next to hand-cut fire lines
• Incorporated seed on 30 acres by hand raking or chaining in

Many community partners have been involved in this project, including the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the Nevada Mule Deer Foundation. This project is about 60 percent complete and is scheduled to be finished by 2013.

Program Project Name: Peavine 2006 Fire Restoration

Local Project Name: Peavine fire restoration, Washoe County, Nevada
Region: Intermountain Region
Nearby City(ies): Sparks, NV, Reno, NV
Congressional District(s): NV02
County(ies): NV: Washoe
Modified Date: 4/10/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Riparian Ecosystem Functions

(Story posted 3/28/2012)

The Peavine Fire (AKA Verdi Complex) fire occurred in 2004 on 1,079 acres of land, 919 of those acres on non-federal lands adjacent to National Forest System lands. Because the 919 aces of non-federal land contain a minimum of 10 percent tree canopy cover, the USDA Forest Service is using Recovery Act funds to support contract labor and create jobs re-seeding and controlling weeds in selected burn areas.

Recovery Act funds are providing the resources to plant native shrubs and tree seedlings in clusters as well as create fuelbreaks and green strips surrounding nearby development as wildlife forage and natural fire protection, all targeted to restore habitat affected by wildfire. The ecosystem restoration effort is also reducing the risk of repeat wildland fires in the region. The Peavine watershed drains directly to the Truckee River, which provides drinking water for the communities of Reno and Sparks (population 300,000).

Currently the project in Washoe County is approximately 90 percent complete and is scheduled to be completed by September 2013. Work completed to date follows:

• Four project signs installed
• Temporary best management practices installed
• Seven acres of defensible space trimmed and cleared around homes
• 40 acres of chemical weed control accomplished
• Cheatgrass weed control test plot installed and USDA test plot installed
• 15 acres drill seeded and 70 acres hand seeded
• Seven acres of fuelbreak seeding accomplished
• 375 containerized shrubs planted and dri-water packs installed
• 120 pine and aspen trees planted and dri-water packs installed
• 375 willow cuttings and shrubs planted along Peavine Creek
• Two armored stream crossings installed
• 450 feet of willow wattle toe protection installed
• Five acres of chemical and mechanical weed control treatments finished

• 34 acres treated with herbicide Matrix to control Medusahead along travel corridors
• 200 shrubs planted with dri-water packs and fence installed
• Monitoring plots installed and monitoring data collected

Restoring the burn with native plants will prevent additional soil erosion, control noxious weeds, reduce the burn cycle with fire tolerant perennials, and provide critical habitat for the mule deer herd. Community partners continue to help with restoration efforts.

Program Project Name: Washoe County Open Space Fuels Reduction

Local Project Name: Washoe County Open Space Fuels Reduction
Region: Intermountain Region
Nearby City(ies): Sparks, NV, Reno, NV
Congressional District(s): NV02
County(ies): NV: Washoe
Modified Date: 4/25/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Help Reduce Catastrophic Wildland Fire Risk

(Story posted 4/10/2012)

USDA Forest Service Recovery Act-funded workers are helping reduce catastrophic wildland fire hazard in Washoe County regional parks and open space by conducting thinning, chipping, piling, and burning operations. Work currently about 80 percent complete includes treating 40 acres in Davis Regional Park and 100 acres in Sun Valley Regional Park to lessen fire danger to nearby private residences. More work is planned for completion by the end of the year.

In addition to helping bring these lands into compliance with the county's Regional Open Space and Hazardous Fuels and Fire Risk Assessment plans designed to help prevent events similar to the six major fires that have burned 10,000 acres during the past 15 years, the activity is also providing firewood for visitors to nearby campgrounds.

Program Project Name: Hawken 2007 Fire Restoration

Local Project Name: Hawken fire restoration
Region: Intermountain Region
Nearby City(ies): Sparks, NV; Reno, NV
Congressional District(s): NV02
County(ies): NV: Washoe
Modified Date: 5/17/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Hawken Fire Restoration Work Nearly Finished

(Story posted 4/12/2012)

USDA Forest Service Recovery Act-funded workers have been conducting ecosystem restoration activities on 760 acres of non-federal lands burned in the 2007 Hawken Fire near Reno.

In 2010 and 2011, Alum Creek stream restoration work included installing stream bank stabilization materials and replanting native plants and shrubs. Thus far, workers have removed 39 trees and installed four water bars; 150 linear feet of rock and log toe protection; and 400 linear feet of willow waddle/toe slope protection along the creek. In addition, since the project's start, crews have planted 445 containerized plants along the creek, including service berry, golden current, and wood rose. Above the creek near Frog Pond, workers have planted 125 Jeffrey, ponderosa, and sugar pine trees.

People have also been clearing defensible space near adjacent homes while treating burned areas for weed control and replanting native plants. Workers cleared two acres of defensible space; grubbed and then seeded behind adjacent homes; and chemically and mechanically treated 54 acres for hazardous fuels reduction and weed control. In addition, approximately 100 acres were broadcast seeded with native plant species.

Spot treatments, seeding, plant monitoring, and tree and willow maintenance are scheduled to be accomplished this field season. In addition to providing work for local contractors, the project is helping to reduce future catastrophic wildfire risk; improve recreational access and crucial winter habitat for mule deer; and protect important watersheds. All project work should be finished by the end of 2012.

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 Jersey

Program Project Name: Ballanger Creek Enhancement

Local Project Name: Ballanger Creek Enhancement
Region: Northeastern Area S&PF
Nearby City(ies): Bass River Township
Congressional District(s): NJ03, NJ04
County(ies): NJ: Burlington
Modified Date: 1/20/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Habitat Enhancement Project

(Story posted 9/27/2011)

From Ben Wurst at the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey:

The Ballanger Creek Habitat Enhancement Project is meant to enhance habitat for rare wildlife and create jobs in Bass River Township, New Jersey.

In late 2009, the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey received notification from the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, USDA Forest Service that it was receiving a grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act). The funding is intended to help create both jobs and wildlife habitat in New Jersey. The scope of the project includes the creation and enhancement of wildlife habitat and helps control the spread of invasive species inside Bass River State Forest in Bass River Township, Burlington County. The site is located along Ballanger Creek and is the former site of an old saw mill owned by the French family in the early 1900s.

Ballanger Creek feeds into the Mullica River, a relatively unspoiled, estuarine system. The surrounding forested habitat is mostly unfragmented (to the south) and is comprised of pine-oak woodlands and emergent saltwater marsh. Some portions of the freshwater wetland are dominated by common reed where old fill was dumped, which provides little habitat for wildlife. Several different habitat types can be found on site and include a fallow field, a man-made freshwater impoundment, and a unique mature forest type that is uncommon for Bass River State Forest that contains large pitch pine, American holly, and white oak. The design of this project maximizes the site for use by wildlife and people for outdoor recreation, wildlife viewing, and environmental education.

Habitat treatments will include the enhancement of 5.5 acres of grassland habitat, creation of .3 acres of scrub-shrub habitat, and the enhancement of approximately six acres of freshwater wetland edge habitat, which includes removing any invasive species encountered. Grassland habitat that provides both food and cover will be enhanced by planting native warm-season grasses and wildflowers. This habitat will benefit small mammals, many

invertebrates, songbirds, and small gamebirds. Scrub-shrub habitat will be created by planting a variety of native fruit-bearing shrubs that offer both food and cover for migratory birds. Here a variety of shrubs will be planted to provide food during different seasons. The wetland edge will be enhanced by removing Common reed and planting native shrubs and herbaceous plants to create a more suitable habitat for wildlife, including egrets, herons, and songbirds. Additionally, a series of interpretive signs will be designed and installed after the project is completed.

Currently we are working with Duffield Associates, a private environmental consulting firm, to carry out this project. In late April, volunteers helped plant over 1,500 native fruit bearing shrubs to kick-off this project. Wildflower seeds were also planted in the old field. The next part of this project will be the restoration of the freshwater wetland edge habitat in late summer/fall 2010.

And a June 28, 2011 update:

Final Phase of (Recovery Act) site work at Ballanger Creek Complete!
by Ben Wurst, Habitat Program Manager

In late 2009 we received notification that we were going to receive funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to carry out a habitat enhancement project inside Bass River State Forest. The purpose of the project was to enhance habitat on site for migratory birds and other wildlife, especially rare species. The main part of the project was to remove fill and control invasives, like phragmites, that was illegally dumped on the edge of freshwater wetlands. The first phase of the project was to create scrub-shrub habitat. In early 2010 we planted over 1,000 native shrubs that provide both food and cover. Even though it was a hot, dry summer last year many of the shrubs are already flowering and bearing fruit. In summer we broadcast 75 lbs. of wildflower seed in the old fallow fields. Finally, over the past 2 weeks a crew from Anthony Excavating Inc. used excavators to remove tons (literally) of milled asphalt, concrete, and other debris (everything but the kitchen sink) along the edge of the wetlands. They used a small excavator that was able to reach a long distance without disturbing much of the surrounding area.

A series of interpretive signs are being designed and will be installed on site this fall. I also plan to work with volunteers from Bass River State Forest to enhance a 1.5 mile loop hiking trail around an old fire road on the edge of the wetlands.

Program Project Name: Tree Seedling Survival Project

Local Project Name: NH Tree Seedling Survival Project

Region: Northeastern Area S&PF

Nearby City(ies): Jackson, NJ

Congressional District(s): NJ01, NJ02, NJ03, NJ04, NJ05, NJ06, NJ07, NJ08, NJ09, NJ10, NJ11, NJ12, NJ13

County(ies): NJ: Burlington, Ocean, Salem

Modified Date: 1/20/2012

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Project Supports Tree Production

(Story posted 9/27/2011)

USDA Forest Service Recovery Act project funding is supporting the production of tree and shrub species recommended for use in wetland habitat restoration projects by the state's best management practice manuals. Projects will include improvements to the State Forest Nursery, which produces native tree seedlings for reforestation, afforestation, and forest restoration projects statewide. Funding will be provided to local contractors for selected projects that will improve seedling survival rate as well as support the establishment of a seed orchard to supply locally grown native tree seed.

Program Project Name: Hazard Tree Assessment and Removal Project

Local Project Name: Hazard Tree Assessment and Removal
Region: Northeastern Area S&PF
Nearby City(ies): New Lisbon, NJ
Congressional District(s): NJ01, NJ02, NJ03, NJ04, NJ05, NJ06, NJ07, NJ08, NJ09, NJ10, NJ11, NJ12, NJ13
County(ies): NJ: Atlantic, Burlington, Monmouth, Ocean, Sussex, Warren
Modified Date: 1/20/2012

Story:
Hazardous Fuels Reduction Work Supports Forest Health, Generates Energy

(Story posted 1/25/2011)

The New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry is using USDA Forest Service Recovery Act funds to hire loggers to drop trees killed by the gypsy moth. In Brendan T. Byrne State Forest and Parvin State Park, New Jersey residents are being offered permits to cut up and cart away as much as six cords of the felled trees for $20 a cord.

Besides providing logging jobs and inexpensive firewood for the public, logging efforts have removed hazardous trees endangering visitors on popular roads and at picnic areas, cabins, camping sites, and interpretive centers. The program has been very popular, and state forest managers say the firewood cutters have almost finished taking the trees dropped at Brendan T. Byrne, and firewood will be available at Parvin in February.

Program Project Name: New Jersey Community Stewardship Incentive Program - Small Business

Local Project Name: New Jersey Community Stewardship Incentive Program – Small Business
Region: Northeastern Area S&PF

Nearby City(ies): 140 towns throughout state

Congressional District(s): NJ01, NJ02, NJ03, NJ04, NJ05, NJ06, NJ07, NJ08, NJ09, NJ10, NJ11, NJ12, NJ13

County(ies): NJ: Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Salem, Somerset, Sussex, Union, Warren

Modified Date: 12/22/2011

Story:

New Jersey Communities Benefit from Recovery Act-funded Urban Forestry Grants

(Story posted 11/16/2011)

A USDA Forest Service Recovery Act-funded project allowing communities across the state to hire local green businesses for community forestry activities is ongoing. Since late 2010, arborists, equipment operators, landscapers, and nursery staff have been among Recovery Act-funded workers employed in 140 communities across the state with approved community forestry management plans.

For example, in late August, a local tree service company removed or pruned approximately 65 dead or otherwise dangerous trees along a heavily traveled road near an elementary school in Holmdel. The Recovery Act-funded work to address the hazards, many of which involved trees entangled in power lines, took place just days before Hurricane Irene swept through the state on August 28. The local Shade Tree Committee obtained the grant from the New Jersey Forest Service to complete work that contributes to public safety while providing forestry jobs in tough economic times.

In addition to helping communities address priorities and expand current tree care programs, an estimated 100 local businesses have benefited from increased employment opportunities at a time when the economic downturn has especially affected landscaping and tree care companies. The project is not only providing jobs but is also affording communities significant aesthetic and environmental enhancements.

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
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
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
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
Congressional District(s): NM03
County(ies): NM: Colfax
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3lfqgyx
Modified Date: 4/12/2011

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
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
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/426prb7
Modified Date: 4/13/2011

Story:

Fire Hazards Reduced and Jobs Created Due to Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 4/19/2010)

One thousand acres of National Forest land in and around wildland urban interface are being treated on the Gila National Forest Silver City Ranger District with Recovery Act funds. The 1000 acres are being accomplished through two separate contracts. The project is currently underway with an anticipated completion date of April 30, 2010.

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 pinion 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 affected 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 benefited 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

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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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: Youth employment in a community with limited employment opportunities; 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; 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; Enhancement of community partnerships and collaboration through joint problem solving and integration of interests; Trail work improves outdoor recreation opportunities for forest visitors; Projects substantially contribute to local economies. The Wellness Coalition has currently staffed up to 80 percent of its workforce with local employees; 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."

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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
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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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: 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

Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/44mq3e9

Modified Date: 4/12/2011

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
Congressional District(s): NM02
County(ies): NM: Otero
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3bnhycf
Modified Date: 4/12/2011

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
Congressional District(s): NM02
County(ies): NM: Grant
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/633sfpz
Modified Date: 4/12/2011

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
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
Nearby City(ies): Alamogordo
Congressional District(s): NM02
County(ies): NM: Chaves, Eddy, Lincoln, Otero
Modified Date: 4/6/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Youth Conservation Corps Projects

(Story posted 6/16/2011 and updated 3/14/2012)

The Lincoln National Forest received Recovery Act funds to conduct trail maintenance and improve signage throughout the forest using Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) crews. The SCC is a 12-year-old non-profit program that puts young people to work maintaining public lands in national forests and parks.

In January 2010, the SCC sent a team of eight individuals ages 18-25 to the Guadalupe Ranger District in Carlsbad, New Mexico, from Colorado Springs, Colorado, to do conservation work such as repairing trails and replacing signs on the forest.

Following the initial crew's arrival, work on the Lincoln in the southeastern part of the state continued throughout 2010 and included trails on all three ranger districts. In all, 109 youths from around the country participated in the project, accomplishing the following: maintained 300,696 feet of corridor, 29,080 feet of tread, and 66 water bars; installed 120 feet of new tread, 12 rock water bars, 66 rock steps, four wood water bars, one wood check dam, two rock check dams, 52 earthen dips, six fence posts, 7.5 square feet of retaining wall, and 88 signs; re-vegetated 950 feet of trail; reinforced one climbing turn; built 226 rock cairns; delineated 270 feet of rock; repaired 21 feet of fence; completed 10 wash crossings; removed 1,007 blown-down trees; and felled 216 trees.

Genevieve Tucker enjoyed her conservation corps work, especially in the Southwest. She did trail maintenance work for three months, earning $275 dollars a week, which was earmarked toward her AmeriCorps tuition. "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."

Josh Burt, SCC field coordinator, said Ms. 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."

Besides providing jobs and natural resource training for youth, the project improved soil and water resource conditions while enhancing recreational experiences for forest visitors, who also support local economies.

Program Project Name: Clean up of Hazardous Materials and Ground Water on Abandoned Mine Lands at Nacimiento Mine

Local Project Name: Nacimiento mine clean-up and water treatment
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Santa Fe
Ranger District: Cuba
Nearby City(ies): Cuba
Congressional District(s): NM03
County(ies): NM: Sandoval
Modified Date: 4/20/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Mine Cleanup Benefits Environment

(Story posted 4/14/2011)

The long-planned and much-tested cleanup operation on the Nacimiento Mine on the edge of the Santa Fe National Forest is up and running-–and will be for several years.

Recovery Act funds of $1.1 million have supplemented a multi-million dollar, multi-year remediation project. A bioreactor treatment plant has been constructed, and water treatment will begin soon. Construction was funded through USDA Hazardous Site Remediation funds.

The treatment plant, built and operated under contract to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, is pumping groundwater from the inactive open pit copper mine four miles southeast of Cuba off Highway 126. The objective is to pump and treat groundwater beneath the site to meet all water standards set by the state.

The 25 million gallons of treated water will be released into Senorito Creek. The cleanup supports increased economic opportunities and improved quality of life in rural America while protecting the environment.

The $4.2 million operation includes an extraction well field, treatment system and discharge

system for treated water. Contaminated water is treated with a semi-passive alcohol enhanced bioreactor (SPAEB). Biological processes (sulfate reducing bacteria) remove acid and precipitate dissolved heavy metals from the contaminated groundwater. Treated clean water is released to a discharge channel lined with cobbles that remove any remaining sulfide gas and increases oxygen in the water before final discharge to Senorito Creek.

“It will be running for several years,” noted Larry Gore, forest geologist. “We’ll be pumping and treating 25 million gallons of water.”

Mining on the site dates back to the late 1800s. In 1960 it was reopened as an open pit copper mine. The last operation, starting in 1984, used in-situ leaching to inject various acids into the Agua Zarca aquifer (the ore-bearing zone) and extract a copper-bearing solution through recovery wells. The operation was not economical and was stopped, leaving most of the leaching solution in the aquifer.

The Forest Service completed a feasibility study on cleanup options in 2003, and chose to pump and treat the groundwater to restore it to drinking water standards. Construction began in 2008 and was mostly complete that November, with additions made in summer 2009 to meet new surface water requirements. Operational testing has been underway for several months with full operation starting this week.

The treatment system was built by Engineering–Remediation Resources Group Incorporated and will be run by Ionic Water Technologies. The state-of the-art system is mostly automated, but two local residents are being trained by Ionic to do routine sampling and other duties.

Program Project Name: Poverty/Kingston Fuel Breaks

Local Project Name: Silver City Fuel Breaks
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Gila
Ranger District: Silver City
Nearby City(ies): Silver City
Congressional District(s): NM02
County(ies): NM: Sierra
Modified Date: 6/16/2011

Story:

Gila National Forest Treats Hazardous Fuels Using Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 4/14/2011)

On the Gila National Forest, 1,000 acres of National Forest System land in and around the wildland-urban interface were treated on the Silver City Ranger District with Recovery Act funds. Project work was finished in April 2010 using two separate contracts.

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. The project treated primarily piñon and juniper fuel types in areas directly adjacent to the 300-acre Oak Grove Subdivision that 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 primarily treated re-sprouting oak in areas that were initially treated in 2001. Work took place in the wildland-urban interface to 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 affected 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 benefited 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: Mexican Canyon Trestle Restoration Phase II

Local Project Name: Mexican Canyon Trestle Restoration
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Lincoln
Ranger District: Sacramento
Nearby City(ies): Cloudcroft
Congressional District(s): NM02
County(ies): NM: Otero
Modified Date: 6/16/2011

Story:
Mexican Canyon Trestle Project Gets Boost with Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 4/14/2011)

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 Forest Service 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 the past to the 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. Contractors completed planning and design of this project in the spring of 2010, and construction will begin once trestle stabilization is finalized.

Sacramento District Ranger Donna Owens is thrilled about the whole project. “The trestle is something special from our past that is a legacy to the future. Once built, this project will be the gateway that welcomes visitors and locals to our mountain community.”

Program Project Name: Trail Maintenance on the Continental Divide
Local Project Name: Continental Divide Trail Construction

Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Gila
Ranger District: Quemado
Nearby City(ies): Quemado
Congressional District(s): NM02
County(ies): NM: Catron
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/4ym8mqu
Modified Date: 8/19/2011

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Trail Relocation Benefits Recreationists

(Story posted 4/15/2011)

The Gila National Forest was awarded Recovery Act funds to relocate the Continental Divide Trail off of existing roads to a more primitive setting. In September 2010 workers began clearing and building 35 miles of trail across the Quemado Ranger District, and work was finished in mid-December 2010.

The contractor, Two Shoes, Inc. of Trinidad, Colorado, did an excellent job of building this trail and meeting required specifications in record time. Owner and CEO Rio Martinez repeatedly stated, “I love being here and being involved in this project. It will be a wonderful experience hiking this trail when I complete my work."

District personnel understand the ongoing need to maintain the quality and safety of this trail in order to provide a pleasurable recreation experience to the public.
The Continental Divide Trail enjoys national recognition and draws users from across the country, bringing increased tourism to the surrounding communities.

Program Project Name: Taos County Wide Hazardous Fuels Mitigation

Local Project Name: Hazardous Fuels Treatments for Taos County
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Carson
Nearby City(ies): Taos
Congressional District(s): NM03
County(ies): NM: Taos
Modified Date: 4/19/2011

Story:
Rio Arriba County Hazardous Fuels Reduction Work Protects Communities

(Story posted 4/15/2011)

On the Carson National Forest, more than 3,200 acres have been thinned around

communities such as Angel Fire, Questa, Lama, and Pot Creek using Forest Service Recovery Act funding. In addition to improving forest health and making communities safer by thinning the forest and creating fuel breaks, the downed trees provide local residents with much-needed firewood. As many as 4,000 cords of wood will be available to area residents that are heavily dependent on wood with which to heat and cook. People in the traditional communities of rural northern New Mexico purchase more wood permits from the Carson National Forest than any other forest in the Southwest Region.

Program Project Name: Vallecitos Federal Sustained Yield Unit (VFSYU) Hazardous Fuels Treatment Project

Local Project Name: Hazardous Fuels Treatment for Rio Arriba County
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Carson
Nearby City(ies): Taos
Congressional District(s): NM03
County(ies): NM: Rio Arriba
Modified Date: 4/19/2011

Story:

Rio Arriba County Hazardous Fuels Reduction Work Protects Communities

(Story posted 4/15/2011)

On the Carson National Forest, more than 3,200 acres have been thinned around communities such as Angel Fire, Questa, Lama, and Pot Creek using Forest Service Recovery Act funding. In addition to improving forest health and making communities safer by thinning the forest and creating fuel breaks, the downed trees provide local residents with much-needed firewood. As many as 4,000 cords of wood will be available to area residents that are heavily dependent on wood with which to heat and cook. People in the traditional communities of rural northern New Mexico purchase more wood permits from the Carson National Forest than any other forest in the Southwest Region.

Program Project Name: Redondo Canyon

Local Project Name: Redondo Canyon Forest Management and Highway 4 Hazard Reduction
Region: National Operations
Nearby City(ies): Santa Fe
Congressional District(s): NM03
County(ies): NM: Sandoval
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3vpujjv
Modified Date: 6/9/2011

Story:

Valles Caldera National Preserve Recovery Act-funded Hazardous Fuels Reduction

Produces Many Benefits

(Story posted 5/17/2011)

On the Valles Caldera National Preserve, the Recovery Act-funded Redondo Canyon Project was proposed to reduce hazardous fuels and restore ecosystem structure, composition, and function. Implementation was designed to contribute to local capacity to utilize small diameter material, benefit local communities and businesses; incur cost savings to the Valles Caldera Trust through the exchange of goods or services; and enhance the objectives on surrounding National Forest System lands. In addition, the project was designed to provide quantitative information on the increase, improvement, or measurable change in ecosystem services (water yield, carbon sequestration, and habitat diversity) as a result of treatment activities.

In the summer of 2010 using Recovery Act funds, crews operating heavy equipment and chainsaws were hard at work in Valles Caldera National Preserve located in the Jemez Mountains of north central New Mexico. Within Redondo Canyon, heavy equipment was artfully maneuvered through a dense ponderosa pine forest. Operator Joby Conley used the big machine to snip ponderosa pine trees up to 11 inches in diameter; remove the branches; and then carry the boles to a nearby road, placing them in neat stacks. He then used a different piece of equipment to “masticate” or grind up the remaining tops and branches.

The boles of the trees were chipped into large trucks and hauled about 70 miles to Albuquerque, New Mexico where they were further processed for use as mulch in the renovation of school playgrounds. The crushed tops and branches were allowed to dry before being ignited in a prescribed burn. The fire served to recycle the nutrients back into the soil, fertilizing the growth of grasses and forbs, which will quickly occupy the forest floor now open to sunlight and rain.

Joby’s father Terry Conley owns and operates this small reforestation business. Terry has kept up with the times; transitioning from timber harvest to forest restoration, maintaining a profitable small business. His success is atypical in the industry and largely based on his skills and reputation as a reliable, conscientious, and skilled operator.

Meanwhile, along the New Mexico Highway 4 Scenic Byway, chainsaws buzzed through the forest. A lead crew cut trees up to nine inches in diameter. A second crew followed closely, cutting the tops and branches from the boles and piling them by hand. These piles were burned and the boles were collected by locals as firewood.

All together 890 acres of forest were thinned, taking about six months. Besides the people employed to perform the work, the removal of chips and firewood is calculated to have contributed to an additional 50 direct or indirect jobs in the region. It was these potential economic benefits that qualified this forest thinning project for Recovery Act funds.

Ecological benefits also result from this type of work. For example, dense forests intercept snow in the tree crowns where it is sublimated and carried away without ever reaching the ground. When the forest is thinned, snow falls through the crowns to the ground where it is

sheltered from the sun and wind by the remaining trees. It then melts into the soil and is stored by the watershed. Further, a fire burning in the thinned forest would burn with the lower intensity that was typical in these forests 100 years ago instead of the destructive crown fires that we often see today.

The 88,900 acre Valles Caldera National Preserve includes over 56,000 acres of forest that are in need of this type of treatment. The Valles Caldera Trust, the wholly owned government corporation charged with managing the Preserve as an experiment in public land management, hopes to thin about half of these forests over the next ten years. A portion of this work is being funded through the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program created by Congress in 2009. This Federal program also promotes incorporating local economic stimulus with science-based forest management.

Program Project Name: Santa Fe National Forest Highway 4 Hazard Reduction

Local Project Name: Redondo Canyon Forest Management and Highway 4 Hazard Reduction
Region: National Operations
Nearby City(ies): Santa Fe
Congressional District(s): NM03
County(ies): NM: Sandoval
Modified Date: 5/19/2011

Story:

Valles Caldera National Preserve Recovery Act-funded Work Reduces Fire Danger

(Story posted 5/17/2011)

On the Valles Caldera National Preserve, the Recovery Act-funded project designed to reduce dangerous conditions in many areas of the Jemez Mountains where a long-term policy of fire suppression has allowed understory vegetation and downed trees to accumulate got underway in 2010. On the preserve, trees downed during high winds could carry an intense fire on the forest floor. Dense pockets of small pine and fir trees had invaded the edges of meadows and openings in the forest and contained mistletoe and signs of spruce budworm. Concentrations of these small trees and the proximity of heavy pockets of dead and down wood made wildfire more difficult to control and increased the likelihood of a fire burning into the canopy as a crown fire. The Highway 4 corridor has the highest human-caused fire occurrence on the Jemez District of the Santa Fe National Forest.

In the summer of 2010 using Recovery Act funds, crews operating heavy equipment and chainsaws were hard at work in Valles Caldera National Preserve located in the Jemez Mountains of north central New Mexico. Within Redondo Canyon, heavy equipment was artfully maneuvered through a dense ponderosa pine forest. Operator Joby Conley used the big machine to snip ponderosa pine trees up to 11 inches in diameter; remove the branches; and then carry the boles to a nearby road, placing them in neat stacks. He then used a

different piece of equipment to “masticate” or grind up the remaining tops and branches.

The boles of the trees were chipped into large trucks and hauled about 70 miles to Albuquerque, New Mexico where they were further processed for use as mulch in the renovation of school playgrounds. The crushed tops and branches were allowed to dry before being ignited in a prescribed burn. The fire served to recycle the nutrients back into the soil, fertilizing the growth of grasses and forbs, which will quickly occupy the forest floor now open to sunlight and rain.

Joby’s father Terry Conley owns and operates this small reforestation business. Terry has kept up with the times; transitioning from timber harvest to forest restoration, maintaining a profitable small business. His success is atypical in the industry and largely based on his skills and reputation as a reliable, conscientious, and skilled operator.

Meanwhile, along the New Mexico Highway 4 Scenic Byway, chainsaws buzzed through the forest. A lead crew cut trees up to nine inches in diameter. A second crew followed closely, cutting the tops and branches from the boles and piling them by hand. These piles were burned and the boles were collected by locals as firewood. Reducing the hazard along this travel corridor will protect the Valles Caldera Preserve and the Jemez National Recreation Area.

All together 890 acres of forest were thinned, taking about six months. Besides the people employed to perform the work, the removal of chips and firewood is calculated to have contributed to an additional 50 direct or indirect jobs in the region. It was these potential economic benefits that qualified this forest thinning project for Recovery Act funds.

Ecological benefits also result from this type of work. For example, dense forests intercept snow in the tree crowns where it is sublimated and carried away without ever reaching the ground. When the forest is thinned, snow falls through the crowns to the ground where it is sheltered from the sun and wind by the remaining trees. It then melts into the soil and is stored by the watershed. Further, a fire burning in the thinned forest would burn with the lower intensity that was typical in these forests 100 years ago instead of the destructive crown fires that we often see today.

The 88,900 acre Valles Caldera National Preserve includes over 56,000 acres of forest that are in need of this type of treatment. The Valles Caldera Trust, the wholly owned government corporation charged with managing the Preserve as an experiment in public land management, hopes to thin about half of these forests over the next ten years. A portion of this work is being funded through the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program created by Congress in 2009. This Federal program also promotes incorporating local economic stimulus with science-based forest management.

Program Project Name: Trail Bridge Replacement for Goose Lake Trail, Red River / Rio Grande Bridge and Trail 24

Local Project Name: Trail 24 Bridge Replacement
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Carson
Ranger District: Camino Real
Nearby City(ies): Santa Fe
Congressional District(s): NM03
County(ies): NM: Taos
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3omzz9w
Modified Date: 8/19/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Bridge Replacement Benefits Visitors, Provides Jobs and Training for Youth

(Story posted 5/19/2011)

On the Carson National Forest, Southwest Conservation Corps (SWCC) workers replaced a bridge located on the Camino Real Ranger District within the Pecos Wilderness. The actual bridge is located approximately two miles up Trail 24 from the Santa Barbara Campground. Young people removed the existing 29 foot wooden bridge from the abutments, breaking it down into pieces small enough to allow it to be taken away with pack horses.

The SWCC also disassembled the new packable bridge stringers and packaged all parts prior to their being delivered to the bridge location. Using Carson National Forest or contracted horses to assist in packing the new bridge stringers to the site, the SWCC also packed in all other hardware from the Pecos Wilderness boundary to the bridge site. The entire new bridge weighed about 10 tons.

The work also included excavating fill material in the area and placing it to build up the abutments. Located in a wilderness area, the project had extra challenges because of the lack of power tools or wheeled vehicles. SWCC workers brought their own tools, equipment, supplies, and personal protective equipment and camped at the campgrounds, making their own meals. “This experience has empowered people for life experiences, teaching them something every day,” Crew Leader Kevin Heiner said.

In addition to providing safe passage for the public along these trails, the project provided direct economic support to the local community through the hiring of local workers and additional benefits to the local communities to support the need for supplies, fuel, food, and other incidentals.

The Pecos Wilderness is one of New Mexico’s most popular wilderness areas, used by hundreds of hikers, backpackers, and horseback riders every year.

Program Project Name: National Forest System Road 150 Reconstruction - 48 miles

Local Project Name: NFSR 150 Rehabilitation and Maintenance
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Gila
Ranger District: Black Range
Nearby City(ies): Mimbres, NM; Silver City, NM
Congressional District(s): NM02
County(ies): NM: Catron, Grant
Modified Date: 1/18/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Safe, Enjoyable Forest Travel

(Story posted 9/15/2011)

On the Gila National Forest, Recovery Act-funded workers improved 48 miles of National Forest System road (NFSR) 150. Contractors began clearing and roadway improvements in March 2010, and the project was finished by mid-May 2011. All the contracts were completed on time and within budget.

The Forest specified the use of an IronWolf Crusher to make use of the oversize rock found alongside the roads edge from past years road maintenance activities. The IronWolf Crusher is designed to crush, or grind, rock and bedrock on-site, eliminating the need to locate an appropriate material source and crush rock off-site, haul, and apply aggregate surfacing. By doing so, the Forest was able to improve the drainage from storm water running down the road surface and reduce the amount of aggregate surfacing needed to surface the road. The IronWolf treated nearly 31 miles of road for $463,050 ($15,000/mile) whereas the cost to crush, haul and apply aggregate surfacing was approximately $68,000/mile.

NFSR 150 is the only NFS road that directly connects the south end of the forest to the north end and runs between the Gila and Aldo Leopold wildernesses. The reconstruction has allowed for increased safety to the visiting public as well as employees by providing proper drainage on the road, thereby eliminating the driving hazards associated with native material roads that have no drainage. This road crosses well over 100 drainages, and water quality along the entire stretch of road has been improved.

Employees and the public (hunters, ranchers, private landowners, scenic drivers, etc.) that have used the road since the improvements have been completed have been very pleased with the road’s improved condition. What was once a grueling four-hour trip, to passengers and vehicles alike, is now in season an enjoyable two-hour excursion. The roadway surfacing and drainage improvements have benefited not only the contractors that performed the work and those who travel the road, but the resource as well.

Program Project Name: Black Canyon Fish Barrier / Watershed Improvement

Local Project Name: Black Canyon Fish Barrier
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Gila
Ranger District: Wilderness
Nearby City(ies): Mimbres, NM; Silver City, NM
Congressional District(s): NM02
County(ies): NM: Catron
Modified Date: 9/16/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Fish Barrier Repair

(Story posted on 9/15/2011)

Last month, Recovery Act–funded workers finished improving a compromised fish barrier that protects threatened Gila trout in Black Canyon on the Gila National Forest. Work to repair the existing gabion* structure that ensures that non-native trout that prey upon, compete with, and hybridize with Gila trout remain downstream began in April. The site's remote location required the contractor to mix nearly 250 cubic yards of concrete on site to repair damage that fast moving water during high flows had caused by creating a plunge pool under the barrier.

This important project created meaningful work while saving the investment in the existing barrier. The newly armored structure is now expected to have a longer successful lifespan to protect valuable Gila trout habitat and a large wetland/riparian area upstream of the barrier, both of which would have been lost had the structure failed.

*In civil engineering a gabion wall is made of rectangular baskets fabricated of thick galvanized wire, which are filled with stone and stacked on one another, usually in tiers that step back with the slope rather than vertically. Gabions are also used as fish barriers on small streams.

Program Project Name: Cimarron Campground Water System Improvement

Local Project Name: Cimarron CG water line replacement
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Carson
Ranger District: Camino Real
Nearby City(ies): Cimarron, NM; Taos, NM
Congressional District(s): NM03
County(ies): NM: Taos
Modified Date: 2/14/2012

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Work Provides Safe Drinking Water

(Story posted 9/21/2011)

Located on the Valle Vidal Unit on the Carson National Forest, this Recovery Act-funded project involved replacing a leaking water line on an existing water system that serves the Cimarron Campgrounds, Shuree Ponds day-use site, and Shuree Lodge. The water system was the only source of potable water for the campgrounds and local area. The completed project provides safe drinking water to the public at these recreation sites.

