



News Release

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

Supervisor's Office
1200 Franklin Way
Sparks, NV 89431

Nevada Division of Forestry

2478 Fairview Drive
Carson City, NV 89701

Contacts: Ed Monnig

U.S. Forest Service
775-355-5304

Pete Anderson

Nevada Division of Forestry
775-684-2500

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Critical Nevada conservation projects receive stimulus package funds to create and retain jobs in Lincoln County

SPARKS, Nev. – U.S. Forest Service Chief Abigail Kimbell announced today that as part of the agency's participation in the nation's economic recovery program, the Nevada Division of Forestry will receive more than \$1.3 million to fund Lincoln County conservation projects. These Nevada projects are part of the initial 10 percent selected for the first round of Forest Service funding.

"This is tremendous news for the State of Nevada," said Governor Jim Gibbons. "These funds will help create 24 full-time jobs in Nevada and will retain four existing jobs while improving critical range and forest lands. I thank the Forest Service for awarding these dollars and applaud the Nevada Division of Forestry for quickly and successfully securing these competitive funds for Nevada."

Federal stimulus funds for the projects total \$1,314,100.

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Supervisor Ed Monnig added: "We are prepared to aid the cause of economic recovery by creating jobs. We will work closely with the State of Nevada to implement the projects that were funded."

Approximately 10 percent of the Forest Service projects created by the American Recovery and Economic Stimulus Act, totaling \$98 million, have been selected. These projects will create 1,500 jobs nationwide, giving the agency the early opportunity to put people to work. The remaining 90 percent of projects, totaling \$1.052 billion, will be announced shortly and will create an additional 23,500 jobs nationwide.

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“In the Intermountain West there are communities in Nevada, Idaho, Utah and Wyoming that have been hit hard by job losses,” said U.S. Forest Service Regional Forester Harv Forsgren. “These outstanding projects selected for rapid implementation are well configured to put people to work, enhance forest health, improve infrastructure and advance public safety.”

The Lincoln County projects include in part efforts such as forest health and invasive species work at Beaver Dam State Park, erosion control and fuel reduction at Spring Valley and Echo Canyon State Parks, right-of-way fuels reductions for the Nevada Department of Transportation, and defensible space and seeding/spraying work for the community of Pioche.

“These projects will enhance the health of Nevada’s economy and 1,681 acres of forests and rangelands by reducing hazardous fuels and treating invasive plants and diseased trees,” said Nevada State Forester Pete Anderson.

To learn more about this release, please contact Pete Anderson from the Nevada Division of Forestry at 775-684-2500, or Ed Monnig from the Forest Service at 775-355-5304.

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PROJECT DETAILS

EDITOR’S NOTE: the following was submitted as a request for the Stimulus Act. Details may change pending final funding agreements.

All of the work will be handled by state, local and private entities. This project has the potential to employ at least 24 new personnel. 23 of these positions will work for the county and private contractors on a full time basis for the length of the grant period.

Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) Conservation Camp Crews will be utilized for hand crew labor where possible, which will help to meet state revenue targets and retain positions.

One position will work for the NDF as a statewide Biomass Utilization Coordinator in order to deal with the high volumes of biomass coming off this and other current and potential projects, as well as to create a market for wood waste end users. This position will allow the state to explore new and inventive ways to utilize waste and market green energy that will benefit state, local and federal entities alike, and has the potential to create additional, sustainable jobs.

Project Descriptions

I. Beaver Dam State Park

Beaver Dam State Park encompasses 6,000 acres and is located in eastern Lincoln County. Project goals include invasive species treatment, protecting endemic Ponderosa Pine stands, and forest health treatments.

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The projects proposed for Beaver Dam State Park include:

- Tree of Heaven removal/herbicide application at Hamlin Ranch: Eradication of invasive and introduced species on 5 acres to allow native vegetation the chance to regenerate.
- Ponderosa Pine hazardous fuels reduction, stand release and enhancement: Thinning of hazardous fuels and competing vegetation in the understory, and of pinyon and juniper trees surrounding the stands. 25 acres will be treated.
- Tamarisk abatement: Removal and spraying of all tamarisks on the old lake bed. This will treat 29 acres.
- Juniper pocket rot treatment: Remove infected junipers on 400 acres in the park.

II. Spring Valley State Park and Echo Canyon State Park

Project goals for these two parks include shade tree development, erosion control, fuel reduction, and the continuation of an herbicide spraying program. The projects proposed for this park include:

- Campground tree plantings: 600 diseased and dead trees and shrubs will be removed and replaced with better adapted species to enhance the campgrounds. This project will treat 20 acres.
- Reseeding of acquired property. Seeding of native species on newly traded property to help with erosion control and to establish vegetative cover. 150 acres will be treated.
- SVSP fuels treatment: Reduce fuel loadings on a portion of the park located behind the ranger station, maintenance shop, and Ranch Campground by thinning and removing overcrowded pinyon and juniper to create a fuel break. 30 acres will be treated.
- NDSP spraying program: Control invasive species on state park lands.

III. Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) Right-of-Way (ROW) Fuels Reduction

The goals for this project include fire threat reduction and increased safety.

ROW fuels treatment: Removal of pinyon and juniper that are encroaching on Highway 93 and State Route 319 through the Cedars, Caliente Summit, and Panaca areas. The removal of this fuel will reduce potential for fires started along the highways to spread into adjacent forests and rangelands, and improve safety associated with vehicle/animal collisions. Approximately 849 acres will be treated.

IV. Pioche Fuels Treatment and Re-entry

The goals of this project are to reduce the threat from wildland fire, improve the safety of residents, reduce invasive species, and to seed the treated areas. The projects proposed for Pioche are:

- Pioche fuels treatment: Build on previously completed fuel reduction projects by creating defensible space and fuel breaks on the newly developed private lands. 25 acres will be treated.

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- Pioche re-entry fuels treatment: Treating interface forested lands to address new vegetation die offs caused by insects and diseases and to remove dead and down fuel loads. 103 acres will be re-treated.
- Pioche seeding and spraying: Eradication of annual rye grass and cheatgrass with herbicide, and the seeding of these treated areas with native grasses. This project will treat 45 acres.

-END OF PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS-