



Department of Agriculture
ARRA
Agency Report
Source:

[http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/?navid=USDA_AR
RA](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/?navid=USDA_AR_RA)

Overview of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act)

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) was signed into law by President Obama on February 17th, 2009. It is an unprecedented effort to jumpstart our economy, create or save millions of jobs, and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century. The Act is an extraordinary response to a crisis unlike any since the Great Depression, and includes measures to modernize our nation's infrastructure, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need.

Department of Agriculture (USDA)
ARRA Analysis

Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Bureau	Initiative Title	Grants	NonGrants \$
Office of Inspector General	Oversight and audit of programs, grants, and activities		\$22,500,000
Agriculture Research Service	Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities		\$176,000,000
Farm Service Agency	Commodity Credit Corporation Grant Program	\$50,000,000	
	Direct Farm Operating Loans	\$173,367,000	
	Direct Farm Operating Loans (Cost of Modifying Loans)	\$20,440,000	
	Salaries and Expenses (IT and FTE)-FSA Information Technology		\$50,000,000
Food and Nutrition Service	Facility Improvements and Equipment Upgrades -- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations	\$5,000,000	
	National School Lunch Equipment Grant Program	\$100,000,000	
	Special Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) -- (Emergency Food Assistance Program)	\$150,000,000	
	Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	\$500,000,000	
	State Administration Expenses of the Special Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)		\$295,000,000
Forest Service	Capital Improvement and Maintenance		\$650,000,000
	Wildland Fire Management	\$500,000,000	
Natural Resources Conservation Service	Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (Construction)		\$290,000,000
	Watershed Rehabilitation Program (Construction)		\$50,000,000
Rural Development	Rural Development, Salaries and Expenses		\$1,750,000
Rural Housing Service	Cost of Sec. 502 Direct Loans (Budget Authority)	\$67,000,000	
	Cost of Sec. 502 Unsubsidized Guaranteed Loans (Budget Authority)	\$133,000,000	

Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Bureau	Initiative Title	Grants	NonGrants \$
	Rural Business Program (business and industry guaranteed loans	\$150,000,000	
	Rural Community Facilities Direct Loans and Grants	\$130,000,000	
	Sec. 502 Direct Single Family Housing Loans	\$1,000,000,000	
	Sec. 502 Unsubsidized Guaranteed Single Family Housing Loans	\$10,472,000,000	
Rural Utilities Service	Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Loans, Loan Guarantees, and Grants	\$2,500,000,000	
	Rural Water and Waste Disposal Direct Loans and Grants	\$1,380,000,000	
(blank)	Agriculture Buildings and Facilities and Rental Payments for necessary construction, repair, and improvement activities		\$24,000,000
Grand Total		\$17,330,807,000	\$1,559,250,000

Top Initiatives by NonGrants \$

Department of Agriculture (USDA)		
Bureau	Initiative Title	NonGrants \$
Forest Service	Capital Improvement and Maintenance	\$650,000,000
Food and Nutrition Service	State Administration Expenses of the Special Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	\$295,000,000
Natural Resources Conservation Service	Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (Construction)	\$290,000,000
Agriculture Research Service	Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities	\$176,000,000
Farm Service Agency	Salaries and Expenses (IT and FTE)-FSA Information Technology	\$50,000,000
(blank)	Watershed Rehabilitation Program (Construction)	\$50,000,000
	Agriculture Buildings and Facilities and Rental Payments for necessary construction, repair, and improvement activities	\$24,000,000
Office of Inspector General	Oversight and audit of programs, grants, and activities	\$22,500,000
Rural Development	Rural Development, Salaries and Expenses	\$1,750,000
Grand Total		\$1,559,250,000

Implementing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act)

USDA was appropriated \$28 billion (3.5 percent) of the package. The Act

- Provides \$19.7 billion to increase the monthly amount of nutrition assistance to 31.8 million people.
- Enables expanded opportunities for broadband loans and grants to rural communities.
- Expands funding opportunities to develop water and waste facilities.
- Provides funding to protect and conserve the nation's forests and farm land.

