

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service Eastern Region



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Putting Hands to Work on the Land: Economic Recovery Projects Announced

Milwaukee, WI (March 6, 2009) – From solar installations to much-needed roadwork, the U.S. Forest Service in the Eastern Region is helping put people to work in ways that help counties, communities, and the land.

Regional Forester Kent Connaughton, the top executive for the Eastern Region of the Forest Service says, “I am extremely pleased to announce that we have received approval to implement seven of our initial project proposals under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. These first-round projects will improve our nation’s infrastructure, through completing critical work on national forest roads, trails, and facilities.”

Connaughton adds, “Our seven approved projects were funded for a total of \$7.426 million, and are ready for people to start working on them within seven days. We expect these projects to provide an estimated 70 private-sector jobs in rural communities in and around six national forests in the Midwest and New England.”

Nationally, nearly \$63 million worth of Forest Service projects creating hundreds of private-sector jobs have been funded. The remaining projects to be funded, valued at \$1.052 billion, will be announced in the coming weeks. These projects will create approximately 23,500 more jobs nationwide.

Connaughton adds, “I am so very pleased that we can contribute to the stability and health of our national forests and the neighboring communities, through our economic recovery projects. The private sector jobs provided by this first round of approved projects, as well as additional future projects, will help restore America’s forests and grasslands, improve our infrastructure, develop wood to energy technology, and reduce wildfire risks,” he notes.

Economic Recovery Projects funded in the Eastern Region so far include:

Project	Funding	State	Nat'l Forest
County Road 513 Resurfacing/reconstruction (Forest Highway)	\$3,500,000	Michigan	Hiawatha
High Priority Road Maintenance for Public Safety	\$369,000	Missouri	Mark Twain
Critical Road and Recreation Site Recovery	\$2,300,000	Missouri	Mark Twain
Trail Maintenance	\$557,000	Minnesota	Superior
Forest-wide Trails Maintenance	\$100,000	New Hampshire	White Mountain
Solar Panel Additions	\$400,000	Ohio	Wayne
Rhineland Office Carbon- Footprint Project	\$200,000	Wisconsin	Chequamegon -Nicolet

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