Construction Technology and Management out of Albuquerque completed the work. There were indirect benefits for the closest communities that supported the contractor with supplies, fuel, food, and other incidentals.
The project is located in a remote and difficult location. As a result, this project put more people to work longer due to the logistical support required to work in this environment.

Valle Vidal is located nearly 100 miles northeast of Taos, New Mexico, and was part of the Maxwell Land Grant. When the Los Angeles Times newspaper baron Harry Chandler bought the property in 1927, he brought Hollywood movie stars and producers such as Douglas Fairbanks, Cecil B. DeMille, and Mary Pickford to the area, and it became a playground for the rich and famous. Valle Vidal is also known as the Yellowstone of the Southwest because of its diversity of wildlife and beautiful scenery.

Program Project Name: Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and Pecos Wilderness Trails Maintenance

Local Project Name: Trail 24 Bridge Replacement
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Carson
Ranger District: Camino Real
Nearby City(ies): Taos, NM
Congressional District(s): NM03
County(ies): NM: Taos
Modified Date: 1/18/2012

Story:
Youth Perform Recovery Act-funded Trail Bridge Replacement

(Story posted 9/21/2011)

On the Carson National Forest Camino Real Ranger District within the Pecos Wilderness, Recovery Act-funded Southwest Conservation Corps (SWCC) workers replaced a heavily-used trail bridge in the summer and fall of 2010. The Pecos Wilderness is one of New Mexico’s most popular Wilderness Areas, used by hundreds of hikers, backpackers, and horseback riders every year.

The bridge is located approximately two miles up Trail 24 from the Santa Barbara Campground. Located in a wilderness area, the project had extra challenges because designated wilderness regulations prohibit the use of power tools or wheeled vehicles.

Young people removed the existing 29-foot wooden bridge from the abutments, breaking it down into pieces small enough so it could be taken away with pack horses. The SWCC also disassembled the new packable bridge stringers and packaged all parts prior to them being delivered to the bridge location. Using Carson National Forest or contracted horses to help in packing wooden the new bridge stringers to the site, the SWCC also packed in all other hardware from the Pecos Wilderness boundary to the bridge site.

The work also included excavating fill material in the area and placing it to build up the abutments. The entire new bridge weighs about 10 tons. SWCC youth brought their own tools, equipment, supplies, and personal protective equipment and stayed at the campgrounds, making their own meals. “This experience has empowered people for life experiences, teaching them something every day,” Crew Leader Kevin Heiner said.

Program Project Name: Angel Fire Wildland Urban Interface

Local Project Name: Angel Fire Thinning Project
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Carson
Ranger District: Questa
Nearby City(ies): Angel Fire, Questa, and Taos, NM
Congressional District(s): NM03
County(ies): NM: Colfax
Modified Date: 2/15/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Work Protects Nearby Communities

(Story posted 9/21/2011 and updated 2/15/2012)

Recovery Act-funded workers have thinned 3,200 acres around communities such as Angel Fire, Questa, Lama, and Pot Creek. In addition to improving forest health and making communities safer by thinning the forest and creating fuelbreaks, the downed trees provide local residents with much needed firewood. As many as 4,000 cords of wood were available to area residents that are heavily dependent on wood with which to heat and cook. People in the traditional communities of rural northern New Mexico purchase more wood permits from the Carson National Forest than any other forest in the Southwest Region.

The work consisted of multiple contracts involving tree thinning, and in some cases, work in the tree thinning areas was to be followed by slash piling. Workers completed all thinning

contracts in 2010. Slash piling work began in 2011 but was not completed due to early snow. Slash piling efforts will continue when weather and ground conditions permit in mid-May or early June with plans to complete all remaining work by mid-summer 2012.

Program Project Name: New Mexico Forest Inventory and Analysis survey

Local Project Name: ARRA Ecosystem Restoration Research

Region: Southwest Region

Nearby City(ies): throughout NM

Congressional District(s): NM01, NM02, NM03

County(ies): NM: Bernalillo, Catron, Chaves, Cibola, Colfax, Curry, DeBaca, Dona Ana, Eddy, Grant, Guadalupe, Harding, Hidalgo, Lea, Lincoln, Los Alamos, Luna, McKinley, Mora, Otero, Quay, Rio Arriba, Roosevelt, Sandoval, San Juan, San Miguel, Santa Fe, Sierra, Socorro, Taos, Torrance, Union, Valencia

Modified Date: 1/19/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Study Supports Multiple Objectives

(Story posted 9/21/2011)

A USDA Forest Service recovery Act-funded grant is helping address a wide range of issues including climate change impacts and reduced tree vigor while providing data that will be used in the State of New Mexico's forest action plan for key watershed planning initiatives. The data collected from plots has provided reliable and accurate information that will be used to update the New Mexico State Wide Resource Assessment at the end of the grant once all plot data has been collected.

Other state resource managers will also use the data: natural resource managers with federal, tribal, state or local governments working to enhance and protect ecosystems; community leaders concerned with protecting forest and woodland communities from wildfire; corporate entrepreneurs looking for ways to generate energy through environmentally friendly biomass operations; academic researchers studying and predicting the impacts of changing climates; or even local ranchers looking for landscape trends that affect their overall operations. The New Mexico State Forestry Division (NMSFD) has utilized the funds to administer the grant including employees and contractors that provided professional services, administrative and fiscal management. Thus far the grant has accomplished the following:

• Collected forest inventory and analysis (FIA) data on a state-wide basis to provide base data for economic development
• Created and retained private sector jobs by building capacity for forest inventory by contractors
• Developed capacity within the state by utilizing data to leverage economic development opportunities

NMSFD worked in partnership with the Intermountain West Region of the USDA Forest Service's Forest Inventory and Analysis Program (IWFIA). IWFIA had committed crews that performed more complicated data collection and provided quality assurance/quality control (QAQC) for the data collected. NMSFD contracted the majority of the less complicated plots to qualified forest inventory contractors.
The Recovery Act funds are supporting the most comprehensive forest inventory (approximately 80 percent of the total sample design) currently being conducted in New Mexico. Foresters and forestry technicians from across the state, including three tribes, are in the woods gathering complex and detailed information about New Mexico's forests. The FIA program has been gathering forest information nationally for over 70 years. However, in New Mexico, data collection first started in the late 1980s, and with additional inventories in the 1990s, only 2,400 plots had been visited. In cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service FIA crews, current data from approximately twice as many plots will soon be available for the state of New Mexico.

In the early 2000's major bark beetle outbreaks killed piñon trees on millions of acres in New Mexico, but the official estimates of the damage had to be based on data collected in the surrounding states of Arizona, Utah, and Colorado because no data was being collected in New Mexico. Although Congress intended the FIA program would collect some data in each state each year, the program is never fully funded, and New Mexico was consistently being postponed. When the Recovery Act program was established, FIA data collection was identified as the State of New Mexico's Forestry Division's highest priority. Not only do funds generate a high level of worker income to equipment expenses, but the data directly benefits future economic development within the state on many levels. The project also builds capacity within the state to continue data collection and avoid future data gaps.

The state has managed the program in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service's Interior West FIA program. Utilizing Recovery Act funding, the state contracts the data collection to private contractors and local tribes. With regular FIA program funds, Forest Service inspectors ensure the data meets national program standards, as well as collecting additional data in the state. Information is gathered on all jurisdictions and coordination includes working with the New Mexico State Land Office, the Southwest Region of the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management New Mexico state office, various Department of Defense facilities, national parks and monuments, many city and county governments, dozens of native tribes, and thousands of private landowners.

For the past two field seasons, foresters have traveled the state heading to pre-designated sampling locations (plots). Since the national definition for forests include mesquite woodlands, information has been gathered in every county of the state and at all elevations. Next summer, the analyzed data will become available for anyone to access and develop reports on the Forest Service's Forest Inventory Data Online Web site. Although the program has already provided over 60 jobs and put funds into New Mexico communities all over the state, the real benefits of this project are yet to come. Previously unavailable information about New Mexico's forest resource will drive industrial opportunities, hone watershed projects, focus forest protection from wildfire, and many more endeavors that require current and comprehensive information.

Program Project Name: Capitan Hazardous Fuels Projects

Local Project Name: ARRA Hazardous Fuels Treatment on non-Federal Land
Region: Southwest Region
Nearby City(ies): Capitan, NM
Congressional District(s): NM02
County(ies): NM: Lincoln, Otero
Modified Date: 1/19/2012

Story:

State-wide Recovery Act-funded Hazardous Fuels Reduction Work Supports Multiple Objectives

(Story posted 9/21/2011)

The intent of this grant was to leverage collaboration and hazardous fuels dollars across New Mexico. The Hazardous Fuel Reduction funds were used to support projects specifically designed to protect communities or critical areas at risk. Hazardous fuel treatments included fuel breaks and fuel treatments that met the following criteria: Projects focused on protecting communities at risk. All projects were within an approved Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Areas that did not have National Forest involvement had to have evidence of local collaboration with adjacent federal, state, tribal, or local agencies. Recovery Act Hazardous Fuels Reduction funds have flowed through the Forestry Division to community sub-grantees such as local governments (counties and municipalities) using a Joint Powers Agreement and Work Plans. The grant did not require a state match.

A total of nine projects in three districts were supported within this grant. All projects were approved November 24, 2009.

The Canadian River Watershed project is the product of a partnership between Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) Forestry Division and the Colfax Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). Other project participants include C3RP (Canadian River Riparian Restoration Project—a coalition of 13 Soil and Water Conservation Districts within the Canadian River basin); New Mexico State University; US Department of Agriculture – Forest Service (USFS); Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS); and the New Mexico Department of Agriculture. Surrounding area contractors were employed to treat approximately 369 acres of standing dead salt cedar and Russian olive. The treatment done in the Canadian River Watershed with funds from this project was a follow-up treatment to chemical application conducted with funding from a previous project. Completion of this project will “connect the dots” between areas that have already been treated and part of a landscape treatment area in the Canadian River Watershed. Without treatment, the stands of dead trees would have been fuel for a wildfire in the Canadian River Watershed.

The project will lessen the possibility of ash and other fire-related contaminants entering the

Canadian River in the event of wildfire. Further, the treatment will help restore the watershed. The treatment methods for the project included mastication of standing dead trees. Direct application of chemical herbicide was used to treat the re-growth of Russian olive and other non-native species. In addition to creating jobs, the project has enhanced the habitat of riparian species. Mastication of the heavily stocked stands that were treated has encouraged new growth of grasses and forbs that are beneficial to wildlife. Implementation of the project will provide landowners along the Canadian River and others with information and education through field trips, presentations, etc. on treatment methods so landowners can become self reliant in implementing their own treatments, and others can become more aware on the need for riparian treatment and restoration.

Local contractor Jack Chatfield said, "…I have received numerous comments about the aesthetics and positive effects on wildlife habitat brought forth by the project as well as very positive feedback from landowners with indications that they would like to sign up their acreage for treatment…"

Program Project Name: Chama Hazardous Fuels Projects

Local Project Name: ARRA Hazardous Fuels Treatment on non-Federal lands
Region: Southwest Region
Nearby City(ies): Chama, NM
Congressional District(s): NM03
County(ies): NM: Rio Arriba, San Juan
Modified Date: 1/19/2012

Story:

State-wide Recovery Act-funded Hazardous Fuels Reduction Work Supports Multiple Objectives

(Story posted 9/21/2011)

The intent of this grant was to leverage collaboration and hazardous fuels dollars across New Mexico. The Hazardous Fuel Reduction funds were used to support projects specifically designed to protect communities or critical areas at risk. Hazardous fuel treatments included fuel breaks and fuel treatments that met the following criteria:
Projects focused on protecting communities at risk.
All projects were within an approved Community Wildfire Protection Plan.
Areas that did not have National Forest involvement had to have evidence of local collaboration with adjacent federal, state, tribal, or local agencies.
Recovery Act Hazardous Fuels Reduction funds have flowed through the Forestry Division to community sub-grantees such as local governments (counties and municipalities) using a Joint Powers Agreement and Work Plans. The grant did not require a state match.

A total of nine projects in three districts were supported within this grant. All projects were approved November 24, 2009.

The Canadian River Watershed project is the product of a partnership between Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) Forestry Division and the Colfax Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). Other project participants include C3RP (Canadian River Riparian Restoration Project—a coalition of 13 Soil and Water Conservation Districts within the Canadian River basin); New Mexico State University; US Department of Agriculture – Forest Service (USFS); Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS); and the New Mexico Department of Agriculture. Surrounding area contractors were employed to treat approximately 369 acres of standing dead salt cedar and Russian olive. The treatment done in the Canadian River Watershed with funds from this project was a follow-up treatment to chemical application conducted with funding from a previous project. Completion of this project will “connect the dots” between areas that have already been treated and part of a landscape treatment area in the Canadian River Watershed. Without treatment, the stands of dead trees would have been fuel for a wildfire in the Canadian River Watershed.

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Local contractor Jack Chatfield said, “…I have received numerous comments about the aesthetics and positive effects on wildlife habitat brought forth by the project as well as very positive feedback from landowners with indications that they would like to sign up their acreage for treatment…”

Program Project Name: Cimarron Hazardous Fuels Projects

Local Project Name: ARRA Hazardous Fuels Treatment on non-Federal Lands
Region: Southwest Region
Nearby City(ies): Cimarron, NM
Congressional District(s): NM03
County(ies): NM: Colfax, Taos
Modified Date: 1/19/2012

Story:

State-wide Recovery Act-funded Hazardous Fuels Reduction Work Supports Multiple Objectives

(Story posted 9/21/2011)

The intent of this grant was to leverage collaboration and hazardous fuels dollars across New Mexico. The Hazardous Fuel Reduction funds were used to support projects specifically designed to protect communities or critical areas at risk. Hazardous fuel treatments included fuel breaks and fuel treatments that met the following criteria:
Projects focused on protecting communities at risk.
All projects were within an approved Community Wildfire Protection Plan.
Areas that did not have National Forest involvement had to have evidence of local collaboration with adjacent federal, state, tribal, or local agencies.
Recovery Act Hazardous Fuels Reduction funds have flowed through the Forestry Division to community sub-grantees such as local governments (counties and municipalities) using a Joint Powers Agreement and Work Plans. The grant did not require a state match.

A total of nine projects in three districts were supported within this grant. All projects were approved November 24, 2009.
The Canadian River Watershed project is the product of a partnership between Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) Forestry Division and the Colfax Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). Other project participants include C3RP (Canadian River Riparian Restoration Project—a coalition of 13 Soil and Water Conservation Districts within the Canadian River basin); New Mexico State University; US Department of Agriculture – Forest Service (USFS); Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS); and the New Mexico Department of Agriculture. Surrounding area contractors were employed to treat approximately 369 acres of standing dead salt cedar and Russian olive. The treatment done in the Canadian River Watershed with funds from this project was a follow-up treatment to chemical application conducted with funding from a previous project. Completion of this project will “connect the dots” between areas that have already been treated and part of a landscape treatment area in the Canadian River Watershed. Without treatment, the stands of dead trees would have been fuel for a wildfire in the Canadian River Watershed.

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Program Project Name: Three Rivers Trail repair

Local Project Name: Three Rivers Trail Repair
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Lincoln
Ranger District: Smokey Bear
Nearby City(ies): Carrizozo, Alamogordo, NM
Congressional District(s): NM02
County(ies): NM: Otero
Modified Date: 1/17/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Trail Maintenance, Signage

(Story posted 9/23/2011)

The Lincoln National Forest received Recovery Act funds to conduct trails maintenance and improve signage in the Three Rivers area, which includes access to and trails within the White Mountain Wilderness and the Three Rivers Campground. To accomplish these projects the Forest entered into an agreement with the Southwest Conservation Corp (SCC), a non-profit program that engages and trains a diverse group of young men and women to complete conservation projects for the public benefit.

SCC sent a team of eight individuals from Tucson, Arizona, ages 18 to 25, to the Smokey Bear Ranger District in south central New Mexico, to do conservation work in the White Mountain Wilderness. The project identified several trails within the White Mountain Wilderness area including the Three Rivers Trail (21T) that needed to be maintained and/or reconstructed to the standards identified in the USDA Forest Service Standard Specifications for Construction and Maintenance of trails.
The tasks this crew worked on included the following: log and brush trail to accommodate people and horses; tread reconstruction or relocation; reestablish signs; build rock cairns to identify trail location; slough and berm removal; and switchback drainage maintenance.

Since all the work was to take place in a designated wilderness area, crews were required to utilize non-mechanized hand tools at all times. The eight positions contributed to the local economies in southeastern New Mexico.

Program Project Name: 107 Miles of Trail Maintenance

Local Project Name: 107 miles Trail Maintenance
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Gila
Ranger District: Wilderness
Nearby City(ies): Silver City, Mimbres, Truth or Consequences, NM

Congressional District(s): NM02
County(ies): NM: Catron, Grant
Modified Date: 1/17/2012

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Support Critical Trail Maintenance

(Story posted 9/23/2011)

Recovery Act-funded trail maintenance work to maintain 107 miles of trail within the Gila and Aldo Leopold Wildernesses on the Wilderness Ranger District, Gila National Forest began in April 2009 and was finished in May 2011. Many of the trails had not been maintained in a number of years, so the project provided the ranger district a chance to get more trails opened up and maintained for visitor use.

Work consisted of logging out trails; maintaining and installing water bars; controlling erosion; brushing out overhanging vegetation; and installing rock cairns.
The contractor stated, “This was a challenging contract since I wasn’t familiar with the country and the lack of maintenance over the years. It really kept me going. Often it was just a challenge to locate the trail.”

The contractor was able to hire local residents to help with the contract and also used local outfitters to assist in packing gear to the work sites.
The ranger district received numerous positive comments from wilderness users who appreciated the trail maintenance and getting trails opened again. The trails that were chosen provided opportunities for loop routes and access to existing maintained trails, especially in the Aldo Leopold Wilderness, which had essentially grown over.

Program Project Name: Construct Little Tesuque Restroom Facility and Shelter

Local Project Name: Little Tesuque Restroom Facility and Shelter
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Santa Fe
Ranger District: Espanola
Nearby City(ies): Espanola, NM
Congressional District(s): NM03
County(ies): NM: Santa Fe
Modified Date: 12/13/2011

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Support Popular Picnic Area Upgrades

(Story posted 9/28/2011)

Before winter, Recovery Act-funded workers will finish redesigning and rebuilding a restroom

and shelter at the popular Little Tesuque Picnic Area on the Santa Fe National Forest Espanola Ranger District.

Local contractors began work in fall 2010 to prepare an overall site redesign encompassing a larger group shelter and restroom relocation followed by construction of the new facilities, including five new picnic sites. The location of the original restroom that did not meet accessibility standards had caused it to be damaged twice by vehicle collisions and the vault was believed to be leaking. Additionally, the existing group shelter, a historic structure originally built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, was too small for the large groups using it.

The upgraded amenities at the day-use site located only a few miles from downtown Santa Fe along the Santa Fe National Forest Scenic Byway will support long-term contributions to the local economy and improved public health conditions, including site accessibility for people of all abilities.

Program Project Name: Forest Wide Restroom Improvements

Local Project Name: Forest Wide Restroom Installation
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Santa Fe
Nearby City(ies): Santa Fe & Espanola, NM
Congressional District(s): NM03
County(ies): NM: Sandoval, San Miguel, Santa Fe
Modified Date: 2/10/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Maintenance Projects Support Numerous Objectives

(Story posted 9/28/2011)

The Santa Fe National Forest used Recovery Act funds to purchase and install a total of 25 new vault restrooms on numerous developed recreation sites (i.e., campgrounds and picnic sites) across the Forest. This replacement needed to happen for several reasons: the facilities were all quite old; the facilities did not meet accessibility standards; some of the facilities had leaking vaults; and many of the facilities had deferred maintenance needs.

Where a prefabricated restroom building was feasible, the Forest purchased the fixtures from CXT Concrete Buildings, and a contractor hired by CXT installed them. In two sites (six restroom buildings) however, the facilities were built on-site due to CXT trucks not being able to access the sites. Local contractors built the structures that needed to be built on site. The project began late July 2010, with most of the restrooms installed within three months. The rest of the work was completed in spring 2011. This project is complete.

Most of the new facilities are double vault, and they are all constructed with concrete. Benefits to the general public include the following:

• Improved public health conditions for visitor facilities across the Forest
• Concrete construction makes these facilities easier to clean and maintain
• Accessibility
o Accessible pathways to the toilet building
o Turning radius within each toilet room meets the requirements of the American Barriers Act (ABA)
• A design to dissipate odors more effectively
• Concrete vaults lined with plastic, which reduces the risk of an adverse environmental impact (if damage should occur to the below-ground vault)

Program Project Name: Facility Site Improvements

Local Project Name: Rec Facility Site Improvements
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Santa Fe
Nearby City(ies): Santa Fe, NM
Congressional District(s): NM03
County(ies): NM: Rio Arriba, Sandoval, San Miguel, Santa Fe
Modified Date: 2/10/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Recreation Facility Upgrades

(Story posted 9/28/2011)

The Santa Fe National Forest used Recovery Act funds to provide a variety of upgrades to our recreation facilities. These included installation of bear resistant trash containers, installation of campground host sites, and improvement of two water systems.

The Forest purchased and installed 57 new bear resistant trash bins. These new trash bins were installed at numerous developed recreation sites (i.e., campgrounds and picnic sites) across the Forest. The Forest purchased and received the bear resistant trash bins from BearSaver in early winter 2010, and each District subsequently installed the trash bins at the most appropriate sites. Funding was supplemented by allocated funds to install concrete pads for the bins where necessary. All trash receptacles should be installed by spring of 2012.

Benefits of the new bear resistant trash bins include:
• Minimizing human-bear conflicts by keeping garbage away from bears
o Also keeps bears “wild” by not introducing them to human food
o Can save a bear’s life – human food conditioned bears are often persistent in attempts to get food from people
Confrontations between bears and humans often result in the bear being destroyed
• Keeps trash away from other animals (raccoons, squirrels, etc.)
• Accessibility—ADA and ABA (American Barriers Act) compliant

• More effective at containing odors

Program Project Name: Mt. Taylor Restoration and Fuel Reduction Thinning Project

Local Project Name: Mt. Taylor Thinning and Restoration
Region: Southwest Region
Forest: Cibola
Ranger District: Mt. Taylor
Nearby City(ies): Grants, NM
Congressional District(s): NM02
County(ies): NM: Cibola, McKinley
Modified Date: 2/14/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Work Brings Jobs, Accomplishes Forest Health Objectives

(Story posted 9/29/2011)

The Cibola National Forest and Grasslands used Recovery Act funds to accomplish a much-needed comprehensive thinning and restoration project on the Mt. Taylor Ranger District in western New Mexico.

A total of eight contracts were awarded to area businesses for a total of $844,333. Work began in the spring of 2010 and to date, all but one of the projects have been completed. “The Recovery Act projects kept my crew of 18 employees working in a time when the type of work we do significantly declined,” said Brent Racher, owner of Restoration Solutions, a local logging contractor.

Workers treated approximately 3,640 acres in this thinning and restoration project with the following primary objectives:
• Restore watersheds to healthy conditions
• Thin timber stands to reduce the danger of uncharacteristic wildfires
• Provide much-needed firewood to area residents
• Create or improve wildlife habitat

Two of the contracts were awarded to a minority- or veteran-owned company and included some businesses that had only been operating for a couple of years. “This project had been on hold for several years partly because there wasn’t a workforce in the area that had the skills we needed to successfully complete the work,” said Ian Fox, forest program manager and Recovery Act project manager.

One other unexpected benefit to the Recovery Act projects was discovering that after the projects got underway, the contractors began to develop networks, which resulted in providing work and/or materials for other local businesses. For example, on the thinning projects, the logging companies provided timber to a new sawmill.

Supporting a vibrant timber industry has been a long-time goal of the Forest. The Cibola is member of the Wood Industry Network, a consortium of government agencies and businesses that have a goal of restoring the timber industry and providing well-paying jobs to New Mexico communities. Other partners in this network include the New Mexico State Forestry; New Mexico Land Office; Cibola County, Ramah Navajo Tribe, and timber industry businesses.

“We appreciated getting funding for this Recovery Act project because it helped us accomplish some important goals for the forest, and it provided work to keep these fledgling businesses going and benefits our communities,” said Matt Reidy, Mt. Taylor district ranger.

Program Project Name: Mescalero Apache Forest Products

Local Project Name: Mescalero Apache Forest Products Mill Refit
Region: Southwest Region
Nearby City(ies): Mescalero, NM
Congressional District(s): NM02
County(ies): NM: Lincoln, Otero
Modified Date: 1/19/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Sawmill Retooling Effort

(Story posted 9/29/2011)

The Mescalero Apache Tribe’s USDA Forest Service Recovery Act-funded effort to retool its sawmill for small-log processing while improving operational efficiency has already been a source of employment and revenue for the tribe and local community. The multi-phase project to re-open the sawmill is designed to return the approximately 100 mill and supporting employment opportunities lost with the mill’s December 2008 closure.

While business planning efforts and work to solidify markets are still underway, the mill is currently operational, providing approximately 40 jobs for tribal and nearby residents in addition to supporting three independent contractors doing woods operations. In light of the national housing construction downturn, mill workers are generating products for non-traditional markets, including railroad ties, bridge supports, pallet stock, and timbers for the oil- and gas-field industry.

Tribal leaders expect the mill will be able to operate at full capacity in about eight months, but market conditions will determine actual production levels.

Program Project Name: Pueblo of Santa Clara Forest Restoration and Hazardous Fuels Reduction

Local Project Name: ARRA Haz Fuels Treatment on non-Federal Lands - Santa Clara Pueblo

Region: Southwest Region
Nearby City(ies): Espanola, NM
Congressional District(s): NM03
County(ies): NM: Sandoval
Modified Date: 1/19/2012

Story:
Santa Clara Pueblo Uses Recovery Act Funds to Implement CWPP

(Story posted 9/29/2011)

A USDA Forest Service Recovery Act grant is helping the Santa Clara Pueblo implement a community wildfire protection plan that identified several treatment areas in desperate need of hazardous fuel reduction and riparian restoration on about 5,000 acres. Using the New Mexico State Forestry-administered grant, tribal employees have cleared approximately 1,500 acres within the tribal boundaries of the Rio Grande bosque* area since April 2010 to eliminate invasive species hindering the growth of native riparian vegetation. Workers removed trees; loped, scattered, and piled brush for burning or mulching on site; and sprayed with herbicide throughout the project area. Employees are also planting native trees.

Because the 156,500-acre Las Conchas fire burned portions of the remaining 3,500 acres to be treated in the Santa Clara Creek headwaters and Santa Clara Canyon this summer, the pueblo is in the process of preparing an assessment of the burned areas and compiling data to request a modification for a portion of the remaining grant funds be used toward emergency stabilization treatments. Besides providing employment to tribal members, the project will improve riparian areas and reduce hazardous fuels around homes. Work should be completed by late 2013.

*Bosque is the name for areas of gallery forest found along the riparian flood plains of stream and river banks in the southwestern United States.

Program Project Name: Three Pueblos Forest Hazardous Fuels Reduction/Restoration Project

Local Project Name: Three Pueblos Hazardous Fuels Reduction/Restoration
Region: Southwest Region
Nearby City(ies): Bernalillo, Espanola, and Taos, NM respectively
Congressional District(s): NM03
County(ies): NM: Rio Arriba, Sandoval, Taos
Modified Date: 1/19/2012

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Hazardous Fuels Reduction Work Supports Multiple Objectives

(Story posted 9/21/2011)

This project was split into three separate grants, one each to Santa Ana, Santa Clara, and Taos Pueblos to treat overstocked and diseased vegetation in efforts to protect tribal communities and restore ecosystem functionality. Santa Ana Pueblo is treating 201 acres, Santa Clara Pueblo is treating 161 acres, and Taos Pueblo is treating 120 acres. Much of the biomass produced from the treatments is being cut, split, and offered to tribal members for household use. The tribes are also providing distribution to elders and tribal members that are homebound.

SANTA ANA PUEBLO

The Pueblo of Santa Ana (Pueblo) is located in north central New Mexico within southeastern Sandoval County and encompasses approximately 79,000 acres of trust lands. The Pueblo is using USDA Forest Service Recovery Act funds to work toward its goal of restoring over 4,600 acres of Juniper Savannah that provides critical habitat for traditionally important wildlife species, including mule deer, pronghorn antelope, and Rocky Mountain elk. The funds were instrumental in ensuring the continued employment of five, well-trained, tribal ground crew members and four administrative support staff while allowing the pueblo to move closer to reaching one of its long-term watershed protection and ecological restoration goals.

Since October 1, 2010, the pueblo has used the funds to thin and scatter slash across approximately 201 acres; extract 7,962 ft^3 (62.2 cords) of salvageable fuel wood; and distribute 5,350 ft^3 (42 cords) of fuel wood to community members at a distribution event in December 2010. The amount of fuel wood distributed provided an approximate $6,300 cost savings to community members. This specific phase of the project is nearly complete, and all Recovery Act funds will be expended by October 31, 2011.

SANTA CLARA PUEBLO

Prior to initial treatment Santa Clara employees conducted pre-treatment monitoring to provide useful information to determine if the project is successful in accomplishing several goals: hazardous fuels reduction, wildlife habitat improvement, forest health improvement, restoring fire adapted forests, and ecological sustainability. As initial thinning is completed the tribe sends out notices to tribal members to utilize cut wood for heating and cooking, thereby reducing the amount of down woody debris. The 161 treated acres tie into an additional 2,000 previously treated acres along the pueblo and U.S. Forest Service boundary.

TAOS PUEBLO

The Pueblo of Taos Forest Plan stresses that the pueblo’s forests should be used for multiple purposes, including commercial opportunities and subsistence needs such as fuel wood, while at the same time maintaining a “pleasing visible appearance.” In addition, the plan stresses that “efforts would be made to thin [all] stands to improve the health of trees.” The project action conforms to all of these objectives. Overall, Taos Pueblo forests and woodlands encompass approximately 82,000 acres. The pueblo is treating 120 acres mechanically by hand crews utilizing chainsaws and other light equipment under this grant.

Crews on foot cut timber with chain saws. In some cases, considerable hiking was necessary to access stands. Slash was piled and disposed of by chipping (in areas where accessible)

and/or controlled burning of piles during favorable conditions utilizing qualified fire personnel. In addition, shrubs and understory vegetation are maintained and encouraged to provide wildlife forage. The fuel wood has been distributed to disabled, elderly, and homebound community members. Other resources such as posts or other building materials have been distributed for community projects. Taos Pueblo's educational center installed a biomass heating system for their building several years ago under a grant, and the pueblo has been supplying the wood ever since.

Program Project Name: Mescalero Apache Woody Biomass Energy Development

Local Project Name: MAT Woody Biomass
Region: Southwest Region
Nearby City(ies): Mescalero, NM, Alamogordo, NM
Congressional District(s): NM02
County(ies): NM: Lincoln, Otero
Modified Date: 1/19/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Tribal Project Supports Long-term Employment

(Story posted 10/3/2011)

A companion project to another Recovery Act-funded effort to support stable long-term employment opportunities for the Mescalero Apache Tribe is being implemented in four phases: planning; re-engineering and construction; operations; and biomass development.

Mescalero Forest Products (MFP) opened in 1987 as an enterprise of the Mescalero Apache Tribe (MAT). The sawmill had been a source of employment and revenue for the tribe as well as an important tool in the maintenance and management of the Mescalero forest until its closure in 2008, caused by declining lumber markets, process inefficiencies, and a lack of by-product markets.

A preliminary sawmill feasibility analysis in collaboration with the Forest Service Forest Products Lab, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and others recommended retooling the mill for small-log processing, improving operational efficiency, a more in-depth feasibility analysis, and business planning.

Most of the work to retrofit the sawmill to efficiently saw small and large logs is complete, and testing is underway to bring the mill up to full production in light of production changes and new pieces of equipment added. In addition, tribal managers are now viewing the biomass effort more completely rather than exclusively looking at electric generation. The tribe has hired a consulting firm to research the permitting process, the power purchase agreements, the displaced loads, the line capacities, etc. In addition, the tribe is investigating other options such as district heating for the sawmill needs, the tribal offices, the casino, and hotels. This

comprehensive investigation should result in a project that is properly focused and efficiently completed.

New York

Program Project Name: Eradication of Oak Wilt and Giant Hogweed in New York

Local Project Name: Eradication of Oak Wilt and Giant Hogweed

Region: Northeastern Area S&PF

Nearby City(ies): Essex, Franklin, Schenectady, Suffolk, Orange, Ulster, and other counties

Congressional District(s): NY03, NY19, NY20, NY21, NY22, NY23, NY24, NY25, NY26, NY27, NY28, NY29

County(ies): NY: Albany, Allegany, Bronx, Broome, Cattaraugus, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Chemung, Chenango, Clinton, Columbia, Cortland, Delaware, Dutchess, Erie, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Genesee, Greene, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Kings, Lewis, Livingston, Madison, Monroe, Montgomery, Nassau, New York, Niagara, Oneida, Onondaga, Ontario, Orange, Orleans, Oswego, Otsego, Putnam, Queens, Rensselaer, Richmond, Rockland, Saint Lawrence, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Suffolk, Sullivan, Tioga, Tompkins, Ulster, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Westchester, Wyoming, Yates

Modified Date: 1/20/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Giant Hogweed Eradication Effort

(Story posted 10/12/2011)

A USDA Forest Service Recovery Act grant is providing jobs and helping fight giant hogweed (GH),* an invasive whose sap can cause blister burns and blindness. Recovery Act-funded multi-year project work to detect, identify, and eradicate the noxious weed began in December 2009. The program's success involves citizen cooperation to report suspected hogweed infestations to the New York Department of Environmental Conservation and permit workers to perform eradication measures. Small field crews cut through the roots of the GH plants and/or remove and bag the flower or seed heads if the infestation area is under 400 plants, using herbicide to address larger infestation areas.

Thus far in 2011, seasonal crews have visited over 1,100 sites, controlling many of the sites manually and others with herbicide. Workers are also revisiting sites to help determine previous treatment success; over 170 previously treated sites revealed no plants this season. Public interest in the program is high. Since January the state's GH Web site has received over 95,000 visits, and state forest health staff have taken part in over 60 newspaper, radio, and television interviews and dispensed hundreds of GH brochures and control documents to the public. So far this year the GH contact center has received over 1,800 calls and nearly 800 emails. State program managers are hoping further funding will enable the program to continue beyond the next few months, when Recovery Act funds will be exhausted.

* Giant hogweed is a federally listed noxious weed. Its sap, in combination with moisture and sunlight, can cause severe skin and eye irritation, painful blistering, permanent scarring, and blindness. Contact between the skin and the sap of this plant occurs either through brushing against the bristles on the stem or breaking the stem or leaves. (New York Department of

Environmental Conservation)

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

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

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

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

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
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
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

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: Pinecliff Shelter
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Croatan
Nearby City(ies): New Bern
Congressional District(s): NC03, NC08, NC11
County(ies): NC: Carteret, Cherokee, Graham, Haywood, Macon, Madison, Yancey
Modified Date: 8/19/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Local Contractor through Shelter Restoration

(Story posted 5/18/2010 and updated 7/27/2011)

The Croatan National Forest replaced 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 eight years ago with large boulders to decrease the risk of another storm taking out more of the Pinecliff Picnic Area,” stated District Ranger Lee Thornhill. Workers built a new structure 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, who finished the work in late June 2010. Three workers broke 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, said, “Eighty-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: SPB Prevention
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Uwharrie
Nearby City(ies): New Bern, Charlotte
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
Congressional District(s): NC11
County(ies): NC: Transylvania
Modified Date: 8/19/2011

Story:
Three Roof Replacements on Historic Structures Underway

(Story posted 5/18/2010)

This 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's center. Workers will replace roofs on the commissary, Dr. Schenk's office, and the blacksmith shop. The new 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 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): Mills River
Congressional District(s): NC11
County(ies): NC: Henderson
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/4ywlj4y
Modified Date: 8/19/2011

Story:
Mills River Bath House, Treatment Plant Accessible to All through Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 6/21/2010 and updated 7/27/2011)

On the Pisgah National Forest, a Recovery Act-funded project replaced the two increasingly unmanageable and inoperable vault restrooms located in the North Mills Recreation area as well as the existing water treatment plant. Both facilities no longer met current accessible standards; a four-unit flush restroom near the picnic area as well as a four-unit bath house at the family campground replaced the existing units.