Department of Agriculture
Report Date: 2009-03-13 View History

Financial Status:

- Total Obligations: \$48,107,011
- Total Disbursements: \$39,670,933

Major Actions Taken to Date:

- Synopsis issued in Federal Business Opportunities for request for proposal (RFP) to update the construction design of the Wing 5 South Building Modernization Project.
- Using appropriated Recovery Act funds of \$ 18,631,000, FSA Farm Loans Program was able to generate 2,241 Farm Operating Direct Loans valued at \$ 158,020,000 in 45 States.
- FSA Aquaculture Assistance posted the program synopsis on www.Grants.gov and drafted letter to the State Departments of Agriculture to announce the program and request preliminary information for program implementation.
- For the Broadband program, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development agency, and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) hosted a public meeting on March 10, 2009. Published joint Federal Register Notice with Commerce and FCC on March 12, inviting written comments on our joint implementation of the Recovery Act.
- Release of first set of Forest Service projects funded under the Recovery Act for wildland fire management projects proposed for immediate implementation.

Major Planned Actions:

- Facilities Design contract planned to be awarded to Architectural and Engineering firm by April 14, 2009.
- FSA Information Technology will issue additional requests for proposals for management, business process improvement and IT modernization procurements during March and April 2009.
- FSA Farm Loans Program will continue to obligate remaining Recovery Funds for Farm Loans (direct operating loans) as well as continue the disbursement of loan proceeds to borrowers.
- For the Broadband program, host joint public meetings with Commerce and FCC in Arizona and Nevada.
- Establishment by Forest Service of four Economic Recovery Opportunity Centers to streamline processes, but to ensure appropriate consistency and accountability, to monitor awards of grants, agreements, and contracts associated with the Recovery Act.

Report Date: 2009-03-20 View History

Financial Status:

- Total Obligations: \$417,172,576
- Total Disbursements: \$19,647,139

Major Actions Taken to Date:

- Negotiations have been completed for the modification to update the design at Agriculture Research Service's (ARS) Western Regional Research Center (WRRRC) in Albany, CA and the Eastern Regional Research Center (ERRC) in Wyndmoor, PA.
- To date, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) has used Recovery Act funds of \$19,637,149 to generate Direct Farm Operating Loans valued at \$166,642,152. Of these 2,460 loans, 43% were issued to beginning farmers and 18% to socially disadvantaged farmers. As of March 20, loans valued at \$71,209,656 have been disbursed for use by America's farmers.
- Secretary Vilsack announced Tuesday, March 17 that producers can become eligible for 2008 disaster assistance authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill even if they did not previously obtain otherwise statutorily required crop insurance from the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2008 by now paying a buy-in fee through May 18, 2009.
- On March 16 released \$145 million in Recovery Act funding for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) State administrative expenses.

Major Planned Actions:

- A notice will be issued the week of March 23rd to inform State and County FSA Offices how to implement the buy in provision announced by Secretary Vilsack that makes producers eligible for 2008 disaster assistance.
- Increase SNAP benefits for low-income Americans on April 1, 2009 making more money available for low-income and unemployed households to put nutritious food on their table, increasing spending in grocery stores, and positively impacting the food supply chain.

Report Date: 2009-03-27

Financial Status:

- Total Obligations:\$0
- Total Disbursements:\$0

Major Actions Taken to Date:

