

# Message From the Chief



As Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, I am proud to present the Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 results for the stewardship and management of public funds entrusted to the Forest Service. The Agency Financial Report (AFR) reports high-level accomplishments toward the strategic goals as the Forest Service works “to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.” Forest Service chooses to publish the AFR as an alternative to the Performance and Accountability Report pursuant to the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-136, *Financial Reporting Requirements*.

In 2009, the United States faced an unparalleled financial crisis. To meet this challenge, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) was signed into law by the President on February 17, 2009. ARRA is an unprecedented effort to jumpstart our economy, create or save millions of jobs, and address critical maintenance to the Nation’s infrastructure. The Forest Service worked with the United States Department of Agriculture, partners, and collaborators to create jobs that sustain the Nation’s forests and grasslands and to improve or maintain capital assets such as roads, buildings, trails, and other infrastructure. For more information on the Forest Service’s ARRA projects, go to [http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/arra?navid=USDA\\_ARRA](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/arra?navid=USDA_ARRA).

The Forest Service FY 2009 AFR is on the agency’s financial management, analysis of the results of the financial audit, and compliance with the Federal Managers’ Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA) and the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act (FFMIA). In 2009, the Forest Service has no reported material weaknesses and closed 21 audit recommendations. The agency continues its commitment to improving internal control systems, operational processes and the quality of our financial information.

In closing, I am proud to present the efforts of Forest Service employees, our partners, and volunteers toward achieving the mission of the Forest Service. The financial information presented herein is complete and accurate, and in accordance with law and Office of Management and Budget guidance.

In February 2010, the Forest Service will report actual programmatic results toward the strategic goals in the FY 2009 Annual Performance Report (APR) and the Summary of Financial and Performance Information.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Tidwell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas Tidwell  
Chief of the Forest Service