



# NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Forest Service  
Pacific Southwest Region



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## FOREST SERVICE CONTRIBUTES TO NATIONAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY

**VALLEJO, Calif., March 9, 2009** – U.S. Forest Service Chief Abigail Kimbell announced today the Agency's plan to participate in the nation's economic recovery program. The Forest Service has received \$1.15 billion from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The first group of Forest Service projects nationwide created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, totaling \$98 million, have been selected. These initial projects will create 1,500 jobs, giving the Agency the early opportunity to put people to work. The remaining projects, totaling \$1.052 billion, will be announced shortly and will create an additional 23,500 jobs nationwide.

First round projects on lands managed by the Forest Service in California will include maintenance and construction on facilities, roads and trails totaling 70 jobs and \$7.75 million. The jobs are estimated to last from four months up to a year. These projects will benefit 11 counties.

The Eldorado National Forest will receive funding to replace roofs at five locations: the Forest Service auto shop and fire cache near Camino; an historic cabin at Alder Ridge Lookout; the historic Bunker Hill Lookout; and a Forest Service building at Echo Summit.

"I'm looking forward to the opportunity to provide private sector jobs," said Eldorado National Forest Supervisor Ramiro Villalvazo. "This is the first round of funding and we look forward to receiving additional funds to put more people to work. The roofing project will be a good start."

Under the language of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Forest Service will create as many jobs as possible to support communities and to get money flowing through the economy again. All funds will be spent on specific targeted projects that are, or soon will be, ready to go.

"The Forest Service anticipates playing a key role in our nation's economic recovery," said Chief Kimbell. "We are grateful for the confidence Congress has shown us and look forward to demonstrating how the Forest Service can create good jobs during difficult times," Kimbell added.

Many of the most affected communities of the economic downturn are located near national forests. Rural jobs will be created in areas needing restoration work with shovel ready projects related to fire prevention, roads, bridges, buildings and recreation facilities.

More detailed information about new Forest Service projects and jobs in California will be forthcoming.

Information on the overall U.S. Forest Service role in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act can be found at: <http://fs.usda.gov/recovery>. Information on the total federal effort can be found at <http://www.recovery.gov>.