

## **Wyoming Game and Fish Department Potential for Wildlife and/or Habitat Benefits from ARRA**

The Department is not the direct recipient of, or administrator for, any funding derived from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. However, the final stimulus bill does include conservation/environmental provisions (broadly defined) in program funding for various federal agencies. The total amount that has been identified to date (see attachment) is \$15.27 billion nationally. If the Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation and Environmental Protection Agency funding is removed from consideration, the total amount available nationally is approximately \$3.295 billion.

At this time, we have been unable to determine how these funds will be distributed by any of the involved federal agencies either by geographic area or project, or how much, if any, might be expended in Wyoming. However, we have tentatively identified seven program/project authorizations that might provide opportunities for federal/state partnership in the wildlife and habitat arenas, including mutually beneficial situations where state priorities mirror those of the respective federal agency and/or where cost share on the part of the state (Department) might elevate the likelihood that a particular project might get funded. It needs to be understood that these would potentially involve matching funds that are approved by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, not monies from the State's General Fund, appropriated by the Wyoming Legislature.

The seven programs currently being examined include the following:

- 1) Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Construction) = \$115,000,000;
- 2) Department of the Interior, U.S. fish and Wildlife Service (Resource Management) = \$165,000,000;
- 3) Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (management of Lands and Resources) = \$125,000,000;
- 4) Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service (Capital Improvement and Maintenance) = \$650,000,000;
- 5) Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service (Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Post-Fire Restoration) = \$500,000,000;
- 6) Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (Watershed and Flood Preventions Operations Program) = \$290,000,000; and
- 7) Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (Watershed Rehabilitation Program) = \$50,000,000.

In several instances there is specific report language that references this funding needs to be directed at federal agency properties or federal lands. In the coming days and weeks additional information on how these federal agencies intend to implement ARRA funding will become better known. In the meantime, the Department will continue its efforts at identifying high priority wildlife projects that are "shovel ready" and which hold potential partnership opportunities with specific federal agencies. Direct communications with the involved agencies will also be initiated.