- General Recovery Act Implementation
 - 2/24 Established an SSA Recovery Act website at <http://socialsecurity.gov/recovery/>.
 - 2/24 Posted first major communication report.
 - 3/3 Posted first weekly financial and planned action report.
- One-Time Economic Recovery Payments (ERP)
 - 3/3 Established Treasury symbol 28 9/11 0418 to track funding of ERP payments.
 - 3/3 Established Treasury symbol 28 9/11 0417 to track funding for administrative costs of making ERP payments.
 - 3/3 Modified national 800 number to provide general upfront message.
 - 3/3 Issued an Administrative Message to SSA's internal Policy Net.
 - 3/3 Modified <http://socialsecurity.gov/payment/> for ERP information.
 - 3/3 Weekly meeting with RRB and VA on ERP data matching to eliminate duplicate payments.
 - 3/3 Held internal SSA meetings to review implementation plan and identify issues.
 - 3/3 Submitted apportionment request for ERP funding.
 - 3/3 Met with advocates on ERP.
 - 3/3 Solicited bids through GPO for ERP notice.
 - 3/3 Established an Agency lead to develop program specific Recovery Act plans.
- Replace the National Computer Center (NCC)
 - 3/3 Established Treasury fund symbol 28 x 0417 to track construction and IT equipment purchases separately.
 - 3/3 Submitted apportionment request for NCC funding.
 - 3/3 Held kickoff meeting with SSA, GSA and OMB to discuss implementation plans.
 - 3/3 Established an Agency lead to develop program specific Recovery Act plans.
- Additional Disability and Retirement Workloads
 - 3/3 Established Treasury fund symbol 28 9/10 0417 to track these workloads.
 - 3/3 Submitted apportionment request for workload funding.
 - 3/3 Established an Agency lead to develop program-specific Recovery Act plans.
- Program Oversight and Audit Work
 - 3/3 Established Treasury fund symbol 28 9/12 0403 to track oversight and audit work separately.
 - 3/3 Submitted apportionment request for audit & oversight funding.

Major Planned Actions:

- General Recovery Act Implementation
 - 3/3 Ongoing work with OMB to interpret Recovery Act implementation guidance.
 - 3/3 Meet with OMB on Recovery Act plans and risk management plans.
- One-time Economic Recovery Payments (ERP)
 - 3/3 Apply for a CFDA number through GSA for ERP payments.
 - 3/3 Receive approved apportionment request.
 - 3/3 Issue funding to SSA components.
 - 3/3 Award printing contract for ERP advance information mailer.
 - 3/3 Modify <http://socialsecurity.gov/payment/> with additional FAQs.
 - 3/3 Send an advance information mailer in late April to those who will receive the one-time ERP.
 - 3/3 Meet with component lead to start development of program-specific Recovery Act plans.
- Replace the National Computer Center (NCC)
 - 3/3 Receive approved apportionment request.
 - 3/3 Issue funding to SSA components.
 - 3/3 Meet with component leads to start development of program-specific Recovery Act plans.
- Additional Disability and Retirement Workloads
 - 3/3 Receive approved apportionment request.
 - 3/3 Issue funding to SSA components.
 - 3/3 Meet with component leads to start development of program-specific Recovery Act plans.
- Program Oversight and Audit Work
 - 3/3 Receive approved apportionment request.
 - 3/3 Issue funding to SSA OIG.
 - 3/3 All future OIG activity will be reported on SSA's Office of the Inspector General website.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
(Public Law 111-5)
(Dollars in Thousands)

<u>Agency/Program</u>	<u>Enacted</u>
DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION:	
Agriculture Buildings and Facilities.....	\$24,000
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE:	
Buildings and Facilities.....	176,000
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL:	
Oversight and Audit.....	22,500
FARM SERVICE AGENCY:	
Salaries and Expenses - Information Technology.....	50,000
Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Program Account:	
Farm Operating Direct Loans.....	20,440
Loan Level.....	(173,367)
Total FSA.....	70,440
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE:	
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations.....	290,000
Watershed Rehabilitation Program.....	50,000
Total NRCS.....	340,000
RURAL DEVELOPMENT:	
Salaries and Expenses.....	<u>a/</u>
Rural Business-Cooperative Service:	
Rural Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans Program.....	130,000
Loan Level.....	(2,990,000)
Rural Business Enterprise Grants.....	20,000
Total RBS.....	150,000
Rural Housing Service:	
Rural Community Facilities Loans Program.....	67,000
Loan Level.....	(1,171,000)
Rural Community Facilities Grants Program.....	63,000

Source: http://www.usda.gov/documents/FY09_Stimulus_Enacted.pdf

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
(Public Law 111-5)
(Dollars in Thousands)

