



NEWS RELEASE

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
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Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Receives Almost \$3 Million to Improve Facilities and Trails in Nevada and California
USDA SECRETARY VILSACK ANNOUNCED \$274 MILLION OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROJECTS FOR FOREST FACILITIES AND TRAILS

Sparks, Nevada... Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Supervisor Ed Monnig announced today that around \$3 million in trails and facilities' projects on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest will be funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). On July 21, 2009, Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that ARRA funding of more than \$274 million would support 191 trails and facilities' projects on Forest Service lands in 32 states.

"The Recovery Act projects we're announcing are central to creating jobs and building a better, stronger economy in the future," said Secretary Vilsack. "These projects exemplify President Obama's commitment to sustainability, reducing our environmental footprint, and increasing energy efficiency, which will benefit the 178 million people who visit the National Forests each year, while generating additional tourism and stimulating local economies."

Monnig indicated that eight significant projects will be funded on the Forest in Nevada and the Eastern Sierra portions of the Forest in California, including the Bridgeport and Carson Ranger Districts. "The funding provided by the Secretary's announcement will allow us to complete maintenance backlog projects that will improve a number of our Forest's facilities and trails for our visitors," said Monnig. "These projects will also help stimulate local economies, while improving our infrastructure, including historic buildings, trails, and campgrounds."

"I am pleased these funds have been made available to help create jobs, increase tourism, and make improvements to Nevada's trails and Forest facilities," said Nevada Senator Harry Reid. "We worked hard to pass the economic recovery package, and it's good to see the funds being used in the spirit of the bill."

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest facilities and trails projects that are included in the economic stimulus recovery funding include the following for Nevada and California:

NEVADA:

- Re-Roofing Historic Buildings across the Forest for \$550,000;
- Mount Rose Recreation Facilities Improvement in Washoe County for \$700,000;
- Mt Rose Wilderness Trails Maintenance and Stewardship in Washoe County for \$150,000;
- Spring Mountains National Recreation Area (NRA) Youth Employment Deferred Trails Maintenance in Clark County for \$250,000; and,
- Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Trails Maintenance and Wilderness Stewardship for \$140,000 in Nye and Lander Counties.

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NEVADA and CALIFORNIA:

- Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Restroom Facility Building Replacements in Washoe, Douglas, Elko, Humboldt, Lander, Nye, and White Pine Counties in Nevada, and in Alpine and Mono Counties in California for \$325,000.

CALIFORNIA:

- Carson-Iceberg and Hoover Wilderness Trails in Mono and Alpine Counties for \$300,000; and,
- Honeymoon Campground Rehabilitation in Mono County for \$472,000.

The Forest Service manages 143,000 miles of trails on the 193 million acres of national forests and grasslands – the Humboldt-Toiyabe has over 2,000 miles of trails. The Forest Service Trails System provides access to a wide diversity of users including hikers, horseback riders, mountain bikers, cross-country skiers, snowmobilers, and all-terrain vehicle enthusiasts.

In many ways, the benefits of maintaining the trails system are similar to those of roads. 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 numerous 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 that support the primary outdoor recreation activities that are best provided on the National Forests and Grasslands.

Workers hired under ARRA will maintain facilities so that they contribute to safe, high quality outdoor experiences for citizens. Once work is completed, these buildings will be more energy efficient, use less water, have a smaller environmental footprint, and better maximize taxpayer money.

Learn more about this release by contacting the Forest Public Affairs Officer, Christie Kalkowski, at 775-355-5311. Information on other Forest Service ARRA projects and related economic recovery can be found at: http://fs.usda.gov/economic_recovery.

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Bridgeport and Carson Ranger Districts are located mainly in Mono and Alpine Counties in California, although Carson also has lands in Sierra, Nevada, El Dorado, and Lassen Counties in California.

Please also note that Mount Rose is officially referred to by various labels depending whether it is the Wilderness (Mount Rose), the byway (Mt. Rose Scenic Byway), the peak (Mt Rose), the campground (Mt Rose), or the summit (Mount Rose Summit Welcome Plaza). The Forest Service did not consistently label the ARRA project name with its respective official name.