

## USDA Forest Service Update March 2009



### **SUBJECT: Access Issue - Proposals for Improved Recreational Access on National Forest Lands Data Request**

The Hunting, Fishing, and Shooting Sports Roundtable (Roundtable) partners are working together to improve and promote recreational access on public lands and resolve access issues expeditiously. To do this strategically, an inventory of access needs on public lands was necessary. In April 2008, we invited each Forest Service (FS) Region to nominate up to 3 of their best opportunities for improving access in their region. The Roundtable will act as the “clearing house” for expediting the resolution of these high priority access opportunities. There are many types of proposals including; land easements, land acquisitions, land exchanges, road maintenance, road construction, and other access improvements.

Although the number of projects that could be presented by each FS region was limited, over 25 proposals were submitted for consideration. The Bureau of Land management conducted a parallel survey. Some of the proposals include both FS and BLM lands. A subset of the proposals with national significance was presented to the American Wildlife Conservation Partners (AWCP) in August, 2008.

The projects are currently being reviewed by the Roundtable partners and strategies to promote these projects are being developed.

This initiative is consistent with the implementation of the Interagency Federal Lands Hunting, Fishing, and Shooting Sports Roundtable MOU, the Conservation Plan “*Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation*” and the Hunting Heritage Executive Order 13443.

Access has been a long-time issue with many of our partners and their assistance in this endeavor is critical for success.

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