

**American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009**

**Program Plan for**  
**Department of the Interior**  
**Wildland Fire Management**  
**Hazardous Fuels Reduction**



**May 14, 2009**

## Table of Contents

<i>Part I: Recovery Act Implementation at the Department of the Interior</i> .....	<i>1-1</i>
<b>Background</b> .....	<b>1-1</b>
<b>Project Selection</b> .....	<b>1-1</b>
<b>Implementation of Recovery Act</b> .....	<b>1-4</b>
<i>Part II: Recovery Act Implementation of the Department-wide Hazardous Fuels Reduction Program</i> .....	<i>2-1</i>
<b>DOI Accountable Official</b> .....	<b>2-2</b>
<b>Funding Categories</b> .....	<b>2-2</b>
<b>Process for Allocating Hazardous Fuels Reduction Funds</b> .....	<b>2-2</b>
<b>Governance at DOI</b> .....	<b>2-3</b>
<b>Administrative Costs</b> .....	<b>2-4</b>
<i>Part III: Hazardous Fuels Reduction</i> .....	<i>3-1</i>
<b>Program Manager</b> .....	<b>3-1</b>
<b>Objectives</b> .....	<b>3-1</b>
<b>Activities</b> .....	<b>3-2</b>
<b>Selection Criteria</b> .....	<b>3-2</b>
<b>Characteristics (Types of Financial Awards to be Used)</b> .....	<b>3-4</b>
<b>Performance Measures</b> .....	<b>3-5</b>
<b>Project Milestones and Completion</b> .....	<b>3-6</b>
<i>Part IV: Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project List</i> .....	<i>4-1</i>

# Part I: Recovery Act Implementation at the Department of the Interior

## *Background*

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the Recovery Act) is an unprecedented investment in our country's future. Funding is used to support job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization.

President Obama has set out specific goals in implementing the Recovery Act, including:

- Create or save more than 3.5 million jobs government-wide over the next two years;
- Revive the renewable energy industry and provide the capital over the next three years to eventually double domestic renewable energy capacity;
- As part of the \$150 billion investment in new infrastructure, enact the largest increase in funding of our nation's roads, bridges, and mass transit systems since the creation of the national highway system in the 1950's; and
- Require unprecedented levels of transparency, oversight, and accountability.

The Department of the Interior will play an important role in this effort. Investments will focus on job creation, infrastructure needs, and creating lasting value. The opportunity provided by the Act will:

- Accelerate a move toward a clean energy economy;
- Provide jobs that build employable skills and develop an appreciation for environmental stewardship in young adults; and
- Preserve and restore the nation's iconic and treasured structures, landscapes, and cultural resources.

## *Project Selection*

### **Criteria**

In recognition of the urgency to select and execute projects expeditiously, the Department established unified priorities and formulated guidance to lead the bureaus in the project selection process. The guidance prescribed that the following framework be used to assess a project's suitability for Recovery Act funding:

- **Expediency of implementation.** The ability to execute a project within the legislated timeframe was an important practical consideration – can the project be responsibly executed within the time limitations of the Recovery Act? With a few exceptions, Recovery Act funds are available for obligation through September 30, 2010. In addition, Section 1602 of the Act reads "...recipients shall give preference to activities that can be started and completed expeditiously, including

a goal of using at least 50 percent of the funds for activities that can be initiated no later than 120 days after the date of enactment.” The Department’s concern was two-fold: 1) the purpose of the Recovery Act is to get funds out to stimulate the economy quickly; and 2) if funds are committed to a project that experiences a delay beyond September 30, 2009, the funds are no longer available for that project or any other bureau requirement. This criteria was a limiting factor that impacted other agency priorities considered during the selection process including meritorious projects that were not far enough along with design or permitting to be obligated by September 30, 2010.