<u>Agency/Program</u>	<u>Enacted</u>
Section 502 Direct Single Family Housing Loan Program.....	67,000
Loan Level.....	(1,000,000)
Section 502 Guaranteed Single Family Housing Loan Program.....	133,000
Loan Level.....	(10,472,000)
Total RHS.....	330,000
Rural Utilities Service:	
Rural Water & Waste Disposal Direct Loan Program.....	412,000
Loan Level.....	(2,820,000)
Rural Water & Waste Disposal Grants Program.....	968,000
Distance Learning, Telemedicine, & Broadband Grants Program.....	b/
Distance Learning, Telemedicine, & Broadband Loan Program.....	2,500,000
Loan Level.....	b/
Total RUS.....	3,880,000
FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE:	
WIC Management Information Systems.....	100,000
WIC Contingency Fund.....	400,000
Total WIC.....	500,000
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program:	
Increased Benefits.....	19,836,500
State Administrative Expenses.....	290,500
FDPIR Administrative Expenses.....	5,000
FNS Management and Oversight.....	4,500
Total SNAP.....	20,136,500 c/
Child Nutrition: Equipment Assistance.....	100,000
The Emergency Food Assistance Program.....	150,000
FOREST SERVICE:	
Capital Improvement and Maintenance.....	650,000
Wildland Fire Management.....	500,000
Total FS.....	1,150,000

Source: http://www.usda.gov/documents/FY09_Stimulus_Enacted.pdf

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
(Public Law 111-5)
(Dollars in Thousands)

<u>Agency/Program</u>	<u>Enacted</u>
AGRICULTURAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE TRANSITION:	
2008 Transition Assistance.....	744,000 <u>c/</u>
Aquaculture Assistance Grants (CCC Funds).....	50,000
Total Disaster Assistance.....	794,000
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE:	
Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers.....	202,500 <u>c/</u>
	<u>d/</u>
RECAP:	
Total, USDA Discretionary Funds.....	\$6,942,940
Total, USDA Mandatory Funds.....	21,083,000
Total, USDA.....	<u>28,025,940</u>

a/ The Act allows up to 3 percent of the funds provided to RD for administrative costs (approximately \$130.8 million).

b/ Broadband loan budget authority and loan levels to be determined by the agency.

c/ Mandatory funding; reflects CBO scoring.

d/ Provides \$90 million annually through December 31, 2010 and \$22.5 million for the first quarter of FY 2011.

Source: http://www.usda.gov/documents/FY09_Stimulus_Enacted.pdf

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will use immediately \$145 million of the \$173 million provided in the Recovery Act for its Direct Operating Farm Loan Program, which will give 2,042 farmers – almost 50% are beginning farmers and 10% are socially disadvantaged producers - direct loans from the agency. These loans will be used to purchase items such as farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel and other operating expenses and will stimulate rural economies by providing American farmers funds to operate. Currently, farmers are struggling with the high costs of running family farms, seriously affecting beginning and socially disadvantaged producers.

USDA Rural Development Agency

USDA Rural Development Agency will initially provide nearly 10,000 rural families with \$14.9 million (\$1.17 billion in loan guarantees) for homeownership financing, creating or saving more than 5,000 jobs.

USDA Rural Development will also release funding for more than \$400 million in pending applications for Water and Waste grants and \$140 million in pending applications for Water and Waste Direct Loans. Rural Development expects nearly 13,000 jobs will be created by 400 water and wastewater projects.

