

U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station

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<http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/>

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

RIVERSIDE, 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 Riverside County, one site managed by the agency's Pacific Southwest Research Station is among the initial projects that have been selected.

Project funds will be used to repair roofs, and replace windows and doors on three buildings at the Riverside Forest Fire Laboratory, located on Canyon Crest Drive. The repairs will protect the building from weather damage, save energy and improve the working environment for about 60 Forest Service employees.

"This repair work will help us incorporate environmental stewardship into our daily operations by reducing our resource consumption through more sustainable practices," 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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