A Brevard-based contractor built these facilities in their same locations so they could be hooked up to existing pipelines and electrical systems. The new facilities are served by a new wastewater treatment plant that a subcontractor built. Work on these facilities accessible to everyone via concrete access routes was finished in late April 2011 and will benefit visitors for years to come.

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
Congressional District(s): NC11
County(ies): NC: Henderson
Modified Date: 8/19/2011

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 on the Pisgah National Forest 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
Congressional District(s): NC10, NC11
County(ies): NC: Caldwell
Modified Date: 8/19/2011

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 botanist to survey 2,500 acres for invasive species.

Two agreements 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 mechanical fuel reduction
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: 8/19/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Treat Fuels on Croatan National Forest

(Story posted 7/16/2010 and updated 7/28/2011)

On the Croatan National Forest, hazardous fuels treatment and controlled burns has created or retained jobs and increased 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 has been 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 approximately $290,000 in 12 contracts for constructing fuel breaks; mechanical midstory control; preparing landline and other surveys; and contract inspection, providing meaningful work while lessening wildfire danger. All contracts were completed by mid-March 2011.

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): Pisgah Forest
Congressional District(s): NC11
County(ies): NC: Transylvania
Modified Date: 8/19/2011

Story:

National Forests of North Carolina Preserve History with Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 7/16/2010 and updated 7/27/2011)

The National Forests of North Carolina used Recovery Act funds to replace old, rotting cedar shake roofs on historic structures in accordance with historic preservation specifications at the North Carolina Cradle of Forestry visitor center.

Local construction workers replaced roofs on 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.

Transylvania Builders finished the work that will benefit current and future generations in mid-August 2010.

The 6,500-acre Cradle of Forestry Historic Site, in the Pink Beds valley in North Carolina, was established by Congress in 1968 and contains the first official school for forestry in America: the Biltmore Forest School. After purchasing land in the Asheville, North Carolina area in the mid- to late-1800s, George Vanderbilt was prompted by Frederick Law Olmsted to hire a forester to maintain his property. Vanderbilt selected Gifford Pinchot to restore and manage his massive expanse of lands. Pinchot went on to become the first Chief of the Forest Service.

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
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
Congressional District(s): NC03, NC08
County(ies): NC: Craven, Montgomery
Modified Date: 7/28/2011

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
Congressional District(s): NC11
County(ies): NC: Graham
Modified Date: 8/22/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Enable Invasive Species Control Work

(Story posted 7/16/2010 and updated 7/28/2011)

This Recovery Act-funded invasive species control project is being accomplished through agreements with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and the Western North Carolina Alliance. The ten 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: Grandfather
Nearby City(ies): Marion, Blowing Rock, Lake James
Congressional District(s): NC10, NC11
County(ies): NC: Burke, Caldwell, McDowell
Modified Date: 8/19/2011

Story:

Pisgah Recovery Act-funded Hazardous Fuels Reduction Work to Protect Firefighters, Public

(Story posted 7/16/2010 and updated 7/28/2011)

The goal of this project on the Pisgah National Forest is 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 is being increased, reducing resource and property damage. One portion of 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.

Thus far over 250 acres of mechanical Fuel reduction has been accomplished in the following units on the Grandfather Ranger District: Blowing Rock, Lake James, Brown Mountain, Curtis Creek, Thunderhole Road, Sand Mountain, Spencer Branch, and Mitchell Branch. In the interest of identifying the appropriate location of fuel breaks, this project has also accomplished a backlog of landline survey and marking work. Project work is expected to continue through September 2013.

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
Congressional District(s): NC11
County(ies): NC: Swain
Modified Date: 8/22/2011

Story:
Boat Ramp Reconstruction Benefits Local Economy

(Story posted 7/16/2010 and updated 7/27/2011)

The Nantahala Ranger District on the National Forests in North Carolina 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 a contract locally and was the first Recovery Act-funded construction contract awarded on the National Forests in North Carolina. Project work included 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 completed work allows the boat ramp to offer full accessibility for visitors of all abilities.

Construction began in March 2010 and was completed and open to the public on September 22, 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): Pisgah Forest, Franklin, Marion
Congressional District(s): NC10, NC11
County(ies): NC: Caldwell
Modified Date: 8/22/2011

Story:
Forest Uses Recovery Act Funds to Address Substandard Bridges

(Story posted 8/2/2010 and updated 7/27/2011)

On the National Forests in North Carolina, Recovery Act-funded workers are rebuilding two sub-standard crossings to improve safe all-weather access to the forest while protecting historic integrity. The funds are also supporting the re-design of two structures to allow for future maintenance work.

On the Nantahala Ranger District, North Carolina contractors have replaced a low-water ford with a two-lane bridge over the existing crossing at Connelly Creek. In the past, travelers were forced to drive through the creek.

Workers are also rehabilitating the historically significant English Chapel Bridge built during the Civilian Conservation Corps era and designing for future construction the NFSR-116 Mortimer Bridge on the Grandfather Ranger District and the Courthouse Creek Bridge on the Pisgah Ranger District.

Currently, the 90-foot-long, 11-foot-wide English Chapel Bridge supported by concrete abutments is closed to vehicular traffic due to its poor condition and inability to safely carry a vehicle load. Workers are replacing deteriorated timber curbs; installing anchor bolts at each bearing to connect the truss to the abutments; replacing deteriorated structural plates at connections and other deteriorated structural elements; and cleaning and painting the entire structure.

The work is expected to be finished by the end of 2011.

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
Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC06, NC08, NC10, NC11
County(ies): NC: Macon, Swain
Modified Date: 8/19/2011

Story:

Substandard Bridge Replacements Support Public Safety, Resource Protection

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

This project will rehabilitate the historically significant English Chapel Bridge and 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. The 90-foot-long English Chapel Bridge is supported by concrete abutments. The bridge has been 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, installing anchor bolts at each bearing to connect the truss to the abutments, replacing deteriorated structural plates at connections, repairing structural elements that are substantially deteriorated, and cleaning and painting 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. Project work has been awarded to three firms.

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
Congressional District(s): NC10
County(ies): NC: Mitchell
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3jhqnk6
Modified Date: 8/22/2011

Story:

Roan Mountain Grassy Bald Restoration Funded by Recovery Act

(Story posted 8/2/2010 and updated 7/27/2011)

This project consists of chainsaw cutting, swamping (moving), and brushcutting three areas of Grassy Balds at Roan Mountain on the 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 skidsteer 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 help map and identify 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. The project is planned to continue until 5/24/2013.

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
Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC06, NC08, NC10, NC11
County(ies): NC: Carteret, Cherokee, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Montgomery, Swain, Transylvania, Yancey
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3ht64js
Modified Date: 8/2/2011

Story:

Pisgah Trail Rehabilitation Benefits Visitors, Resources

(Story posted 8/2/2010 and updated 7/26/2011)

A Recovery Act project to rehabilitate the popular Black Mountain and Sycamore Cove grassy loop mountain biking trails on the Pisgah Ranger District was finished on November 15, 2010.

Trail Design Specialists from Danielsville, Georgia began the Recovery Act-funded work on July 5, 2010 to rehabilitate a total of 6.9 miles of trails to bring them up to current Forest Service standards. Work included installing dips, improving drainage, armoring creek crossings, repairing culverts, and clearing brush. The maintenance work has improved visitor safety and access to the forest while reducing erosion by restoring drainage and stabilizing trails.

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: Cheoah
Nearby City(ies): Robbinsville, Bakersville, Troy
Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC06, NC08, NC10, NC11
County(ies): NC: Macon, Swain
Modified Date: 8/19/2011

Story:

Trail Bridge Safety Enhanced with Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 8/2/2010 and updated 7/27/2011)

This project replaced four dilapidated trail bridges on three National Forests in North Carolina: Slick Rock and Big Snowbird trail bridges on the Cheoah Ranger District; Black Mountain trail bridge on the Appalachian Ranger District; and Dickey Bell trail bridge on the Uwharrie Ranger District.

The Big Snowbird contract was awarded for $125,000 to Williams Construction, LLC, a small local contracting firm based in Brevard. Workers finished the project in January 2011. The Dickey Bell contract was awarded for $185,000 to Street Legal Industries, a small, woman-owned, HUB Zone certified company based in Tennessee, with work completed in March 2011. The Black Mountain trail bridge contract was awarded for $513,000 to Davko Services, a disabled veteran-owned HUB Zone certified small business based in Georgia, who finished the replacement in March 2011. The Slick Rock contract was awarded for $28,000 to Bullseye construction, a North Carolina-based site development contracting company, and workers finished the replacement in April 2011.

In addition to benefiting multiple contractors, the work will ensure visitor safety and enhance recreational experiences for years to come.

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
Congressional District(s): NC11
County(ies): NC: Mitchell
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3jkxlqp
Modified Date: 8/22/2011

Story:

Roan Mountain Restroom, Road Upgraded through Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 8/2/2010 and updated 7/27/2011)

On the Appalachian Ranger District of the Pisgah National Forest, Recovery Act-funded workers have made improvements to the popular Roan Mountain Recreation Area.

Workers repaved National Forest System Road #130, which serves as the corridor to the many recreation opportunities at Roan Mountain. Workers also repaved the Cloudland trailhead parking area and demolished an outdated restroom and replaced it with a new

solar-powered accessible unit. In addition to enhancing visitor comfort and safety, the paving has significantly improved opportunities for visitors of all abilities to access the restroom, walking paths, and picnic facilities.

The Asheville-based contractor employed electricians, plumbers, graders and concrete specialists from the local area to complete the project in mid-June 2011 in time for the regionally-significant Rhododendron Festival.

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
Congressional District(s): NC10
County(ies): NC: Mitchell
Modified Date: 7/27/2011

Story:

Roan Mountain Resurfacing Supports Visitor Safety

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

On the National Forests in North Carolina, 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.

The project was awarded to Perry Bartsch Jr. Construction Company from Asheville for $436,000. The project manager will subcontract with 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): Pisgah Forest
Congressional District(s): NC11
County(ies): NC: Transylvania
Modified Date: 8/8/2011

Story:
Cradle of Forestry Recovery Act-funded Trail Project Benefits Visitors

(Story posted 8/2/2010 and updated 7/27/2011)

On the National Forests in North Carolina, a Recovery Act-funded trail restoration project on the Pisgah Ranger District is nearly finished.

Fletcher Grading, a local small business, has been working to re-grade and pave more than one mile of the Discovery Trail located at the Cradle of Forestry. Workers are also constructing resting places and improving drainage and trail gradient where possible to make the trail accessible for people of all abilities.

Before work began, the gravel trail exceeded acceptable grades for accessibility, rendering the trail inaccessible for its entire length. The finished work will benefit visitors for years to come.

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
Congressional District(s): NC03
County(ies): NC: Craven
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3syp2l2
Modified Date: 8/19/2011

Story:
Flanners Treatment Plant to be Replaced through Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 8/2/2010 and updated 7/27/2011)

This project will replace the existing sewage treatment plant and spray field at the Flanners Beach recreation area on the National Forests in North Carolina.

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, North Carolina, with project completion expected in August 2011.

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

Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC06, NC08, NC10, NC11

County(ies): NC: Carteret, Cherokee, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Montgomery, Swain, Transylvania, Yancey

Modified Date: 8/2/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funding Supports Croatan Trails Rehabilitation

(Story posted 8/2/2010 and updated 7/26/2011)

On the National Forests in North Carolina, contractors performed maintenance and construction (feature/surface replacement) 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 included removing broken pavement and re-surfacing paved portions of trail; performing tread restoration and maintenance; maintaining and installing drainage structures; clearing corridors; removing hazard trees; repairing, replacing, and installing boardwalks and puncheon; restoring and installing turnpike; and culvert installation.

The work that was completed on February 3, 2011 has enhanced visitor safety and access to the forest while reducing erosion by restoring drainage and stabilizing trails.

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: Tusquitee

Nearby City(ies): Hiawassee, GA

Congressional District(s): NC11

County(ies): NC: Clay

Modified Date: 8/22/2011

Story:
Jackrabbit Wastewater Plant to be Replaced using Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 8/2/2010 and updated 7/27/2011)

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 of the National Forests in North Carolina.

Connection to municipal systems for water and sewer has been approved by the City of Hiawassee, Georgia, via a utility contract for water service and with Clay County, North Carolina, for sewer service.

Both Hiawassee and Clay County will plan, design, construct, own, and operate the systems. This approach will generate significant long-term savings in water system management and eliminate the need for future facility maintenance, upgrades, or replacement in perpetuity. Work will be finished by January 2012.

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, Troy
Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC08
County(ies): NC: Montgomery
Modified Date: 8/19/2011

Story:
Forest-Wide Deferred Maintenance Addressed with Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 8/2/2010 and updated 7/27/2011)

A Recovery Act-funded project designed to address part of a backlog of multiple deferred maintenance activities at recreation facilities across the National Forests in North Carolina is now finished and has given new life to recreation sites on the Uwharrie and Croatan national forests while providing meaningful work for local contractors.

The Uwharrie National Forest used Recovery Act funds to complete two projects that will benefit forest recreationists. One project replaced an existing, collapsed vault structure at Badin Lake Group Campground with a new two-unit flush restroom. The building is connected to the recently constructed shower building at this site. Another contract replaced a single vault restroom at Woodrun Trail Head with a single SST unit in the same location. The contract was awarded in 2010 to Simcon Company, LLC and completed in late January

2011.

On the Croatan National Forest, workers replaced the existing restroom at Flanners Beach with a new four-flush unit. The previous facility was beyond repair. The contract was awarded in April 2010 to DOT Construction and completed in mid-October 2010.

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): Murphy NC
Congressional District(s): NC11
County(ies): NC: Cherokee
Modified Date: 8/22/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Tellico Aquatic Monitoring

(Story posted 8/2/2010 and updated 7/26/2011)

The purpose of this project is to determine whether closure of the Tellico OHV trails on the Nantahala National Forest 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 is focusing on a number of streams of similar stream order. Specifically, six streams well distributed across the watershed are being surveyed using the Basin-wide Visual Estimation Technique (BVET). Habitat data for each stream surveyed (pebble counts, pH, and water temperature) is being collected. The monitoring contract is in its second season and will continue through September 30, 2015 per the established monitoring protocols. Project support is being provided by the Center for Aquatic Technology Transfer at Virginia Tech.

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
Congressional District(s): NC11
County(ies): NC: Graham

Modified Date: 8/19/2011

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Help Threatened Species Reclaim Cheoah River

(Story posted 8/2/2010 and updated 7/28/2011)

A USDA Forest Service Recovery Act project along the Cheoah River in Graham County, North Carolina, has put people back to work treating invasive species.

This invasive species control project is being accomplished through agreements with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Western North Carolina Alliance (WNC Alliance), and the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

Twelve non-native invasive species exist on the Cheoah River banks or in the river, affecting two federally listed species: Virginia spirea (a federally threatened shrub) and the Appalachian elktoe (a federally endangered mussel).

Tribal 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 will treat the areas over a four-year period, a necessity for these persistent invasive species. The project will continue through 2014 and provide 25 weeks of work overall.

Bob Gale, ecologist for the WNC Alliance, said, "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
Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03
County(ies): NC: Carteret, Craven
Modified Date: 8/19/2011

Story:
Recovery Act Project Seeks to Increase Firefighter, Public Safety

(Story posted 8/2/2010 and updated 7/27/2011)

On the Croatan National Forest, a project to create or retain jobs while increasing public and firefighter safety through hazardous fuels treatment and controlled burns is expected to be finished by the end of 2011.

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 will be increased, reducing resource and property damage. Decreased fuel loading lessens fire intensity and suppression resistance.

To accomplish these objectives, the Forest Service awarded five contracts to the local community, including contract inspectors, a helicopter aircrew, a bombardier rental and crew, and workers perform midstory treatments and to plant longleaf pine to restore habitat.

Thus far workers have accomplished mechanical midstory treatment on 215 acres; released 72 acres of longleaf pine trees; and conducted prescribed burning on 2,400 acres. Additional prescribed burning is planned for the 2011 growing season.

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: Grandfather
Nearby City(ies): Nebo
Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC06, NC08, NC10, NC11
County(ies): NC: Carteret, Cherokee, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Montgomery, Swain, Transylvania, Yancey
Modified Date: 8/19/2011

Story:
Recovery Act Funding Supports Grandfather Ranger District Trails Rehabilitation

(Story posted 8/2/2010 and updated 7/26/2011)

A Recovery Act-funded project to rehabilitate the Kitsuma Peak, Youngs Ridge, Woods Mountain, and Harris Creek Horse and Bike trails on the Grandfather Ranger District of the National Forests in North Carolina is complete and will benefit visitors for years to come. Workers repaired a total of 12.5 miles of trail to bring them up to current Forest Service standards by installing dips; improving drainage; armoring creek crossings; repairing culverts;

and clearing brush.

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

Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC06, NC08, NC10, NC11

County(ies): NC: Carteret, Cherokee, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Montgomery, Swain, Transylvania, Yancey

Modified Date: 8/2/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Trail Rehabilitation Projects Underway

(Story posted 8/2/2010 and updated 7/26/2011)

On the Pisgah Ranger District of the National Forests in North Carolina, contractors are rehabilitating the highly used Looking Glass hiking trail as well as the Hard Times Connector/Deerlake Lodge horse and bike trails using Recovery Act funds. Trail Design Specialists are repairing a total of five miles of trail to bring them up to current Forest Service standards. Work includes installing dips; improving drainage; armoring creek crossings; repairing culverts; and clearing brush to enhance visitor safety and reduce erosion.

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: Appalachian

Nearby City(ies): Burnsville

Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC06, NC08, NC10, NC11

County(ies): NC: Carteret, Cherokee, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Montgomery, Swain, Transylvania, Yancey

Modified Date: 8/2/2011

Story:

Big Butt Trail, Buncombe Trail Rehabilitation With Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 8/2/2010 and updated 7/26/2011)

This project will rehabilitate the Big Butt Hiking Trail and the Buncombe Horse Trail on the

Appalachian Ranger District of the National Forests in North Carolina. Workers will repair trails to bring them up to current Forest Service standards by 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: Grandfather

Nearby City(ies): Nebo

Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC06, NC08, NC10, NC11

County(ies): NC: Carteret, Cherokee, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Montgomery, Swain, Transylvania, Yancey

Modified Date: 8/2/2011

Story:

OHV Trails Rehabilitated With Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 8/2/2010 and updated 7/26/2011)

On the Grandfather Ranger District of the National Forests in North Carolina, contractors rehabilitated the Brown Mountain OHV trails to enhance visitor safety and protect resources. Workers repaired a total of 11.1 miles of trails to bring them up to current Forest Service standards. Work included installing dips, improving drainage, armoring creek crossings, repairing culverts, and clearing brush.

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

Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC06, NC08, NC10, NC11

County(ies): NC: Carteret, Cherokee, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Montgomery, Swain, Transylvania, Yancey

Modified Date: 8/19/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Rehabilitation of Multiple Pisgah Ranger District Trails

(Story posted 8/2/2010 and updated 7/26/2011)

This project will rehabilitate four popular trails on the Pisgah Ranger District. These include Rainbow Falls, Moore Cove, Squirrel Gap, and Fletcher Creek. Workers will restore a total of 12.4 miles of trail to bring the passages 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): Franklin-Highlands
Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC06, NC08, NC10, NC11
County(ies): NC: Carteret, Cherokee, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Montgomery, Swain, Transylvania, Yancey
Modified Date: 8/19/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Rehabilitation of Great Wall, Devils Elbow Trails

(Story posted 8/2/2010 and updated 7/26/2011)

This project will rehabilitate the Great Wall and Devils Elbow hiking trails on the Nantahala Ranger District of the National Forests in North Carolina. Workers will restore a total of 2.1 miles of trail in the Panthertown area to ensure the trails meet 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): Franklin-Highlands

Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC06, NC08, NC10, NC11
County(ies): NC: Carteret, Cherokee, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Montgomery, Swain, Transylvania, Yancey
Modified Date: 8/19/2011

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Trail Work Complete

(Story posted 8/2/2010 and 7/26/2011)

On the Nantahala Ranger District of the National Forests in North Carolina, Recovery Act-funded workers rehabilitated 0.7 miles of the Glen Falls hiking trail to bring the passage up to current Forest Service standards, finishing the project on June 13, 2011.

Work included installing dips, improving drainage, armoring creek crossings, repairing culverts and clearing brush. This maintenance work has improved visitor safety and access to the forest and is reducing 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: Fires Creek Trailhead Accessibility
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Nantahala
Nearby City(ies): Hayesville
Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC06, NC08, NC10, NC11
County(ies): NC: Carteret, Cherokee, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Montgomery, Swain, Transylvania, Yancey
Modified Date: 8/19/2011

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Improve Accessibility

(Story posted 8/2/2010 and updated 7/26/2011)

In late April 2011, contractor Ledford and Parker, Inc. finished work to improve accessibility at the Fires Creek Trailhead on the Nantahala Ranger District of the National Forests in North Carolina. Workers repaved the trail and portions of the parking lot and repositioned a vault toilet to improve accessibility for people of all abilities. Work done on the trail near Hayesville will benefit visitors for years to come.

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

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): Bakersville
Congressional District(s): NC10
County(ies): NC: Mitchell
Modified Date: 8/22/2011

Story:

Roan Mountain Trail Rehabilitation Complete

(Story posted 8/17/2010 and updated 7/27/2011)

On the National Forests in North Carolina, Recovery Act-funded local contractors rehabilitated the Roan Mountain trail/boardwalk by replacing the asphalt trail with a concrete walkway, as well as totally replacing the existing, dilapidating deck/boardwalk, which addressed significant public safety issues. The Gardens Trail repaving now allows access to visitors of all abilities.

This project was awarded to AGRR Corporation, a small North Carolina construction and engineering company located in Brevard. AGRR provided both technical education and field experience to their employees in order to supply an advanced management and oversight system. Contracts included inspection services, project reserves, CAD technicians, and landscape architect services.

Program Project Name: Nantahala National Forest Facility Repairs for Health, Safety and Energy Efficiency

Local Project Name: Jackrabbit Campground Bathhouse
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Tusquitee
Nearby City(ies): Asheville
Congressional District(s): NC11
County(ies): NC: Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon
Modified Date: 8/22/2011

Story:

Jackrabbit Campground Repairs Benefit Visitors

(Story posted 8/17/2010 and updated 7/27/2011)

On the Nantahala National Forest, workers used Recovery Act funds to demolish and rebuild the bathhouse at the Jackrabbit Campground on the Tusquitee Ranger District.

The current bathhouse was built in 1974; the foundation was settling; all fixtures needed to be replaced; and the building was not accessible. The new structure finished in August 2010 mitigates these problems. A local contractor, Payne and Stalcup, Inc., accomplished the work that will benefit visitors for years to come.

Program Project Name: National Forests in North Carolina Trail and Bridge Maintenance for Safety and Resource Protection

Local Project Name: Trail package #13
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Cheoah
Nearby City(ies): Robbinsville, Burnsville
Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC06, NC08, NC10, NC11
County(ies): NC: Carteret, Cherokee, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Montgomery, Swain, Transylvania, Yancey
Modified Date: 8/19/2011

Story:

Student Conservation Corps Crews Perform Recovery Act-funded Trail Maintenance Work

(Story posted 7/26/2011)

On the National Forests in North Carolina, Student Conservation Association (SCA) program crews performed trail maintenance work in two locations, finishing the project in fall of 2010.

The first crew, comprised of one SCA staff member or trail leader and five crew members, was based in Robbinsville, North Carolina. Trail maintenance included work on 20.48 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. Trails included Stratton Bald, Jenkins Meadows, Naked Ground, and Hangover Lead.

A second crew, comprised of one SCA staff member or trail leader and five crew members based in Burnsville, North Carolina, worked on 20.43 miles of pedestrian-only trails in the Pisgah and Nantahala national forests. Trails for maintenance were designated as class one, two, or three, in accordance with USDA Forest Service Trail Handbook requirements. Trails included Mount Mitchell and Black Mountain Crest on the Appalachian Ranger District and Chattooga River on the Nantahala Ranger District.

Program Project Name: National Forests in North Carolina Trail and Bridge Maintenance for Safety and Resource Protection

Local Project Name: Trail Package #2
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Cheoah
Nearby City(ies): Robbinsville
Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC06, NC08, NC10, NC11
County(ies): NC: Carteret, Cherokee, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Montgomery, Swain, Transylvania, Yancey
Modified Date: 8/19/2011

Story:

Workers Restore Hiking Trails

(Story posted 7/26/2011)

On the Cheoah Ranger District on the National Forests in North Carlina, Recovery Act-funded workers rehabilitated rehabilitated 27 miles of trails in the popular Tsali horse and bike trail system, including Tsali Right loop, Tsali Left Loop, Mouse Branch Loop, and Dave Thompson Loop. The work finished in early march of 2011 will benefit forest visitors for years to come.

Program Project Name: National Forests in North Carolina Trail and Bridge Maintenance for Safety and Resource Protection

Local Project Name: Trail Package #10
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Uwharrie

Nearby City(ies): Troy
Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC06, NC08, NC10, NC11
County(ies): NC: Carteret, Cherokee, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Montgomery, Swain, Transylvania, Yancey
Modified Date: 8/19/2011

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Support OHV, Horse, and Bike Trail Rehabilitation

(Story posted 7/26/2011)

Recovery Act-funded workers rehabilitated 6.5 miles of OHV and horse/bike trails on the Uwharrie National Forest, including Falls Dam, Rocky Mountain Loop, Tony Tony, and and Morgan trails, finishing work in early February 2011.

This project was part of a multi-faceted effort on the National Forests in North Carolina to increase visitor safety while ensuring resource protection. This competed 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: Whiteside Mountain Observation Deck
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Nantahala
Nearby City(ies): Franklin
Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC06, NC08, NC10, NC11
County(ies): NC: Carteret, Cherokee, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Montgomery, Swain, Transylvania, Yancey
Modified Date: 8/19/2011

Story:
Unique Observation Deck Rehabilitated Using Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 7/26/2011)

On the Nantahala National Forest, Recovery Act-funded contractors rehabilitated and made safer a remote observation deck that the Forest had been unable to upgrade in the past due to logistics. Work took place last summer and fall, with the project being completed in late October 2010. The observation deck is a very popular destination point with a significant view overlooking southern North Carolina and northern Georgia.

Program Project Name: National Forests in North Carolina Trail and Bridge Maintenance for Safety and Resource Protection

Local Project Name: Joyce Kilmer hemlock removal
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Cheoah
Nearby City(ies): Robbinsville
Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC06, NC08, NC10, NC11
County(ies): NC: Carteret, Cherokee, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Montgomery, Swain, Transylvania, Yancey
Modified Date: 8/19/2011

Story:

Trail Safety Enhanced with Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 7/26/2011)

On the National Forests in North Carolina, Recovery Act funding enabled the acquisition of blasting supplies necessary to safely remove large dead hemlocks adjacent to the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Trail in the Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness Area. The trail receives about 35,000 visitors each year. Standing dead hemlocks, killed by the exotic invasive hemlock woolly adelgid posed an unacceptable risk to forest visitors.

USDA Forest Service employees accomplished blasting and clean-up in early November 2010, and the results replicated the impact that would have been experienced after a tornado or wind event. A significant amount of coordination with the community and environmental groups rendered this project extremely successful. A local company benefitted from the purchase of supplies necessary to accomplish the work.

Program Project Name: Nantahala National Forest Facility Repairs for Health, Safety and Energy Efficiency

Local Project Name: Vault restrooms and wellhouse
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Nantahala
Nearby City(ies): Franklin, Robbinsville
Congressional District(s): NC11
County(ies): NC: Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon
Modified Date: 8/22/2011

Story:

Recreation Site Improvements Nearly Finished

(Story posted 7/27/2011)

On the National Forests in North Carolina, Recovery Act-funded improvements will benefit visitors of all abilities by replacing outdated restrooms and ensuring a safe water supply at a group campground.

South Carolina-based Coastal Carolina Therapy will finish replacing three vault restrooms at Ammons Branch, Hurricane Creek and Wayah Bald in August 2011. A North Carolina company installed a wellhouse at Rattler Ford, completing the project in April 2011 to significantly improve the safety of the water supply at the site.

Program Project Name: Restore Civilian Conservation Corps Shelters and Towers

Local Project Name: Pisgah and Nantahala NF CCC Fire Towers
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina
Ranger District: Nantahala
Nearby City(ies): Several
Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC08, NC10, NC11
County(ies): NC: Carteret, Cherokee, Graham, Haywood, Macon, Madison, Yancey
Modified Date: 8/19/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Historic Fire Tower Restoration

(Story posted 7/27/2011)

On the Pisgah and Nantahala national forests, a project to rehabilitate numerous historic fire towers in western North Carolina is nearly complete.

Work has been underway since 2010 at several towers, including Wayah Bald, Green Knob, Frying Pan, Rich Mountain, Albert Mountain, Joanna Bald, Cowee Bald, Panthertop, and Wauchecha Bald. Workers have been replacing windows, shutters, and roofs; repairing cracks in concrete slabs and walls; and replacing cabs, which are the small rooms located atop towers.

The Wayah Bald observation tower work was finished in February 2011; contractors working on other Nantahala National Forest towers finished their repairs at the end of July 2011. Workers expect to finish restoration of the Pisgah National Forest towers in August 2011. The work to repair these historic structures has preserved them for future generations while improving visitor safety and providing meaningful work to local contractors.

Program Project Name: Restore Civilian Conservation Corps Shelters and Towers

Local Project Name: Pink Beds CCC Picnic Shelters
Region: Southern Region
Forest: NF N. Carolina

Ranger District: Pisgah
Nearby City(ies): Pisgah Forest
Congressional District(s): NC01, NC03, NC08, NC10, NC11
County(ies): NC: Carteret, Cherokee, Graham, Haywood, Macon, Madison, Yancey
Modified Date: 8/19/2011

Story:

Pisgah National Forest Picnic Shelters Repaired

(Story posted 7/27/2011)

Scattered across the national forests in North Carolina are remnants of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) era that are still in use today. However, many structures were in need of extensive maintenance in order to restore them for safe current and future use.

On the Pisgah National Forest, Recovery Act-funded workers replaced CCC-era cedar shake roofs on two historic shelters in the popular Pink Beds Picnic Area. The dilapidated roofs had been a threat to the structural integrity of the shelters. Local contractors began work on the structures in 2010, finishing the project in late October.

North Dakota

Program Project Name: Dakota Prairie - North Dakota Facility Projects
Local Project Name: Facility restoration and reclamation
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Dakota Prairie Grasslands NF
Ranger District: Mckenzie River
Nearby City(ies): Watford city and Medora, North Dakota
Congressional District(s): ND00
County(ies): ND: Billings, Golden Valley, McHenry, McKenzie, Slope
Modified Date: 5/17/2011

Story:

Facility Improvements, Upgrades Protect Resources, Enhance Recreation

(Story posted 5/13/2011)

On the Dakota Prairie Grasslands, Recovery Act-funded contractors have been working to upgrade recreational facilities and restore historical buildings. While much of the work is finished, some facets of the project are ongoing with anticipated completion dates in spring 2011.

Workers have finished installing 12 sun shelters, eight concrete picnic tables, and four picnic benches at Sather and Whitetail campgrounds. These structures replaced the previous ones that had been built in the 1960s.

At the Denbigh Experimental Forest site, three historical buildings have been restored. Work consisted of painting inside and out on the main residence, replacing all the roofs, and painting the exteriors of two warehouse garages to replicate the original colors and textures of these buildings constructed in the 1930s. Student groups and researchers as well as visitors will benefit from new interpretive signs outlining the site's history.

Workers also removed nine stock dams and returned the sites returned to their original contours. Contractors also plugged 12 abandoned water wells, following North Dakota State Standards. In addition, workers restored four wildlife dams and added riprap to their faces.

The dredging of the lake bottom (25,000 yards) of Williams dam, a Works Progress Administration dam constructed in the 1930s that supports both wildlife and recreation, is complete. The emergency spillway, fishing platforms, riprap placement, and dam face reconditioning will be finished this spring after runoff, and visitors of all abilities will experience better access at Williams Lake.

In addition to supporting construction and manufacturing industries, the finished projects will indirectly help sustain North Dakota's tourism economy.

Program Project Name: Bellerud Energy, LLC

Local Project Name: Bellerud Forest to Energy Collaboration
Region: Forest Products Laboratory
Nearby City(ies): Pine River
Congressional District(s): MN08
County(ies): MN: Cass; ND: Cass
Modified Date: 1/11/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Project Ends Prematurely following Grant Recipient's Death

(Story posted 9/8/2011)

A Recovery Act project designed to help establish a biomass briquetting facility near Pine River, Minnesota, to help decrease forest restoration and fire suppression costs on the Chippewa National Forest has ended prematurely. The primary operative in the effort to create a feasible market for biomass in central Cass County died in spring 2011, and project work subsequently ended.

The Fargo, North Dakota-based grant applicant had planned to purchase the first of four briquetters with this grant to establish a manufacturing facility. All of the funds except approximately $33,500 spent for engineering services were deobligated and returned to the federal government.

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
Related Photo(s) Link: http://www.flickr.com/photos/waynenf/sets/72157621405651225/
Modified Date: 3/2/2011

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
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3e2h3du
Modified Date: 4/13/2011

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.

Program Project Name: Emerald Ash Borer Containment and Ecosystem Restoration

Local Project Name: Taking Root:
Region: Northeastern Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Detroit, Michigan
Congressional District(s): MI07, MI08, MI09, MI10, MI11, MI12, MI13, MI14, MI15, OH09
County(ies): MI: Keweenaw, Mackinac, Macomb, Monroe, Schoolcraft, Wayne; OH: Lucas
Modified Date: 8/17/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Tree Planting Initiative

(Story posted 4/15/2011)

The USDA Forest Service (USFS) and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) have partnered with The Greening of Detroit and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) in a major Southeast Michigan tree planting initiative. This project was funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) of 2009. The USFS Northern Research Station provided a grant to the DNRE totaling $192,000 to fund the tree planting program with the goals of creating jobs, stimulating the local economy, and enhancing the area’s critical green infrastructure.

Tree planting efforts began in October 2010 in several areas of MDOT’s Metro region. The first phase of the project included 344 new trees planted in the medians of Telegraph Road, Woodward Avenue, and Vernier Road. The Greening of Detroit is working with DNRE and MDOT officials on each of the targeted sites, selecting a diverse and appropriate selection of shade, ornamental and evergreen tree species.

In addition to reforesting some of metro-Detroit’s busiest thoroughfares, this project also serves as an important learning opportunity for trainees in The Greening of Detroit’s workforce Development Program. Through this project 17 planting specialists were trained and employed. The majority of the trees planted were sourced locally from Michigan nurseries, providing another boost to the local economy.

“We are excited to partner with the Forest Service, The Greening of Detroit, and MDOT to provide economic development through tree planting in southeast Michigan,” stated Kevin Sayers of the DNRE’s Urban and Community Forestry program. “This project is an example of an efficient use of Recovery Act Funds,” added Rebecca Salminen Witt, The Greening of Detroit president. “By forming a partnership between state and federal agencies and a non-profit organization, we have been able to create a project that maximizes benefits to southeast Michigan’s environment while preparing a new workforce for entry into the green industry.”