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Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)

The Recovery Act provides a 13.6 percent increase in the monthly Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit for recipients, or roughly \$80 per family per month. The SNAP program currently serves over 31 million people each month and the influx of funding will not only help those struggling during these tough economic times but stimulate local economies. It's estimated that for every five dollars spent through SNAP, \$9.20 of local economic activity is generated. This benefit increase will begin to be provided to recipients on April 1, 2009. In addition, ARRA provides nearly \$300 million to help states administer SNAP. The first \$145 million will be released this month to assist States in responding to increased need. An additional \$5 million in funding is provided for the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) for facility improvements and equipment upgrades. This is in addition to the over \$114 million we will spend on food distribution on Indian reservations this year. This program provides a vital service. Reservations and tribal lands are often remote with limited service from grocery stores. It provides commodity foods to low-income households, including the elderly, living on Indian reservations, and to Native American families residing in designated areas near reservations and in the State of Oklahoma. Currently, there are approximately 243 tribes receiving benefits under the FDPIR through 98 ITOs and 5 State agencies. In addition, the Recovery Act provides additional funding for the Emergency Food Assistance Program. Through this program, USDA provides commodities and administrative funds to states for further distribution to local organizations that assist the needy, including food banks, food pantries, and soup kitchens. The first \$25 million to support administrative functions will be distributed this month.

FNS programs will help those workers and families hardest hit by the economic crisis

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns/recovery/recovery-snap.htm>

The Recovery Act increases benefits for SNAP recipients. Starting in April, a participating household of four will receive an increase of \$80 in benefits. Over 5 years, the increases in benefits are estimated to total \$20 billion.

The Recovery Act also provides nearly \$300 million to States for SNAP administrative expenses in FY 2009 and 2010.

This chart shows the additional amount most households in the lower 48 States and the District of Columbia will receive.

Household Size	Increase
1	\$24
2	\$44
3	\$63
4	\$80
5	\$95
6	\$114
7	\$126
8	\$144
Each extra person	\$18

Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, and the Virgin Islands have different tables.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns/recovery/recovery-wic.htm>

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) will receive a total of \$500 million:

- \$400 million has been provided to support participation should the Secretary determine that costs or participation exceed budget estimates
- \$100 million has been provided to establish, improve, or administer WIC management information systems to include changes necessary to meet new legislative or regulatory requirements.

National School Lunch Program (NSLP)

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns/recovery/recovery-nslp.htm>

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) will receive \$100 million for competitive grants to schools for the purchase of school food service equipment.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns/recovery/recovery-tefap.htm>

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) will receive \$100 million to purchase commodities for food banks to refill emptying shelves and \$50 million to assist with administrative functions.

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns/recovery/recovery-fdpir.htm>

The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) will receive \$5 million for facility improvements and equipment upgrades.

US Forest Service

Forest Service: Implementing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act)

Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the President has asked the Forest Service help put people back to work. We anticipate receiving over a billion dollars this year for our Economic Recovery program, and we expect to create almost 30,000 new private sector jobs over the next two years. Those jobs will be concentrated in two major projects: Wildland Fire Management and Capital Improvement and Maintenance.

The Forest Service has released almost \$100 million of the \$1.15 billion for projects in the Recovery Act. The stimulus funding will be used for hazardous fuels reduction, forest health protection, and rehabilitation and hazard mitigation activities on federal, state and private lands. Over 1,500 jobs will be created through shovel ready projects that will be released this week for urban youth and individuals involved in urban forestry, restoration projects fire prevention, roads, bridges, buildings and recreation facilities.

Forest Service ARRA Projects by States

This first set of projects - for construction and maintenance of facilities, roads, and trails, and abandoned mine mitigation and for wildland fire management projects - comprise 10% of the total projects being funded in the Forest Service under ARRA.

Forest Service ARRA Projects by states can be found at http://fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5053328.pdf

Forest Service Chief Kimbell's Message

"With the funds provided by the Act, the Forest Service Economic Recovery Program will immediately create jobs in land stewardship, infrastructure repair and conversion and in the production of energy from wood."

Forest Service Chief Kimbell's Message

As you know, the United States is in its worst economic crisis since the 1930s. During the Great Depression, the President called on the Forest Service for help. Through the Civilian Conservation Corps, we hired millions of unemployed citizens, helping to rebuild lives and provide a lasting service to the nation through fire control, reforestation, and early construction of roads, trails and facilities.

