

# U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station

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## U.S. Forest Service to Contribute to National Economic Stimulus

*FRESNO, Calif., March 6, 2009*—U.S. Forest Service Chief Abigail Kimbell announced on Thursday 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.

At this time, about 10 percent of the Forest Service projects created by the American Recovery and Economic Stimulus 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 90 percent of projects, totaling \$1.052 billion, will be announced shortly and will create an additional 23,500 jobs nationwide.

In Fresno and Madera Counties, two sites managed by the agency's Pacific Southwest Research Station are among the initial projects that have been selected.

One is the Dinkey Mills barracks, located on the Sierra National Forest's High Sierra Ranger District about 10 miles east of Shaver Lake. Funds will be used to build two facilities in Fresno County that will house Forest Service scientists and their collaborators as they conduct research in the Kings River Experimental Watershed and study species such as the Pacific fisher.

The other is located at the San Joaquin Experimental Range, 20 miles north of Fresno in Madera County. Project funds will be used there for restoration of a historic adobe structure for use by scientists as they study climate change, species biodiversity and sustainable grazing practices in an area typical of California oak savannas.

"These projects are particularly important as issues like climate change highlight the need for our scientists and their collaborators to better understand how interactions between human and natural processes bring changes to the landscape," said Pacific Southwest Research Station Director Deanna J. Stouder.

Under the language of the American Recovery and Economic Stimulus Act, the Forest Service will create as many jobs as possible to support communities and 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."

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.

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>.

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