

Carson National Forest

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News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Carson National Forest receives economic recovery projects

Taos, N.M., September 9, 2009 — The Carson National Forest has received more than \$2.1 million for local projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for forest facilities, trails and hazardous fuel treatments. The projects are part of 191 projects, funded at more than \$274 million, are located throughout the U.S. Forest Service in 32 States and recently announced by Secretary Tom Vilsack.

The projects are as follows:

\$950,000 for a complete makeover of the Camino Real Ranger Station in Peñasco and the Shuree Lakes Lodge in the Valle Vidal

\$115,000 for repair of the Cimarron Camp Ground water system in the Valle Vidal

\$100,000 for renovations and repairs on the historic Shuree log cabin in Valle Vidal

\$100,000 for trail maintenance in the Pecos Wilderness and the Continental Divide Trail

\$100,000 for replacement of the Goose Lake Trail bridge and a bridge on Trail 24 in the Pecos Wilderness

\$100,000 for archival research and interpretation on the Spanish Trail and the Camino Real Trail

\$357,000 for hazardous fuels treatments in Taos County

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\$200,000 for hazardous fuel treatments in Angel Fire

\$170,000 for hazardous fuel treatments in Rio Arriba County

One of the most exciting projects will be an Extreme Makeover of the Camino Real Ranger Station. Once work is completed, the buildings will be more energy efficient, use less water, have a smaller environmental footprint and save taxpayer money.

This project will improve the facilities and resolve safety and health issues by meeting building code requirements in the facilities for both the employees and the visiting public. The project will also preserve historic structures for future generations. Some of the effort would also be undertaken by Job Corp students.

Forest trail maintenance includes protecting soils and reducing erosion, along with clearing vegetation, controlling invasive species, and removing downed trees. Repairs and upgrades to trail head and parking areas will improve access and safety for trail users. All of this is labor-intensive work requiring skilled workers to be hired under ARRA.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act also directs the Forest Service to improve, maintain and renovate public and administrative facilities. As with the roads and trails system, there is currently a large backlog of maintenance needs for public facilities. Maintenance needs were identified through extensive studies of specific public facilities needed to support the primary outdoor activities that are best provided on the National Forests and grasslands.

Information on other Forest Service ARRA projects and related economic recovery can be found at http://fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5085932.pdf beginning on page 169 for New Mexico projects.