- **Addresses high priority mission needs.** Does the project target the bureau’s highest priorities within the categories specified in the legislation? Has the project been evaluated through established procedures to address high priority needs? Are public lands, parks, refuges and resources renewed as a result of the project? With respect to deferred maintenance and line item construction, is the ranking consistent with existing priorities and processes?
- **Job creation potential.** Pursuant to the primary goal of the Recovery Act, what is the potential of the project to quickly create jobs and stimulate local economies?
- **Merit-based.** Was the project selected using merit-based and transparent criteria? Are competitive awards used to the maximum extent possible? Do the criteria incorporate existing prioritization processes?
- **Long-term value.** To what extent does the project create long-term value for the American public through improved energy independence, restoration of treasured landscapes or other lasting benefits?
- **Energy objectives.** For proposed construction or deferred maintenance projects, do they incorporate energy efficient and renewable energy technologies? Do they have a component that will further clean energy and independence goals?
- **Opportunities for youth.** Does the project engage young adults and instill education about our public lands and cultural resources?
- **Future cost avoidance.** Does the project create new operational requirements in future years? Or, conversely, will the project decrease operating costs through energy improvements or disposal of unneeded and costly assets?

## **Priorities**

Within the Executive Summary of each bureau recovery implementation plan is a discussion of the bureau’s process for allocating priorities among the funding categories. The following principles are common among the bureau’s initial allocation processes: response to the direction provided by Congress in the statute and accompanying report, and preliminary assessments of programmatic requirements and capability to effectively

use additional funding. Once targets for the funding categories were determined, project selection within the category was accomplished through a combination of consideration of merit-based criteria – using established processes where possible – project readiness, and additional benefits – such as operating cost reductions.

The primary established process for the prioritization and allocation of resources has been the Department's 5-Year planning process. The Department has a standard capital asset planning process, for which the bureaus develop 5-Year plans identifying deferred maintenance and construction needs. The 5-Year Deferred Maintenance (DM) and Capital Improvement Planning process is the backbone of the asset management plans which are used to formulate the Department's budget requests. The plans are developed, and updated, on an annual basis at the bureau level using uniform criteria to rank both DM and Capital Improvement Projects. Categories for ranking projects include Critical Health Safety, Critical Resource Protection, Energy, Critical Mission, Code Compliance, and Other Deferred Maintenance.

The categories used in the rating process are weighted so that projects that address critical health and safety needs will receive the highest score. The final score of a project also takes into account the asset priority for the project. The Department's goal in the 5-year planning process is to focus its limited resources on projects that are both mission critical and in the most need of repair/replacement.

The 5-year planning process is an established Departmental prioritization methodology used only in the development of construction and deferred maintenance requirements. There is no similar process for other program areas receiving ARRA funding such as habitat restoration or energy improvements. For those program areas, the bureau's specific evaluation process is described within the details of their program plan.

To the extent practicable, Recovery Act projects in deferred maintenance and construction were drawn from the 5-Year lists. Each bureau's detailed Recovery Act plan indicates the extent to which selected projects were derived from existing capital plans and provides the rationale for any exceptions.

There are legitimate reasons why a Recovery Act project might not come from a 5-Year Plan. In many cases, it reflects timing. The Recovery Act requires the obligation of funds by September 20, 2010. Projects involving complicated procurements, significant environmental considerations, or with considerable planning and design components, may not be good Recovery Act investments because of the need to obligate project funds quickly. Additionally, Secretary Salazar has challenged each bureau to select projects that can also be completed within the timeframe of the Recovery Act in order to maximize the beneficial impact to the economy further refining the list of eligible projects.

The scope of the 5-Year plans is also limited. Each 5-Year Plan assumes a five year funding level consistent with prior appropriations. For some bureaus, the Recovery Act funding exceeds the total amounts assumed in the 5-Year Plans. In addition, two years of the available 5-Year Plans will be addressed through the regular FY 2009 and FY 2010

appropriation processes. In cases where the 5-Year Plan has been exhausted, the bureau has selected Recovery Act projects from other existing capital planning lists.