Now we have a similar opportunity to serve our country in the cause of conservation. Under the economic stimulus legislation he has just signed, the President has asked the Forest Service help put people back to work. We anticipate getting over a billion this year for our Economic Recovery program, and we expect to create almost 30,000 new private sector jobs over the next two years.

Why the Forest Service? Because we are ideally situated to help. Many of the communities most affected by the economic downturn are located near national forests. Our employees are woven into the community fabric; we know local needs, and we have the local capacity to provide training and employment.

We already provide some of the best, most dependable private sector rural jobs in America, and we have opportunities for many more, including millions of acres of needed restoration work and a huge backlog of shovel-ready projects related to roads, bridges, buildings, and recreational facilities.

And through Job Corps, we have training opportunities in place and ready to go.

The purpose of the economic recovery legislation is to create as many jobs as quickly as possible—to get money flowing through the economy again. The Forest Service will be guided by that same purpose. As we implement this legislation, we will not increase the federal workforce; we will spend all funds on targeted ready projects; and we will begin our work promptly and complete it within 2 to 3 years for most activities.

For the past two months, we have been addressing our needs to increase our contracting and agreements management capacity and developing strategies to prioritize workload and to apply our efforts as effectively as possible to meet the work ahead of us. Our Business Operations staffs will be primed and ready to handle the additional workload related to hiring, budgets, acquisitions, and payroll processing.

We are creating good private sector jobs during difficult economic times. We are also accomplishing some of our highest priority stewardship work on public and state and private lands.

As with all of our activities, our partners for the national forests and grasslands, Research, and State and Private Forestry will all contribute to our success.

Restoring forests and grasslands, reducing hazardous fuels, expanding wood-to-energy programs, and improving our infrastructure all contribute to our priorities of healthy ecosystems, reduced risks to communities, abundant water, public enjoyment and addressing climate change.

This is a great honor for the Forest Service—and a great opportunity. In the best tradition of the Forest Service, we will make the Economic Recovery program a success.

Wildland Fire Protection and Removal of Hazardous Fuels

Several projects for wildland fire protection and removal of hazardous fuels that will begin immediately. These USDA projects, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), will create thousands of jobs in California, Colorado, Florida, and Oregon.

"President Obama is delivering on his promise to the American people to create jobs," said Vilsack. "These private sector jobs will increase forest restoration and decrease the size and intensity of wildland fires. Providing healthy forests puts men and women to work and makes communities safer and healthier."

USDA received approximately \$33 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to fund wildland fire management projects and the removal of hazardous fuels. Projects funded by the Recovery Act also will assist with technology that converts wood to energy. Wood bioenergy, derived from the fiber of removed hazardous fuels, has become a cost-effective energy source. The use of economic recovery funds for this effort will be an investment in America's future.

USDA anticipates creating 25,000 new jobs over the next two years on projects relating to land stewardship and watershed restoration, green infrastructure repair and in the production of energy from wood. Many of the most affected communities of the economic downturn are located near national forests. Rural jobs are being created on millions of acres in need of restoration work so that money can flow into local communities.

The following projects are being implemented immediately:

In California, \$1.5 million of Recovery Act funding will create jobs across Northern California. The project work will include fuel reduction work near communities, Forest Service recreation facilities, and access routes and will also maintain facilities to reduce deferred maintenance while making crews available for fires suppression when needed.

In Colorado, \$5 million of Recovery Act funding has been targeted to remove dead trees along 150 miles of roadsides affected by the large-scale mountain pine beetle infestation. In addition, fire prevention projects to remove hazardous fuels around private property and communities-at-risk and critical municipal watersheds serving Denver and the Front Range are underway.

In Florida, a state-wide hazardous fuels reduction program and a public safety and educational campaign are underway because of Recovery Act funding. Not only will this reduce threat to communities at risk from wildfire, but it also provides protection to the large number of vacant and foreclosed property around the state. Direct stimulus through contracts, services, supplies and salaries will help the hard-hit economy throughout the state.

In Oregon, initial wildland fire management projects totaling \$16.5 million have been identified. Many of these projects are associated with the Youth Employment Initiative and will offer work that supports natural resource management and conservation education.

