

News Release

CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST

10845 RANCHO BERNARDO ROAD, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92127
VOICE (858) 673-6180, FAX (858) 673-6192, CRS/TTY 711



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Brian Harris 858-674-2984/619-937-1462

March 11, 2009

FOREST SERVICE RECEIVES FUNDING FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UNDER THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

San Diego, March 9, 2009 – U.S. Forest Service Chief Abigail Kimbell announced today the Agency’s plan to participate in the nation’s economic recovery program. The Forest Service has received \$1.15 billion from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The first group of Forest Service projects nationwide created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, totaling \$98 million, have been selected. These initial projects will create 1,500 jobs, giving the Agency the early opportunity to put people to work. The remaining projects, totaling \$1.052 billion, will be announced shortly and will create an additional 23,500 jobs nationwide.

First round projects on lands managed by the Forest Service in California will include maintenance and construction on facilities, roads and trails totaling 70 jobs and \$7.75 million. The jobs are estimated to last from four months up to a year. San Diego and Riverside Counties are among 11 counties that will benefit from the first round of these projects.

On the Cleveland National Forest, road paving projects have been selected for immediate implementation on Forest lands in San Diego and Riverside Counties. San Diego County projects total \$234,420, and Riverside County projects total \$265,342. As the Cleveland National Forest receives many recreational users, safe and efficient access to our public lands is considered critical and assists in our ability to respond to wildfire situations.

“Many of our road maintenance and improvement projects have been deferred over the past several years due to a lack of funding,” said Will Metz, Cleveland National Forest Supervisor, “We are very pleased to be selected as a part of the first group of Forest Service projects to receive funding.”

Under the language of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Forest Service will create as many jobs as possible to support communities and to get money flowing through the economy again. All funds will be spent on specific targeted projects that are, or soon will be, ready to go.

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“The Forest Service anticipates playing a key role in our nation’s economic recovery,” said Chief Kimbell. “We are grateful for the confidence Congress has shown us and look forward to demonstrating how the Forest Service can create good jobs during difficult times,” Kimbell added.

Information on the overall U.S. Forest Service role in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act can be found at: <http://fs.usda.gov/recovery>. Information on the total federal effort can be found at <http://www.recovery.gov>.

Detail of projects on the Cleveland National Forest

Descanso Ranger District (San Diego County)

- Camp Ole Fire Station Paving: Recycle existing pavement by grinding and compacting to be used for placement of new asphalt throughout the fire station area to improve access for fire equipment.
- Descanso Ranger Office Paving: Recondition existing parking area to provide for visitor parking and greater access to the District office.

Palomar Ranger District (San Diego County)

- Fry Creek Campground Paving: Repair deteriorated pavement to improve access to the campground.
- Henshaw Fire Station Paving: Repair deteriorated pavement to improve mobility of fire equipment
- Palomar Mountain Interpretative Kiosk Paving: Improve access for the public.

Palomar Ranger District (Riverside County)

- Dripping Springs Campground Paving: Recycle existing pavement by grinding and compacting to be used as a base for placement of new 2.5” hot mix asphalt pavement throughout the entire campground to improve public access.