



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

Limekiln Salvage Road, Lewistown

Category: Roads & Bridges

BLM
Montana

Road Provides Access for Work to Protect Habitat, Communities



This road will be reclaimed once salvage work is completed.

A windstorm in the Judith Mountains of Montana blew down a number of trees in a forest characterized by dense stands of Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine. Wind damaged trees provide a continuous fuel source for wildfire. This new fuel could produce a stand replacement crown fire due to ladder fuels leading from the ground into adjacent overstocked stands. This would threaten human health and safety as well as private property.

In addition, the dead and dying wind-damaged timber is attracting insects and disease. The adjacent stands will likely be infected if salvage and treatment of adjacent stands does not occur. As the adjacent stands become infected, insect damage could spread to other ownerships and stand decay would be accelerated. A salvage treatment is needed in order to reduce potential losses associated with these events and to improve forest health by removing the damaged timber and preparing the site for new tree seedlings.

The BLM is using ARRA funds to construct 5.3 miles of new road to provide access to the salvage site. The first mile of the road will be permanent and provide motorized access to BLM land and future recreational opportunities. The remaining road, 4.3 miles, will provide access to both BLM and State lands with damaged timber. It will be closed to unauthorized motor vehicles and rehabilitated to the extent possible once salvage is completed. Some portions of the road will be incorporated into the existing Limekiln Trail System. The resulting improved access routes and designed stream crossings will minimize resource damage while maintaining recreational values in the Limekiln drainage.

This \$170,000 project will greatly benefit nearby Lewistown, a community of about 6,000 residences. In addition to logging and other contracts associated with the project, benefits include a decreased risk of loss from wildfire along with a decreased risk of insect and disease damage spreading from the treatment area.



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U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