### **Contingency Projects**

As part of the Department's internal process, each bureau has identified a list of eligible projects for Secretarial approval larger than the amount of available Recovery Act funding. Preparing for additional projects to be implemented by identifying a larger universe of eligible projects will expedite the deployment of alternate projects in the event that: (1) a specific Recovery Act project experiences delays in execution and cannot be implemented within Recovery Act timeframes or (2) other project cost estimates come in lower than anticipated, allowing additional projects to be funded within the bureau's total Recovery Act funding levels. These projects are not identified in this plan, but the projects will be announced once it is clear funds are available to support the projects. The selection of contingency projects will be included as part of regular reporting through [recovery.gov](http://recovery.gov).

### ***Implementation of Recovery Act***

#### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The establishment of meaningful and measurable outcomes is an important component of Interior's Recovery Act reporting. Performance monitoring and oversight efforts are designed to ensure that the Department meets the accountability objectives of the Recovery Act.

These efforts include tracking the progress of key goals. The Department is defining a suite of performance measurements to monitor progress made in accomplishing stated work goals and to ensure financial and procurement practices are executed responsibly. In addition, the Department's Recovery Act Coordinator is collaborating with senior Departmental officials, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Office of Inspector General to ensure oversight of the program from the first phase of project selection, through implementation and execution. The Coordinator, with the assistance of the Recovery Act Board, will be evaluating processes to ensure that adequate mechanisms are in place and identify and share best practices to promote:

- Maximized use of competitive awards
- Timely and transparent award of dollars
- Timely and appropriate expenditure of dollars
- Verification and timely completion of planned work
- Minimized cost overruns
- Minimized improper payments

Measurement and reporting is a crucial component of Interior's oversight strategy. The information received will serve as an indicator of progress enabling the Department's governance entities to manage risk and ensure successful implementation of the Recovery Act. Department-wide, consistent guidance will guide efforts in this regard, including for example, development of a risk management program.

## **Accountability and Transparency**

The President and Congress have made it clear that the Act must be carried out with unparalleled levels of accountability and transparency. The President's commitment to manage these investments transparently will be met through Agency reporting on performance metrics and the execution of the funds on recovery.gov. Reporting requirements related to major contract actions and financial status, including obligations and outlays, are being instituted. Periodic reviews of implementation progress at both the bureau and Departmental levels will identify the need to realign resources to expedite projects, to modify project plans or to select contingency projects to ensure funds are obligated within the time limitation. The selection of contingency projects will be included as part of regular reporting through recovery.gov.

The Recovery Coordinator will oversee bureau implementation to ensure projects address the Department's high priority goals and objectives, while also working to ensure that department-wide performance objectives, including timeliness and cost and risk management, are met throughout the process.

The Office of Inspector General will be working closely with the Department from the start to review and propose effective processes to manage risks, monitor progress and to improve overall performance and accountability.

As part of routine reporting, the Department is also carefully tracking all projects subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). During the project selection phase the Department identified which projects had already completed NEPA planning, which are in progress, and which ones still need to begin the NEPA process. The Department will track the status of all NEPA compliance activities associated with projects or activities and report quarterly to the Council on Environmental Quality.

## **Administration**

The Department's oversight and administration is led by the Secretary with leadership by the Recovery Act Coordinator. He utilizes an Executive Board and Department-wide Task Force to assist. The Executive Board is the entity responsible for ensuring compliance with the Recovery Act execution reporting, and audit requirements. The Board will be convened once project decisions are made and plans are finalized. The Board consists of nine members, and is chaired by the Department's Chief of Staff. The other board members are the Recovery Act Coordinator, Solicitor, Inspector General, and the four programmatic Assistant Secretaries within Interior and the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget.

The Recovery Act Task Force ensures consistent implementation of the Recovery Act, promotes collaboration and sharing of skills and best practices among bureaus, develops implementation guidance, oversees the process for completion of Recovery Act plans and project lists, and develops the infrastructure needed for on-going monitoring of progress and performance. It is co-chaired by the Recovery Act Coordinator and the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget, and is responsible for implementation of

the Recovery Act. The Task Force has representatives from each bureau, as well as all the functional areas across the Department.