The final phase of this project will conclude with 356 trees being planted in the spring of 2011 in MDOT’s University and Metro regions, primarily in selected freeway “clover leafs” along 1-94, I-75, and US-23.

Program Project Name: Emerald Ash Borer Containment and Ecosystem Restoration

Local Project Name: EAB Ecosystem Restoration: Detroit
Region: Northeastern Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Detroit, Michigan
Congressional District(s): MI07, MI08, MI09, MI10, MI11, MI12, MI13, MI14, MI15, OH09
County(ies): MI: Keweenaw, Mackinac, Macomb, Monroe, Schoolcraft, Wayne; OH: Lucas
Modified Date: 8/1/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Project Makes the News

(Story posted 7/22/2011)

On May 30, 2011, the Michigan Department of Transportation issued a news release concerning a Recovery Act-funded emerald ash borer ecosystem restoration project. The Detroit News ran the following story as a result.

Stimulus helping fund tree-planting efforts in Metro Detroit

PAUL EGAN
Detroit News Lansing Bureau

Lansing--Federal stimulus money is being used to plant hundreds of trees along roads and city streets in Detroit and southeast Michigan. Officials say the $200,000 is creating jobs and assisting training while beautifying the landscape.

The stimulus money came to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources through the U.S. Forest Service. Natural Resources teamed with the Michigan Department of Transportation and the nonprofit organization The Greening of Detroit to get the trees

planted, the department said in a news release.

In the first phase, 344 trees were planted in the medians of Telegraph Road, Woodward Avenue and Vernier Avenue.

In the second phase, 331 trees were planted in the Ann Arbor area.

Therese Poland, a research entomologist with the U.S. Forest Service, said she's not aware of federal stimulus money being used for other tree-planting programs in Michigan, though $700,000 went to DTE Energy to remove trees killed by the emerald ash borer beetle and $2.5 million went to an Upper Peninsula project designed to save a forested area that had been recently invaded by the ash borer.

Money allocated through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 had to be spent within two years, and the planting program will be completed soon, she said. "They wanted to create jobs as quickly as possible."

Rebecca Salminen Witt, president of The Greening of Detroit, said the federally funded program is one of several funding streams that have allowed her agency to plant more than 65,000 trees in Detroit since 1989. Other backers include the DTE Energy Foundation and the Erb Family Foundation. So the group's work won't stop when the stimulus money dries up.

Detroit isn't as heavily covered in concrete as many cities, but still is short of the U.S. standard of 40 percent canopy cover, she said.

Ash trees in southeast Michigan have been decimated in recent years by the emerald ash borer. Before that, disease claimed thousands of elm trees.

The federal money is assisting in The Greening of Detroit's "biggest planting season ever," with the planting of about 3,500 trees, she said. "We're really excited to be partnering…on this project."

Salminen Witt said her organization tries to plant trees that are different from the ones growing in an area. Hornbeams, hackberries, London planes, swamp white oaks and lindens are among the species planted. They are even planting elm varieties believed to be resistant to Dutch elm disease, she said.

The planting funded by the stimulus money allowed 17 planting specialists to be trained and employed, according to the Department of Natural Resources.

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Program Project Name: Create an Invasive Species Job Corp

Local Project Name: Ohio Woodland Job Corps

Region: Northeastern Area S&PF

Nearby City(ies): Adams, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Gallia, Guernsey, Highland, Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Vinton and Washington counties

Congressional District(s): OH02, OH05, OH07, OH18

County(ies): OH: Adams, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Gallia, Guernsey, Highland, Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Vinton, Washington

Related Photo(s) Link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7X-lcguvyc; http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i-WbJwFE7zE

Modified Date: 7/10/2012

Story:

Ohio Woodlands Job Corps Supports Forestry Industry Jobs

(Story posted 8/9/2011)

In February 2009, the Ohio Division of Forestry submitted a proposal for Recovery Act funds to improve woodlands on state and private lands and was awarded a grant to create an Ohio Woodlands Job Corps.

The Ohio Woodlands Job Corps is a two-year program managed by the Ohio Division of Forestry with Recovery Act funds provided through the USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry. The program ran in two rounds, with the first round going from September 2009 to March 2010 and the second round lasting from April through November 2010. Less than 60 days after the grant was awarded, a full slate of Ohio Woodland Job Corp participants were hired and started work. During the first round, 1,340 applicants applied for 66 positions. Eleven six-person crews were stationed on the Hocking, Maumee, Pike, Scioto Trail, Shawnee, and Zaleski state forests and worked on those state forests as well as the Blue Rock, Brush Creek, Perry, and Tar Hollow state forests.

Individuals hired through the program received four weeks of training in safety techniques, tree identification, chainsaw training, wildfire fighting, logging techniques, and pesticide safety and certification. When training was completed, corps members worked on state forests to treat and remove invasive species. In addition, crews helped with forest inventory work; timber stand improvement activities; trail maintenance and construction; and some tree planting activities. Because the project was affiliated with the national AmeriCorps Education Award Program, members were eligible to receive up to $2,300 towards past or future technical education or college expenses.

Two six-person crews were assigned to Zaleski State Forest because it is Ohio’s second largest state forest, covering 28,000 acres of rolling, steep hills. One of the crew members was an out of work logger, and two others had been self-employed in architecture and surveying. These three had lost their jobs or private businesses because of the economic downturn in Ohio. The OWJC gave them a chance to go back to work and improve the public

forests that Ohioans enjoy.

Ohio now has an increased number of certified herbicide applicators, wildland firefighters, and potential Master Loggers. Several Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Districts have identified a need for timber stand improvement vendors. With the training and experience these crews have received, they could easily fill that need.

Program Project Name: Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects/Readiness greater than 120 days

Local Project Name: Healthy Forests and Fuels Reduction

Region: Eastern Region

Forest: Superior

Nearby City(ies): Tofte, Eveleth, Ely, Cook

Congressional District(s): IL11, IL12, IL19, MI01, MI02, MN08, OH06, VT00, WI07, WI08

County(ies): IL: Hardin, Jackson, Johnson, Pope, Will; MI: Lake, Newaygo, Oscoda; MN: Cook, Lake, Saint Louis; OH: Gallia, Lawrence; VT: Addison, Bennington, Rutland, Windham, Windsor; WI: Bayfield, Florence, Forest, Oconto, Price, Vilas

Modified Date: 8/24/2011

Story:

Superior National Forest Recovery Act-funded Work Provides Many Benefits

(Story posted 8/22/2011)

On the Superior National Forest, a Recovery Act-funded wildland fire management project involved hazardous fuel reduction, harvests, and forest regeneration to provide employment opportunities within the timber industry in Minnesota. As part of the Caribou Stewardship Project, workers harvested approximately 450 acres of timber, and piled and burned slash. Workers also treated 196 acres on the west zone to reduce fuels. A total of 2,750 acres were prepared for harvest. In addition, workers “marked to standard” 50 miles of national forest boundaries. The forest is now healthier, and mangers will see the benefits of the work for many years.

Program Project Name: Region-wide Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects/Readiness

Local Project Name: Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects/Readiness

Region: Eastern Region

Forest: Chippewa

Nearby City(ies): Lake, Cook, and St. Louis counties

Congressional District(s): IL11, IN08, IN09, MI01, MN08, OH06, OH07, OH18

County(ies): IL: Will; IN: Brown, Crawford, Jackson, Martin, Monroe, Orange, Perry; MI: Alger, Chippewa, Delta, Gogebic, Ontonagon, Schoolcraft; MN: Beltrami, Cass, Cook, Itasca, Lake, Saint Louis; OH: Athens, Hocking, Lawrence, Perry, Washington

Modified Date: 2/14/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Hazardous Fuels Reduction Activities

(Story posted 10/12/2011)

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was implemented on the Superior National Forest during the summer of 2009. Projects were identified for hazardous fuels treatment on private land in high-risk areas as identified in community wildfire protection plans (CWPPs).

Three northeastern Minnesota counties (Cook, Lake, St. Louis) completed county-wide CWPPs beginning in 2004 through 2008. CWPP's were developed collaboratively between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Forest Service, county commissioners and emergency management, area volunteer fire departments, and private citizens. The plans identify areas that are at risk because of hazardous fire conditions and actions that can be taken to improve those conditions.

The Fernberg Corridor/Kawishiwi Triangle wildland-urban interface (WUI) area was identified in the Lake County CWPP as a high priority for fuels reduction. It is considered a high-risk area due to high fire occurrence, high density of permanent and seasonal residences, and multiple resorts and outfitting businesses. With the heavy fuel loading of spruce-budworm damaged balsam fir, many residents do not have adequate defensible space. Within this WUI area, the Sunset Road community participated in fuels reduction, and 21 landowners improved their defensible space for a total of 90 acres.

In St. Louis County, the Ely Area WUI is identified as a high priority for fuels reduction. The Burntside Ridge Trail Road Association participated in improving their defensible space, with 20 homeowners completing 186 acres.
Thirteen private contractors worked on these projects. One new small business was opened (Ely Brush Clearing) to take advantage of the work being offered and several existing contractors hired additional employees, as well as buying new equipment.
In Cook County, Lutsen WUI area was identified as a high priority for fuels reduction work due to the buildup of understory fuels and the remoteness of private property.

One particular area within the larger WUI area, Tait Lake, has been working on fuel hazard clean up; access and egress improvement; and accessible fire department tools for the past five years. The Tait Lake area is comprised of several parcels of private property and common property that belongs to an association. The Recovery Act funds are being used to finalize fuel reduction work in the area. The Tait Lake Homeowners Association has been working to do fuels reduction work on 120 acres of common property with the Recovery Act funds. At this time approximately 60 acres have been completed. One contractor, Oneil Tree Service, has been working on the project. This contract has been present in the county for several years. The company has hired two to six employees to help with the work.

A side benefit to homeowners being educated on their role in fire safety and creating

defensible space was the sense of community that was fostered. The Sunset Road Association held a Chipper Days and got many homeowners involved in improving the area's access and egress by cutting and chipping brush and fuels along the roadway. This community is also applying to receive Firewise Community status.

The Burntside Ridge Trail Road Association also has plans to continue to improve their access and egress and is continuing with fuels reductions on other private land. Workers treated 20 acres of this property in July 2011.

Program Project Name: Wayne National Forest Coal Mine Remediation

Local Project Name: Upstream Rock Run Project
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Wayne
Nearby City(ies): New Straitsville and Shawnee, Ohio.
Congressional District(s): OH07
County(ies): OH: Perry
Related Photo(s) Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ssrs/story?id=6525; http://blogs.usda.gov/2012/05/31/abandoned-mine-lands-restored-to-improve-watershed-health-in-ohio/
Modified Date: 6/11/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Abandoned Mine Lands Restoration to Improve Watershed Health

(Story posted 4/4/2012)

In late 2011, Recovery Act-funded workers completed reclamation construction on the Upstream Rock Run Project. Located in Perry County just east of State Highway 93 between the nearby towns of New Straitsville and Shawnee, the Upstream Rock Run drainage was heavily affected by underground mining activities in the late-1800s and again in the mid-1900s from strip mining. The primary source of pollution is acid mine drainage.

The USDA Forest Service, the State of Ohio, private partners, and the surrounding communities had long recognized an opportunity to create a highly desirable recreation area for the public to enjoy. In addition to interpreting the natural history of the area, the Forest Service also has the opportunity to educate the public about the importance of continued cleanup of old abandoned mine lands and how various ecosystems function.

The goals of this Recovery Act project known as "Devastation to Destination" were to build a healthy functioning riparian corridor, restore water quality, and create an integrated land management strategy. The project will increase the overall health of the watershed ecosystem, resulting in species diversity among the aquatic and wildlife habitats that once existed in the watershed.

Over the last fifteen years, the Wayne National Forest and its partners have worked together to restore the Monday Creek Watershed, which encompasses 75,000 acres in three counties on the Athens Ranger District. For nearly a century, the aquatic life that once thrived in this watershed has been virtually dead. Today, the restoration efforts of the 27-mile-long main stem has resulted in the identification of 13 fish species. In 2009, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) reversed their designation from non-restorable to having warm water habitat status. The Forest attributes its partnership to the success due to the sharing of expertise, workload, and funding that is required for a watershed of this size.

Communities living along the main stream are now enjoying a renewed sense of pride in their environment, as evidenced by attending partner meetings and participating in volunteer initiatives and educational outreach programs.

The Upstream Rock Run project is one of several integrated projects that are aligned with the larger landscape scale efforts being implemented on the Wayne National Forest with its partners.

The following features were, or will be, constructed and planted to create, enhance, and promote the ecosystem diversity that is ideal for this site:

* Opened all blocked drainages and allow the water to flow freely from the site
* Constructed a three-acre pond and created drainage out of the pond to enhance a small wetland below it
* Created a prairie meadow on the upper slope of the site
* Constructed a pond stocked by Ohio Department of Natural Resources with three species of fish
* Promoted wildlife habitat recovery by planting a mix of approximately 1,300 native species suitable for each habitat created: trees for shade and structure around the pond for aquatics; forbs, grasses, and dense shrubby areas (dogwood, alder, river birch, willows) around prairie meadow for woodcock habitat; large logs and brush for amphibian shade and habitat, and crabapple and hawthorn patches for wildlife food sources.
* In April 2012, in partnership with the American Chestnut Foundation, and the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station, 750 American Chestnut trees will be planted to help bring back the American Chestnuts that were lost due to a blight in the early part of the 1900s.
* In June of 2012, the Forest, along with partners will be placing benches and interpretive signs around the site to foster an appreciation for wildlife, native plants, and the rich cultural history of the local area during a dedication ceremony.
* The Forest will be constructing a fully accessible trail around the pond to view the room and pillar remnants that have been left on the landscape from previous mining activities.
* The Forest will create vernal pools for amphibian habitat in small depressions on the side drainages.

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

Congressional District(s): CA02, OR04, WA04

County(ies): CA: Siskiyou; OR: Benton; WA: Chelan, King

Modified Date: 8/24/2011

Story:

Research Underway on Restoring Critical Habitat for Listed Pacific Salmon

(Story posted 4/14/2010 and updated 8/15/2011)

A suite of research projects is using $2,240,000 of economic recovery funds to create high-tech and field jobs that support the work of leading fisheries and watershed scientists and natural resource professionals from the Forest Service and their partners (the University of Washington, Oregon State University, other research institutions, and the USDI Bureau of Land Management). Most of these projects will continue through 2012 or 2013.

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 providing clean water in ways that anticipate the effects of wildfire and climate change. These research projects will bring together interrelated factors that have been identified as strongly affecting the habitat for threatened fish species.

Workers hired with Recovery Act funds are helping with the study of landscape-scale factors relating to salmonid habitat; helping investigate the effectiveness of alternative forest management practices, including stream restoration, on fish habitat; analyzing long-term trends in water quality data from Forest Service experimental forests to evaluate effects of fire, forest harvest, and a changing climate on stream chemistry; and helping to assess the

potential effects of climate change on fish habitat and populations in the Northwest.

The results of this effort will be reported in peer-reviewed journals and used in decision-support models by land and fisheries managers and policymakers. 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 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
Congressional District(s): OR04
County(ies): OR: Benton
Modified Date: 12/29/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Stream Chemistry Network Project Underway

(Story posted 4/14/2010 and updated 8/15/2011)

Forested headwater streams provide high-quality water as one of their important ecosystem services. Changes in land use and vegetation cover, as well as natural processes and disturbances, affect water quality in these streams. Disturbances such as logging or wildfires have been shown to increase stream nutrient concentrations and fluxes, stream temperatures, and sediment output. Because disturbances cascade through ecosystems to affect downstream users, especially in watersheds that serve as sources of drinking water for communities, national and regional water quality standards have been established to protect water quality during forest management activities. Increased understanding of natural water quality variability as well as responses to forest disturbance across a range of environmental conditions throughout the nation are needed for management of forest lands and setting goals to meet water quality criteria.

To meet this need, stream biochemistry data have been collected for decades in watersheds in the Experimental Forests and Range (EFR) network. This Recovery Act-funded project, led by Pacific Northwest (PNW) Research Station scientist Sherri Johnson in conjunction with Charles Rhoades (Rocky Mountain Research Station) and Stephen Sebestyen (Northern Research Station), is a collaborative effort between USDA Forest Service Research and Development, universities, and the forest industry to compile and evaluate long-term water quality data from EFRs across the country. The long-term data from reference and managed forests are being used to inform the development of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) water quality criteria across states, as well as to evaluate the effects of natural and anthropogenic forest disturbances on various chemical and physical components of water

exported from river basins. A Web-based interactive program is being created to make the data easily available to researchers and the 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.

So far, three positions have been established: a PhD-level data base manager and coordinator, a postdoctoral researcher, and a faculty research assistant. The development and organization of the database is well advanced, and a Web-based system for accessing the data has been completed. Data from 11 EFR sites have been entered. The research team is currently using the data to address four topics in manuscripts that will be submitted during the second half of 2011 for publication in peer-reviewed journals:
• Long-term stream nitrogen trends in undisturbed watersheds.
• The relation between seasonal stream chemistry and proposed numeric nutrient criteria.
• Stream chemistry responses to natural and anthropogenic disturbances.
• Determination of best methods to compare stream chemistry fluxes across a broad range of long-term data sets and research sites.

Significant progress has been made on these topics and results have been presented at annual meetings of multiple international societies (the American Geophysical Union, North American Benthological Society, Society for European Freshwater Sciences, and International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics) For more information please see http://www.fsl.orst.edu/efr/.

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
Congressional District(s): OR04
County(ies): OR: Benton
Modified Date: 8/24/2011

Story:

Spatial Patterns of Habitats and Salmonids Recovery Act Research Underway

(Story posted 4/12/2010 and updated 8/10/2011)

Salmon are closely tied to the culture, history, and economic vitality of the Pacific Northwest, and their preservation is directly linked to the preservation of other species and ecosystems. An economic recovery project led by Kelly Burnett of the Pacific Northwest Research Station (PNW) will examine how habitats for salmon are arranged and connected to one another and how these patterns may affect the health of salmon populations in the river networks of the Pacific Northwest and Alaska.

Concern over the future of salmon is high. Several populations of Pacific salmon are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The results of this research will help land and fisheries managers make decisions on restoring salmon habitat, anticipate climate change impacts, and recover at-risk populations of salmon in rivers in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska.

“People typically think of different types of stream habitats as disconnected patches. You have fast riffles in one place, and downstream you might have slow pools,” explained Burnett, a research fish biologist. “But fish are mobile. That’s why we’re concentrating on connections between habitat types. We also want to find out how these different habitats respond to different management activities, or to climate change.”

Understanding patterns and connections in streams is complicated. The flow of water connects habitat sites, but flow can vary. In addition, there are other processes that can move up or down stream. These variations are hard for scientists to quantify, but they are very important for fish. Information from the project will help land managers approach not just the question “Do we have enough fish habitat?” but “How is the habitat arranged?”

The PNW is accomplishing this work through a joint venture agreement with the Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society in Oregon State University’s College of Forestry. The university used Recovery Act funds to hire three people: a postdoctoral researcher, a senior faculty research assistant, and a master’s degree student, making up a project team with a range of expertise and professional development. “We are a very interdisciplinary team,” said Lisa Ganio, the OSU lead scientist on the project. “Not only were we able to bring on a student but this funding also allowed us to provide work for people with a high level of skill,

which was essential for a project of this complexity."

The Recovery Act funding provided employment for Ken Vance-Borland, who was hired as the senior faculty research assistant. His duties include using geographic information systems (GIS) and satellite imagery to map locations of fish and fish habitat, then analyzing the relation of these locations to topographical features like channel gradients and water flow. He enjoys the collaborative nature of the job and appreciates the applicability of the information being obtained. "This work contributes to society's understanding of managing for salmon and the streams they depend on," said Vance-Borland. "We are looking at the impacts of all kinds of things: management actions, agriculture, urban development, and fire strategies. How do they affect habitat for salmon?"

Nicholas Som, a postdoctoral scientist on the project, has used Recovery Act funding to provide various analytical methods and products that have advanced multiple research studies with the theme of understanding salmonid population patterns. Som's work has focused on improving the ability of models to simulate the spatial distribution of stream network phenomena, and on better tools for detecting change in paired watershed studies.

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

Congressional District(s): OR04

County(ies): OR: Benton

Modified Date: 12/29/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Research Project Assesses Climate Change Impacts on Water and Fish Habitat in Washington and Oregon

(Story posted 4/14/2010 and updated 8/10/2011)

Dr. Gordon Reeves of the Pacific Northwest Research Station's (PNW) Land and Watershed Management Program, is leading this Recovery Act project that builds 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.

Under a joint venture agreement, the Department of Fish and Wildlife in Oregon State University's (OSU) College of Agricultural Sciences used Recovery Act funds provided by the PNW Research Station to hire two full-time researchers and employ a faculty member part-time. This project 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 of climate change on water and aquatic ecosystems are of major concern to federal land managers in the Pacific Northwest and elsewhere, and there is a significant need to develop tools, 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 such as smaller mountain ranges that influence the expression of climate change on small scales. Without these refinements, features such as east-west temperature and precipitation gradients in the Pacific Northwest cannot be appropriately simulated, and attempts to use raw data from coarser 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 is focusing on pilot projects on the Wenatchee-Okanogan and Umatilla national forests. These forests represent a range of geologies and climates and thus will respond differently to climate change. In support of this work, the University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group (CIG) will develop and provide detailed reports summarizing downscaled historic hydroclimatic data and simulations along with future hydrologic change scenarios for these areas. These models will be incorporated into an integrated system (NetMap) along with digital map layers and databases that will enhance their utility for natural resource managers.

Significant progress has been made on two models for the John Day and Wenatchee River basins-—one that predicts water temperatures and one that identifies probable locations of spawning habitats. In addition, a Bayesian Belief Model (a decision support tool) of the effects of wildfire on Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout has been developed for the Wenatchee River. Finally, the scientists have completed an exploratory analysis of data on the impacts of wildfire on seasonal water temperatures. All these projects are components of a larger system that will allow the assessment of future effects of climate change on salmonids.

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

Congressional District(s): OR04

County(ies): OR: Linn

Modified Date: 1/12/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Equipment to Increase Efficiency of Biomass Processing and Utilization from National Forest System Lands

(Story posted 5/3/2010)

In September 2009, T2, Inc. received a USDA Forest Service Recovery Act grant to purchase new logging equipment designed to help the company increase operating efficiency and year-round access for conducting fuels treatments.

A Portland company supplied the equipment---a new 2008 Hyundai R210LC-7A High Chassis Log Loader equipped with a 34-foot boom and a Jewell F-H80BT brush grapple. 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 48-foot 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), it 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. The 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
Congressional District(s): OR04
County(ies): OR: Benton
Modified Date: 8/24/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Density Management and Riparian Buffer Studies

(Story posted 4/14/2010 and updated 8/15/2011)

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 PhD 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.

This project is part of a larger long-term collaborative research initiative, the Density Management and Riparian Buffer Studies of Western Oregon, an effort that involves the PNW, the Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region, 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 riparian 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 studies are entering a new round of thinning treatments, providing an optimal time to synthesize and integrate discrete study segments. It is also timely for developing 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 that potentially affect both upland and riparian vegetation growth and aquatic-riparian habitat conditions for sensitive fauna) is an important new direction for this set of studies.

The infusion of Recovery Act funds has allowed for expansion of the scope of the research to include the effect of climatic variation on water availability for riparian forest growth. It has also made it possible for Puettmann's extensive work in upland forests to be integrated into the research framework. Recent results from the research have been presented at various scientific meetings, and several journal publications are in preparation.

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
Congressional District(s): NM01, OR03, OR04
County(ies): OR: Lane, Multnomah
Modified Date: 11/3/2011

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: 8/24/2011

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
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/6z3bfvm
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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: 5/24/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Williams Creek Bridge Project Benefits Fish Species

(Story posted 1/1/2010 and updated 5/24/2011)

Nearly $2 million of Recovery Act funds built a new bridge benefiting fish passage between Williams Creek and the 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 fish passage barrier.

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 (Recovery Act), which included funding for fisheries restoration projects. The Forest applied for Recovery Act 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 had the money to build the thing," said Gordon Hanek, Umpqua project engineer.

The UNF worked with the Oregon Department of Transportation on the project, who had already designed a bridge to complement the adjacent North Umpqua River, a designated Wild and Scenic River.

Williams Creek drains into the North Umpqua River about 37 miles east of Roseburg, Oregon. 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 man-made 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.

The Department of Transportation designed the bridge with colored concrete and weathered guard railings to help it blend into its surroundings and not be noticeable to highway travelers and river users.

Workers began construction on the Williams Creek bridge in spring 2010 and finished by fall 2010. The final inspection took place on November 1, 2010. Summer 2011 will be the first of many to come where fish can easily migrate through the passage.

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, with edits to report the project's conclusion.

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
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
Congressional District(s): OR01, OR04, OR05
County(ies): OR: Lane
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/67znm8m
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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
Congressional District(s): OR01, OR04, OR05
County(ies): OR: Lane
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3ar6jtk
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3k2xpma
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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
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
Congressional District(s): OR04
County(ies): OR: Curry
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/5tfdupl
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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: 5/16/2012

Story:

Malheur NF Recovery Crews, Contractors Move Projects Ahead Thanks to Recovery Act Funding

(Story posted 8/2/2010)

Forest Recovery Act-funded restoration and hazardous fuel reduction projects 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 Forest Supervisor Doug Gochnour. “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, archaeological, 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 said, “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,” said 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," said Grant County contractor Brad Browning.

Fellow resident Denis McCormick agreed. “Yeah, I might be working without this, but who

knows where or doing what."

Local contractor J. D. Majors said, "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 said, "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
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3wo67jn
Modified Date: 4/13/2011

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
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3mpr64r
Modified Date: 4/13/2011

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

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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
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3mpr64r
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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(Story posted 8/6/2010)

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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: 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
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
Congressional District(s): OR04
County(ies): OR: Douglas
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3t84dst
Modified Date: 8/24/2011

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 (Recovery 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.

PNW 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 30 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 PNW received approval for a pooled $350,000 of Recovery Act 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'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 added, “We are in it for the long term here at the research station. We’ve run these stream gauging stations since the '50s, and it is my intention to keep that going as long as possible.”

With the new gauging stations in place, both the PNW 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
Congressional District(s): OR02, OR04, WA03, WA04
County(ies): OR: Lane, Union; WA: Chelan, Skamania
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/68pp3wf
Modified Date: 8/24/2011

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.

Recovery Act 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 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 work 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
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/66tswev
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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

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

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

Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/6l8qvgm

Modified Date: 12/29/2011

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.

Program Project Name: Prioritize Fuel Treatments by Estimating Restoration Potential and Understanding Their Effects

Local Project Name: ARRA Integrated Landscape Assessment Project selected as exemplary R&D collaboration

Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station

Nearby City(ies): Portland and Corvallis, OR

Congressional District(s): NM01, OR03, OR04

County(ies): OR: Lane, Multnomah

Related Photo(s) Link: http://prdp2fs.ess.usda.gov/detail/recovery/accomplishments/photos-video/?cid=stelprdb5358890

Modified Date: 6/11/2012

Story:
ARRA Integrated Landscape Assessment Project Selected as Exemplary R&D Collaboration

(Story posted 2/25/2011)

Researchers from the U.S. Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Research Station, Institute for Natural Resources, and Oregon State University College of Forestry, won national recognition for creating the Integrated Landscape Assessment Project (ILAP).

The data and tools created by the ILAP can be used by natural resource managers, policymakers, and resource-dependent communities to answer questions about wildlife habitats, fuels and fire, climate change, community economic options, biomass, and carbon sequestration. The ILAP examines both current conditions and potential consequences of different management activities, and provides politically neutral analyses that allow natural resource managers to consider alternative management approaches and policy scenarios.

ILAP is a partnership of federal and state natural resource management agencies, universities, and other organizations devoted to developing methods, data, and models that facilitate integrated, collaborative large landscape assessments across all wildland ownerships. In 2009, ILAP received American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding to create and retain jobs, foster a green economy, and reduce fire and fuel hazards, and now involves approximately 57 people in Oregon, Washington, Arizona, and New Mexico.

The project will be presented at the Agriculture, Food, Nutrition, and Natural Resources R&D Roundtable on March 15, 2011 in Washington, D.C. The Roundtable is targeted to high-level federal government agency officials involved in research related to agriculture, food, nutrition and natural resources, as well as representatives of key scientific societies, universities, and the agricultural industry of agriculture. The eight recognized case studies were selected for their potential to raise the profile of agriculture, food, nutrition, or natural resources research and draw attention to the value of federal investment in the sciences.

To learn more about ILAP, visit http://oregonstate.edu/inr/node/51. To learn more about the roundtable event in Washington, D.C., visit www.farmfoundation.org/roundtable.aspx.

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

Local Project Name: Economic Recovery Communications Project

Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station

Nearby City(ies): Portland, Seattle, Eugene

Congressional District(s): OR01, OR02, OR03, OR04, OR05, WA01, WA02, WA03, WA04, WA05, WA06, WA07, WA08, WA09

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; 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: 3/31/2011

Story:

Research Station Explores New Communication Tools Using Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 3/16/2011)

Receiving stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) has meant a departure from business as usual for the Pacific Northwest Research Station (PNW). For one thing, there is an increased focus on creating employment, bringing a rapid influx of new skills, talents, partnerships, and ideas into the station's sphere of activities. PNW scientists were pushed to think outside the box to quickly capitalize on these new opportunities in ways that further their efforts to provide scientific information relevant to today's natural resources issues.

As the station's Recovery Act program got underway, Communications and Applications Assistant Director Cindy Miner soon realized that this unprecedented event would also create new challenges for the Station's communications staff. Before the Recovery Act, the lion's share of the station's communications were written publications dealing with science findings, with less attention on telling the story of HOW the PNW gets research done.

But with the advent of Recovery Act funding and new goals for creating jobs, a whole host of new possibilities for telling the human side of the PNW's research efforts has emerged. Concurrently, the station had been strategizing how to expand the tools it uses to communicate, including new forms of media. Enter Mark Blaine of the University of Oregon's School of Journalism and Communications (SOJC), an award-winning journalist with a strong interest in storytelling and new media. Blaine and the station have jointly created the Economic Recovery Communications Project, an effort to utilize the resources of the University (as well as the youthful creativity and perspective of SOJC students) to develop integrated multi-media packages and use new forms for communicating to portray how the Station is participating in economic recovery efforts under the Recovery Act.

One of the first Recovery Act projects on which the students focused was PNW Scientist John Mills' baseline inventory of urban forest conditions in five western states. Results from Mills' project will ultimately be used to evaluate questions about the contribution of urban trees to reduced energy use, carbon sequestration, water management, and quality of life. For this project, a team of students produced a package that includes documentary-style videos (notably one featuring researcher Geoffery Donovan, whose findings on the societal and economic value of urban trees have recently received considerable attention in the

press), an animated educational Web tool for understanding threats to urban trees, and accompanying text articles.

The material focuses not only on research results, but also gives the scientists an opportunity to talk about the reasons the research is important. And of significance to the Recovery Act, individuals hired with stimulus funding are shown working at a wide variety of jobs, many of which (for example, computer analysts and forest data gatherers) are not typically thought of in association with the US Forest Service's economic stimulus program. The various multi-media package components are well integrated and explain the various facets of the project in informative and appealing ways. Even though the package is still in draft form, already it has demonstrated to Station communications staff new possibilities for delivering science findings to a broad audience.

In addition to Mills' project, other teams of SOJC students are creating multi-media packages for Miles Hemstrom's Integrated Landscape Assessment Recovery Act Project and Dale Blahna's Recovery Act study of activities that create green jobs in the Puget Sound area. As the program continues, additional projects, including student internships, are planned. When completed, all the students' work will be available through the PNW's Recovery Act Web page.

Program Project Name: Managing fuel loads by limiting mortality caused by bark beetles and Sudden Oak Death.

Local Project Name: Managing Fuel Loads by Limiting Mortality Caused by Bark Beetles and Sudden Oak Death

Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station

Nearby City(ies): various

Congressional District(s): OR02, OR04

County(ies): OR: Benton

Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/4yuu86z

Modified Date: 12/30/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Forest Health Protection Research Brings Employment, Hope for Excessive Tree Mortality Mitigation

(Story posted 5/25/2011 and updated 6/21/2011, 8/17/2011, and 12/29/2011)

Recovery Act-funded hirees for this Pacific Northwest Research Station Recovery Act-funded project are field-testing alternative approaches to reduce tree mortality from a combination of bark beetles and sudden oak death (Phytophthora ramorum). If found to be effective, this technology may provide land managers with a new method for mitigating excessive tree mortality from these organisms.

Healthier forests will provide more products, services, and benefits to local communities. Fewer dead trees will reduce the amount of available fuel and lessen the risk of

uncontrollable wildfire and its impacts on nearby communities. Individuals hired for these field and laboratory jobs will have the opportunity to advance their knowledge, skills, and training in the field of forest health protection. So far this project has provided employment for two individuals who have since left to accept permanent jobs as forest health specialists. A new employee is anticipated by February 2012.

This project was initiated in late spring 2010 with a search for and selection of suitable study sites in the vicinity of Novato, California. The first field experiments were started in September after obtaining the necessary permits from the agencies responsible for managing the sites selected. So far, results from this work have shown that sapwood from within P. ramorum cankers on stems of coast live oak trees contain much higher concentrations of ethanol than adjacent healthy sapwood outside the canker or compared to sapwood from nearby healthy trees.

The research also demonstrated that traps baited with ethanol lures attract species of bark and ambrosia beetles known to selectively attack inside the boundaries of the P. ramorum cankers and subsequently reduce the trees' probability of survival. These same beetle species were shown to attack coast live oak logs when sealed holes in their sapwood were filled with ethanol solution. The researchers concluded that ethanol associated with P. ramorum cankers is the primary attractant and attack stimulant for the bark and ambrosia beetles that colonize the cankers and accelerate tree death.

Others have reported that preventing beetle attacks could extend the trees' survival by five to nine years. The trapping experiment described above found that adding either -pinene or 4-allylanisol to traps baited with ethanol lures greatly reduced the trap catch, indicating that these compounds are repellents. The -pinene also dramatically reduced beetle attacks on the coast live oak logs with ethanol infused sapwood provided the -pinene release rate was high enough. This project continues through 2012.

Program Project Name: Provide summer employment opportunities for youth in climate and forestry internships.

Local Project Name: Summer Employment and Education Opportunities For Youth - Summary
Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Portland and Corvallis, Oregon; Olympia and Seattle, Washington
Congressional District(s): OR03, OR04, OR05, WA03, WA05
County(ies): OR: Benton, Lane, Multnomah; WA: Thurston
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3msm75a
Modified Date: 12/29/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Natural Resource-Focused Leadership and Learning Opportunities

(Story posted 6/10/2011)

The Pacific Northwest Research Station's (PNW) Focused Science Delivery Program is using Recovery Act funds to create natural resources-focused leadership and learning opportunities for students in middle school to graduate school. At least 30 summer jobs will have been created by the time the project is finished, with an additional undetermined number of opportunities for undergraduate students and graduate mentors both during the summer and later during the school year. This project is founded on the premise that by systematically identifying and encouraging ambitious and talented youth, we can improve both the quality and diversity of the applicants to the workforces of natural resource agencies and businesses.

The PNW is working with partners (University of Washington, Portland State University, Oregon State University, the World Forestry Center's Youth Inside Out Program, and the Olympia Lab Internship Program) to hire young adults as interns to coordinate and supervise a variety of projects utilizing students to collect field data for researchers. For example, seven interns worked in the Olympia area during the summer of 2010 collecting detailed data for an ongoing long-term study of the seasonal timing of life cycle events (such as bud burst, bud set, and growth period) of important forest plant species. The study will help scientists advise land managers on tree breeding and planting zone decisions, especially in light of a changing climate. The interns also helped process samples from a study on soil carbon and provided Web support.

