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**Route To:**

**Subject:** More Kids in the Woods Recipients FY 2009

**To:** Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director and Deputy Chiefs

We recently announced the national recipients for 2009 More Kids in the Woods cost-share funding. This memorandum serves as official notification of the final projects that were selected (see enclosure). Our congratulations are extended to all of the project leaders and partners. We look forward to seeing the results of these efforts aimed at connecting kids with nature.

This year's proposals demonstrated keen awareness of the issues facing America's youth, a strong commitment to partnerships, and considerable initiative in this era of too-much-to-do, not-enough-resources-to-do-it. Every deputy area of the agency participated again this year. More Kids in the Woods continues to expand and strengthen programs aimed at connecting children with the great outdoors through a variety of topics and activities such as climate change, fire ecology, forestry, wildlife, recreation, and conservation education.

Budget execution documents will be issued shortly to the regions, stations and areas with awarded projects. Upon receiving these funds please transfer them to the awarded field unit as quickly as possible so they can obligate the funds prior to the end of the fiscal year. Many of the field units receiving funds have existing agreements with their partners which may require modifications. If a new agreement is needed, the field unit needs to work with a Grants and Agreements Specialist to prepare the appropriate legal instrument in I-WEB. If technical assistance is needed you may consult with Susan McDonnell, Grants and Agreements Region 3, at 505-842-3327 or [smcdonnell@fs.fed.us](mailto:smcdonnell@fs.fed.us) for specific help in establishing new agreements for More Kids in the Woods projects.

This year we had a challenging competition with 197 proposals submitted, with 17 projects awarded funding. Continued demonstration of interest, and need for activities that connect children with nature shows the critical importance of this work. We are proud to be able to provide \$500,000 to projects and contributions from our partners there is almost \$2 million going towards our 2009 efforts to get kids outside.

*/s/ Richard W. Sowa (for)*

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Enclosures