There are workgroups reporting to the Task Force that are developing processes and guidance on reporting, performance, communications, project approval, administration, risk management, acquisitions, and youth involvement. As implementation progresses, workgroups will be disbanded and others may be established.

In addition to these Departmental groups, each bureau has established its own governance structure. Bureau task forces and boards will ensure that programs execute projects effectively and meet the accountability and transparency objectives of the Act. A Recovery Act coordinator has been designated for each bureau.

The bureau task forces have responsibilities from the development of project lists through completion. They develop the project lists, establish the necessary controls, and develop tracking mechanisms to ensure they are managing schedules and performance, and meeting the reporting requirements. The task forces meet regularly to ensure proper oversight. Each bureau has developed a leadership structure to manage the Recovery Act implementation. Responsibility for key components, such as reporting and oversight, has been delegated to the bureaus' senior management officials. The bureaus will also use staff in the field to provide direct oversight and leadership and provide reports to their executive leadership.

### **Barriers to Effective Implementation**

The volume of funding provided in the Recovery Act and the contracts that will be awarded to execute these resources will challenge Interior's current procurement processing capacity. Interior's FY 2009 appropriation was \$11.3 billion. The Recovery Act supplements this request by \$3 billion, an increase of 27% over the original request. Interior has taken a common-sense approach to best utilize existing resources to implement the Recovery Act. However, the investment required to handle the increase in funding will strain Interior's on-board resources. While the Act authorizes the set-aside of monetary resources to alleviate the administrative burden (e.g. hiring additional contracts staff), the real management issue is ensuring that procurement resources, no matter how plentiful, are knowledgeable and responsible. The Department plans to meet these resource challenges by sharing staff and expertise across bureaus, hiring term and temporary staff, and reemploying knowledgeable annuitants.

In addition to expanding resources to implement the Recovery Act, Interior is also working to streamline business processes to help alleviate resource challenges. The bureaus are encouraged to make use of techniques such as the grouping of like work orders into a single project to reduce acquisition time. Another example that is currently under consideration is the consolidation of procurement functions related to the Recovery Act. This strategy would relieve seasoned acquisition staff of their routine duties to have them focus on Recovery Act procurements. The regular duties would be assumed by alternative DOI acquisition staff. Concentrating Recovery Act procurement expertise would result in processing efficiencies and expedite the use of funds.



There are external considerations which may also pose barriers to the effective implementation of Recovery Act projects. The Department's ability to execute selected projects is dependent on the availability of qualified contractors. The supply of contractors able to meet an aggressive project schedule may get smaller as more Recovery Act projects are advertised and projects start to compete for resources. Delays or increased costs could be experienced in areas with a small indigenous workforce where several projects are proposed and resources are only available from a greater distance.

Although the initial project selection process considered potential risks to the timely obligation of funds, projects may experience unforeseen delays in achieving key project milestones such as design or permitting. The Department has developed a contingency list of approved projects to address this situation; however, the process to recognize and terminate a selected project will delay implementation of the contingency project. As implementation moves closer to the September 30, 2010 expiration date for unobligated funds, contingency projects are more likely to be selected for expediency rather than for other considerations.

Another factor in the execution of the Department's Recovery projects will be unforeseen requirements of critical mission activities. One bureau in particular, the Bureau of Land Management, has indicated that a high fire season could significantly delay their ability to execute Recovery projects. During a fire, most of BLM's Federal staff in the regions are also trained firefighters and when called to duty, non-essential duties take a second priority.

To the extent possible, Interior has taken steps to address these considerations to get the work of the Recovery Act done. Interior's governance bodies, such as the Recovery Act Task Force and the subsidiary acquisition workgroup, will handle resource issues raised by its members and the bureaus to ensure adequate staffing and contingency planning for the Recovery Act implementation.