Program Project Name: Provide summer employment opportunities for youth in climate and forestry internships.

Local Project Name: Portland Urban Riparian Ecosystem Integrity
Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Portland, OR
Congressional District(s): OR03, OR04, OR05, WA03, WA05
County(ies): OR: Benton, Lane, Multnomah; WA: Thurston
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3w9wm2t
Modified Date: 12/29/2011

Story:

Pacific Northwest Research Stations Uses Recovery Act Funds in Urban Research Project

(Story posted 6/10/2011)

The Pacific Northwest Research Station's (PNW) Focused Science Delivery Program has entered into an agreement with Portland State University to provide Recovery Act funds to employ young people from underrepresented communities in a significant new urban research effort. The primary investigator is Alan Yeakley, professor of environmental science and management at PSU. Yeakley's study seeks to understand the response of riparian habitats to urbanization in three cities in the greater Portland, Oregon metro area. He and his students and field crew are establishing permanent plots, where they will be collecting data on vegetation, soil, and habitat quality for species such as salamanders along urban streams spanning a continuum from relatively undisturbed to degraded. They hope to provide

information to planners and policy makers on the impacts of development on a range of environmental variables. In the meantime, they are providing a valuable career development opportunity to the high school and undergraduate students who make up the field crew.

“The field crew students will come away with a variety of experiences, from study design to site selection,” said Yeakley. “They will work closely with the two graduate students and by the end of the project they will be proficient in the sampling techniques that are needed for this kind of scientific study.” In addition to gaining valuable career skills, they can take pride that their work will contribute valuable baseline information about the health of these urban natural resources.

The initial job announcement clearly tapped a reserve of interest in this type of work: over 80 students applied for the four field crew positions. The four students who were selected show a promising enthusiasm for working outdoors and learning about restoration ecology and urban ecosystems. “I credit my love of the outdoors to my dad,” said Jose, one of the students. “And I have been really interested in thinking about how there might be different ways of managing land.”
Keeping Jose engaged and encouraging him to pursue further education in natural resource management would fulfill one of the additional goals of this project: reaching out to minority youth and exposing them to jobs in science-related fields, where they are currently underrepresented. Portland State University is an ideal partner in this regard, as it has the highest minority composition of any higher learning institution in Oregon.

“We have been hoping to create a project like this for some time,” explained Jamie Barbour, the PNW project lead. “PSU is the largest university in Oregon, and the Portland laboratory of the PNW is one of the largest research labs in the Forest Service; and yet we have never really had any interaction until now.”

Outcomes:
In the first season of this two-year project, six students (ranging from high-school to college graduate level) were recruited and spent the summer in intensive training. They helped develop and became proficient in sampling protocols and began both an herbarium plant collection and a photo collection of the plants and salamanders that will be documented in the project. They also produced a comprehensive field sampling guide that will be used during the 2011 field season.

Program Project Name: Provide summer employment opportunities for youth in climate and forestry internships.
Local Project Name: Forests Inside Out!
Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Porltand, OR
Congressional District(s): OR03, OR04, OR05, WA03, WA05
County(ies): OR: Benton, Lane, Multnomah; WA: Thurston
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3bbqhvu
Modified Date: 12/29/2011

Story:
Pacific Northwest Research Stations Uses Recovery Act Funds to Support Outdoor Education Opportunities

(Story posted 6/10/2011)

During the summer of 2010, approximately 350 children from Portland, Oregon, and Vancouver, Washington, took part in a program that provides outdoor education opportunities to students from underserved communities called “Forests Inside Out!” The program, which ran from August 2 through 31, was partially funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

“Nothing compares to getting students outside,” said Rob Pierce, education director with the World Forestry Center, one of the program’s sponsors. “And it’s important to give those who have never had the opportunity a chance to make that connection.”
Now in its second year, Forests Inside Out! took children ages 6 to 10 from communities in the Portland and Vancouver metropolitan area to sites in the city and along the Columbia River Gorge. During the program’s two-day format, the students explored the World Forestry Center and Hoyt Arboretum and then went on ranger-led interpretive hikes to Wahkeena and Latourell falls. Participants came from the Boys and Girls Club in Portland and Hillsboro; Portland- and Vancouver-area community and child development centers; and Portland’s SUN community schools.

As part of the program, eight high school students were hired as mentors to work with the younger participants and help them to connect with nature during their trips through sketching and journaling. These student mentors participated in the Inner City Youth Institute (ICYI) natural resource camp earlier this summer, another outdoor education program targeting underserved middle and high school students.
“Forests Inside Out! provided a great opportunity for ICYI students to spread their enthusiasm for the outdoors to a younger audience,” said Becky Bittner, conservation education specialist with the Pacific Northwest Research Station, sponsor of both Forests Inside Out! and ICYI. “Our hope is that these younger kids are inspired to participate in outdoor programs like ICYI when they get older.” Another round of camps is scheduled for the summer of 2011.

Forests Inside Out! is a partnership of the Forest Service, World Forestry Center, and the Inner City Youth Institute. The program’s activities are structured around "Project Learning Tree," a nationally recognized curriculum that is aimed at fostering an understanding of how forests and the environment work.

Program Project Name: Provide summer employment opportunities for youth in climate and forestry internships.
Local Project Name: Supporting Underrepresented Forestry/Natural Resources Students
Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station

Nearby City(ies): Corvallis, OR
Congressional District(s): OR03, OR04, OR05, WA03, WA05
County(ies): OR: Benton, Lane, Multnomah; WA: Thurston
Modified Date: 12/29/2011

Story:

Pacific Northwest Research Station Collaborates with University to Promote Diversity

(Story posted 6/29/2011)

Through a Recovery Act-funded cooperative agreement, Jamie Barbour of the USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station's (PNW) Focused Science Delivery Program is collaborating with Ed Jensen, Steve Tesch, and David Zahler of Oregon State University's College of Forestry to significantly expand educational and job opportunities for natural resources students from underrepresented communities. Recovery Act funds are supporting the College of Forestry's SEEDS ("Strengthening Education and Employment for Diverse Students") program, which has the goals of recruiting and retaining these students, providing a supportive environment, and helping them develop career pathways in natural resources disciplines.

The SEEDS program promotes student success by matching scholars with mentors who provide guidance and experience, including paid employment, in the students' chosen natural resources management or science field while they are in school. SEEDS program faculty coordinator Dave Zahler said, "We emphasize much more than the skills training in the work experiences and try to encourage relationship-building and psychosocial support to the student. In other words, if it were just about job skills, then the students could simply go and get a summer job."

The SEEDS program reaches out to several categories of underrepresented students in the OSU College of Forestry. By bringing SEEDS recruits into their research teams, the OSU faculty mentors assist their protégés in building a support network that will help them succeed after they graduate. The SEEDS program also includes professional mentors outside the OSU faculty, including natural resources professionals in government agencies and private industry.

The SEEDS program was instituted during the 2009-2010 academic year, and economic recovery funds were instrumental in allowing it to go forward. The funding has allowed the College of Forestry to hire a coordinator for the program, who is helping recruit, train, and find mentors and employment opportunities for SEEDS students. The funding also is used pay for SEEDS interns both during the academic year and in summer field work.

Outcomes: As the second year of the program draws to a close, a over a dozen College of Forestry students have participated in mentored work experiences involving such diverse activities as conducting a literature review of topics related to managing smoke from prescribed and natural fires; developing an orientation and policies manual for the College Forests Recreation Program; trail development and interpretation; analyzing data on the diets

of large carnivores; and studying the impacts of Swiss needle cast on Douglas-fir. In at least one case, the SEEDS experience and Recovery Act funding provided a pathway for a participant, the first in his family to pursue higher education, to go on to a graduate program.

Amanda Mendez, a southern California native whose future plans include the Peace Corps and a career in outdoor education, was mentored by Mark Needham of the Forestry College's Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society. Needham had been asked by Oregon's Department of Fish and Wildlife and Watershed Enhancement Board to conduct a survey to determine what actions the state might take to make landowners more likely to tolerate beaver activity on their property. Besides collecting and analyzing survey data, Mendez attended the survey results briefing to state agencies. Mendez also was able to attend a national symposium on recreation research. Amanda says both these experiences were invaluable in helping her understand how agencies incorporate science in policy-making and also gave her opportunities to network with high-level professionals in her field of interest. Mendez will continue to explore career opportunities as she participates in an exploratory program on the Deschutes National Forest during summer 2011.

Other SEEDS students have commented on the benefits of participation in the SEEDS program:

"I understand communication in a group setting better than I did before," said Larae Guillory, who is interested in becoming a fuels specialist.

Mario Carbajal, who plans to work in natural areas conservation, said, "Every day is a new learning experience, and I am given various different tasks that allow me to take part in different aspects of the recreation program."

"It's not just another work experience…SEEDS program mentoring has helped me to be a much better student and also so learn valuable hands on jobs skills," said Gina Martinez, who wants to pursue a career in wildlife management in the National Parks System.

And Aldo Nava, who is majoring in Forest Engineering said, "Some jobs try to keep workers where they are, but a mentorship aims to raise a person up to their full potential."

The SEEDS experiences of all these students were made possible by economic recovery money provided to the OSU SEEDS program and by OSU College of Forestry faculty mentors, including Mark Needham, Christine Olsen, Chris Jackson, Anita Morzillo, and Doug Maguire.

Program Project Name: Provide summer employment opportunities for youth in climate and forestry internships.

Local Project Name: Recruiting Future Forestry Leaders and Scientists
Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Seattle, Washington
Congressional District(s): OR03, OR04, OR05, WA03, WA05

County(ies): OR: Benton, Lane, Multnomah; WA: Thurston
Related Photo(s) Link: http://blogs.usda.gov/2011/08/11/recruiting-future-forestry-leaders-and-scientists/; http://tinyurl.com/3mkkvs7
Modified Date: 12/29/2011

Story:

Pacific Northwest Research Station Partners with University to Create Leadership and Learning Opportunities

(Story posted 7/12/2011)

As part of the USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station's (PNW) Research Station's Recovery Act program, Jamie Barbour of the Station's Focused Science Delivery Program has entered into an agreement with the University of Washington's School of Forest Resources to create leadership and learning opportunities for Native Americans pursuing graduate degrees in the forestry sciences. The effort, coordinated by the school's Ernesto Alvarado, provides a broad spectrum of opportunities to students who are tribal members, focused on recruitment, retention, and successful completion of their graduate degree programs.

Students are offered financial, educational, cultural, and social support and offered mentored work experiences on research projects in their field of interest. The skills, knowledge, and experience the students gain significantly enhances their ability to contribute to the advancement of science-based forestry both on and off of tribal lands. In addition, their ability to integrate traditional knowledge with modern science has significant benefits to both the university and research agencies for whom they work.

Outcomes include the following:
Three Native American graduate students have been recruited and are working on research projects led by PNW scientists and university faculty. Two students, Tmthspusmen "Spus" Wilder and Jeromie Gritts, enrolled at the beginning of the 2010-2011 academic year. A third student, Christopher Beatty, is doing project work during the summer and will begin coursework in the fall of 2011.

Wilder is interested in the ecological effects of different policy frameworks and restoration practices among forest landowners east of the Cascade crest. Starting the summer of 2011, his research project will examine stand structure and composition parameters on national forest, state, and Yakama tribal lands in eastern Washington to determine how forest health is affected by management and restoration strategies. During the summer of 2010, Wilder assisted with research projects conducted by the PNW Station on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and at the USFS Pacific Wildland Fire Sciences Laboratory in Seattle.

Gritts' research project, also beginning the summer of 2011, will examine the decline of whitebark pine on the Flathead Reservation in Montana. He is working with Rocky Mountain Research Station scientists to model the effects of different silvicultural and fire management regimes on whitebark pine. His research will factor in the cultural values tribes associate with

whitebark pine that are not typically included in ecological studies.

Both young people have been involved with other Native American students in the School of Forest Resources on efforts to integrate traditional knowledge with forestry sciences and have co-authored a paper that has been submitted for publication. They have also been assisting with the development of a national natural resources research agenda for the Intertribal Timber Council. They have helped develop and administer a questionnaire for tribal managers and leaders to ascertain research needs, and Beatty will be completing the final report documenting research priorities during the summer of 2011.

Program Project Name: Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest – Upper Chetco River Bridge Abutment Replacement

Local Project Name: Upper Chetco River Bridge Abutment Replacement
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Rogue River-Siskiyou
Ranger District: Gold Beach
Nearby City(ies): Brookings
Congressional District(s): OR04
County(ies): OR: Curry
Modified Date: 8/19/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Help Accomplish Critical Bridge Repairs

(Story posted 8/2/2011)

On the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, local contractors recently completed Recovery Act-funded repairs to the Upper Chetco Bridge. Tidewater, a contractor based out of Brookings, began work on the "steel bridge," as referred to by local residents, in early April 2011. The bridge officially reopened on July 22, 2011.
The steel bridge serves as one of the main crossings on the Chetco River Road; the road serves as a primary public access corridor along the Chetco River and a number of water-based recreation opportunities on the Forest.

"We are very fortunate to have received Recovery Act funding to complete the necessary repairs on the Upper Chetco River Bridge. The Recovery dollars allowed us to fix damage that has occurred over a long period of time," said Gold Beach District Ranger Alan Vandiver.

The Upper Chetco River Bridge abutment was severely damaged by mass movement of an entire hillside. The pressure crumbled the back concrete wall of the abutment; severely bent anchor bolts; damaged steel girders; forced the hanger assembly closed; and pushed piers and abutment columns away from the river. The repair project involved removal of the crumbling concrete abutment and some back slope above the road to take the pressure off the compressed bridge. Workers built a new abutment and stabilized the landslide along with other repairs to bridge components or approaches.

Program Project Name: Terrestrial Habitat Enhancement - Botany and Wildlife (Meadows) – Forest-wide

Local Project Name: High Cascades Meadow Restoration
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Rogue River-Siskiyou
Ranger District: High Cascades
Nearby City(ies): Prospect
Congressional District(s): OR02, OR04
County(ies): OR: Jackson
Modified Date: 8/18/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Work Restores Critical Meadow Habitat

(Story posted 8/18/2011)

Recovery Act-funded local crews recently finished cutting and piling trees to reduce conifer encroachment on 427 acres of unique meadow habitat on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

These meadows offer key habitat for many species, including deer and elk, which use the high-quality forage in early summer through fall. Great gray owls, wild turkeys, western bluebirds, and a variety of other neo-tropical migratory birds also use meadow habitats that support a variety of wildflowers, insects, and small mammals not found in forested habitats. Aggressive fire suppression over the last several decades had allowed conifer tree species to encroach upon many natural meadows across the High Cascades Ranger District, reducing the meadow habitat total area and degrading much of the remaining habitat.

The Ashland-based crews will work on the project again when they burn the cured piles this fall or in 2012.

Program Project Name: Sustainable forest bioenergy production (FWE, HD)

Local Project Name: Forest Biomass Utilization Decreases Wildfire Risk and Dependence on Foreign Oil
Region: Rocky Mountain Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Halfway, OR; Missoula, MT; Diamond Lake, OR; Pullman, WA; Moscow, ID
Congressional District(s): ID02, MT00, OR02, WA05
County(ies): ID: Latah; MT: Missoula; OR: Baker, Douglas; WA: Whitman
Modified Date: 9/27/2011

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Research May Facilitate New Forest Product Uses

(Story posted 9/22/2011)

In Washington, Idaho, and Montana, USDA Forest Service Recovery Act-funded studies concerning how pyrolysis* produces potentially useful new forest products called bio-oil and bio-char*are continuing. Researchers at the Rocky Mountain Research Station, University of Montana, University of Idaho, Washington State University, and other partners have published test results for a proto-type pyrolysis reactor that creates the charcoal-like bio-char and also creates bio-oil and synthetic gas as the reactor processes biomass from forest restoration projects.

Another team has also tested bio-char for applications as a soilless nursery media for growing plants. More research results are expected sometime this fall. Besides providing research and development jobs, this important project involving pyrolysis could facilitate new uses and markets for forest products to help reduce national dependence on foreign oil, support new industries in rural areas, and reduce greenhouse gases.

*Pyrolysis is the heating of an organic material, such as biomass, in the absence of oxygen. Because no oxygen is present, the material does not combust, but the chemical compounds (i.e. cellulose, hemicelluloses, and lignin) that make up that material thermally decompose into combustible gases and charcoal. Most of these combustible gases can be condensed into a combustible liquid, called bio-oil, though there are some permanent gases (CO¬2, CO, H2, light hydrocarbons). Thus, pyrolysis of biomass produces three products: one liquid, bio-oil; one solid, bio-char; and one gaseous, syngas (USDA Agricultural Research Service 2011).

Program Project Name: Recreation Facilities Maintenance

Local Project Name: New toilets please forest visitors
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Umatilla
Nearby City(ies): Northeast Oregon and Southeast Washington
Congressional District(s): OR02, WA05
County(ies): OR: Baker, Grant, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa; WA: Asotin, Columbia, Garfield
Modified Date: 2/13/2012

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Restroom Replacements Bring Jobs, Benefit Visitors

(Story posted 9/29/2012)

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act gave the Forest Service the unique

opportunity to make improvements in the quality of services while creating public sector jobs. The Umatilla National Forest was able to work on multiple improvement projects, including replacing and building new restrooms at various campsites across the 1.4 million-acre national forest.

Recovery Act funds were used to purchase 34 new vault restrooms to replace aged facilities in various stages of disrepair. Many of which were installed in the 1960s Because vaulted restrooms are self-contained, the new units made with more durable materials will not deteriorate over time, thus significantly lowering the risk of ground water contamination in recreational areas.

In addition to improving facilities at the forest, the restroom improvement project on the Umatilla National Forest generated jobs for six small businesses from the Pendleton, Milton-Freewater, Bend, North Powder, and Eugene, Oregon area and infused over $650,000 into the local communities. Recovery Act funding gave the forest the ability to enhance the amenities available to visitors while fulfilling the mission of caring for the land.

Program Project Name: Umatilla National Forest Trails Maintenance

Local Project Name: Trail maintenance a great boost for forest recreationist and local contractors
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Umatilla
Nearby City(ies): Heppner, Ukiah, LaGrande, Dale Oregon
Congressional District(s): OR02
County(ies): OR: Grant, Morrow, Umatilla
Modified Date: 2/10/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Trail Maintenance, Jobs

(Story posted 9/29/2011)

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided the Umatilla National Forest with the funds to complete 35 miles of trail maintenance that had been deferred due to lack of funding.

Much of the work was done on wilderness trails, proving to be a difficult task for contractors. The strict limitations on equipment in wilderness areas forced crews to work only with non-mechanized tools and buckets. This was done to preserve the beauty and integrity of the wilderness areas. The biggest challenge faced by the contractors was perhaps a bridge replacement at a North Fork John Day Wilderness trailhead. A sturdy yellow cedar bridge that is resistant to washouts replaced a bridge that had washed out in a previous year's flooding. The bridge structure was installed by helicopter due to the remote location.

The project is a great boost to the forest. “This addressed all our needs in one contract while

creating jobs in our communities," said John Manderscheid, an engineer on the forest.

Two accessible forest trails also saw major improvements thanks to Recovery Act funding. Bull Prairie Lake Trail, a 1.5 mile loop trail located at Bull Prairie Lake Campground on the Heppner Ranger District, was cleared, leveled and widened by Northwest Youth and Student Conservation crews. Workers paved the trail and provided 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, Oregon Recently, youth crews specializing in accessible recreation 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 Bear Wallow creek. Crews hauled and spread gravel along the path, creating a 3 to 4 inch base that will be compacted with sand over the winter to create cement-like surface. The campground also offers accessible restrooms and campsites.

Program Project Name: Eight County Hazardous Fuels Reduction (partially funded under 10%)

Local Project Name: Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Rogue River-Siskiyou
Nearby City(ies): Ashland, Oregon
Congressional District(s): OR02
County(ies): OR: Jackson
Related Photo(s) Link: http://www.ashland.or.us/SectionIndex.asp?SectionID=503
Modified Date: 2/16/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project

(Story posted 2/16/2012)

USDA Forest Service Recovery Act-funded hazardous fuels reduction work continues in the Ashland watershed through the 7,600-acre Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project, which is a multi-year partnership involving the US Forest Service, the City of Ashland, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, and The Nature Conservancy that guides where and how to thin trees and brush within the watershed. Recovery Act funds are expected to support work on 3,000 acres through the fall of 2014 using private contractors and workers from Lomakatsi—a nonprofit, Ashland-based ecological restoration organization, who are removing brush and small-diameter trees and using controlled burns to restore more open forest conditions. The City of Ashland offers a video explaining the project that also involves

collaboration with Southern Oregon University faculty and students, interested citizens, and local organizations on its Web site at http://www.ashland.or.us/SectionIndex.asp?SectionID=503.

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

Related Photo(s) Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ssrs/story?id=5569; http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ssrs/story?id=5568

Modified Date: 7/10/2012

Story:

Allegheny National Forest Improves Roads, Relationships With Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 3/3/2010)

A Recovery Act-funded road project on the Allegheny National Forest helped connect the public to forest lands and build relationships with a local rural township and major employer.

Funding provided through the Recovery Act 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 Recovery Act 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, Pennsylvania, 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-traveled township road servicing the Cornell Abraxas Foundation and also improved drainage. The rehabilitation facility located on this road houses over 260 juvenile residents and employs over 300 local residents. Companies drilling for oil and gas and performing logging operations on National Forest System lands also use the road heavily. Additionally, Abraxas Road provides access to several thousand acres of Forest land for recreation activities such as hunting and hiking.

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 the township recently received 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
Related Photo(s) Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/fstoday/ARRA/Grey_Towers_photos2.html
Modified Date: 3/2/2011

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.

Program Project Name: Restoring Forests Through the Reclamation of Surface Coal Mines In Western Pennsylvania

Local Project Name: Restoring Quality Forests to Abandoned Strip Mines
Region: Northeastern Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Kato, Pennsylvania
Congressional District(s): PA05
County(ies): PA: Cameron, Elk, Jefferson, Potter
Modified Date: 5/11/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Restoration Project Recovers Forests, Jobs in Western Pennsylvania

(Story posted 5/6/2011)

A year-long project by the U.S. Forest Service Northern Research Station, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI), and several partners to restore abandoned strip mines to quality forest culminated with students and conservationists gathering at Sproul State Forest near Kato, Pennsylvania on Friday, May 6, where they planted several hundred American chestnut trees.

“This project is benefiting people in so many ways,” said Susan Stout, research forester with the Northern Research Station. “It’s taking a non-native, post-mine landscape and transforming it into productive, early successional forest habitat—a habitat in short supply in the state. It’s creating jobs in an area that has suffered in a tough economy, and it’s bringing back the majestic American chestnut.”

The forest restoration project is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and the "recovery" theme runs through nearly every aspect of the project.
Recovery of native tree species and composition on a landscape that experienced surface mining is the project’s ultimate goal. Surface mining for coal creates extensive environmental disturbance, and in the past reclamation efforts have done little to erase its effects. In Appalachia, reclamation has often been aimed at creating hay and pasture following mining activities rather than restoring what was once structurally and botanically diverse deciduous forest. The result was compacted soil planted to non-native grasslands with little plant diversity and little value for either the environment or landowners. The ARRI designed the alternative treatment, and this project on the Sproul State Forest is the first use of this technique in Pennsylvania.

The project is also a milestone in the recovery of the American chestnut, a tree that once dominated the eastern United States but has become rare over the past century as trees were killed by the fungus Cryphonectria parasitica. Efforts to cross the American chestnut with the fungus-resistant Chinese chestnut resulted in a hybrid that was resistant to Cryphonectria parasitica but lacked the superior timber quality of the American chestnut. In recent years, researchers have been using a "back-crossing" technique where the resistant hybrids are successively backcrossed to the original American tree in order to flood more American genes into the hybrid. T he American Chestnut Foundation donated the trees planted on May 6.

The project lays important groundwork for another recovery. “The conditions on old surface mines are similar to those after the drilling of wells for natural gas,” according to Jeffrey Larkin, associate professor of ecology at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. “The techniques employed on this old coal mine may point the way to recovery for those well sites after the heavy drilling equipment is gone.”
As an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act project, reclaiming surface mining lands

addresses two important goals for the region: jobs and an improved environment. The project has employed people in western Pennsylvania to prepare the soil, fence areas to protect seedlings from deer, and plant thousands of trees of a mix of native species.

Partners in the restoration project include the U.S. Forest Service Northern Research Station, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, the Office of Surface Mining, the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative, the American Chestnut Foundation, and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry.

Program Project Name: Kane Experimental Forest Road Maintenance and Improvements

Local Project Name: Kane Experimental Forest Road Maintenance
Region: Northeastern Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Kane, PA
Congressional District(s): PA05
County(ies): PA: Allegheny
Modified Date: 2/8/2012

Story:

USDA Secretary Vilsack Announces Recovery Act Projects

(Story posted 9/16/2011)

News Release issued by Allegheny National Forest, June 25, 2009:
USDA SECRETARY VILSACK ANNOUNCES ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROJECTS FOR FOREST ROADS MAINTENANCE AND ASSOCIATED WATERSHED AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

Allegheny National Forest and Forestry Sciences Lab Share Funding

Warren, Pa. – Forest Supervisor Leanne Marten and Forestry Sciences Lab Project Leader Susan Stout said the Allegheny National Forest (NF) and the Forestry Sciences Lab received $3.3 million, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for roads maintenance and decommissioning and associated watershed restoration that were first announced by U. S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack on June 2, 2009. The 106 projects, funded at more than $228 million, are located on Forest Service land in 31 states.

In his announcement earlier this month, Vilsack stated, “These road maintenance projects will provide for public health and safety, resource protection, and access to lands in the National Forests.” Vilsack added, “The rehabilitation of roads will improve water quality by reducing sediment in nearby streams and help to restore natural resources and habitat for fish in areas impacted by deterioration and erosion of road surfaces.”

The Allegheny NF was approved for two roads-related Recovery Act projects. The first project is $250,000 for signing of forest roads. The second project is $2.7 million for road

maintenance in the counties of Elk, Forest, McKean, and Warren, and the Timberline ATV Trailhead. This road maintenance will create high-paying, private sector positions in four economically-depressed counties in Pennsylvania. Water quality will be improved and safety of travel will be increased.

The Forestry Sciences Lab was approved for two Recovery Act projects totaling $400,000; one is roads and the second is roads-related watershed and ecosystem restoration. The first project will repair road damage from the 2003 storm and complete deferred maintenance such as gravel, grading, brushing, and resurfacing. As a companion to the KEF road maintenance project, the second project of road related ecosystem enhancements will include revegetation, replacement of culverts, and creation of site drainages to improve water quality.

"I appreciate that four counties in my District with high unemployment will benefit from this funding," said U.S. Representative Glenn 'GT' Thompson. "Improving roads in the Allegheny NF is an appropriate use of the money as it improves access to the land for multiple uses like recreation and development."

The Forest Service manages almost 370,000 miles of roads and 143,000 miles of trails on the 193 million acres of national forests and grasslands across the country. Forest Service roads provide Americans access to these public lands for their livelihoods, daily activities, and enjoyment. A safe and well-managed roads system protects water quality and allows citizens to participate in hiking, touring, wildlife viewing, skiing, fishing, camping, hunting, boating, and many other outdoor activities. The Forest Service's transportation system is critical to local and regional economies because it is a key infrastructure element that supports businesses and activities that occur within or adjacent to national forests and grasslands.

A diverse set of road maintenance activities will be undertaken through Recovery Act-funded projects. Road maintenance projects are identified through extensive analysis of resource conditions and public needs. Stabilizing or relocating roads too close to lakes and streams will prevent erosion and protect water quality. Decommissioning roads and restoring native vegetation helps snow and rainfall to be quickly absorbed into the land and reduces erosion and flooding. Individuals hired under the Recovery Act will complete this labor-intensive work through a number of approaches, depending on the specific project area and needs: installing physical barriers at road entrances; replanting road beds; limiting erosion; removing fills and culverts; reestablishing drainage-ways; stabilizing road shoulders; and totally obliterating roads and reshaping roadbeds to match the surrounding area.

Program Project Name: Philadelphia: Restoring Ecosystems in Fairmount Park

Local Project Name: Restoration of Ecosystems in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, PA
Region: Northeastern Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Philadelphia, PA
Congressional District(s): PA02
County(ies): PA: Philadelphia

Modified Date: 2/8/2012

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Work Supports Urban Forestry Projects

(Story posted 9/29/2011)

The USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station collaborates with others to enhance urban forests and improve the health of the community. A Recovery Act project in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, has provided an opportunity to implement projects on large, strategic sites that are beyond the scope of regular capital funds. This effort focused on restoring and maintaining park natural areas, such as forests and meadows.

Work in this category included removing and controlling invasive plants; planting 4,200 native trees and 7,500 shrubs; establishing habitat for native wildlife, especially resident and migratory birds; and removing hazardous trees. Most of the restoration occurred at six sites: three in the Wissahickon Valley Park, one in the Tacony Creek Park, one in the Pennypack Creek Park, and one in West Fairmount Park, totaling nearly 175 acres of restoration. Final planting will occur in the fall of 2011 when cooler weather returns.

Restoration of Fairmount Park provided jobs training and layers of value---from forest health and safety to urban revitalization---for the City of Philadelphia.
• Fairmount Park is the largest urban forest in the United States, including more than 10,000 acres in a high-density urban setting.
• The park provides habitat for rare plants and insects, and restoration improved habitat for these species as well as removed trees that were at risk of falling and injuring park users.
• Removal of invasive exotic species was a key component of the Fairmount Park restoration project. The natural environments of Philadelphia are being invaded by many non-native plants that threaten to health and integrity of its forests.
• Restoration of Fairmount Park contributes to revitalizing a part of Philadelphia's inner city and making it a safer, more desirable place to live, which has a cascading benefit in terms of stronger neighborhoods and improved property value.
• The Recovery Act project included a jobs training component that gave 12 individuals opportunities to learn tree care skills that will help qualify them for other jobs.
• More than 80 Friends Groups support parks, historic houses, and other Fairmount Park resources.

Program Project Name: Philadelphia: Restoring Ecosystems in Fairmount Park

Local Project Name: Urban Tree Canopy Assessment in Philadelphia, PA
Region: Northeastern Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Philadelphia, PA
Congressional District(s): PA02
County(ies): PA: Philadelphia
Modified Date: 12/15/2011

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Support Critical Tree Assessment
(Story posted 9/28/2011)

In light of aggressive tree-planting goals in the City of Philadelphia, officials needed better information about both the existing and potential distribution of the forest canopy. A USDA Forest Service Recovery Act grant to the City of Philadelphia enabled successful completion of such an assessment.

The assessment, conducted by the University of Vermont in fall 2010, analyzed the tree cover throughout Philadelphia using LiDAR (remote sensing technology) and geographic information system data layers. Since the assessment's completion, staff members have used information from the study to engage partners in advancing tree-planting goals for increased tree canopy in the city and to formulate a campaign that will engage everyone from individual homeowners to institutional campuses in the tree-planting initiative. The final report released last spring is available at on the Forest Service Northern Research Station Web site at http://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/utc/reports/UTC_Report_Philadelphia.pdf.

Program Project Name: Philadelphia: Restoring Ecosystems in Fairmount Park
Local Project Name: Jobs Training at Fairmount Park, PA
Region: Northeastern Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Philadelphia, PA
Congressional District(s): PA02
County(ies): PA: Philadelphia
Modified Date: 9/30/2011

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Support Urban Forest Work in Philadelphia

(Story posted 9/28/2011)

In Philadelphia, a USDA Forest Service Recovery Act-funded arboriculture training program is helping young trainees learn basic tree care, nursery, and natural resource restoration skills while revitalizing urban areas. This past spring, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society recruited graduates of Philadelphia's Youth Environmental Stewardship and Teens 4 Good programs and current seasonal maintenance staff for the four-month program.

Since summer, trainees have been helping ensure the survivability of newly planted trees at Philadelphia's recreation centers. Workers have been removing dead and dying trees to enhance public safety along with invasive exotic species that threaten forest health in the nearly 10,000-acre Fairmount Park system that provides key habitat for rare plants and insects.

In additional to offering individuals a paid opportunity to learn vital skills that will help qualify them for other jobs, the program is contributing to revitalizing the inner city to make it a safer, more desirable place to live, which has a cascading benefit in terms of stronger neighborhoods and improved property values.

Program Project Name: Philadelphia: Restoring Ecosystems in Fairmount Park

Local Project Name: Fairmount Park Expands Restoration Efforts
Region: Northeastern Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Philadelphia, PA
Congressional District(s): PA02
County(ies): PA: Philadelphia
Modified Date: 12/22/2011

Story:

Fairmount Park Expands Recovery Act-funded Restoration Efforts

(Story posted 12/22/2011)

Successful financial planning of USDA Forest Service Recovery Act-funded ecosystem restoration work allowed the City of Philadelphia to restore and maintain six additional sites within the nearly 10,000-acre Fairmount Park System that provides key habitat for rare plants and insects.

Through last month, workers had accomplished all originally planned invasive plant removal and control work and native wildlife habitat enhancement activities, including seeding grasses and planting about 12,000 native trees and shrubs. This month, workers cleared invasive species, removed hazard trees, and planted vegetation in six new locations. Fairmount Park plans to continue to plant and control for invasives on these sites in 2012 using other funding sources. In addition to providing meaningful jobs, the project has contributed to inner city revitalization to make Philadelphia a safer, more desirable place to live.

Program Project Name: Kane Experimental Forest Road Maintenance and Improvements

Local Project Name: Road Maintenance Enhances Access to the Kane Experimental Forest
Region: Northeastern Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Kane, PA
Congressional District(s): PA05
County(ies): PA: Allegheny
Modified Date: 2/10/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Road Work Enhances Experimental Forest Access

(Story posted 1/5/2012)

The 3,563-acre Kane Experimental Forest in northwestern Pennsylvania is a better host to the many educational, professional, and landowner groups attending on-site training events and tours, thanks to a Recovery Act project. Under the guidance of the Allegheny National Forest engineering staff, the project addressed deferred maintenance needs on the road system that accesses the experimental plots and demonstration areas.

The work, initiated in 2010, included gravel replacement, grading, brush cutting, road resurfacing, and several culvert replacements. Some of the work addressed damage that had lingered from a severe windstorm that occurred in the early 2000s. The improvements allow better dissemination of the research on the Kane, which has significantly improved management of mixed hardwood forests, especially of the Allegheny hardwood forest type. To date, seen miles of road improvements have been completed under a cooperative agreement with Jones Township.

Program Project Name: Kane Experimental Forest Road Related Ecosystem Enhancements

Local Project Name: Improved road and ecosystem conditions on the Kane Experimental Forest

Region: Northeastern Research Station

Nearby City(ies): Kane, PA

Congressional District(s): PA05

County(ies): PA: Allegheny

Modified Date: 2/10/2012

Story:

Experimental Forest Recovery Act-funded Improvements Noted

(Story posted 1/5/2012)

Access to the 3,563-acre Kane Experimental Forest in northwestern Pennsylvania was improved through a Recovery Act project. Under the guidance of the Allegheny National Forest engineering staff, the project treated seven sites for noxious weed infestation totaling one acre in size and completed 6.1 miles of road improvement that reduced the environmental impact of the road system. The improvements allow better dissemination of the research on the Kane, which has significantly improved management of mixed hardwood forests, especially of the Allegheny hardwood forest type.

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
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.

