

## Stimulus Dollars at Work on Tiller Ranger District



Stockpiling brush and ladder fuels for controlled burning will slow down wildfire on the Tiller District.

**ROSEBURG, OR — March 27, 2009**

A month after President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, workers are clearing out hazardous fuels on the Tiller Ranger District.

With \$919,280 of stimulus funding through an existing agreement with Oregon Department of Forestry, the Douglas Forest Protective Association started a 12-person crew on the first of 1,400 acres. DFPA anticipates hiring another crew in the next week.

Douglas County was identified as one of six counties in Oregon meeting several indicators of extreme unemployment.

The Forest Service sent a total of \$1,997,000 of stimulus funding to Douglas County as a way to put people back to work.

The pre-commercial thinning work is tackling a big backlog of crowded forest stands on the Tiller District. Bob Danskin, a silviculturist with the Forest Service, explained that in addition to providing jobs, the thinning work will give the remaining trees plenty of room to grow while reducing the risk of fire in areas that are near private property.

The forest thinning work near Tiller is one of several similar projects scattered across the Umpqua National Forest in Douglas County. Contractors from Grayback Forestry and DL Reforestation companies indicate they will bring back crews earlier than usual and hire new employees to meet the workload on the North Umpqua and Diamond Lake ranger districts.

The Forest Service anticipates advertising and awarding additional projects with the next phase of economic stimulus funds expected in several weeks.



Paul Ritter, a forest officer with Douglas Forest Protective Association, explained in a media interview that with few and far between wintertime projects this year, he's pleased to be back on a payroll.



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