



# Southwestern Region Partnerships

Southwestern Regional Collaboration Newsletter

February 2006

## 2006 Partnership Event-March 21-22, 2006

The second annual Southwest Partnership Event will be held in Sedona, Arizona. This 2-day event is an opportunity for Forest Service employees, partners and potential partners to discuss common interests, explore successful partnerships and develop new partnerships. Dale Robertson, retired Forest Service Chief will be a keynote speaker. To review the agenda and register for this event, visit the Southwest partnership website at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/partnerships/>

## 2006 Southwest Region Partnership Award

Is there an outstanding Forest Service employee or partner in the southwest? Nominate them for the new Southwest Regional Forester Partnership Award. Nomination forms will be available at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/partnerships/> Awards will be presented at the March 21-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006 Partnership Event in Sedona.



Moqollon Rim Trail -2005 Centennial Project

## Centennial of Service 2006 Funds

Congress appropriated almost \$4.5 million to fund fiscal year 2006 Centennial of Service cost-share projects. The Southwestern region will receive \$476,701 this year for 16 Centennial projects on 8 National Forests. Partner contributions are estimated at \$1,213,069. Descriptions of Centennial projects are at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/partnerships/>

## National Forest Foundation (NFF) Grants

Interested in a friends group? Under the NFF's **Community Assistance Program**, newly forming organizations can apply for start-up grants of \$5,000 to \$15,000 to meet organizational capacity-building and technical assistance needs. Priority will be given to grassroots, community-based collaborative groups. Proposals due April 28<sup>th</sup>, with final decisions in June. Go to: [http://www.natlforgest.org/consp\\_05\\_cap.html](http://www.natlforgest.org/consp_05_cap.html)

**Wilderness Stewardship Challenge** - The NFF will provide matching grants of up to \$50,000 to nonprofit partners to implement ecosystem restoration-related projects that directly benefit Wilderness Areas within our National Forest System. Proposals due Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, with decisions in April. Go to: [http://www.natlforgest.org/wilderness\\_stewardship\\_info.htm](http://www.natlforgest.org/wilderness_stewardship_info.htm)

**Matching Awards Program** - Nonprofit organizations can apply for matching funding for hands-on stewardship projects with measurable, on-the-ground benefits to National Forests and Grasslands. *The Southwest is not one of the geographic focus areas* but applications are encouraged nationwide. Pre-applications due for receipt by Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, with full proposal requests beginning of March. Go to [http://www.natlforgest.org/consp\\_04\\_map.html](http://www.natlforgest.org/consp_04_map.html)

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### Wyden Amendment Authority extended...

The Wyden Amendment (Public Law 105-277) authorizes the Forest Service to enter into cooperative agreements to benefit resources within watersheds on National Forest System lands. Agreements may be with Federal, Tribal, State, and local governments, private and nonprofit entities, and landowners to conduct activities **on public or private lands** for the following purposes:

- Protection, restoration, and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat and other resources,
- Reduction of risk for natural disaster where public safety is threatened, or
- A combination of both.

This authority has been extended through 2011.

### Forest Service Partnership Enhancement Act

The Forest Service has various authorities it uses for partnerships. Our ability to partner is limited by our authorities. The Forest Service Partnership Enhancement Act (bill number: HR 3818) will make it easier to partner with others. The Bill was introduced September 15, 2005 with bi-partisan support. The House Resources Committee approved the Bill in October. A companion bill has **not** yet been introduced in the Senate. The current version of the Bill is at:

<http://www.partnershipresourcecenter.org/policy/index.php>

### Cooperative Conservation Grants

\$38 Million is available for cooperative conservation projects. State and local governments, non-government organizations, Tribes and individuals may apply for the following **Natural Resource Conservation Service** grants: Conservation Innovation Grants at:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cig/index.html>

Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative at:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ccpi/>

Conservation Innovation grants at:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cig/>

### New Mexico Community Forest Restoration Program (CFRP) Grants

The Community Forest Restoration Act of 2000 established a cooperative forest restoration program in New Mexico to provide cost-share grants to stakeholders for forest restoration projects on public land to be designed through a collaborative process. The 2006 Request for Proposals is now available. Proposals are due **March 6, 2005** by 5

p.m. Electronic copy of the RFP and SF 424's are available at: [www.fs.fed.us/r3/spf/cfrp/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/spf/cfrp/).

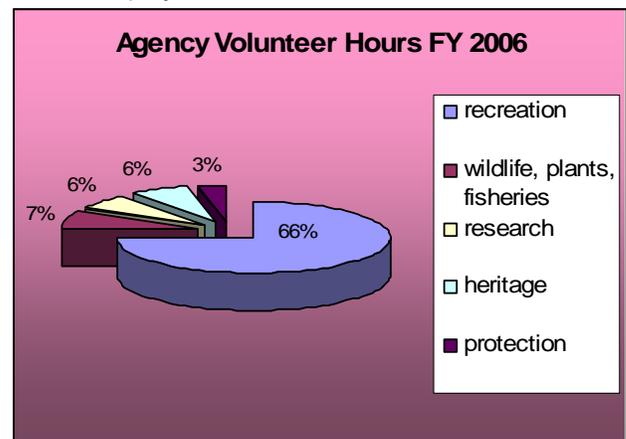
To learn more about the CFRP grants, attend the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program 2006 Annual Workshop, January 24-26, at the Courtyard Marriott, 3347 Cerrillos Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico, telephone (800) 777-3347. You will find more information on the CFRP website: [www.fs.fed.us/r3/spf/cfrp/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/spf/cfrp/).

### Coconino Rural Environment Corps

The Coconino Rural Environment Corps (CREC) received the "*Service Project of the Year*" award from the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps for the Anderson Mesa Pronghorn Habitat restoration project. This project was a partnership with the Coconino National Forest, Arizona Game & Fish Department, and private land owners. Find out more at: <http://www.naccweb.org/>

### Volunteers in fiscal year 2005

In Fiscal Year 2005, 82,496 volunteers served the USDA - Forest Service, accomplishing 1,751 person years (3.2 million accumulated hours) and completed work estimated at a value of \$46.5 million. Most volunteers worked on recreation projects as shown below.



### Collaborative Problem Solving Principles

The Council on Environmental Quality and Office of Management and Budget signed a MOU that includes Basic principles for agency engagement in collaborative problem solving. They include: *informed commitment; balanced and voluntary representation; group autonomy; informed process; accountability; openness; timeliness; and implementation*. For a copy of the MOU and the principles, go to: [www.ecr.gov/ombceq.htm](http://www.ecr.gov/ombceq.htm)

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