Program Project Name: El Yunque National Forest Developed Recreation Sites Deferred Maintenance

Local Project Name: Developed Recreation Sites Deferred Maintenance
Region: Southern Region

Forest: El Yunque
Ranger District: Catalina Field Office
Nearby City(ies): 35 miles to San Juan, 30 miles to Luis Muñoz Marín Int Airport
Congressional District(s): PR00
County(ies): PR: Rio Grande Municipio
Modified Date: 4/19/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Recreation Facility Improvements

(4/14/2011)

On Puerto Rico's El Yunque National Forest, Recovery Act-funded workers accomplished facility and site improvements at the Yokahu Tower and the Palo Colorado developed recreation sites and updated and improved orientation and facility identification signing to all developed recreation sites on the PR 191 recreation corridor and at dispersed recreation sites on the PR 186 El Verde corridor.

Facility improvements at the Yokahu site included making the site accessible for people of all abilities, repairing a damaged bus shelter and water system, and modernizing plumbing fixtures, including adding hot water to the site. The Yokahu Tower is a roadside observation structure that provides outstanding views of the Puerto Rico northeast coast and forest scenery. Over half of the Forest's 1.2 million visitors annually make the tower one of their first stops.

Improvements at the Palo Colorado developed site consisted of replacing the entire picnic area network of deteriorated asphalt pathways with new concrete pathways with exposed aggregate finish for traction. The Palo Colorado site receives over 60 percent of the Forest's total visitation.

Workers also replaced or added standard facility ID signs at all developed sites in the PR 191 corridor as well as approach signs indicating proximity to the sites. Orientation to key destinations and corridors were installed at all main highway junctions within the Forest.

The construction work was accomplished during the slow visitation season from September 2010 to February 2011 and completed on time for the start of the peak season in March 2011.

Program Project Name: El Yunque National Forest Historic Trails Preservation

Local Project Name: El Yunque NF Historic Trails Condition Assessment
Region: Southern Region
Forest: El Yunque
Ranger District: Catalina Field Office
Nearby City(ies): 35 miles to San Juan, 30 miles to Luis Muñoz Marín Int Airport

Congressional District(s): PR00
County(ies): PR: Rio Grande Municipio
Modified Date: 4/18/2011

Story:
Trails Assessment Project Employs Student Conservation Association Youth

(Story posted 4/14/2011)

In Puerto Rico, Forest Service Recovery Act funds helped accomplish a trails condition assessment of 10.4 miles of historic trails on the El Yunque National Forest. Student Conservation Association (SCA) workers assessed the following trails: the El Yunque Trail, Mount Britton spur, and the Los Picachos Trail; in addition to National Recreation trails within El Toro Wilderness--the El Toro and Tradewinds trails.

The assessment documents an urgent need for trail tread and drainage structures and patterns restoration on all five trails. It also documents a segment on El Toro Trail where the entire trailway has been eroded, and full reconstruction is needed. The SCA identified a realignment of this segment.

SCA workers including two interns, one training manager, and one trail specialist consultant completed the work in December 2009 under a Participating Agreement with a Recovery Act-funded Forest Service contribution.

Program Project Name: El Yunque National Forest Decommissions Abandoned Structures to Increase Safety and Restore Forest

Local Project Name: El Yunque NF Decommission Old Structures
Region: Southern Region
Forest: El Yunque
Ranger District: Catalina Field Office
Nearby City(ies): 31 miles to San Juan, 26 miles to Luiz Muñoz Marín Int Airport
Congressional District(s): PR00
County(ies): PR: Rio Grande Municipio
Modified Date: 4/19/2011

Story:
Recovery Act-funded Decommissioning Work Provides Local Jobs

(Story posted 4/14/2011)

Decommissioning work on the El Yunque National Forest involved decommissioning an abandoned guard house structure and a recreation overlook site that was no longer serving its intended purpose.

The guard house, built in the 1990s to serve as the base station for state police operations on the Forest, did not function too long within the intended purpose when the agreement with the Puerto Rico State Police Department did not perform as envisioned. The structure, very visible at the entrance to the Forest, deteriorated over the years for lack of maintenance and from hurricane damages. The Forest never found a use that could justify reconstructing it and found an opportunity with Recovery Act funding to demolish it and restore the 0.2 acre site to its original contours and vegetation.

The Espiritu Santo overlook was constructed in the 1980s on the west side of the Forest to provide outstanding views of the island's north coast and the Forest side hills. For many years, this site was a favorite spot for visitors to the El Verde corridor during the day but since the beginning was also used for illegal household trash dumping, burning of stolen vehicles (chatarras), and unauthorized religious and satanic rituals at night. Until 2005 the Forest managed to maintain the site to standard, quickly removing undesirable materials. But the site was closed after 2005 when the Forest's reduced capacity following the loss of the Senior Community Service Employment Program meant a reduction in Forest Service presence in the entire area, and site use predominantly included illicit purposes. The work at this 0.3 acre site consisted of removing asphalt parking, concrete benches, and signs and grading the site to original contours and reforestation.

Both work items were accomplished with a competitive Request for Quotes procurement that was awarded to a local (adjacent community) contractor. The project was completed in May 2010 and the Forest accomplished reforestation at both sites shortly after.

Program Project Name: El Yunque National Forest Trails Restoration / Maintenance

Local Project Name: El Yunque Trails Restoration/Maintenance
Region: Southern Region
Forest: El Yunque
Ranger District: Catalina Field Office
Nearby City(ies): 35 miles to San Juan, 30 miles to Luis Muñoz Marin Int. Airport
Congressional District(s): PR00
County(ies): PR: Rio Grande Municipio
Modified Date: 5/24/2011

Story:

Forest Trail Improvements Support Safety, Enhance Outdoor Enjoyment

(Story posted 5/20/2011)

On the El Yunque National Forest, Recovery Act funds supported a project to improve tread and drainage while correcting safety deficiencies on the Forest's highest-use trails, La Mina and Big Tree trails, as well as the El Portal Trail.

La Mina and Big Tree trails provide access to the Forest's most popular spot, which is La

Mina Falls. Over 60 percent of forest visitors make La Mina Falls their must-visit destination. The Big Tree trail tread prior to the project was a combination of asphalt, gravel, and concrete, and not wide enough for the intense use. This Recovery Act-funded project widened the tread to comfortably and safely accommodate the intense use.

Non-Puerto Rican visitors, most of them from the eastern United States, are the trails' most frequent users during the winter and spring while mostly locals enjoy them in the summer. Both groups and outfitters under permit that transport over 100,000 of the non-native visitors annually have made multiple positive comments about the improvements.

The now-completed work employed up to 20 workers at different stages of the project, providing support to the economy in addition to the long-term tourism economy benefits.

Rhode Island

Program Project Name: Invasive Vegetation Survey and Eradication

Local Project Name: Invasive Vegetation Survey and Eradication
Region: Northeastern Area S&PF
Nearby City(ies): Bristol, Kent, Newport, Providence, Washington counties
Congressional District(s): RI01, RI02
County(ies): RI: Bristol, Kent, Newport, Providence, Washington
Related Photo(s) Link: http://prdp2fs.ess.usda.gov/detail/recovery/accomplishments/photos-video/?cid=stelprdb5357686
Modified Date: 7/10/2012

Story:

Forest Service Partner Uses Recovery Act Funds to Benefit Communities

(Story posted 10/12/2011)

A USDA Forest Service Recovery Act-funded effort to address a Japanese knotweed infestation in the largest contiguous forest block in Rhode Island where the invasive occurs is nearly finished. Since 2010, the Rhode Island Natural History Survey* has been using previously underemployed green industry workers to map all knotweed locations; contact all affected landowners; and conduct herbicide treatments on 20,000 acres in and around the state's Arcadia Management Area. Efforts to educate the public through a mail campaign and a heavily attended public meeting contributed to the project's success, as did a training workshop for area municipal highway crews. The work to eradicate this plant considered one of the worst invasive exotics in parts of the eastern United States and whose thick, dense colonies completely crowd out native species involved strong collaboration among state, municipal, and non-governmental organizations and private landowners.

In addition, Recovery Act funding is supporting an effort to grow and market locally-sourced, locally-grown, genetically-diverse native plants (Rhody Native) in cooperation with the nursery industry. In summer 2010, Recovery Act funding created Rhode Island's own Youth Conservation Corps for high school students that outside funding sources continued to support in 2011. Contractors also erected deer exclosures at multiple sites to demonstrate over time the relationship between forest regeneration, invasive plants, and deer abundance.

*The Rhode Island Natural History Survey is an independent non-profit organization founded in 1994 to gather and disseminate information on Rhode Island's animals and plants, geology, and ecosystems;… to foster environmental science education; and to support naturalists and the study of Rhode Island's natural history.

Program Project Name: Forestry Sustainability Project

Local Project Name: Forestry Sustainability Project
Region: Northeastern Area S&PF

Nearby City(ies): Bristol, Kent, Newport, Providence, Washington counties
Congressional District(s): RI01, RI02
County(ies): RI: Bristol, Kent, Newport, Providence, Washington
Modified Date: 1/20/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Urban Forestry Efforts

(Story posted 10/3/2011)

The purpose of this USDA Forest Service grant was to create a "Green Team" of seven to eight urban foresters to help six Rhode Island communities increase tree cover in urban areas and improve quality of life for residents in those areas. The project was coordinated by the Rhode Island Tree Council (RITC) and supervised by John Campanini. Participants learned valuable professional skills in their career area while also improving the urban environment in the work areas. In this past year, the crew finished six community tree inventory reports; finished six PowerPoint slide shows for community distribution; finished five planting projects; and completed and presented community inventory reports.

One of the extra accomplishments of this project is that several of the Recovery Act-funded employees have moved on to professional long-term positions as a result of the experience they gained through this project. Frank M has been hired to work as the state urban forestry coordinator with Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management. Kate Sayles is now employed by the RI Northern Conservation Council as a program education instructor. Chris Loens is a supervisor at a tree and lawn care company. According RITC Recovery Act Grant Coordinator John Campanini, "The Recovery Act grant definitely helped these young people learn good employment skills.”

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

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

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

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

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

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
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: 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
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
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
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
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): Aiken, South Carolina
Congressional District(s): SC02, SC03
County(ies): SC: Aiken, Barnwell
Modified Date: 8/17/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Help Reduce Wildfire Hazards while Improving Habitat, Ecosystems

(Story posted 5/3/2010 and updated 7/20/2011)

Using USDA Forest Service Recovery Act funds, Carolina Ground Services completed work at the US Department of Energy-owned Savannah River Site to reduce hazardous forest fuels while improving red-cockaded woodpecker habitat and longleaf pine ecosystems. The USDA Forest Service manages the natural resources at the 198,000-acre under an interagency agreement with the DOE.

Beginning in mid-January 2010, Carolina Ground Services began working to accomplish approximately 800 acres of midstory treatment by employing up to three compact track loaders with masticating heads to accomplish shredding, chipping, and mulching. Benny Kolb of Carolina Ground Services, LLC, said, “This project has been a great opportunity and a great experience.” Kolb added that this project enabled him to purchase two additional pieces of equipment and employ three people. This project was a win-win effort, and the area is now less likely to experience stand-replacing crown fires.

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
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
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
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

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

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: Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Control to Protect Watersheds in South Carolina

Local Project Name: Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Control to Protect Watersheds in South Carolina

Region: Southern Region

Nearby City(ies): State lands in Greenville, Pickens, and Oconee counties

Congressional District(s): SC03, SC04

County(ies): SC: Greenville, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg

Modified Date: 11/1/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Infestation

(Story posted 9/28/2011)

USDA Forest Service Recovery Act-funded workers recently completed a multi-year project to protect trees from the exotic insect pest hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA), which was first detected in South Carolina in 2001 and has since been discovered in all counties with hemlock trees.

The South Carolina Forestry Commission-administered project has included chemical control work and the release of HWA predatory beetles to help save thousands of trees in South Carolina's pristine mountains where the loss of hemlocks due to this invasive insect has been devastating to forested and riparian ecosystems. Providing protection from erosion along stream banks and food and shelter for wildlife, hemlock is also valued as an ornamental and as an important source of lumber.

Since April 2010, crews have applied chemicals to designated high priority areas (such as headwater streams, hiking trails, and administration and camping sites) on state-owned lands in Greenville, Oconee, and Pickens counties. Workers treated over 20,000 trees over the life of the project to help protect ecosystems and indirectly support the state's tourism economy.

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
Congressional District(s): SD00
County(ies): SD: Harding
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3mqa4nq
Modified Date: 6/23/2011

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 the Forest Service Northern Region 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

Program Project Name: Dakota Prairie - South Dakota Facility Projects

Local Project Name: Texley dam repair, dam reclamation
Region: Northern Region
Forest: Dakota Prairie Grasslands NF
Ranger District: Grand River
Nearby City(ies): Lemmon, South Dakota
Congressional District(s): SD00
County(ies): SD: Corson, Perkins
Modified Date: 5/17/2011

Story:
Recovery Act Dam Repair Project Benefits Wildlife, Grazing Permittees

(Story posted 5/13/2011)

The Dakota Prairie Grasslands worked with Recovery Act-funded contractors to improve water conservation, grazing facilities, and bird habitat in South Dakota by addressing important dam repairs. Five wildlife dams constructed cooperatively with Ducks Unlimited (DU) in the 1980s on the Grassland were restored to their original designs. The DU dams, built to provide habitat for breeding waterfowl, are also critical water features for livestock grazing while conserving the unique values of the Grassland landscape. These deteriorating facilities were a shared concern among partners, including the Grand River Cooperative Grazing Association, DU, and the Forest Service. Workers restored five wildlife dams to their original template and placed riprap on their faces. Workers also repaired the failed Texley dam on the Grand River Ranger District by building a new primary spillway drop structure and adding additional riprap to the face of the structure. The completed project is benefiting wildlife and grazing permittees.

Program Project Name: City of Spearfish Forest Health and Fuels Mitigation Project

Local Project Name: City of Spearfish Forest Health and Fuels Mitigation
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Black Hills
Ranger District: Spearfish
Nearby City(ies): Spearfish, SD
Congressional District(s): SD00
County(ies): SD: Lawrence
Modified Date: 9/7/2011

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Help Protect Homes in the Wildland-Urban Interface

(Story posted 9/6/2011)

A USDA Forest Service Recovery Act grant to the State of South Dakota has been providing jobs to logging contractors while reducing wildfire risk to the City of Spearfish in the wildland-urban interface, which is the area where houses meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland vegetation.

Last October, loggers began removing merchantable saw timber on state lands bordering the northern edge of the Black Hills National Forest. Mills in Spearfish, South Dakota, and Hulett, Wyoming, received the harvested trees. The 250-acre project also involved removing small-diameter trees from densely forested areas to reduce fuel accumulation and lessen the risk of large, intense wildfires that damage resources and endanger people.

Workers chipped approximately 30 piles of slash and removed the material from the site. This coming winter, workers will burn remaining piles with plans to finish by spring of 2012. In addition to supporting the timber industry, the project is also reducing the risk future fast moving wildfires could pose to Spearfish.

Program Project Name: Regionwide Historic Building Restorations

Local Project Name: Mt Roosevelt Tower Restoration
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Black Hills
Ranger District: Northern Hills
Nearby City(ies): Spearfish, SD
Congressional District(s): CO02, CO03, CO05, SD00, WY00
County(ies): CO: Conejos, Dolores, Eagle, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Lake, Saguache; SD: Custer, Lawrence; WY: Park
Modified Date: 9/7/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Supports Mount Roosevelt Friendship Tower Restoration

(Story posted 9/6/2011)

On the Black Hills National Forest, Mount Roosevelt, also called Friendship Tower, has undergone Recovery Act-funded construction to reinforce the base and fully restore the monument for public use. The tower was in deteriorated condition and in danger of failing; the stairs had been demolished because of unsafe conditions, and the tower's stone base was cracked and damaged.

The project included replacing the exterior staircase to the tower with local stone to match the tower; interior grouting of the loose rubble tower base; constructing a foundation to support the tower; repointing and replacing deteriorated native stone masonry; building a roof to protect the tower from water intrusion; and building a handrail and guardrail on stairs along with a guardrail on the tower platform.

Box Elder Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center students and a stone mason specializing in historical restoration worked from June through August 2010 to restore and repair the tower's original rock masonry. This past June contractors worked to build the roof and internal circular stair guardrails. Job Corps program students are currently building exterior guardrails and should finish the work in the next few weeks.

Seth Bullock built the tower in 1919 in honor of his friend President Theodore Roosevelt. Bullock wanted to create a memorial of his friend's life and a place where people could view wide open spaces (the "Big Lonesome") of which Bullock and Roosevelt had become so fond

during their lives. Bullock was Deadwood's first sheriff, founded the town of Belle Fourche, and was a U.S. Marshal for South Dakota. He was also an early forest supervisor on the Black Hills National Forest, appointed to the task by President Roosevelt.

This project repaired a popular and important historical monument visited frequently by the public. It provided on-the-job training and experience for several Job Corps program students as well as providing local economic benefits to suppliers, equipment rental businesses, and local contractors.

Marissa Karchut, north zone archaeologist on the Forest, said, "We are preserving this monument for our kids and grandkids."

Program Project Name: Black Hills - Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Reduction

Local Project Name: North Zone Mechanical WUI Thinning
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Black Hills
Ranger District: Northern Hills
Nearby City(ies): Spearfish, SD
Congressional District(s): SD00
County(ies): SD: Lawrence
Modified Date: 2/9/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Hazardous Fuels Reduction to Reduce Wildfire Hazard
(Story posted 9/21/2011)

Recovery Act-funded hazardous fuels reduction work is planned on the Black Hills National Forest near Spearfish. A contract will be issued to secure the services for hazardous fuels reduction and timber stand improvement on approximately 2,500 acres of National Forest System land on the Northern Hills Ranger District. The objectives of this contract are to reduce the potential of a wildfire reaching private homes adjacent to the national forest and to provide strategic locations to help firefighters contain future wildfires. This will be accomplished by altering the surface fuel present and by breaking up the vertical and horizontal continuity of aerial fuels. Also, stand characteristics will be improved by selectively thinning the understory to leave the largest, healthiest trees.

To achieve these objectives, this contract will require reducing the density of trees from seedlings two feet high up to trees with a seven-inch diameter at breast height (DBH). The fuels reduction will occur on National Forest System lands adjacent to private lands. This will require the contractor to exercise concern for stand visuals after treatment and the protection of private property during the treatment.

Program Project Name: Black Hills - Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Reduction

Local Project Name: NH Hand WUI Thinning
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Black Hills
Ranger District: Northern Hills
Nearby City(ies): Spearfish, SD
Congressional District(s): SD00
County(ies): SD: Lawrence
Modified Date: 9/21/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Project Helps Protect Homes from Potential Wildfires

(Story posted 9/12/2011)

A Recovery Act-funded contractor is conducting timber stand improvement and hazardous fuels reduction work on the Northern Hills Ranger District of the Black Hills National Forest. Workers are using chainsaws to thin dense stands of smaller trees and hand-piling slash to create fuel breaks adjacent to private homes and property. The 851-acre project that began in 2010 will continue through next September.

The work designed to reduce the potential of a wildfire reaching homes adjacent to the National Forest and to provide strategic locations to help firefighters contain future wildfires is also helping the local contractor keep several workers employed. Not only will the resulting fuel breaks reduce wildfire hazard but the work will also improve timber stand characteristics through selectively thinning the understory to leave the largest, healthiest trees.

Program Project Name: Spearfish Canyon Forest Health & Fuels Mitigation Project

Local Project Name: Spearfish Canyon Forest Health and Fuels Mitigation Project
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Black Hills
Nearby City(ies): Spearfish, SD
Congressional District(s): SD00
County(ies): SD: Lawrence
Modified Date: 4/20/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Help Reduce Wildland Fire Risk

(Story posted 9/14/2011 and updated 4/20/2012)

In Spearfish Canyon, USDA Forest Service Recovery Act-funded workers are helping mitigate wildfire risk by reducing fuel loading on approximately 160 acres in proximity to the wildland-urban interface. Thinning, prescribed burning, and pile burning continue to reduce wildland fire risk; improve forest health; and decrease the risk of forested stands to attack by insect and disease. The Black Hills has a major backlog of fuels issues (limited prescribed burning combined with fire suppression, overly dense stands of ponderosa pine, and thousands of large and small brush piles that are not burned). This project has allowed greater ability to accomplish these objectives in a timely manner on state and private lands.

The State of South Dakota Wildland Fire Suppression has contracted a project manager, and extensive planning has taken place in developing the treatment units and identifying potential landing sites. Many landowner and homeowners' association meetings have been conducted to ensure complete understanding of the thinning operations and biomass removal. Neiman Timber Company was awarded the contract.

Work is being performed by young adult crews, in addition to skilled logging operators, who also perform fire suppression activities. As young people become more skilled they are competitive for better paying careers in firefighting, logging, and hazard fuels reduction.

All work is expected to be finished by the end of September 2012.

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
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
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
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
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
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
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
Congressional District(s): TN08
County(ies): TN: Stewart
Modified Date: 11/9/2011

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
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
Congressional District(s): UT03
County(ies): UT: Utah
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/6go4az4
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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)

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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 Cache County Get an Upgrade Thanks to ARRA Funds
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Uinta-Wasatch-Cache
Ranger District: Logan
Nearby City(ies): Logan
Congressional District(s): UT01
County(ies): UT: Cache
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/6gyoy7j
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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
Congressional District(s): UT02
County(ies): UT: Wasatch
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/663z5ok
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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
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.

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

Related Photo(s) Link:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m0rh6C_1O00&feature=player_profilepage

Modified Date: 3/1/2011

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
Congressional District(s): UT02
County(ies): UT: Iron
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/5wtopo7
Modified Date: 4/13/2011

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
Congressional District(s): UT01, UT02, UT03, WY00
County(ies): UT: Cache, Davis, Juab, Summit, Utah, Weber
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/6yy3zd8
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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.

Program Project Name: Dixie National Forest-Pine Valley Campground

Local Project Name: Pine Valley Guard Station Rehabilitation
Region: Intermountain Region
Forest: Dixie
Ranger District: Pine Valley
Nearby City(ies): Pine Valley, Utah
Congressional District(s): UT02
County(ies): UT: Washington
Related Photo(s) Link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntIqFxzk9tw&feature=youtu.be&a
Modified Date: 3/9/2011

Story:

Workers Restore Historic Guard Station to Provide Cabin Rental Opportunity on Dixie National Forest

(Story posted 3/2/2011)

Workers restored the Pine Valley Guard Station, built in 1935, to provide a year-round cabin rental opportunity for Dixie National Forest visitors, thanks to funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Improvements include exterior drainage and erosion control, repainting the building inside and out, restroom accessibility, and an updated electrical system.

This project included all work required to rehabilitate the Pine Valley Guard Station building in Pine Valley, Utah. The work included historic preservation work of the Pine Valley Guard Station including, but not limited to: Working with lead-based paint and disposal of waste for all painted wood and plaster surfaces; repair of wood doors and windows; replacement of window glazing; repair of historic cabinetry; replacement of flooring; repainting of all wood surfaces; demolition and replacement of the existing wood shingle roof and installation of new roof sheathing, underlayment materials, sheet metal trim, and installation of stained wood shingles; construction of railings; carpentry; rehabilitation and replacement of plumbing; fixtures; new instantaneous water heaters; electrical service, panels, and light fixtures; soil contamination cleanup; flagpoles; septic system installation; installation of a new prefabricated vault toilet; sidewalks; and re-grading of the site.

The project was awarded in the late fall of 2009. Work began in May 2010 and was complete

in November 2010.

Program Project Name: Rocky Mountain Research Station Provo Shrub Sciences Laboratory Facilities Renovations

Local Project Name: RMRS Shrub Sciences Lab Renovations
Region: Rocky Mountain Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Provo, UT
Congressional District(s): UT03
County(ies): UT: Utah
Modified Date: 12/23/2011

Story:

Laboratory Renovations Help Lower Energy Use, Operating Expenses

(Story posted 4/15/2011)

This month, contractors finished renovating the Rocky Mountain Research Station's Shrub Sciences Laboratory in Provo, Utah, using Recovery Act funds.

The completed project work has made the Rocky Mountain Research Station's Shrub Sciences Laboratory more energy and water efficient. Workers replaced major components of a 34-year-old heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning system and added a new direct digital control system estimated to provide a 20 percent energy cost savings.

Local contractors also re-landscaped the grounds using xeriscaping principles and plants related to the research at the laboratory. The new landscaping provides for a reduction in water use and includes a demonstration area to help educate the public about low water use and using drought-resistant native plans for landscaping.

The building also has a new roof and improved accessibility.

Program Project Name: Rocky Mountain Research Station Provo Shrub Sciences Laboratory Facilities Renovations

Local Project Name: Shrub Sciences Lab Updates
Region: Rocky Mountain Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Provo, Utah
Congressional District(s): UT03
County(ies): UT: Utah
Modified Date: 12/23/2011

Story:

Laboratory Renovations Help Lower Energy Use, Operating Expenses

(Story posted 9/27/2011)

By April 2011, contractors had finished renovating the Rocky Mountain Research Station's Shrub Sciences Laboratory in Provo, Utah, using Recovery Act funds.

The completed project work has made the Rocky Mountain Research Station's Shrub Sciences Laboratory more energy and water efficient. Workers replaced major components of a 34-year-old heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning system and added a new direct digital control system estimated to provide a 20 percent energy cost savings.

Local contractors also re-landscaped the grounds using xeriscaping principles and plants related to the research at the laboratory. The new landscaping provides for a reduction in water use and includes a demonstration area to help educate the public about low water use and using drought-resistant native plans for landscaping.

The building also has a new roof and improved accessibility.

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
Related Photo(s) Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ssrs/story?id=5601
Modified Date: 3/2/2011

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.

Program Project Name: Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects/Readiness greater than 120 days

Local Project Name: Healthy Forests and Fuels Reduction
Region: Eastern Region
Forest: Superior
Nearby City(ies): Tofte, Eveleth, Ely, Cook
Congressional District(s): IL11, IL12, IL19, MI01, MI02, MN08, OH06, VT00, WI07, WI08
County(ies): IL: Hardin, Jackson, Johnson, Pope, Will; MI: Lake, Newaygo, Oscoda; MN: Cook, Lake, Saint Louis; OH: Gallia, Lawrence; VT: Addison, Bennington, Rutland, Windham, Windsor; WI: Bayfield, Florence, Forest, Oconto, Price, Vilas
Modified Date: 8/24/2011

Story:

Superior National Forest Recovery Act-funded Work Provides Many Benefits

(Story posted 8/22/2011)

On the Superior National Forest, a Recovery Act-funded wildland fire management project involved hazardous fuel reduction, harvests, and forest regeneration to provide employment opportunities within the timber industry in Minnesota. As part of the Caribou Stewardship Project, workers harvested approximately 450 acres of timber, and piled and burned slash. Workers also treated 196 acres on the west zone to reduce fuels. A total of 2,750 acres were prepared for harvest. In addition, workers “marked to standard” 50 miles of national forest boundaries. The forest is now healthier, and mangers will see the benefits of the work for many years.

Virgin Islands

Program Project Name: St. Croix Hurricane and Hazardous Fuel Mitigation
Local Project Name: St. Croix Hurricane and Hazardous Fuel Mitigation Project
Region: International Instit of Tropical Forestry
Nearby City(ies): Island-wide
Congressional District(s): PR00
County(ies): VI: Saint Croix
Modified Date: 1/12/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Project Mitigates Hurricane and Fire-related Risks

(Story posted 12/12/2011)

On the Virgin Islands, USDA Forest Service Recovery Act funds are helping reduce hurricane and fire-related risks along roads on the island of St. Croix. In addition to creating a geographic information system (GIS) database to capture attributes and assess the health of 8,000 individual trees, the Virgin Islands Resource Conservation and Development Council has been training workers in hazard tree evaluation using GIS and global positioning systems along with safe tree management practices such as pruning and removal.

The GIS database is being used to capture attributes of individual trees such as species, diameter, canopy, distance to the road, GPS location (within 1 foot), and a tree health assessment based on the condition of the tree canopy, stems, roots, as well as presence of insects or disease. To facilitate development of a comprehensive roadside tree management plan, workers have also been recording tree proximity to utility lines and roads to help determine the risk of trees becoming hazards.

A small-business subcontractor for the roadside inventory project reported being awarded a new urban forestry contract with a local government as a direct result of knowledge developed during the Recovery Act-funded project, suggesting long-term benefits to the island’s economy while enhancing public safety and the urban environment.

Trees are being grown for in-planting demonstrations, and training has been provided to public and private employees to improve the pool of skilled workers in hazard tree evaluation and tree management practices such as pruning, tree removal, and safety, GIS, GPS, and planning. That project is nearing a close and the Virgin Islands Resource Conservation and Development Council (VI RC&D) is in the process of final data analysis of the 8,000 trees assessed and reporting the results.

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

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

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
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

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.

Program Project Name: George Washington and Jefferson National Forests Trail and Trail Bridge Maintenance

Local Project Name: George Washington and Jefferson - Forest-Wide Trail and Bridge Maintenance and Repair

Region: Southern Region
Forest: George Washington & Jefferson
Ranger District: Lee
Nearby City(ies): Edinburg, VA
Congressional District(s): VA06, VA09
County(ies): VA: Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Giles, Grayson, Nelson, Page, Rockbridge, Shenandoah, Washington; WV: Hardy
Modified Date: 4/20/2011

Story:

George Washington and Jefferson National Forests Tackle Trail Work with Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 4/20/2011)

The George Washington and Jefferson National Forests (GWJ) undertook multiple smaller Recovery Act-funded projects bundled together to reconstruct, relocate, and maintain trails, provide trailhead maintenance, and provide trail bridge maintenance or replacement across National Forest System lands in Virginia. Such work increased visitor safety and protected resources. Trailhead maintenance provided new gravel while the trail work provided heavy maintenance such as re-establishing tread, brushing, and clearing; replacing water control measures such as dips and water bars; clearing culverts; and barricading user-created shortcuts at switchbacks along foot, equestrian, off-highway vehicle, and mountain bike trails. Trail bridges received maintenance or were replaced as needed.

Several condemned structures were demolished to restore the trail corridor and provide for public safety on tracts purchased for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. The majority of work was accomplished by hand or with a trail dozer. The Student Conservation Association (SCA) provided trail crews. This project will result in a sustainable trails network maintained as needed, improved visitor experience, better signs along the trails, and improved public safety and watershed protection.

The Recovery Act provided the GWJ with a once-in-a-generation opportunity to restore and improve popular, high-priority trails on the Forests, in addition to providing jobs and long-term economic benefits. Opportunities were also provided for more than 60 young adults to gain valuable outdoor work experience.
• In the GWJ NF's SCA Trailwork Program, 47 young adults from across the country worked on seven trail teams/crews on four Ranger Districts and the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. Team/crew members received training, a stipend, paid living expenses, and an educational grant. This work improved up to 65 miles of 18 different trails.
• SCA is America's leading conservation service organization. SCA partners with public land managers to build conservation leaders and engage young adults in hands-on environmental stewardship. SCA trail teams and crew live and work together in the backcountry. Members learn and practice trail skills, outdoor leadership, wilderness first aid, and Leave No Trace (LNT) outdoor ethics while performing natural resource work.
• SCA team/crew specifics follow:

o Ramsey's Draft Area Trail Team.(6-month season) Emphasis on working with crosscut saws and other traditional tools to clear multiple dead and down large hemlock trees on three popular trails within Ramsey's Draft Wilderness on the North River Ranger District west of Staunton, Virginia.
o Allegheny Highlands Trail Team. (6-month season) Emphasis on improving and completing sections of the Allegheny Highlands Trail System that will complete links in a multiple-use, non-motorized trail system on the James River R.D. near Covington, Virginia.
o Laurel Fork Area Trail Team.(4½-month season) Trail restoration and improvement on up to 11 multiple-use, non-motorized trails in a remote, isolated, popular section of the GWJ on the Warm Springs Ranger District in Highland County, Virginia.
o Bath Country Trail Team.(3-month season) Heavy maintenance and improvement on five popular multiple-use trails on the Warm Springs Ranger District in the Hidden Valley area north of Hot Springs, Virginia.
o Virginia Highlands Trail Team.(3-month season) Trail restoration and major rock work on a severely impacted 2.5 mile section of the 82-mile Virginia Highlands Horse Trail within Lewis Fork Wilderness. Material for the handwork by the SCA Team has been provided by a two-phase, two-week blasting operation involving USFS certified blasters from Regions 8 and 9. This work is in the High Country of the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area, east of Chilhowie, Virginia.
o Eastern Divide Area Trail Crews.(2-month season, two crews) Heavy maintenance and restoration work on four popular trails by two crews comprised of SCA members who have previously served on at least one SCA High School summer crew. Work is on the Eastern Divide Ranger District west of Roanoke, Virginia.

Program Project Name: Arches and Culvert Replacement to Restore Natural Ecosystem of Streams

Local Project Name: Arches and Culvert Replacement
Region: Southern Region
Forest: George Washington & Jefferson
Ranger District: Lee
Nearby City(ies): Edinburg, VA
Congressional District(s): VA06
County(ies): VA: Alleghany, Bath, Page, Shenandoah
Modified Date: 4/26/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Project Work Replaces Culverts, Arches

(Story posted 4/21/2011)

On the George Washington National Forest, Recovery Act-funded work benefited public safety; improved water quality; and restored watersheds across four ranger districts. Workers replaced multiple worn existing culverts and four arches. An arch is a large pipe without a bottom to allow the free passage of fish and other aquatic organisms within the stream as well as safe public transportation on the road above the arch.

Project locations and benefits follow:

On Little Stony Road (FSR #92), an arch replacement reduced deferred maintenance and supported aquatic organism and fish passage while improving water quality. On Capola Mountain Road (FSR #1718), the Cedar Creek arch replacement reduced deferred maintenance and supported aquatic organism and fish passage; trout habitat; and water quality. On Pitt Springs Road (FSR #375), an arch replacement reduced deferred maintenance and supported aquatic organism and fish passage while improving water quality. On Tri-County Road, (FSR #271), an arch replacement reduced deferred maintenance and supported aquatic organism and fish passage while improving water quality. On West Dolly Anne Road, (FSR #125), workers replaced one arch. On East Dolly Anne Road (FSR #125) four culvert replacements reduced deferred maintenance and supported aquatic organism and fish passage while improving water quality. On Clayton Mill Creek Road (FSR #61), the Little Mill Creek arch replacement reduced deferred maintenance and supported aquatic organism and fish passage while improving water quality.

Program Project Name: Repair and Maintenance of the Virginia Creeper Trail Protects Visitors

Local Project Name: Repair and Maintenance of the Virginia Creeper Trail
Region: Southern Region
Forest: George Washington & Jefferson
Ranger District: Mt Rogers Nra
Nearby City(ies): Damascus, VA
Congressional District(s): VA09
County(ies): VA: Grayson, Washington
Modified Date: 5/17/2011

Story:

Popular Virginia Creeper Trail Receiving Recovery Act-funded Rehabilitation

(Story posted 4/21/2011)

The George Washington and Jefferson National Forests is using Recovery Act funds to rehabilitate the popular Virginia Creeper Trail. The repairs will eliminate the imminent risk of closing portions of the trail with unstable trestles that would affect visitors and communities for an indefinite period of time.

Most of the trail will remain open while work is underway; however, periodic trail closures, delays, and reroutes are necessary to accomplish the project. Reroutes will be provided where possible. In areas where reroutes are not possible, sections of the trail will be closed or visitors will experience up to 30-minute delays. Some trestle replacements will require trail section closures for several weeks.
The section of the Virginia Creeper Trail from Damascus to Abingdon will not be affected by

this work.

Work is taking place on multiple trestles simultaneously. Trestles 16 through 34 and 37 through 47 will receive heavy maintenance and repairs. Trestles 35, 36, 42, and 43 will be replaced. The heavily eroded trail tread between Whitetop and Green Cove has been improved with the addition of drainage structures and aggregate surfacing.
Work is being accomplished through contracts to create jobs in support of economic recovery. Contracts for Recovery Act funded projects are awarded and work will be completed in calendar years 2010 and 2011. Three contracts are complete—one contract for improved surfacing and trestle repair between Whitetop and Green Cove; another contract to replace trestles 42 and 43; and a final contract to repair trestles from Damascus to Taylors Valley.