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National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

NRCS Information Related To the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act)

NRCS: Implementing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act)

NRCS Recovery Act will fund projects that provide the greatest public and environmental benefits through floodplain easements and investments in watershed infrastructure improvements. Watershed rehabilitation projects will mitigate the risks of failure and threats to public safety posed by aging flood control infrastructure. Potential projects are being evaluated and specific information will be posted as implementation proceeds.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will release up to \$145 million provided in the Recovery Act to restore frequently flooded land to its natural state; create jobs in rural communities nationwide when landowners establish these floodplain easements; as well as restore and protect an estimated 60,000 acres of flood-prone lands nationwide through the floodplain easement component of its Emergency Watershed Protection Program. Signups for the easements will be held from March 9 – March 27 nationwide.

NRCS will release \$80 million of the \$145 million for watershed projects this week. Through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Operations Program funded projects will improve fish and wildlife habitat and create or restore wetlands. NRCS also will release \$50 million this week for rehabilitating aging watershed structures to protect lives and property and public infrastructure. Over 2,100 jobs directly related to NRCS Recovery Act funding are estimated in the engineering and biological fields, additional specialized equipment operators, construction crews and many other diversified skilled laborers.

The Recovery Act funding for NRCS will be under the following three programs:

- **Watershed Rehabilitation**

Funding Provided: \$50,000,000

Program Description:

The authority for rehabilitation of aging watershed dams is included in section 14 of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (PL 83-566). Any of the over 11,000 dams in 47 states that were constructed under the four watershed programs (PL-534, PL-566, Pilot, or RC&D) are eligible for assistance under this authority. Many of these dams are nearing the end of their 50-year design life. Rehabilitation of these dams is needed to address critical public health and safety issues in these

communities. Priority for funding of projects is based on a priority ranking system that considers the condition of the dam and number of people at risk if the dam should fail. NRCS may provide technical assistance and 65% of the total rehabilitation project cost. (Additional Watershed Rehabilitation Information)

- **Watershed Operations**

Funding Provided: \$145,000,000

Program Description:

This voluntary program provides assistance to sponsoring local organizations of authorized watershed projects, planned and approved under the authority of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 (P.L. 83-566), and designated watersheds authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1944 (P.L. 78-534). NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to States, local governments and Tribes (as project sponsors) to implement authorized watershed project plans for the purpose of watershed protection; flood mitigation; water quality improvements; soil erosion reduction; rural, municipal and industrial water supply; irrigation water management; sediment control; fish and wildlife enhancement; and wetlands and wetland function creation and restoration. There are over 1,500 active or completed watershed projects. (Additional Watershed Operations Information)

- **Floodplain Easements**

Funding Provided: \$145,000,000 (\$30,000,000 maximum for any one state)

Program Description:

Floodplain easements restore, protect, maintain, and enhance the functions of the floodplain; conserve natural values including fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, flood water retention, ground water recharge, and open space; reduce long-term federal disaster assistance; and safeguard lives and property from floods, drought, and the products of erosion. NRCS may purchase easements on floodplain lands that meet program criteria. Purchases are based upon established priorities. The easement provides NRCS with the authority to restore and enhance the floodplain's functions and values. Landowners retain several rights to the property, including quiet enjoyment, the right to control public access, and the right to undeveloped recreational use such as hunting and fishing. (Additional Floodplain Easements Information)

