

News from the
**WHITE MOUNTAIN
NATIONAL FOREST**

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**WHITE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST ANNOUNCES ECONOMIC
RECOVERY PROJECTS**

Laconia, NH, June 26 - The White Mountain National Forest has received funding for Forest roads maintenance and signage under the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

“Economic Recovery funding will be used for reconstruction of the Patte Mill Road in Oxford County Maine,” said Forest Supervisor Tom Wagner. “This road maintenance project will allow us to improve the road condition and water quality, and increase user safety.”

Funding by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for roads maintenance and decommissioning and associated watershed restoration was first announced by U. S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack on June 2, 2009. The 106 projects, funded at more than \$228 million, are located on Forest Service land in 31 states.

In his announcement earlier this month, Vilsack stated, “These road maintenance projects will provide for public health and safety, resource protection, and access to lands in the National Forests.” Vilsack added, “The rehabilitation of roads will improve water quality by reducing sediment in nearby streams and help to restore natural resources and habitat for fish in areas impacted by deterioration and erosion of road surfaces.”

The White Mountain National Forest also received \$250,000 for a Forest-wide sign project to improve the signage for roads and trails, providing enhanced visitor information and motor vehicle safety. The work will be completed through a combination of hiring temporary crews and contracting with local companies

The Forest Service manages almost 370,000 miles of roads and 143,000 miles of trails on the 193 million acres of national forests and grasslands across the country. Forest Service roads provide Americans access to these public lands for their livelihoods, daily activities, and enjoyment. A safe and well-managed roads system protects water quality and allows citizens to participate in hiking, touring, wildlife viewing, skiing, fishing, camping, hunting, boating, and many other outdoor activities. The Forest Service’s transportation system is critical to local and regional economies because it is a key infrastructure element that supports businesses and activities that occur within or adjacent to national forests and grasslands.

A diverse set of road maintenance activities will be undertaken through ARRA-funded projects. Road maintenance projects are identified through extensive analysis of resource conditions and public needs. Stabilizing or relocating roads too close to lakes and streams will prevent erosion and protect water quality. Decommissioning roads and restoring native vegetation helps snow and rainfall to be quickly absorbed into the land and reduces erosion and flooding. Individuals hired under ARRA will complete this labor-intensive work through a number of approaches, depending on the specific project area and needs: installing physical barriers at road entrances; replanting road beds; limiting erosion; removing fills and culverts; reestablishing drainage-ways; stabilizing road shoulders; and totally obliterating roads and reshaping roadbeds to match the surrounding area.

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