Regular updates of the current closures, delays, and reroutes are provided to the public, shuttle services, and tourism offices. The Forests' Web site is posting current conditions, work locations, and alerts.

The project will result in structurally sound trestles, providing continued use and enjoyment of the trail for the long term.

Program Project Name: Bridge Replacements Make Trails Safer and Accessible

Local Project Name: Trail Bridge Replacements
Region: Southern Region
Forest: George Washington & Jefferson
Ranger District: Clinch
Nearby City(ies): Big Stone Gap, VA
Congressional District(s): VA09
County(ies): VA: Bath, Bland, Lee, Smyth
Modified Date: 4/26/2011

Story:

Forest Replaces, Repairs Bridges using Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 4/21/2011)

On the George Washington-Jefferson National Forests, Recovery Act-funded bridge replacements and repairs improved public safety, protected watersheds, and addressed deferred maintenance.

The following bridges were replaced:

Appalachian National Scenic Trail – Laurel Creek (one bridge)

Virginia Highlands Horse Trail – Kinser Creek (two bridges)

Hidden Valley West – (one bridge)

Beards Mountain – (one bridge – received heavy maintenance replacement of cables, decking, and handrail).

The original project proposal called for replacement of seven bridges around Lake Keokee, but it was determined that this sub-project was not feasible with the current funding. With the approval of the Regional Recovery Act Review Board, two trail crews from Flatwoods Job Corps were hired to work on Stone Mountain trail adjacent to Lake Keokee. The bridge on the Appalachian Trail was demolished due to safety hazards and was considered a top priority.

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
Congressional District(s): WA03
County(ies): WA: Thurston
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3hfsaqf
Modified Date: 8/24/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Project Supports Sustainability, Economy

(Story posted 4/9/2010)

The Olympia Forestry Sciences Laboratory was the first facility in the Pacific Northwest Research Station (PNW) to receive funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) of 2009. The PNW received $260,000 in the first round of Recovery Act funding to replace outdated, low-thermal-rated windows at the Olympia Lab. The funding was used to create work for local people 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

Congressional District(s): CA02, OR04, WA04

County(ies): CA: Siskiyou; OR: Benton; WA: Chelan, King

Modified Date: 8/24/2011

Story:

Research Underway on Restoring Critical Habitat for Listed Pacific Salmon

(Story posted 4/14/2010 and updated 8/15/2011)

A suite of research projects is using $2,240,000 of economic recovery funds to create high-tech and field jobs that support the work of leading fisheries and watershed scientists and natural resource professionals from the Forest Service and their partners (the University of Washington, Oregon State University, other research institutions, and the USDI Bureau of Land Management). Most of these projects will continue through 2012 or 2013.

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 providing clean water in ways that anticipate the effects of wildfire and climate change. These research projects will bring together interrelated factors that have been identified as strongly affecting the habitat for threatened fish species.

Workers hired with Recovery Act funds are helping with the study of landscape-scale factors relating to salmonid habitat; helping investigate the effectiveness of alternative forest management practices, including stream restoration, on fish habitat; analyzing long-term trends in water quality data from Forest Service experimental forests to evaluate effects of fire, forest harvest, and a changing climate on stream chemistry; and helping to assess the potential effects of climate change on fish habitat and populations in the Northwest.

The results of this effort will be reported in peer-reviewed journals and used in decision-support models by land and fisheries managers and policymakers. 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 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
Congressional District(s): WA04
County(ies): WA: Chelan
Modified Date: 12/29/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Entiat Watershed Restoration Underway

(Story posted 4/14/2010 and updated 5/25/2011)

Dr. Karl Polivka of the USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station's (PNW) Land and Watershed Management Program is leading this project. 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 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, Washington, 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 Recovery Act project, the PNW 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.

Outcomes: In 2010, researchers carried out sampling in the lower Entiat River at microhabitats where restoration structures were present or absent. Technicians used snorkeling to count Chinook and steelhead and evaluated the condition of fish they captured. They also made measurements of physical habitat parameters in order to analyze relationships between habitat conditions and fish numbers and health. Researchers analyzed the data and prepared a report on results so far. Polivka is finding that the two types of fish appear to respond differently to restoration structures, with steelhead seeming to benefit more than Chinook. Mark and recapture studies indicate that growth of steelhead is higher at sites that contain structures. However, results are still preliminary, and additional sampling in 2011 and beyond is expected to clarify the observations while helping explain the causes and co-varying factors.

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
Congressional District(s): WA07
County(ies): WA: King
Modified Date: 8/24/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Entiat River Basin Climate Change Impacts Research Complete

(Story posted 4/14/2010 and updated 6/14/2011)

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.

Outcomes:
This project was completed during the winter of 2010. The work contributed substantially to building the fundamental EEF database for use in current and future studies. Using this database, the researchers successfully refined and tested the DHSVM to allow its application over the experimental forest at 30-meter-resolution and over the entire Entiat basin at 100-meter-resolution. This provided a foundation that directly supports ongoing research on likely effects of climate change on the snowpack, streamflow, water supply, habitat, and ecosystem processes in the Entiat basin.

Based on this foundation, the research will now (using non-Recovery Act funds) be able to expand to more fully characterize and quantify disturbance and recovery processes and to relate these processes to physical parameters (such as soil moisture or meteorological drivers). This situation will allow computer models to dynamically simulate the vegetation recovery process in response to disturbance and climate change and to simulate the hydrologic impacts of these changes.

Program Project Name: Vaagen Brothers Lumber, Inc.

Local Project Name: Improvement of Biomass Removal on the Colville National Forest
Region: Forest Products Laboratory
Nearby City(ies): Colville
Congressional District(s): WA05
County(ies): WA: Stevens
Modified Date: 9/8/2011

Story:

Biomass Removal 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, amounting 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 National Forest.

Vaagen Brothers Lumber reports the use of the Kobelco excavator has increased output to a total of approximately 150 dry tons per day. In 2007, the company was only able to grind 100 dry tons per day and costs were much greater. In 2007, these grinding jobs were not profitable, and sometimes the company even lost money, so they stopped grinding biomass. However, with the new excavator Vaagen Brothers can now be profitable on 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. Vaagen Brothers has produced and delivered almost 13,000 dry tons of biomass to the Avista Power Plant in Kettle Falls, Washington. 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 the company during these economic times, and the ability to help the Forest Service with slash removal in lieu of open burning. Vaagen Brothers anticipate the impact of this grant will be continued to be felt three to five years out. The only remaining concern 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
Congressional District(s): WA01, WA02, WA07, WA08, WA09
County(ies): WA: King, Pierce, Snohomish, Thurston
Modified Date: 12/29/2011

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 Recovery Act 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
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
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
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
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
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
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/43x84xv
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/4yx5ype
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/6755e4y
Modified Date: 6/7/2011

Story:
Dan Creek Road Repair and Maintenance Funded through Recovery Act

(Story posted 7/30/2010)

Puget Sound Region of Washington - Stormproofing 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. Stormproofing, maintaining needed roads, and decommissioning roads that have served their social and economic purposes are key in protecting resources from uncontrolled damage. This project leveraged the interests of Forest partners and stakeholders and provides an opportunity to make timber sales more economically viable. It also provided significant jobs for people in adjacent economically distressed communities.

The contract to address the Dan Creek Road Repair and Maintenance Project located near Darrington, Washington, was awarded to Cates & Erb, Inc. of Omak, Washington, at a total contract price of $340,988.50. Nine workers have been hired from Omak, Darrington, Whidbey Island, and other Washington communities. This project started in March 2010 to upgrade culvert deficiencies with new culverts; repair road fill slope failures; and add 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
Congressional District(s): WA01, WA02, WA07, WA08, WA09
County(ies): WA: King
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3f4r5tv
Modified Date: 2/8/2012

Story:

Public to Benefit from Recovery Act-funded Wildland Fire Research

(Story posted 8/20/2010 and updated 12/29/2011)

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 employed workers from Sonoma Technology, Inc. (STI), who were facing lay-offs before the Recovery Act funding was received. They made 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 Recovery Act 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 required a whole host of technical wizards. In addition to those working for STI and the University of Washington, Dr. Potter employed 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 gained 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
Congressional District(s): OR02, OR04, WA03, WA04
County(ies): OR: Lane, Union; WA: Chelan, Skamania
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/68pp3wf
Modified Date: 8/24/2011

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.

Recovery Act 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 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 work 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
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/684vdnd, http://tinyurl.com/64d9f4n
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/6755e4y
Modified Date: 4/28/2011

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

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

Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/6l8qvgm

Modified Date: 12/29/2011

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.

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

Local Project Name: Economic Recovery Communications Project

Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station

Nearby City(ies): Portland, Seattle, Eugene

Congressional District(s): OR01, OR02, OR03, OR04, OR05, WA01, WA02, WA03, WA04, WA05, WA06, WA07, WA08, WA09

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; 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: 3/31/2011

Story:

Research Station Explores New Communication Tools Using Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 3/16/2011)

Receiving stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) has meant a departure from business as usual for the Pacific Northwest Research Station (PNW). For one thing, there is an increased focus on creating employment, bringing a rapid influx of new skills, talents, partnerships, and ideas into the station’s sphere of activities. PNW scientists were pushed to think outside the box to quickly capitalize on these new opportunities in ways that further their efforts to provide scientific information relevant to today’s natural resources issues.

As the station's Recovery Act program got underway, Communications and Applications Assistant Director Cindy Miner soon realized that this unprecedented event would also create

new challenges for the Station's communications staff. Before the Recovery Act, the lion's share of the station's communications were written publications dealing with science findings, with less attention on telling the story of HOW the PNW gets research done.

But with the advent of Recovery Act funding and new goals for creating jobs, a whole host of new possibilities for telling the human side of the PNW's research efforts has emerged. Concurrently, the station had been strategizing how to expand the tools it uses to communicate, including new forms of media. Enter Mark Blaine of the University of Oregon's School of Journalism and Communications (SOJC), an award-winning journalist with a strong interest in storytelling and new media. Blaine and the station have jointly created the Economic Recovery Communications Project, an effort to utilize the resources of the University (as well as the youthful creativity and perspective of SOJC students) to develop integrated multi-media packages and use new forms for communicating to portray how the Station is participating in economic recovery efforts under the Recovery Act.

One of the first Recovery Act projects on which the students focused was PNW Scientist John Mills' baseline inventory of urban forest conditions in five western states. Results from Mills' project will ultimately be used to evaluate questions about the contribution of urban trees to reduced energy use, carbon sequestration, water management, and quality of life. For this project, a team of students produced a package that includes documentary-style videos (notably one featuring researcher Geoffery Donovan, whose findings on the societal and economic value of urban trees have recently received considerable attention in the press), an animated educational Web tool for understanding threats to urban trees, and accompanying text articles.

The material focuses not only on research results, but also gives the scientists an opportunity to talk about the reasons the research is important. And of significance to the Recovery Act, individuals hired with stimulus funding are shown working at a wide variety of jobs, many of which (for example, computer analysts and forest data gatherers) are not typically thought of in association with the US Forest Service's economic stimulus program. The various multi-media package components are well integrated and explain the various facets of the project in informative and appealing ways. Even though the package is still in draft form, already it has demonstrated to Station communications staff new possibilities for delivering science findings to a broad audience.

In addition to Mills' project, other teams of SOJC students are creating multi-media packages for Miles Hemstrom's Integrated Landscape Assessment Recovery Act Project and Dale Blahna's Recovery Act study of activities that create green jobs in the Puget Sound area. As the program continues, additional projects, including student internships, are planned. When completed, all the students' work will be available through the PNW's Recovery Act Web page.

Program Project Name: Kulzer Energy

Local Project Name: Kulzer BioEnergy Park
Region: Pacific Northwest Region

Forest: Colville
Nearby City(ies): Spokane, Washington
Congressional District(s): WA05
County(ies): WA: Stevens
Modified Date: 4/20/2011

Story:
BioEnergy Park Project Benefits Economy, Environment

(Story posted 4/15/2011)

The Kulzer BioEnergy Park (KBP) project, located in Stevens County, Washington, received a $4 million Recovery Act grant administered by the Upper Columbia RC&D, a USDA entity. The objectives of this project are to create jobs by improving forest health, reducing fire danger, developing new forest products markets, and lessening dependence on foreign oil. When finished, KBP will be a modern energy production facility producing wood products, electricity (4-7 MW), bio-oil, syngas, and bio-char. The by-products of heat and steam will be captured for use in the facility. The project will be completed in phases.

As part of an early phase, Kulzer purchased a sawmill that had been shut down for 6 years. The mill now produces specialty beams, railroad ties, mulch, cants, and lumber to support other projects. The sawmill also provides an economical source of material for bioenergy products. The KBP project created 34 family-wage jobs with health benefits while restoring a local forest products industry in an area with 25 percent unemployment.

Program Project Name: Olympic Peninsula Structure Repair and Restoration

Local Project Name: Olympic Peninsula Structure Repair and Restoration
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Olympic
Nearby City(ies): Olympia
Congressional District(s): WA06
County(ies): WA: Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason
Modified Date: 4/20/2011

Story:
Olympic National Forest Administrative Sites Receive Much-needed Repairs

(Story posted 4/15/2011)

Administrative sites and recreation facilities (some of them historic) received much-needed maintenance on the Olympic National Forest using Recovery Act funds. Three separate maintenance and repair contracts were awarded to local contractors in Washington State, all of which are Small Businesses.

Four administrative sites and one recreation site received much needed repairs. Visitors to these sites, including two visitor centers and one campground, are now met with clean, freshly painted buildings. Floors and roofs are sound, safe, and will provide many more years of service. The repairs have brought these sites into compliance with health and safety standards. Tattered carpet squares at the Quinault Office were removed and replaced with new recycled industrial carpet affixed to the concrete slab with Low VOC adhesive. The interior of the Quinault Office was also painted, along with the interior of two bunkhouses, a residence, a wellness building, and the exterior of the Quilcene Office. A total of 31 buildings had their roofs and/or gutters replaced Forest-wide. Thirteen of these buildings qualify for historic preservation status and were in desperate need of protection. This work has helped protect all of these culturally significant structures from decay.

Program Project Name: Greenwater Community Wildfire Protection Plan Firesafe Homes/Shaded Fuel Break

Local Project Name: Greenwater Community Wildfire Protection Plan Firesafe Homes/Shaded Fuel Break

Region: Pacific Northwest Region

Nearby City(ies): Greenwater

Congressional District(s): WA08

County(ies): WA: Pierce

Modified Date: 4/19/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Greenwater Community Wildfire Protection Plan

(Story posted 4/15/2011)

Many homes in Greenwater are better protected against the damaging effects of a wildfire now that Forest Service Recovery Act funds have helped carry out activities identified in the 2005 Greenwater Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The Greenwater Community Wildfire Protection plan was first announced in January 2010 when residents were notified that Recovery Act funds were available to help the community in preparing for a wildfire event. Residents were able to call, visit, or log on (http://www.greatergreenwater.com/) to apply for help.

Project contract crews created shaded fuel breaks around the community; cut and removed brush and forest debris along designated roads in town to improve emergency vehicle access; and chipped and removed fuels gathered by homeowners. If needed, crews could also cut, chip, and remove forest debris from around individual homes. The project has been a great success with Greenwater residents who are physically less able, as well as others in the community.

Program Project Name: Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Trail and Facilities Maintenance

Local Project Name: Evergreen Road Repair and Maintenance
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie
Ranger District: Snoqualmie
Nearby City(ies): Skykomish, Washington
Congressional District(s): WA02, WA08
County(ies): WA: King
Modified Date: 6/7/2011

Story:

Road Repair Work Benefits Public, Resources

(Story posted 5/27/2011)

Many flooding and rain-on-snow events occur in the Puget Sound area of Washington, causing erosion and resource and infrastructure damage to the National Forest System roads that provide access to the public while providing stream crossings, erosion prevention measures, and wildlife considerations. When embankment failures and road damage incidents arise, it is crucial to the surrounding resources and the safety of the public to contain and repair these areas.

This Recovery project allowed both the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest and visitors alike to regain access to the many recreational activities and continue to provide safe, sound transportation systems. The project also offered more economic opportunities by providing jobs to people in nearby economically distressed communities.

The Evergreen Road Repair and Maintenance Project was located approximately 20 miles north of Skykomish, Washington. The contract was awarded to Weber Construction, Inc. from Snoqualmie, Washington. Workers began the project on August 31, 2010 and finished it by October 22, 2010. The project included the repair of three large culvert washouts on steep slopes; a deep fill material area; and creating riprap rock and geo-textile material slope embankments for stability.

Program Project Name: Puget Sound Region of Washington - Storm Proofing and Deferred Maintenance and Road Decommissioning - Culverts

Local Project Name: Evergreen Road Repair and Maintenance
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie
Ranger District: Skykomish
Nearby City(ies): Skykomish, Washington
Congressional District(s): WA02, WA04, WA08
County(ies): WA: King
Modified Date: 6/7/2011

Story:
Road Repair and Maintenance Project Provides Jobs, Protects Resources

(Story posted 6/3/2011)

Many flooding and rain-on-snow events occur in the Puget Sound area of Washington, causing erosion and resource and infrastructure damage to the National Forest System roads that provide access to the public while supporting stream crossings, erosion prevention measures, and wildlife considerations. When embankment failures and road damage incidents arise, it is crucial to the surrounding resources and the safety of the public to contain and repair these areas.

This Recovery project allowed both the mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest and visitors alike to regain access to the many recreational activities and continue to provide safe, sound transportation systems. The project also offered more economic opportunities by providing jobs to people in nearby economically distressed communities.

The Evergreen Road Repair and Maintenance Project was located approximately 20 miles north of Skykomish, Washington. The contract awarded to Weber Construction, Inc. from Snoqualmie, Washington, provided work for approximately five to six people. The project began in August of 2010 and was completed by October of that year. The project included the repair of three large culvert washouts on steep slopes, deep fill material area, and riprap rock and geo-textile material slope embankments for stability.

Program Project Name: Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Trail and Facilities Maintenance

Local Project Name: Tinkham GC Loop Road/Area Repair Project
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie
Ranger District: Snoqualmie
Nearby City(ies): North Bend, Washington
Congressional District(s): WA02
County(ies): WA: King
Modified Date: 6/7/2011

Story:
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Recovery Act-funded Road Repair Supports Recreational Opportunities in Popular Campground

(Story posted 5/27/2011)

The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest provides many recreational opportunities to the public, including camping within the its campgrounds. Tinkham Campground is a very popular destination for many reasons; it is open longer than others since the lower elevation

temperatures allow snow to melt earlier; and it is one of the closest campgrounds to nearby urban cities, including Seattle.

Campgrounds need maintenance to continue to provide to the visitors safe and structured. This particular campground is an easy access via I-90. The Puget Sound area receives many flooding events that at times reduce recreational areas due to damage to access road and recreation sites. The Tinkham Project provided necessary road and camping spur work to prevent and decrease the amount of damage that occurs in campgrounds due to flood events.

The Tinkham Campground Loop Road Repair project was located approximately 10 miles east of North Bend, Washington. The contract was awarded to Cherry Valley Excavation from the Duvall, Washington area. The project began in May 2011 and was completed that same month. The project included construction of a ditch-line and culverts along the east loop of the campground and installing culverts across the spurs continuing the ditch. The contract also included surfacing of camping spurs and loop, replacing the surfacing that had been lost from past flooding events.

Program Project Name: Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Trail and Facilities Maintenance

Local Project Name: Middle Fork Campground Day-use Area Repair
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie
Ranger District: Snoqualmie
Nearby City(ies): North Bend, Washington
Congressional District(s): WA08
County(ies): WA: King
Modified Date: 6/7/2011

Story:

Campground Drainage Repair Work Protects Public, Resources

(Story posted 5/27/2011)

On the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, the Recovery Act-funded Middle Fork Campground Drainage Repair Project was located approximately seven miles northeast of North Bend, Washington on the Middle Fork Road.

Water runs down the tributaries to the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River behind the Middle Fork Campground. These high flows had washed out the access to group camping areas and picnic areas, posing a threat to the campground directly below. The Middle Fork Campground Drainage Repair Project allowed for the public to be able to access all the facilities provided and prevent future flood damage.

This project contract was awarded to Delange Enterprises, Inc., a self-employed contractor

from eastern Washington, for approximately $30,000. Project work began in July of 2010; workers reinforced the drainage swales above the picnic area; installed culverts to protect the campground; provided trail access to picnic areas; and repaired surface rock.

Program Project Name: Puget Sound Region of Washington - Storm Proofing and Deferred Maintenance and Road Decommissioning - Culverts

Local Project Name: Hansen Creek Pipe Replacement
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie
Ranger District: Snoqualmie
Nearby City(ies): North Bend, Washington
Congressional District(s): WA08
County(ies): WA: King
Modified Date: 6/7/2011

Story:

Puget Sound Region Sees Recovery Act-funded Stormproofing benefits

(Story posted 6/3/2011)

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. Stormproofing, maintaining needed roads, and decommissioning roads that have served their social and economic purposes are key in protecting resources from uncontrolled damage. This project leveraged the interests of Forest partners and stakeholders while offering an opportunity to make timber sales more economically viable. The project also provided significant jobs for people in adjacent economically distressed communities.

The Hansen Creek Pipe Replacement Project, located 20 miles east of North Bend, Washington, involved removing two side-by-side culverts and replacing them with a pipe arch approximately 63 feet long; backfilling the new structure; and replacing road surfacing. The project was awarded to Weber Construction of Snoqualmie, Washington, for a contract price of $39,971. The project provided work for two to three employees. The project started in August and ended in September 2010.

The completed Hansen Creek Pipe Replacement Project allows for a healthier stream, as well as less chance of blockage by debris and potential road failure.

Program Project Name: Provide summer employment opportunities for youth in climate and forestry internships.

Local Project Name: Summer Employment and Education Opportunities For Youth - Summary
Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Portland and Corvallis, Oregon; Olympia and Seattle, Washington
Congressional District(s): OR03, OR04, OR05, WA03, WA05
County(ies): OR: Benton, Lane, Multnomah; WA: Thurston
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3msm75a
Modified Date: 12/29/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Natural Resource-Focused Leadership and Learning Opportunities

(Story posted 6/10/2011)

The Pacific Northwest Research Station's (PNW) Focused Science Delivery Program is using Recovery Act funds to create natural resources-focused leadership and learning opportunities for students in middle school to graduate school. At least 30 summer jobs will have been created by the time the project is finished, with an additional undetermined number of opportunities for undergraduate students and graduate mentors both during the summer and later during the school year. This project is founded on the premise that by systematically identifying and encouraging ambitious and talented youth, we can improve both the quality and diversity of the applicants to the workforces of natural resource agencies and businesses.

The PNW is working with partners (University of Washington, Portland State University, Oregon State University, the World Forestry Center's Youth Inside Out Program, and the Olympia Lab Internship Program) to hire young adults as interns to coordinate and supervise a variety of projects utilizing students to collect field data for researchers. For example, seven interns worked in the Olympia area during the summer of 2010 collecting detailed data for an ongoing long-term study of the seasonal timing of life cycle events (such as bud burst, bud set, and growth period) of important forest plant species. The study will help scientists advise land managers on tree breeding and planting zone decisions, especially in light of a changing climate. The interns also helped process samples from a study on soil carbon and provided Web support.

Program Project Name: Provide summer employment opportunities for youth in climate and forestry internships.

Local Project Name: Portland Urban Riparian Ecosystem Integrity
Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Portland, OR
Congressional District(s): OR03, OR04, OR05, WA03, WA05
County(ies): OR: Benton, Lane, Multnomah; WA: Thurston
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3w9wm2t

Modified Date: 12/29/2011

Story:

Pacific Northwest Research Stations Uses Recovery Act Funds in Urban Research Project

(Story posted 6/10/2011)

The Pacific Northwest Research Station's (PNW) Focused Science Delivery Program has entered into an agreement with Portland State University to provide Recovery Act funds to employ young people from underrepresented communities in a significant new urban research effort. The primary investigator is Alan Yeakley, professor of environmental science and management at PSU. Yeakley's study seeks to understand the response of riparian habitats to urbanization in three cities in the greater Portland, Oregon metro area. He and his students and field crew are establishing permanent plots, where they will be collecting data on vegetation, soil, and habitat quality for species such as salamanders along urban streams spanning a continuum from relatively undisturbed to degraded. They hope to provide information to planners and policy makers on the impacts of development on a range of environmental variables. In the meantime, they are providing a valuable career development opportunity to the high school and undergraduate students who make up the field crew.

"The field crew students will come away with a variety of experiences, from study design to site selection," said Yeakley. "They will work closely with the two graduate students and by the end of the project they will be proficient in the sampling techniques that are needed for this kind of scientific study." In addition to gaining valuable career skills, they can take pride that their work will contribute valuable baseline information about the health of these urban natural resources.

The initial job announcement clearly tapped a reserve of interest in this type of work: over 80 students applied for the four field crew positions. The four students who were selected show a promising enthusiasm for working outdoors and learning about restoration ecology and urban ecosystems. "I credit my love of the outdoors to my dad," said Jose, one of the students. "And I have been really interested in thinking about how there might be different ways of managing land."
Keeping Jose engaged and encouraging him to pursue further education in natural resource management would fulfill one of the additional goals of this project: reaching out to minority youth and exposing them to jobs in science-related fields, where they are currently underrepresented. Portland State University is an ideal partner in this regard, as it has the highest minority composition of any higher learning institution in Oregon.

"We have been hoping to create a project like this for some time," explained Jamie Barbour, the PNW project lead. "PSU is the largest university in Oregon, and the Portland laboratory of the PNW is one of the largest research labs in the Forest Service; and yet we have never really had any interaction until now."

Outcomes:
In the first season of this two-year project, six students (ranging from high-school to college

graduate level) were recruited and spent the summer in intensive training. They helped develop and became proficient in sampling protocols and began both an herbarium plant collection and a photo collection of the plants and salamanders that will be documented in the project. They also produced a comprehensive field sampling guide that will be used during the 2011 field season.

Program Project Name: Provide summer employment opportunities for youth in climate and forestry internships.

Local Project Name: Forests Inside Out!
Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Porltand, OR
Congressional District(s): OR03, OR04, OR05, WA03, WA05
County(ies): OR: Benton, Lane, Multnomah; WA: Thurston
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3bbqhvu
Modified Date: 12/29/2011

Story:

Pacific Northwest Research Stations Uses Recovery Act Funds to Support Outdoor Education Opportunities

(Story posted 6/10/2011)

During the summer of 2010, approximately 350 children from Portland, Oregon, and Vancouver, Washington, took part in a program that provides outdoor education opportunities to students from underserved communities called “Forests Inside Out!” The program, which ran from August 2 through 31, was partially funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

“Nothing compares to getting students outside,” said Rob Pierce, education director with the World Forestry Center, one of the program’s sponsors. “And it’s important to give those who have never had the opportunity a chance to make that connection.”
Now in its second year, Forests Inside Out! took children ages 6 to 10 from communities in the Portland and Vancouver metropolitan area to sites in the city and along the Columbia River Gorge. During the program’s two-day format, the students explored the World Forestry Center and Hoyt Arboretum and then went on ranger-led interpretive hikes to Wahkeena and Latourell falls. Participants came from the Boys and Girls Club in Portland and Hillsboro; Portland- and Vancouver-area community and child development centers; and Portland’s SUN community schools.

As part of the program, eight high school students were hired as mentors to work with the younger participants and help them to connect with nature during their trips through sketching and journaling. These student mentors participated in the Inner City Youth Institute (ICYI) natural resource camp earlier this summer, another outdoor education program targeting underserved middle and high school students.
“Forests Inside Out! provided a great opportunity for ICYI students to spread their

enthusiasm for the outdoors to a younger audience," said Becky Bittner, conservation education specialist with the Pacific Northwest Research Station, sponsor of both Forests Inside Out! and ICYI. "Our hope is that these younger kids are inspired to participate in outdoor programs like ICYI when they get older." Another round of camps is scheduled for the summer of 2011.

Forests Inside Out! is a partnership of the Forest Service, World Forestry Center, and the Inner City Youth Institute. The program's activities are structured around "Project Learning Tree," a nationally recognized curriculum that is aimed at fostering an understanding of how forests and the environment work.

Program Project Name: Provide summer employment opportunities for youth in climate and forestry internships.

Local Project Name: Supporting Underrepresented Forestry/Natural Resources Students
Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Corvallis, OR
Congressional District(s): OR03, OR04, OR05, WA03, WA05
County(ies): OR: Benton, Lane, Multnomah; WA: Thurston
Modified Date: 12/29/2011

Story:

Pacific Northwest Research Station Collaborates with University to Promote Diversity

(Story posted 6/29/2011)

Through a Recovery Act-funded cooperative agreement, Jamie Barbour of the USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station's (PNW) Focused Science Delivery Program is collaborating with Ed Jensen, Steve Tesch, and David Zahler of Oregon State University's College of Forestry to significantly expand educational and job opportunities for natural resources students from underrepresented communities. Recovery Act funds are supporting the College of Forestry's SEEDS ("Strengthening Education and Employment for Diverse Students") program, which has the goals of recruiting and retaining these students, providing a supportive environment, and helping them develop career pathways in natural resources disciplines.

The SEEDS program promotes student success by matching scholars with mentors who provide guidance and experience, including paid employment, in the students' chosen natural resources management or science field while they are in school. SEEDS program faculty coordinator Dave Zahler said, "We emphasize much more than the skills training in the work experiences and try to encourage relationship-building and psychosocial support to the student. In other words, if it were just about job skills, then the students could simply go and get a summer job."

The SEEDS program reaches out to several categories of underrepresented students in the OSU College of Forestry. By bringing SEEDS recruits into their research teams, the OSU

faculty mentors assist their protégés in building a support network that will help them succeed after they graduate. The SEEDS program also includes professional mentors outside the OSU faculty, including natural resources professionals in government agencies and private industry.

The SEEDS program was instituted during the 2009-2010 academic year, and economic recovery funds were instrumental in allowing it to go forward. The funding has allowed the College of Forestry to hire a coordinator for the program, who is helping recruit, train, and find mentors and employment opportunities for SEEDS students. The funding also is used pay for SEEDS interns both during the academic year and in summer field work.

Outcomes: As the second year of the program draws to a close, a over a dozen College of Forestry students have participated in mentored work experiences involving such diverse activities as conducting a literature review of topics related to managing smoke from prescribed and natural fires; developing an orientation and policies manual for the College Forests Recreation Program; trail development and interpretation; analyzing data on the diets of large carnivores; and studying the impacts of Swiss needle cast on Douglas-fir. In at least one case, the SEEDS experience and Recovery Act funding provided a pathway for a participant, the first in his family to pursue higher education, to go on to a graduate program.

Amanda Mendez, a southern California native whose future plans include the Peace Corps and a career in outdoor education, was mentored by Mark Needham of the Forestry College's Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society. Needham had been asked by Oregon's Department of Fish and Wildlife and Watershed Enhancement Board to conduct a survey to determine what actions the state might take to make landowners more likely to tolerate beaver activity on their property. Besides collecting and analyzing survey data, Mendez attended the survey results briefing to state agencies. Mendez also was able to attend a national symposium on recreation research. Amanda says both these experiences were invaluable in helping her understand how agencies incorporate science in policy-making and also gave her opportunities to network with high-level professionals in her field of interest. Mendez will continue to explore career opportunities as she participates in an exploratory program on the Deschutes National Forest during summer 2011.

Other SEEDS students have commented on the benefits of participation in the SEEDS program:

"I understand communication in a group setting better than I did before," said Larae Guillory, who is interested in becoming a fuels specialist.

Mario Carbajal, who plans to work in natural areas conservation, said, "Every day is a new learning experience, and I am given various different tasks that allow me to take part in different aspects of the recreation program."

"It's not just another work experience…SEEDS program mentoring has helped me to be a much better student and also so learn valuable hands on jobs skills," said Gina Martinez, who wants to pursue a career in wildlife management in the National Parks System.

And Aldo Nava, who is majoring in Forest Engineering said, “Some jobs try to keep workers where they are, but a mentorship aims to raise a person up to their full potential.”

The SEEDS experiences of all these students were made possible by economic recovery money provided to the OSU SEEDS program and by OSU College of Forestry faculty mentors, including Mark Needham, Christine Olsen, Chris Jackson, Anita Morzillo, and Doug Maguire.

Program Project Name: Provide summer employment opportunities for youth in climate and forestry internships.

Local Project Name: Recruiting Future Forestry Leaders and Scientists
Region: Pacific Northwest Research Station
Nearby City(ies): Seattle, Washington
Congressional District(s): OR03, OR04, OR05, WA03, WA05
County(ies): OR: Benton, Lane, Multnomah; WA: Thurston
Related Photo(s) Link: http://blogs.usda.gov/2011/08/11/recruiting-future-forestry-leaders-and-scientists/; http://tinyurl.com/3mkkvs7
Modified Date: 12/29/2011

Story:

Pacific Northwest Research Station Partners with University to Create Leadership and Learning Opportunities

(Story posted 7/12/2011)

As part of the USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station's (PNW) Research Station’s Recovery Act program, Jamie Barbour of the Station’s Focused Science Delivery Program has entered into an agreement with the University of Washington’s School of Forest Resources to create leadership and learning opportunities for Native Americans pursuing graduate degrees in the forestry sciences. The effort, coordinated by the school’s Ernesto Alvarado, provides a broad spectrum of opportunities to students who are tribal members, focused on recruitment, retention, and successful completion of their graduate degree programs.

Students are offered financial, educational, cultural, and social support and offered mentored work experiences on research projects in their field of interest. The skills, knowledge, and experience the students gain significantly enhances their ability to contribute to the advancement of science-based forestry both on and off of tribal lands. In addition, their ability to integrate traditional knowledge with modern science has significant benefits to both the university and research agencies for whom they work.

Outcomes include the following:
Three Native American graduate students have been recruited and are working on research projects led by PNW scientists and university faculty. Two students, Tmthspusmen “Spus”

Wilder and Jeromie Gritts, enrolled at the beginning of the 2010-2011 academic year. A third student, Christopher Beatty, is doing project work during the summer and will begin coursework in the fall of 2011.

Wilder is interested in the ecological effects of different policy frameworks and restoration practices among forest landowners east of the Cascade crest. Starting the summer of 2011, his research project will examine stand structure and composition parameters on national forest, state, and Yakama tribal lands in eastern Washington to determine how forest health is affected by management and restoration strategies. During the summer of 2010, Wilder assisted with research projects conducted by the PNW Station on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and at the USFS Pacific Wildland Fire Sciences Laboratory in Seattle.

Gritts' research project, also beginning the summer of 2011, will examine the decline of whitebark pine on the Flathead Reservation in Montana. He is working with Rocky Mountain Research Station scientists to model the effects of different silvicultural and fire management regimes on whitebark pine. His research will factor in the cultural values tribes associate with whitebark pine that are not typically included in ecological studies.

Both young people have been involved with other Native American students in the School of Forest Resources on efforts to integrate traditional knowledge with forestry sciences and have co-authored a paper that has been submitted for publication. They have also been assisting with the development of a national natural resources research agenda for the Intertribal Timber Council. They have helped develop and administer a questionnaire for tribal managers and leaders to ascertain research needs, and Beatty will be completing the final report documenting research priorities during the summer of 2011.