Opportunity	Agency/Office/Location	Type ▼	Posted On ▲
RECOVERY - Fountain Creek Road Repair RECOVERY AG-02NV-S-09-0041 Z -- Maintenance, repair, and alteration of real property	Department of Agriculture Forest Service R-4 IDAWY Acquisition Service Center	Presolicitation	Mar 17, 2009
RECOVERY - Ditch Creek Bridge Replacement & Road Improvement RECOVERY AG-02NV-S-09-0028 Z -- Maintenance, repair, and alteration of real property	Department of Agriculture Forest Service R-4 IDAWY Acquisition Service Center	Presolicitation	Mar 17, 2009
RECOVERY - Notice of intent to award to a Single Source for A-E Services at the Eastern Regional Research Center, Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania. RECOVERY AG-3K15-S-09-0006 C -- Architect and engineering services	Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service Facilities Division, Facilities Contract Branch	Presolicitation	Mar 16, 2009
RECOVERY - Precast Concrete Toilet Buildings - Mark Twain National Forest RECOVERY AG-447U-S-09-0021AY 54 -- Prefabricated structures and scaffolding	Department of Agriculture Forest Service R8/R9 Western Operations Center-AQM	Award	Mar 17, 2009
	Department of Agriculture	Presolicitation	Mar 17,

Opportunity	Agency/Office/Location	Type ▼	Posted On ▲
<u>RECOVERY - FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY - RECREATION SITE FURNITURE</u> RECOVERY AG-4419-S-09-0001AY 78 -- Recreational & athletic equipment	Forest Service R8/R9 Western Operations Center-AQM		2009
<u>RECOVERY - Mechanical Roadside Vegetation Removal</u> RECOVERY AG-9A28-S-09-0029 F -- Natural resources & conservation services	Department of Agriculture Forest Service R-5 Northern Province Acquisitions, Redding Office	Combined Synopsis/Solicitation	Mar 16, 2009
<u>RECOVERY: VAULT TOILET DEMOLITION</u> RECOVERY AG-82BH-S-09-0011 Z -- Maintenance, repair, and alteration of real property	Department of Agriculture Forest Service R-2 Rocky Mountain Region	Presolicitation (Modified)	Mar 16, 2009
<u>RECOVERY Dry Straits Road Surfacing Project</u> RECOVERY AG-0489--S-09-0004 Y -- Construction of structures and facilities	Department of Agriculture Forest Service R-10 Tongass National Forest	Presolicitation	Mar 13, 2009
<u>RECOVERY - Tonka Surfacing Phase II</u> RECOVERY AG-0489-S-09-0002 Y -- Construction of structures and facilities	Department of Agriculture Forest Service R-10 Tongass National Forest	Presolicitation	Mar 13, 2009

Opportunity	Agency/Office/Location	Type ▼	Posted On ▲
Eight Fathom Cabin RECOVERY AG-0116-S-09-0020 Y -- Construction of structures and facilities	Department of Agriculture Forest Service R-10 Tongass National Forest	Award	Mar 13, 2009
RECOVERY - Notice of Intent to Award to a Single Source for A-E Services at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. RECOVERY AG-3K15-S-09-0008 C -- Architect and engineering services	Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service Facilities Division, Facilities Contract Branch	Presolicitation	Mar 13, 2009
RECOVERY Notice of Intent to Award to a Single Source for A-E Services at the National Agricultural Library in Beltsville, Maryland RECOVERY AG-3K15-S-09-0007 C -- Architect and engineering services	Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service Facilities Division, Facilities Contract Branch	Presolicitation	Mar 12, 2009
Area wide market analysis RECOVERY Market R -- Professional, administrative, and management support services	Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Pennsylvania State Office	Sources Sought (Modified)	Mar 10, 2009
TITLE SEARCH AND CLOSING SERVICES FOR USDA, NRCS IN VERMONT	Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation	Combined Synopsis/Solicitation	Mar 05, 2009

Opportunity	Agency/Office/Location	Type ▼	Posted On ▲
RECOVERY AG1644S090002 R -- Professional, administrative, and management support services	Service Vermont State Office	(Modified)	
<u>"Recovery" - THIS NOTICE IS PROVIDED FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. THIS OPPORTUNITY IS ONLY AVAILABLE TO CONTRACTORS UNDER AG-3142--53-3142-4-6049 - Revision to USDA HDQTRS' South Bldg Modernization Phase 4A</u> RECOVERY AG-SBM-PH-4A C -- Architect and engineering services	Department of Agriculture Office of Procurement and Property Management Procurement Operations Division	Presolicitation	Mar 05, 2009