## Part II: Recovery Act Implementation of the Department-wide Hazardous Fuels Reduction Program

Funds provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA, or Recovery Act) will create jobs and will provide a significant boost to the Department's Wildland Fire Management program's hazardous fuels reduction (HFR) activities. The Department will use these funds to support the President's priorities for job preservation and creation by investing in hazardous fuels reduction projects on thousands of acres of Federal lands. These investments will support local communities, restore healthy landscapes, and protect communities at risk from wildland fires. Where possible, we will invite young adults to participate in these efforts to create more resilient landscapes.

Within the Department's Wildland Fire Management program, the HFR program works to minimize the impacts of wildfires that may pose a threat to communities and cultural and natural resources. Fuel reduction and restoration treatments remove or modify wildland fuels to reduce the potential for intense wildland fire behavior, lessen post-fire damage, limit the proliferation and spread of invasive species and diseases, and restore and maintain healthy, diverse ecosystems.

Wildland fuels reduction projects often produce natural materials suitable for use as biomass feedstock or which can be used to produce other products that create employment. Woody biomass includes the trees and woody plants, including limbs, tops, needles, leaves, and other woody parts, grown in a forest or rangeland environment, that are the by-products of restoration and hazardous fuels reduction treatments. If not utilized, these biomass materials would be placed in landfills or burned under controlled conditions. In an effort to maximize the near-term employment benefits of the ARRA investment, the Department applied an additional selection factor in the review of potential projects – the potential for secondary use of biomass material removed from a project site.

All of the \$15 million appropriated to the DOI Wildland Fire Management program in the Recovery Act will be used for high priority hazardous fuels reduction projects on Federal lands. In addition, projects were considered for their *potential* for post-treatment utilization of biomass material generated at the project sites.

<b>Program</b>	<b>Funding Amount</b>	<b># of Projects</b>
Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects	\$14,255,000	55
Administrative Support (5 percent)	\$745,000	N/A
Total Hazardous Fuels Reduction Funding	\$15,000,000	55

## **DOI Accountable Official**

Oversight and accountability for the Department’s implementation of the HFR Recovery Act funds is provided by Kirk Rowdabaugh, Director of the Office of Wildland Fire Coordination (OWFC). He can be reached at 202-606-3147, or by email at: [krowdabaugh@ios.doi.gov](mailto:krowdabaugh@ios.doi.gov).

The coordinator and staff of the Department’s wildland fire program will review implementation progress, monitor the need to realign resources to expedite projects, identify the need to modify project plans, and select contingency projects to ensure funds are obligated within the time limitation. The four DOI wildland fire management bureaus will provide reports on budget execution and performance metrics directly to OWFC. OWFC will compile the metrics for all four bureaus and meet all Administration reporting requirements.

## **Funding Categories**

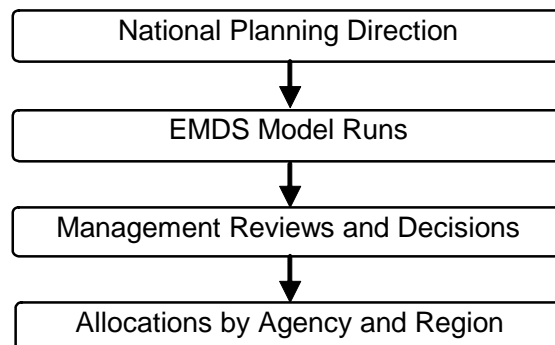
The Recovery Act legislation reads “*For an additional amount for “Wildland Fire Management”, for hazardous fuels reduction, \$15,000,000.00*”. The conference report (H.R. 111-16) states: “conference agreement provides \$15,000,000 for wildland fire management”...“the funds should be used for high priority hazardous fuels reduction projects on Federal lands.”

All funds provided in the Act will be allocated in one funding category, hazardous fuels reduction.