Program Project Name: Sustainable forest bioenergy production (FWE, HD)

Local Project Name: Forest Biomass Utilization Decreases Wildfire Risk and Dependence on Foreign Oil

Region: Rocky Mountain Research Station

Nearby City(ies): Halfway, OR; Missoula, MT; Diamond Lake, OR; Pullman, WA; Moscow, ID

Congressional District(s): ID02, MT00, OR02, WA05

County(ies): ID: Latah; MT: Missoula; OR: Baker, Douglas; WA: Whitman

Modified Date: 9/27/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Research May Facilitate New Forest Product Uses

(Story posted 9/22/2011)

In Washington, Idaho, and Montana, USDA Forest Service Recovery Act-funded studies concerning how pyrolysis* produces potentially useful new forest products called bio-oil and bio-char*are continuing. Researchers at the Rocky Mountain Research Station, University of Montana, University of Idaho, Washington State University, and other partners have published test results for a proto-type pyrolysis reactor that creates the charcoal-like bio-char

and also creates bio-oil and synthetic gas as the reactor processes biomass from forest restoration projects.

Another team has also tested bio-char for applications as a soilless nursery media for growing plants. More research results are expected sometime this fall. Besides providing research and development jobs, this important project involving pyrolysis could facilitate new uses and markets for forest products to help reduce national dependence on foreign oil, support new industries in rural areas, and reduce greenhouse gases.

*Pyrolysis is the heating of an organic material, such as biomass, in the absence of oxygen. Because no oxygen is present, the material does not combust, but the chemical compounds (i.e. cellulose, hemicelluloses, and lignin) that make up that material thermally decompose into combustible gases and charcoal. Most of these combustible gases can be condensed into a combustible liquid, called bio-oil, though there are some permanent gases (CO¬2, CO, H2, light hydrocarbons). Thus, pyrolysis of biomass produces three products: one liquid, bio-oil; one solid, bio-char; and one gaseous, syngas (USDA Agricultural Research Service 2011).

Program Project Name: Recreation Facilities Maintenance

Local Project Name: New toilets please forest visitors
Region: Pacific Northwest Region
Forest: Umatilla
Nearby City(ies): Northeast Oregon and Southeast Washington
Congressional District(s): OR02, WA05
County(ies): OR: Baker, Grant, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa; WA: Asotin, Columbia, Garfield
Modified Date: 2/13/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Restroom Replacements Bring Jobs, Benefit Visitors

(Story posted 9/29/2012)

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act gave the Forest Service the unique opportunity to make improvements in the quality of services while creating public sector jobs. The Umatilla National Forest was able to work on multiple improvement projects, including replacing and building new restrooms at various campsites across the 1.4 million-acre national forest.

Recovery Act funds were used to purchase 34 new vault restrooms to replace aged facilities in various stages of disrepair. Many of which were installed in the 1960s Because vaulted restrooms are self-contained, the new units made with more durable materials will not deteriorate over time, thus significantly lowering the risk of ground water contamination in recreational areas.

In addition to improving facilities at the forest, the restroom improvement project on the Umatilla National Forest generated jobs for six small businesses from the Pendleton, Milton-Freewater, Bend, North Powder, and Eugene, Oregon area and infused over $650,000 into the local communities. Recovery Act funding gave the forest the ability to enhance the amenities available to visitors while fulfilling the mission of caring for the land.

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
Related Photo(s) Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ssrs/story?id=5745; http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ssrs/story?id=5565
Modified Date: 7/10/2012

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. Monongahela National Forest staff 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. The Forest Service contributed nearly $100,000 to the project, which resulted in decommissioning 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 area's natural resources. 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. 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.

Program Project Name: Improved Energy Efficiency at West Virginia Research Facilities (Morgantown, Parsons, and Princeton)

Local Project Name: Energy Efficiency Improvements Completed on Forest Service Research Facilities in West Virginia

Region: Northeastern Research Station

Nearby City(ies): Morgantown, WV; Parsons, WV; and Princeton, WV

Congressional District(s): WV01, WV03

County(ies): WV: Mercer, Monongalia, Tucker

Modified Date: 4/20/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Repairs Contribute to Sustainable Operations

(Story posted 4/15/2011)

Through American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funding, deferred maintenance repairs and energy updates created jobs in West Virginia. Contractors replaced deteriorating windows and equipment and improved energy efficiency at the USDA Forest Service’s Northern Research Station's three research facilities in the state.

At the Morgantown office, a backup generator was installed to provide emergency power to growth chambers and freezers to protect valuable experiments and materials. In addition, 30-year-old windows were replaced in a portion of the facility and an entrance vestibule was added to prevent the loss of energy when deliveries and visitors enter the building. At the Princeton laboratory, windows were replaced in all of the buildings. At the Parsons laboratory, windows were replaced in all of the buildings and a new heating, ventilating, and air conditioning system was installed for the computer building. These investments extended the service life of these structures and reduced their operating costs, providing more sustainable operations at each of these research facilities.

Program Project Name: George Washington and Jefferson National Forests Trail and Trail Bridge Maintenance

Local Project Name: George Washington and Jefferson - Forest-Wide Trail and Bridge Maintenance and Repair

Region: Southern Region

Forest: George Washington & Jefferson

Ranger District: Lee

Nearby City(ies): Edinburg, VA

Congressional District(s): VA06, VA09

County(ies): VA: Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Giles, Grayson, Nelson, Page, Rockbridge, Shenandoah, Washington; WV: Hardy

Modified Date: 4/20/2011

Story:

George Washington and Jefferson National Forests Tackle Trail Work with Recovery Act Funds

(Story posted 4/20/2011)

The George Washington and Jefferson National Forests (GWJ) undertook multiple smaller Recovery Act-funded projects bundled together to reconstruct, relocate, and maintain trails, provide trailhead maintenance, and provide trail bridge maintenance or replacement across National Forest System lands in Virginia. Such work increased visitor safety and protected resources. Trailhead maintenance provided new gravel while the trail work provided heavy maintenance such as re-establishing tread, brushing, and clearing; replacing water control measures such as dips and water bars; clearing culverts; and barricading user-created shortcuts at switchbacks along foot, equestrian, off-highway vehicle, and mountain bike trails. Trail bridges received maintenance or were replaced as needed.

Several condemned structures were demolished to restore the trail corridor and provide for public safety on tracts purchased for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. The majority of work was accomplished by hand or with a trail dozer. The Student Conservation Association (SCA) provided trail crews. This project will result in a sustainable trails network maintained as needed, improved visitor experience, better signs along the trails, and improved public safety and watershed protection.

The Recovery Act provided the GWJ with a once-in-a-generation opportunity to restore and improve popular, high-priority trails on the Forests, in addition to providing jobs and long-term economic benefits. Opportunities were also provided for more than 60 young adults to gain valuable outdoor work experience.

• In the GWJ NF's SCA Trailwork Program, 47 young adults from across the country worked on seven trail teams/crews on four Ranger Districts and the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. Team/crew members received training, a stipend, paid living expenses, and an educational grant. This work improved up to 65 miles of 18 different trails.

• SCA is America's leading conservation service organization. SCA partners with public land managers to build conservation leaders and engage young adults in hands-on environmental stewardship. SCA trail teams and crew live and work together in the backcountry. Members learn and practice trail skills, outdoor leadership, wilderness first aid, and Leave No Trace (LNT) outdoor ethics while performing natural resource work.
• SCA team/crew specifics follow:
o Ramsey's Draft Area Trail Team.(6-month season) Emphasis on working with crosscut saws and other traditional tools to clear multiple dead and down large hemlock trees on three popular trails within Ramsey's Draft Wilderness on the North River Ranger District west of Staunton, Virginia.
o Allegheny Highlands Trail Team. (6-month season) Emphasis on improving and completing sections of the Allegheny Highlands Trail System that will complete links in a multiple-use, non-motorized trail system on the James River R.D. near Covington, Virginia.
o Laurel Fork Area Trail Team.(4½-month season) Trail restoration and improvement on up to 11 multiple-use, non-motorized trails in a remote, isolated, popular section of the GWJ on the Warm Springs Ranger District in Highland County, Virginia.
o Bath Country Trail Team.(3-month season) Heavy maintenance and improvement on five popular multiple-use trails on the Warm Springs Ranger District in the Hidden Valley area north of Hot Springs, Virginia.
o Virginia Highlands Trail Team.(3-month season) Trail restoration and major rock work on a severely impacted 2.5 mile section of the 82-mile Virginia Highlands Horse Trail within Lewis Fork Wilderness. Material for the handwork by the SCA Team has been provided by a two-phase, two-week blasting operation involving USFS certified blasters from Regions 8 and 9. This work is in the High Country of the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area, east of Chilhowie, Virginia.
o Eastern Divide Area Trail Crews.(2-month season, two crews) Heavy maintenance and restoration work on four popular trails by two crews comprised of SCA members who have previously served on at least one SCA High School summer crew. Work is on the Eastern Divide Ranger District west of Roanoke, Virginia.

Program Project Name: Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects/Readiness less than or equal to 120 days

Local Project Name: Climate Change Monitoring

Region: Eastern Region

Forest: Superior

Nearby City(ies): Eleveth, Ely, Cook, Duluth, Tofte, Aurora, Grand Marais

Congressional District(s): MI01, MI02, MI04, MN08

County(ies): MI: Alcona, Crawford, Delta, Iosco, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Newaygo, Oceana, Oscoda, Wexford; MN: Cook, Lake, Saint Louis; WV: Grant, Greenbrier, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Randolph, Tucker

Modified Date: 8/23/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Climate Change Research Underway

(Story posted 8/22/2011)

In partnership with the Northern Research Station, Superior National Forest staff is working to quantify changes in forest vegetation related to climate patterns using Recovery Act Funds. Last season's fieldwork along with additional inventory data are providing estimates of forest-wide carbon storage and cycling. Ecological simulation models are being used to assess the likely impact of a changing climate on forest growth. Preliminary results indicate larger reductions in forest-wide carbon stocks under elevated natural disturbance rates than increased harvest.

Wisconsin

Program Project Name: Green Retrofit of Forest Service office

Local Project Name: Rhinelander Office Restroom 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: 7/10/2012

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, 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
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.

Program Project Name: Repair Facades of Various Forest Products Laboratory Buildings

Local Project Name: Rehab of buildings 29, 33, & 34
Region: Forest Products Laboratory
Nearby City(ies): Madison
Congressional District(s): WI02
County(ies): WI: Dane
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3hy4wgq
Modified Date: 8/25/2011

Story:

Forest Products Lab Building Repairs Provide Jobs, Support Research

(Story posted 5/18/2011)

The Forest Products Laboratory (FPL), established in 1910 in Madison, Wisconsin, is the nation's only federally funded wood utilization research laboratory. To enable the lab to continues its mission of helping discover ways to use the nation's wood resources wisely and efficiently while at the same time keeping our forests healthy, FPL took advantage of Recovery Act funds to help reduce deferred maintenance by rehabilitating three buildings built in the 1960s.

The three buildings had exterior closures constructed of wood siding and structurally insulated panels (SIPs). The wood siding had degraded significantly in some areas and needed preservative applications to keep it from degrading elsewhere.

In addition, wood trim at all windows and gypsum board soffits were severely degraded and called for replacement. The SIPs were in fair condition, but some needed minor repair.

The rehabilitation work completed in fall 2010 has extended the buildings’ useful lives and eliminated significant deferred maintenance, enabling research that began with preserving railroad ties when the FPL first opened to continue venturing into nanotechnology and finding ways to contribute to mitigating climate change impacts.

In addition, this project created design and construction jobs for a Wisconsin-based minority-owned business to make the necessary repairs, further benefiting the local economy.

Program Project Name: Demolish Underutilized Buildings at the Forest Products Laboratory

Local Project Name: Demolish Buildings 2, 3, 8, & 19 and move the steamline
Region: Forest Products Laboratory
Nearby City(ies): Madison
Congressional District(s): WI02
County(ies): WI: Dane
Related Photo(s) Link: http://tinyurl.com/3bkbrn4
Modified Date: 8/25/2011

Story:

Forest Products Lab Uses Recovery Act Funds to Remove Obsolete Buildings

(Story posted 5/23/2011)

A Recovery Act-funded project to demolish four obsolete buildings on the Forest Products Laboratory campus in Madison, Wisconsin, is nearly complete. Constructed as temporary structures in the 1930s, three of the buildings were in poor condition, having outlived their useful lives. The fourth building, a 1950s structure, joined the other three in not meeting current accessibility, fire, or other safety codes.

When the new Centennial Research Facility (CRF) was finished last summer and work activities from three buildings were moved into the new structure, contractors began demolition work, including flattening all structures; asbestos and lead paint abatement; re-routing all utilities that ran through these buildings to another that would remain; and site restoration. The Forest Service recovered useful equipment and materials for re-use from the four buildings, and the demolition contractor was required to salvage or recycle at least 50 percent of the remaining material.
The project produced jobs through the necessary design work and the physical demolition of the structures as well as installation of new utilities.

As project work progressed, the occupants of the fourth building were relocated to the main administrative building so that structure could be demolished. All demolition work is now finished except for a portion of one building that is supporting the existing steam line. The anticipated completion date is August 2011.

Program Project Name: Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects/Readiness greater than 120 days

Local Project Name: Healthy Forests and Fuels Reduction

Region: Eastern Region

Forest: Superior

Nearby City(ies): Tofte, Eveleth, Ely, Cook

Congressional District(s): IL11, IL12, IL19, MI01, MI02, MN08, OH06, VT00, WI07, WI08

County(ies): IL: Hardin, Jackson, Johnson, Pope, Will; MI: Lake, Newaygo, Oscoda; MN: Cook, Lake, Saint Louis; OH: Gallia, Lawrence; VT: Addison, Bennington, Rutland, Windham, Windsor; WI: Bayfield, Florence, Forest, Oconto, Price, Vilas

Modified Date: 8/24/2011

Story:

Superior National Forest Recovery Act-funded Work Provides Many Benefits

(Story posted 8/22/2011)

On the Superior National Forest, a Recovery Act-funded wildland fire management project involved hazardous fuel reduction, harvests, and forest regeneration to provide employment opportunities within the timber industry in Minnesota. As part of the Caribou Stewardship Project, workers harvested approximately 450 acres of timber, and piled and burned slash. Workers also treated 196 acres on the west zone to reduce fuels. A total of 2,750 acres were prepared for harvest. In addition, workers “marked to standard” 50 miles of national forest boundaries. The forest is now healthier, and mangers will see the benefits of the work for many years.

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: 3/2/2011

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: 3/2/2011

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: 3/2/2011

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: 3/2/2011

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: 2/23/2011

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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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: Central Wyoming Fuel Breaks and Mitigation

Local Project Name: Union Pass Beetle Tree Removal
Region: Rocky Mountain Region

Forest: Shoshone
Nearby City(ies): Dubois, WY
Congressional District(s): WY00
County(ies): WY: Fremont
Modified Date: 9/8/2011

Story:

Hazardous Fuel Reduction Work Reduces Wildfire Risk

(Story posted 9/6/2011)

In Fremont County near Dubois, USDA Forest Service hazardous fuel reduction work is helping reduce wildfire risk to densely populated subdivisions with bark beetle-killed trees in the Union Pass area.

Using Wyoming State Forestry Division-administered funds, the Fremont County Firewise coordinator identified priority areas, targeting the Union Pass area in consultation with the county fire warden. In making selections, consideration was given to past fire history, prevailing winds, topography, and public and firefighter safety. The area includes three commercial lodges and several residences and associated improvements, and large wildfires in the past on the Shoshone National Forest have threatened the community and cost approximately five million dollars to suppress.

The project area is dominated by broken prairie, sage grasslands, and cottonwood river bottoms in lower elevations and ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, and mixed conifer-dominated forests in the higher elevation areas characterized by steep and rugged terrain. These forests are currently experiencing a bark-beetle epidemic, causing heavy concentrations of dead/down fuels with abundant ladder fuels present. Several large fires occur each year, and landowner interest in fuels reduction is high. An increasing numbers of homes are also being built in wildland-urban interface areas, with a 1000 percent increase from 2003 to 2008. The program emphasizes landowner buy-in and providing cost share for defensible space projects and Firewise workshops.

The City of Dubois coordinated contractors and landowners and solicited job applications through the State of Wyoming Workforce Center. Workers implemented fuel breaks and fuel treatments on 57 private properties involving 250 acres in at-risk communities. Individual landowners were educated about the need to implement fuel treatments and structural modifications to lessen the potential for loss during a wildfire. Landowners were required to sign a wildfire mitigation and stewardship plan to qualify. Grant funds for defensible space and fuel break projects were used as reimbursement incentives. The focus was on utilizing existing completed projects with new projects to create landscape-scale fuel treatments that maximize project effectiveness.

The largest challenge was removing the fallen timber and the thousands of pounds of slash without damaging the understory or improvements. Performance feedback surveys were given to the property owners once the work was completed.

In addition, local federal land management agencies were contacted to identify areas where treatments on federal lands can further enhance projects conducted on private lands. Through publications, billboards, and community meetings, landowners were educated on the current beetle infestation and blister rust outbreak and how these affect area fire behavior and fire potential.

Program Project Name: Regionwide Historic Building Restorations

Local Project Name: Mt Roosevelt Tower Restoration
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Black Hills
Ranger District: Northern Hills
Nearby City(ies): Spearfish, SD
Congressional District(s): CO02, CO03, CO05, SD00, WY00
County(ies): CO: Conejos, Dolores, Eagle, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Lake, Saguache; SD: Custer, Lawrence; WY: Park
Modified Date: 9/7/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Supports Mount Roosevelt Friendship Tower Restoration

(Story posted 9/6/2011)

On the Black Hills National Forest, Mount Roosevelt, also called Friendship Tower, has undergone Recovery Act-funded construction to reinforce the base and fully restore the monument for public use. The tower was in deteriorated condition and in danger of failing; the stairs had been demolished because of unsafe conditions, and the tower's stone base was cracked and damaged.

The project included replacing the exterior staircase to the tower with local stone to match the tower; interior grouting of the loose rubble tower base; constructing a foundation to support the tower; repointing and replacing deteriorated native stone masonry; building a roof to protect the tower from water intrusion; and building a handrail and guardrail on stairs along with a guardrail on the tower platform.

Box Elder Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center students and a stone mason specializing in historical restoration worked from June through August 2010 to restore and repair the tower's original rock masonry. This past June contractors worked to build the roof and internal circular stair guardrails. Job Corps program students are currently building exterior guardrails and should finish the work in the next few weeks.

Seth Bullock built the tower in 1919 in honor of his friend President Theodore Roosevelt. Bullock wanted to create a memorial of his friend's life and a place where people could view wide open spaces (the "Big Lonesome") of which Bullock and Roosevelt had become so fond during their lives. Bullock was Deadwood's first sheriff, founded the town of Belle Fourche,

and was a U.S. Marshal for South Dakota. He was also an early forest supervisor on the Black Hills National Forest, appointed to the task by President Roosevelt.

This project repaired a popular and important historical monument visited frequently by the public. It provided on-the-job training and experience for several Job Corps program students as well as providing local economic benefits to suppliers, equipment rental businesses, and local contractors.

Marissa Karchut, north zone archaeologist on the Forest, said, “We are preserving this monument for our kids and grandkids.”

Program Project Name: West Tensleep Area Fuels Treatment

Local Project Name: West Tensleep Stewardship
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Bighorn
Ranger District: Powder River
Nearby City(ies): Tensleep, WY
Congressional District(s): WY00
County(ies): WY: Big Horn
Modified Date: 9/13/2011

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Hazardous Fuels Reduction Work

(Story posted 9/9/2011)

Last winter, Recovery Act-funded workers began efforts to reduce fuel loading by thinning 670 acres of dense lodgepole pine stands adjacent to private cabins, lodges, and a Forest Service administrative site on the Bighorn National Forest by removing sawtimber and post and pole material to market and thinning and further treating slash by having it removed, crushed, masticated, or piled.

Because the work is adjacent to a US highway that is plowed open in the winter, the contractor was able to work his equipment on top of the snow, thereby reducing any disturbance to the ground, adjacent cabin owners, and traffic along the scenic byway. However, the rest of the area is generally inaccessible during the winter, and market conditions and log truck shortages will likely extend work into 2013. This project is supporting skilled local woods workers, truckers, and mill employees.

This project has been a collaborative effort of county Firewise coordinators with private land owners and Bighorn National Forest foresters to provide defensible space around improvements in the interest of firefighter and public safety and to lessen potential wildfire

intensity through reduced hazardous fuels.

Program Project Name: Bighorn National Forest Fuels Treatments

Local Project Name: Dullknife Stewardship Contract
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Bighorn
Nearby City(ies): Hazelton, WY
Congressional District(s): WY00
County(ies): WY: Johnson
Modified Date: 2/17/2012

Story:

Hazardous Fuels Reduction Provides Jobs, Protects Resources

(Story posted 9/9/2011)

On the Bighorn National Forest, contractors are working to thin approximately 675 acres of dense lodgepole pine stands adjacent to private subdivisions by removing sawtimber and post and pole material to market while thinning and masticating or piling non-merchantable material. The Recovery Act-funded work is helping provide defensible space around developments to improve firefighter and public safety and reduce fuels for lower wildfire intensity if one were to occur.

Work on the Dullknife Stewardship Contract began in the summer of 2010, and because this area is inaccessible during the winter, contractors had planned to finish the project in 2012, but market conditions and a shortage of logging trucks will probably extend the completion date to 2013. This project is supporting skilled local woods workers, truckers, and mill employees.

A collaborative effort of county Firewise coordinators with private land owners; Wyoming State Forest Service and Bighorn National Forest foresters; and Bureau of Land Management fire ecologists, the Dullknife project is the area's largest single undertaking. Local residents are especially supportive of the activity.

Program Project Name: West Tensleep Area Fuels Treatment

Local Project Name: West Tensleep Stewardship Contract
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Bighorn
Nearby City(ies): Tensleep, WY
Congressional District(s): WY00
County(ies): WY: Big Horn, Washakie
Modified Date: 9/13/2011

Story:
Recovery Act Funds Support Hazardous Fuels Reduction Work

(Story posted 9/9/2011)

Last winter, Recovery Act-funded workers began efforts to reduce fuel loading by thinning 670 acres of dense lodgepole pine stands adjacent to private cabins, lodges, and a Forest Service administrative site on the Bighorn National Forest by removing sawtimber and post and pole material to market and thinning and further treating slash by having it removed, crushed, masticated, or piled.

Because the work is adjacent to a US highway that is plowed open in the winter, the contractor was able to work his equipment on top of the snow, thereby reducing any disturbance to the ground, adjacent cabin owners, and traffic along the scenic byway. However, the rest of the area is generally inaccessible during the winter, and market conditions and log truck shortages will likely extend work into 2013.
This project is supporting skilled local woods workers, truckers, and mill employees.

This project has been a collaborative effort of county Firewise coordinators with private land owners and Bighorn National Forest foresters to provide defensible space around improvements in the interest of firefighter and public safety and to lessen potential wildfire intensity through reduced hazardous fuels.

Program Project Name: Hunter Trailhead and Campground Reconstruction

Local Project Name: Hunter Trailhead Construction Project
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Bighorn
Ranger District: Powder River
Nearby City(ies): 20 miles west of Buffalo, WY, located at T50N, R84W, Section 10
Congressional District(s): WY00
County(ies): WY: Johnson
Modified Date: 1/24/2012

Story:
Bighorn National Forest Trailhead and Campground Restoration to Benefit People, Resources

Story posted 9/21/2011)

On the Bighorn National Forest, the Recovery Act-funded Hunter Trailhead and Campground project presents a unique opportunity to meet varying customer expectations and provide a multitude of uses for recreation visitors while addressing critical resource protection needs. The project entails construction of a new trailhead and campground with associated spurs,

tables, fire rings, restrooms, garbage facilities, informational kiosks, and day-use parking. Workers will also build horse amenities such as corrals, hitch racks, and feed bunks. The developed recreation site will increase user capacity, address mixed use conflicts, provide for overnight camping, and bring amenities up to Forest Service standards.

Other benefits of the project include a reduction or elimination of ongoing resource damage. The old trailhead location was within the water influence zone, and the corrals infringed upon wetlands. The new location is out of wetlands, and the new access will eliminate past rutting and resource damage that occurred at the old road location. Project work also includes decommissioning approximately 0.8 miles of road that did not meet Forest Service standards while providing increase access to the Hunter complex.

The project was awarded to Matriarch Construction, Inc. of Laurel, Montana. While the successful contractor resides out of state, the company has utilized many local businesses in the process of completing this project and in doing so have provided economic benefit to these local communities. The contractor has also utilized local lodging, restaurants, and supermarkets for out-of-state workers and has purchased construction materials from several local vendors.

Work began on August 30, 2010. Surveying, staking, and major earthwork took place until winter shutdown on November 2, 2010. Work resumed on June 9, 2011, and the project is currently about 85 percent finished.

The Forest Service has received many comments on the project since work began. For the most part, the public is excited about the project and is looking forward to improved features, increased capacity, and amenities that accommodate overnight camping. Public response has been very positive.

Program Project Name: Island Lake Campground Rehabilitation

Local Project Name: Island Lake Campground Reconstruction Project
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Shoshone
Ranger District: Clarks Fork
Nearby City(ies): Red Lodge, MT - 15 miles, Cody, WY 37 miles
Congressional District(s): WY00
County(ies): WY: Park
Modified Date: 1/24/2012

Story:

Recovery Act Funds Support Popular Campground Restoration

Story posted 9/21/2011)

The Island Lake Campground is located in Wyoming, on the Clarks Fork Ranger District of

the Shoshone National Forest. The campground is immediately adjacent to the Beartooth All American Road and is one of the northernmost and highest-elevation campgrounds on the forest (five miles southwest of the Beartooth Mountains, at approximately 9,540 feet).

The facilities associated with this popular 23-site campground had been installed in the 1960s, and a significant deferred maintenance backlog existed. Additionally, the campground's roads and vehicle pads no longer accommodated the larger vehicles popular today. The reconstruction project ultimately involved replacement of substantially all fixtures and amenities (bear boxes, tables, fire rings, parking barriers and site signage); replacement of the potable water system; replacement of three restrooms; re-alignment/widening/resurfacing of the campground roads; and widening/resurfacing of parking spurs.

Planning of the project began in 2009, with construction occurring primarily in 2010 and being completed in 2011. Although noting that the site posed challenges because of its "high elevation and limited construction season" [the site is generally accessible for construction purposes only from July through October of each year because of snowfall], it was also noted that the work "went as anticipated" and that it was a "wonderful place to work." (Anthony Aguirre, Project Estimator/Manager - Elk Horn Construction, LLC).

The benefits to the local community (Park County, WY) stem from maintenance of our campground facilities generally, including the Island Lake Campground. Projects such as the Island Lake Reconstruction Project enable the Forest Service to continue to attract and provide high-quality services to visitors which, in turn tends to ensure a constant and robust level of visitorship. In 2010, overall traveler spending in Park County associated with campground visitation was $91,500.00 (Dean Runyan Associates report, April 2011). Because Island Lake Campground is immediately adjacent to the Beartooth All American Road, a main access route to both the forest and Yellowstone National Park, it plays a critical role in hosting these travelers.

Program Project Name: Western Wyoming Fuel Breaks and Mitigation

Local Project Name: Crescent H Fuel Breaks
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Nearby City(ies): Jackson Hole, WY
Congressional District(s): WY00
County(ies): WY: Teton
Modified Date: 12/13/2011

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Work Provides Numerous Benefits

(Story posted 9/21/2011)

USDA Forest Service Recovery Act funds helped reduce wildfire risk in wildland-urban

interface areas in Teton County. The State of Wyoming reported that sub-contractors performed nearly 4,300 hours of forest thinning, logging, and slash treatment work to complete fuelbreak and hazardous fuel treatment projects submitted through the competitive process. The Crescent H Fuel Break Project addressed concerns in the Teton County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) that identified the "at-risk" subdivisions of Indian Paintbrush, Crescent H, and Heck of a Hill, which were considered the CWPP's number one priority.

This project created a break in wildland fuels; removed disease and insect-infested trees; dead and down trees; and coordinated with fuel reductions projects on adjacent federal land. Teton County reimbursed private landowners that hired a general contractor, Trees R Us. This contractor then subcontracted for fuels mitigation services performed, using a combination of helicopter tree removal and hand falling/thinning and pruning of fuels. Workers ground slash, which was shipped to a local food plant as a biomass product for heating and drying operations at that site. Some of the by-products were also utilized locally as firewood.

Program Project Name: Upper Wind River Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Reduction Project #1

Local Project Name: Upper Wind Fuels Phase I
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Shoshone
Ranger District: Washakie
Nearby City(ies): Dubois, WY
Congressional District(s): WY00
County(ies): WY: Fremont
Modified Date: 2/9/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Hazardous Fuels Reduction to Reduce Wildfire Hazard

(Story posted 9/22/2011)

Recovery Act-funded contractors are conducting hazardous fuels reduction activities to protect over 300 homes and outbuildings in the wildland urban interface in the Wind River drainage near Dubois, Wyoming. These structures are located on private lands adjacent to and within the Shoshone National Forest.

Much of the forest has been affected by an insect epidemic and many trees are dead or dying. The dense forest, in combination with the dead and dying trees, have resulted in an increased fuel hazard, making the forest susceptible to difficult to control wildfires and posing a significant risk to private property within and adjacent to National Forest System lands. The area was threatened by wildfires in 2006 and 2007.

Using the priorities established in the Fremont County Community Wildfire Protection Plan

and authorities granted by the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, the Forest has completed planning requirements for work on several thousand acres in the Wind River drainage. This project will remove hazardous fuels in critical areas on approximately 600 acres, reducing the risk to structures from wildfire.

Contractors began work in June 2010, and work continues as weather and field conditions permit. Two Wyoming businesses were awarded contracts and are working on their task orders. Indirect benefits to the community include wood products being made available to the general public through timber sale contracts as well as service industries to the communities being supported (e.g. hotels, grocery stores, restaurants).

Program Project Name: Upper Wind River Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Reduction Project #2

Local Project Name: Upper Wind Fuels Phase II
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Shoshone
Ranger District: Washakie
Nearby City(ies): Dubois, WY
Congressional District(s): WY00
County(ies): WY: Fremont
Modified Date: 2/14/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Hazardous Fuels Reduction to Reduce Wildfire Hazard

(Story posted 9/22/2011)

Recovery Act-funded contractors are conducting hazardous fuels reduction activities to protect over 300 homes and outbuildings in the wildland urban interface in the Wind River drainage near Dubois, Wyoming. These structures are located on private lands adjacent to and within the Shoshone National Forest.

Much of the forest has been affected by an insect epidemic and many trees are dead or dying. The dense forest, in combination with the dead and dying trees, have resulted in an increased fuel hazard, making the forest susceptible to difficult to control wildfires and posing a significant risk to private property within and adjacent to National Forest System lands. The area was threatened by wildfires in 2006 and 2007.

Using the priorities established in the Fremont County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and authorities granted by the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, the Forest has completed planning requirements for work on several thousand acres in the Wind River drainage. This project will remove hazardous fuels in critical areas on approximately 600 acres, reducing the risk to structures from wildfire.

Contractors began work in June 2010, and work continues as weather and field conditions

permit. Two Wyoming businesses were awarded contracts and are working on their task orders. Indirect benefits to the community include wood products being made available to the general public through timber sale contracts as well as service industries to the communities being supported (e.g. hotels, grocery stores, restaurants).

Program Project Name: Lower Wind River Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Reduction Project #1

Local Project Name: Lower Wind Fuels Phase I
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Shoshone
Ranger District: Washakie
Nearby City(ies): Dubois, WY
Congressional District(s): WY00
County(ies): WY: Fremont
Modified Date: 2/9/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Hazardous Fuels Reduction to Reduce Wildfire Hazard

(Story posted 9/22/2011)

Recovery Act-funded contractors are conducting hazardous fuels reduction activities to protect over 300 homes and outbuildings in the wildland urban interface in the Wind River drainage near Dubois, Wyoming. These structures are located on private lands adjacent to and within the Shoshone National Forest.

Much of the forest has been affected by an insect epidemic and many trees are dead or dying. The dense forest, in combination with the dead and dying trees, have resulted in an increased fuel hazard, making the forest susceptible to difficult to control wildfires and posing a significant risk to private property within and adjacent to National Forest System lands. The area was threatened by wildfires in 2006 and 2007.

Using the priorities established in the Fremont County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and authorities granted by the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, the Forest has completed planning requirements for work on several thousand acres in the Wind River drainage. This project will remove hazardous fuels in critical areas on approximately 600 acres, reducing the risk to structures from wildfire.

Contractors began work in June 2010, and work continues as weather and field conditions permit. Two Wyoming businesses were awarded contracts and are working on their task orders. Indirect benefits to the community include wood products being made available to the general public through timber sale contracts as well as service industries to the communities being supported (e.g. hotels, grocery stores, restaurants).

Program Project Name: Lower Wind River Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Reduction Project #2

Local Project Name: Lower Wind Fuels Phase II
Region: Rocky Mountain Region
Forest: Shoshone
Ranger District: Washakie
Nearby City(ies): Dubois, WY
Congressional District(s): WY00
County(ies): WY: Fremont
Modified Date: 2/14/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Hazardous Fuels Reduction Activities Protect Wildland-urban Interface Homes

(Story posted 9/22/2011)

Recovery Act-funded contractors are conducting hazardous fuels reduction activities to protect over 300 homes and outbuildings in the wildland urban interface in the Wind River drainage near Dubois, Wyoming. These structures are located on private lands adjacent to and within the Shoshone National Forest.

Much of the forest has been affected by an insect epidemic and many trees are dead or dying. The dense forest, in combination with the dead and dying trees, have resulted in an increased fuel hazard, making the forest susceptible to difficult to control wildfires and posing a significant risk to private property within and adjacent to National Forest System lands. The area was threatened by wildfires in 2006 and 2007.

Using the priorities established in the Fremont County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and authorities granted by the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, the Forest has completed planning requirements for work on several thousand acres in the Wind River drainage. This project will remove hazardous fuels in critical areas on approximately 750 acres, reducing the risk to structures from wildfire.

Contractors began work in June 2010, and work continues as weather and field conditions permit. Two Wyoming businesses were awarded contracts and are working on their task orders. Indirect benefits to the community include wood products being made available to the general public through timber sale contracts as well as service industries to the communities being supported (e.g. hotels, grocery stores, restaurants).

Program Project Name: Middle Fork Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Reduction Project

Local Project Name: Middle Fork Fuels
Region: Rocky Mountain Region

Forest: Shoshone
Ranger District: Washakie
Nearby City(ies): Lander, WY
Congressional District(s): WY00
County(ies): WY: Fremont
Modified Date: 2/9/2012

Story:

Recovery Act-funded Hazardous Fuels Reduction to Reduce Wildfire Hazard

(Story posted 9/22/2011)

Recovery Act-funded contractors are conducting hazardous fuels reduction activities to protect over 30 homes and outbuildings in the wildland urban interface in the Middle Fork of the Popo Agie River drainage near Lander, Wyoming. These structures are located on private lands adjacent to and within the Shoshone National Forest.

Much of the forest has been affected by an insect epidemic and many trees are dead or dying. The dense forest, in combination with the dead and dying trees, have resulted in an increased fuel hazard, making the forest susceptible to difficult to control wildfires and posing a significant risk to private property within and adjacent to National Forest System lands. The area was threatened by wildfires in 2006 and 2007.

Using the priorities established in the Fremont County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and authorities granted by the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, the Forest has completed planning requirements for work on several thousand acres in the Wind River drainage. This project will remove hazardous fuels in critical areas on approximately 175 acres, reducing the risk to structures from wildfire.

Contractors began work in June 2010, and work continues as weather and field conditions permit. Two Wyoming businesses were awarded contracts and are working on their task orders. Indirect benefits to the community include wood products being made available to the general public through timber sale contracts as well as service industries to the communities being supported (e.g. hotels, grocery stores, restaurants).