

# Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests

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### Economic Stimulus Contracts Awarded on the Ochoco National Forest

PRINEVILLE-Continuing on with the first phase of the USDA Forest Service economic stimulus funding in Central Oregon, a third set of contract work was awarded today under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The contract is for fuels reduction work in Crook County on the Ochoco National Forest.

The contract has been awarded to PatRick Environmental in the amount of \$289,444 for two projects totaling 786 acres on the Lookout Mountain Ranger District. On both projects, crews will complete thinning and hand piling of hazardous fuels. Work is expected to start later this week.

“We are pleased to report that approximately 140 people have returned to work in Central Oregon as a result of stimulus projects on National Forest administered lands,” said Acting Ochoco National Forest Supervisor Rick Newton.

The “Spears” north project is 483 acres in size, consists of several units and lies adjacent to Mt Bachelor Academy and private residences. The “Ochoco Valley” project is 303 acres in size, consists of several scattered units and is in the vicinity of Ochoco Ranger Station and private land and residences.

This is the fifth contract to be awarded on the Deschutes & Ochoco National Forests in the past four weeks under the ARRA. Out of the \$5 million received, approximately \$3 million in work project funds have been awarded to date, with \$289,944 awarded to Crook County, \$1,893,700 awarded to Jefferson County, and \$814,914 awarded to Deschutes County. Approximately \$1.8 million in additional stimulus funds will be awarded as the snow melts and areas become accessible to work crews.

The announcement of a second round of ARRA-funded economic stimulus projects on the Deschutes & Ochoco National Forests is pending. The second round of awards may provide additional funding for work projects associated with facilities and construction, road and trail maintenance, or additional hazardous fuels reduction work.

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