## **Process for Allocating Hazardous Fuels Reduction Funds**

The DOI wildland fire management agencies adopted a systematic hazardous fuels allocation process in 2007. The Hazardous Fuels Prioritization and Allocation System, (HFPAS) is now used each year at the Department to provide the basis for making annual hazardous fuels reduction agency allocations. A high level view of this process follows.

### Hazardous Fuels Prioritization and Allocation System (HFPAS)



HFPAS employs the use of a modeling tool called Ecosystem Management Decision Support, or EMDS. The EMDS tool provides a common approach that all agencies use to help direct funds to reduce hazardous fuels in those areas of the country that have higher risk of wildland fire and to help minimize the loss of valued resources. EMDS outputs are mapped nationally by agency to produce a visual representation of relative priorities.

EMDS results from 2009 provided the starting point to gather hazardous fuels reduction projects proposed for Recovery Act funding. Proposed projects in these critical areas were further compared to the goals of the Recovery Act. Projects that promoted the goals better or more quickly were given a higher priority. The following selection factors were applied to the initial project list, which was compiled from projects submitted by bureau field offices.

#### Initial Selection Criteria

- Project meets the primary goal to reduce hazardous fuels
- Project is located in priority treatment regions, consistent with 2009 EMDS model results
- Project funds can be obligated and the project can be underway by September 30, 2010
- Project can be competitively awarded
- Project creates or supports jobs.

Final selection criteria were applied at the national level to determine the final list of eligible projects.

#### Final Selection Criteria

- Project planning is complete or substantially complete
- Project has the potential to provide additional economic benefits to support local or regional employment through post-treatment use of biomass in wood products or as feedstock for potential use in power generation
- Environmental compliance work for the project is complete or substantially complete.

### **Governance at DOI**

The President and Congress have made it clear the Recovery Act must be implemented with unparalleled levels of accountability and transparency. Interior's hazardous fuels reduction oversight will be managed nationally by OWFC in concert with technical support and leadership from each of the four DOI fire bureaus. The Fire-Recovery Act Team (Fire-RAT) is composed of the Department's staff at the OWFC and the national

hazardous fuels reduction experts at each of the four bureaus. OWFC will convene this team weekly to monitor, evaluate, and if needed, re-allocate program project funds to ensure the selected projects fulfill the mandates of the Act. Rigorous oversight will ensure the funds are being spent not only to support mission goals and priorities but to preserve and create jobs, assist with community fiscal stabilization, and reduce hazardous fuels on the bureaus' priority Federal lands.

### ***Administrative Costs***

The Department will reserve approximately \$745,000 from the \$15 million appropriation, or about five percent, to cover anticipated administrative costs. Use of these funds will be determined in consultation with the Fire-Recovery Act Team and their use will be consistent with departmental policies for appropriate purposes. In the event funds withheld for administrative costs are not obligated, nor claims made by the Department for specific administrative use by the end of FY 2009, they will instead be released to treat additional hazardous fuels on Federal land.

## Part III: Hazardous Fuels Reduction

Program	Funding Amount	# of Projects
Hazardous Fuels Reduction	\$15,000,000	55

### ***Program Manager***

Each bureau has designated an accountable project official to coordinate their allocated ARRA wildland fire management projects. The Fire-Recovery Act Team will exercise oversight and authority to monitor individual project progress, manage risk, and improve overall performance and accountability. Contact information for each manager will be posted on the DOI recovery web site.

### ***Objectives***

The hazardous fuels reduction program of work funded under the Recovery Act builds upon the annual program funded through the regular appropriations process. The existing Cohesive Fuels Treatment Strategy (December 2006, [www.forestsandrangelands.gov](http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov)) lays out a clear strategy to lessen risks from catastrophic wildfires by reducing fuels build-up in forests and rangelands in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible. Implementing this strategy achieves both fire risk reduction and resource management goals.

