

TWO TRIBAL COMMUNITY FOREST GRANT AWARDS

The Farm Bill, or Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-234), authorizes the Community Forestry and Open Space Conservation Program (CFP). The CFP allows the Forest Service to award federal financial assistance (grants) to Indian Tribes, local governments, and qualified nonprofit entities to "acquire and establish community forests that provide continuing and accessible community benefits." The Community Forest Program is a priority of the President's America's Great Outdoors initiative, which promotes community green spaces.

In the latest round of applications beginning in February 2012, the Forest Service's Cooperative Forestry staff received 49 projects requesting \$14.5 million in CFP funds. On August 28, 2012, the Forest Service announced the ten grant winners, including two Indian Tribes. Their projects truly encapsulated the environmental and economic benefits of community forestry.

HALL MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA: \$302,305

The Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians will conserve this highly significant 108-acre Hall Mountain tract, approximately six miles north of Franklin, North Carolina. The Tribe plans to incorporate a scenic hiking trail system that will exhibit uses of natural resources traditionally used by the Cherokee. These exhibits will serve as educational learning centers for regional public schools, and organizations like Boy and Girl Scouts.

INDIAN CREEK COMMUNITY FOREST, WASHINGTON: \$350,000

The Kalispel Tribe of Indians will procure this forest located in northeastern Washington, about 60 miles north of Spokane, adjacent to Colville National Forest. The Indian Creek Community Forest is designated as a critical habitat for the threatened species of bull trout, woodland caribou and grizzly bear, and offers a wide variety of recreation opportunities including mountain biking, hiking, horseback riding, fishing, and hunting.

For more information, please refer to the Forest Service Community Forest Program (CFP) website:
<http://www.fs.fed.us/cooperativeforestry/programs/loa/cfp.shtml>