



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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U.S. FOREST SERVICE STRENGTHENS ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENT THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WITH *CALL2RECYCLE*

LAKESWOOD, Colo., Nov. 19, 2008 – The US Forest Service and the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC) signed an agreement this week that will benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. By entering into an agreement with the RBRC, the Forest Service will participate in the ***Call2Recycle*** program to recycle rechargeable batteries and cell phones, with a portion of the proceeds received for cell phones going to Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

“Partnering with *Call2Recycle* is a natural alignment, as both our organizations are committed to improving sustainable operations and protecting the environment,” said Jackie Parks, US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region Deputy Regional Forester. “We can always be doing more to lessen our environmental impact; *Call2Recycle* will help strengthen our environmental efforts at a grassroots level.”

Offices throughout the Rocky Mountain Region are in the process of placing recycling boxes that will collect rechargeable batteries and cell phones. A portion of the proceeds received from recycled cell phones will be donated to Boys & Girls Clubs of America through RBRC.

Since 1996, RBRC has **collected more than 42 million pounds of rechargeable batteries** – that’s about the weight of 3,500 average male African elephants. Since 2004 RBRC has included cell phones in its recycling program and has raised nearly \$160,000 for Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

“With its efforts to protect our national forest resources, the U.S. Forest Service is already a leading environmental steward and an example for other federal agencies,” said Carl Smith, Chief Executive Officer, RBRC. “By joining *Call2Recycle*, the agency is bolstering its environmental platform and engaging local communities to do something simple to protect the environment.”

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Call2Recycle provides a convenient way to collect and recycle the used rechargeable batteries found in cordless electronic products, such as cell phones, digital cameras, laptop computers, cordless power tools, two-way radios, mp3 players, cordless phones, PDAs and camcorders. With the addition of the USFS to its participant roster, *Call2Recycle* adds to the more than 50,000 enrolled collection sites throughout the U.S. and Canada where rechargeable batteries and cell phones can be recycled.

The US Forest Service was established in 1905 with the mission to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. To support this mission the Forest Service engages in sustainable practices that create habits today to conserve resources for tomorrow.

Information Resources:

- Call2Recycle: www.call2recycle.com
- US Forest Service, Sustainable Operations: <http://www.fs.fed.us/sustainableoperations/>

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