The Cohesive Strategy is guided by four principles: prioritization, coordination, collaboration, and accountability. All are consistent with the vision of the Recovery Act.

*Prioritization* – Hazardous fuels reduction projects must be focused on two key areas. The first key area is the wildland urban interface (WUI) – an area where people have settled in forests, woodlands, shrublands and grasslands. These are areas that face the greatest threats from wildland fire. Outside the WUI, priority treatments concentrate on sites where vegetation is most likely to support catastrophic wildland fires that threaten resources or locations of value to local communities.

*Coordination* – Various land management activities affect the composition and distribution of hazardous fuels across the landscape. These include fuels reduction, timber sales, insect and disease eradication, habitat improvement, watershed improvement and other vegetation management activities. Coordinating these activities maximizes benefits toward fuels management objectives.

*Collaboration* – The Federal agencies continue to be guided by the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy and Implementation Plan first adopted in 2001 (and updated in 2006). These plans lay out principles and objectives that have been agreed to by the Wildland Fire Leadership Council, a body that includes representatives from the Federal agencies as well as elected officials outside the Federal government.

*Accountability* – The Wildland Fire Leadership Council brings together Federal, State, tribal and local government leaders to provide overall coordination for the fire and fuels programs. Through this oversight, OWFC is better able to track and support program planning, implementation and effectiveness.

Together these principles guide the hazardous fuels reduction program to deliver tangible benefits to people and natural resources, and enhance the Department’s ability to reduce the costs associated with wildland fire. We applied these principles to the Recovery Act project selection process.

## **Activities**

These funds will be used for hazardous fuels reduction projects that:

- Increase firefighter and public safety
- Reduce threats to homes, businesses, schools and other valuable infrastructure
- Conserve municipal watersheds
- Help preserve jobs dependent on natural resources
- Uphold environmental quality
- Enhance effective use of Federal, State, Tribal, and local skills and resources
- Lower the threat of pollution from particulates
- Reduce smoke impacts from wildfire.

## **Selection Criteria**

The existing prioritization system (HFPAS) was used as the foundation to derive the project list for Recovery Act funds. This system uses the Ecosystem Management Decision Support tool called EMDS. The EMDS tool helps managers prioritize areas most in need of treatment to reduce hazardous fuels that threaten communities and resources. EMDS uses the following weighting factors:

- Wildfire potential
  - Probability (number of large fires, and fire starts)
  - Fire behavior (crown fire potential, surface fire potential)
- Consequences (expected consequences associated with moderate to severe wildfire)
  - Ecosystem
  - Emissions
  - Wildland urban interface
- Performance (actual effectiveness of a fuels treatment program)<sup>2</sup>
  - Improved vegetative conditions
  - Use of contracting
  - Use of Community Wildfire Protection Plans

---

<sup>2</sup> Performance metrics are based on historical data captured in the National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System. The past performance of individual field offices is considered in evaluating the potential for funding future projects.

- Making biomass available for economic uses
- Vegetation maintenance
- Opportunities (potential effectiveness of a fuels treatment program)<sup>3</sup>
  - Restoration opportunities
  - Contracting opportunities
  - Community Wildfire Protection Plans available
  - Biomass availability for economic uses
  - Vegetation maintenance opportunities

With these factors, geographic areas are then prioritized into categories for treatment. All Recovery Act funds are targeted for hazardous fuels reduction projects in priority areas. All projects funded with Recovery Act dollars represent the highest priority projects still available, given the ARRA requirement that projects be completed by the end of FY 2010. In addition, projects were considered for the *potential* for post-treatment utilization of biomass material generated at the project sites.

To meet the requirements of the Recovery Act and Secretarial guidance, the following criteria were used:

#### Initial Selection Criteria

- Project meets the primary goal to reduce hazardous fuels
- Project is the best use of funds needed to reduce risk consistent with 2009 EMDS results
- Project funds can be obligated and the project can be underway by September 30, 2010
- Project can be competitively awarded
- Project creates or supports jobs.

Final selection criteria were applied at the national level to determine the final list of eligible projects.

#### Final Selection Criteria

- Project planning is complete or substantially complete
- Project has the potential to provide additional economic benefits to support local or regional employment through post-treatment use of biomass in wood products or as feedstock for potential use in power generation
- Environmental compliance work for the project is complete or substantially complete.

---

<sup>3</sup> Opportunity metrics are based on planned activities for the coming fiscal year.



Through project monitoring and oversight, the Department will ensure that if funds are not expeditiously obligated for a given project, the funds will be withdrawn from that project to be used for the next high priority project on the list. However, some projects may lose their initial treatment window due to weather conditions, wildfire suppression activities, or other variables outside the agencies' control, and some flexibility is needed to allow the bureaus to accomplish the completion of the highest priority projects. To provide for these circumstances, a contingency project list has been developed.

***Characteristics (Types of Financial Awards to be Used)***

Type of Award	# of projects in this category	\$ Value of projects (\$millions)	Targeted type of recipients	Award Selection Criteria (high-level bullets)
Contracts	40	\$9.9	Communities, Community Members, Local Businesses, Other Community-Based Organizations	Methods available: open market competition; orders using competed Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (ID/IQ); competed GSA schedule orders and other. Criteria for evaluation will be based on statement of work, successful record of past performance, and indicated ability to meet cost and schedule milestones.
Section 638 Tribal Contracts	15	\$4.3	Tribes	Criteria for evaluating proposals for award through Section 638 will be based on the proposed statement of work and its ability to meet mission objectives, successful record of past performance, and indicated ability to meet cost and schedule milestones.  Standard clauses developed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs for Section 638 Recovery Act contracts will be included in Section 638 hazardous fuels reduction contracts.

## ***Performance Measures***

### **Performance Measure # 1**

The Wildland Fire Management program has developed performance measures to monitor the impact of its Recovery Act investments on mission and programmatic goals and objectives. These performance measures can be found on Recovery.Gov.

### **Performance Measure # 2**

The Wildland Fire Management program has developed performance measures to monitor the impact of its Recovery Act investments on mission and programmatic goals and objectives. These performance measures can be found on Recovery.Gov.

### **Performance Measure # 3**

The Wildland Fire Management program has developed performance measures to monitor the impact of its Recovery Act investments on mission and programmatic goals and objectives. These performance measures can be found on Recovery.Gov.

## ***Project Milestones and Completion***

### **Hazardous Fuels Reduction**

#### **Types of Projects**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b># of Projects</b>
Hazardous fuels reduction	Biomass-focused hazardous fuels reduction projects	55

#### **Completion Rate**

<b>Quarter</b>	<b># of Projects Completed</b>	<b>TOTAL # OF PROJECTS COMPLETED</b>	<b>Cumulative % of Projects Completed</b>
FY 2009 Q3	10	10	18%
FY 2009 Q4	12	22	40%
FY 2010 Q1	7	29	53%
FY 2010 Q2	6	35	64%
FY 2010 Q3	7	42	76%
FY 2010 Q4	13	55	100%

#### **Key Milestones**

<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Average Length of Completion</b>
Number of acres treated	80 percent FY 2009; 20 percent FY 2010
Tons of biomass utilized	50 percent FY 2009; 50 percent FY 2010
Recovery Act funds obligated	90 percent FY 2009; 10 percent FY 2010
Recovery Act funds outlaid	20 percent FY 2009; 80 percent FY 2010

Completion rate and milestone estimates are based on project readiness to implement. Some projects may lose their initial treatment window due to weather conditions, wildfire suppression activities, or other variables outside the agencies' control, and some flexibility is needed to allow the bureaus to accomplish the completion of the highest priority projects. The oversight and monitoring process will ensure funds are being directed to the highest priorities and further the goals of the recovery Act. During this oversight process, quarterly targets and milestones may be adjusted to reflect these changing conditions.

## Part IV: Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project List

