

**USDA Forest Service – San Juan National Forest/Public Lands**  
**ARRA Approved Projects**  
(as of July 23, 2009)

**Veterans Jobs Project**

**Project Category:** Wildland Fire Management

**Date of Announcement:** May 5, 2009

**Estimated Funding:** \$ 500,000

The Forest Service will put returning armed forces veterans to work reducing wildland fire potential in and around communities in southwest Colorado on the San Juan National Forest. The locations for these projects are forested areas adjacent to communities in places where treatments with heavy equipment or prescribed fire are not practical due to terrain and proximity to homes and infrastructure. Veterans are being trained as sawyers and will use chainsaws to thin dense vegetation to reduce catastrophic wildland fire potential. The Veterans Green Jobs (VGJ) partnership, in cooperation with the Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) was designed to provide employment and civilian life reintegration and provide opportunities to become leaders in the emerging green jobs industries. About 350 veterans applied to accomplish natural resource conservation and energy audit certification courses through this effort. The veterans crews will begin work this fall on the San Juan National Forest, reducing fire risk and improving forest health conditions.

**Partners:** Southwest Conservation Corps; Veterans Green Jobs

**County(s):** Archuleta, Dolores County, La Plata, Montezuma

**San Juan National Forest - Road Resurfacing/Stabilization and Decommissioning**

**Date of Announcement:** June 2, 2009

**Estimated Funding:** \$ 4,900,000 for Capital Improvement and Maintenance

**County(s):** Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma

The San Juan National Forest has over 2,700 miles of authorized system roads and over 900 miles of unauthorized roads. The authorized road system requires periodic maintenance to improve public safety, forest and watershed health, and to preserve roadway structure. Unauthorized roads are user-created routes or abandoned logging routes that require decommissioning to prevent resource damage and wildlife disturbance. This project will perform critical maintenance, repair road damage, remedy safety hazards, improve public and administrative access, enhance forest and watershed health, reduce the deferred maintenance backlog for system roads, and enable the decommissioning of roads in critical areas. This work will be contracted to the private sector to create jobs in a rural, economically distressed region of Colorado that includes Dolores, Montezuma and Archuleta counties, providing jobs in road construction and maintenance trades in areas that are currently experiencing high rates of unemployment.

**San Juan National Forest Recreation Site Maintenance to Improve Public Safety and Health**

**Date of Announcement:**

**Estimated Funding:** \$ 2,500,000 for Capital Improvement and Maintenance

**County(s):** Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma

The San Juan National Forest receives an average of 1.7 million visitor days annually, contributing significantly to the tourism industry in the Four Corners area of Colorado. Old, extensively used facilities include campgrounds, trailheads, scenic overlooks, picnic areas, cabins and boat ramps. Such facilities have the potential for a great number of accidents, resulting either from the behavior of individuals or

unsafe conditions. This project will be contracted to the private sector to complete critical maintenance of these dilapidated sites, improving public health and safety and enhancing recreational opportunities that contribute to the local tourism economy.

#### **San Juan National Forest Trails and Trail Bridges Maintenance**

**Date of Announcement:** July 21, 2009

**Estimated Funding:** \$ 2,200,000 for Capital Improvement and Maintenance

**Partners:** Southwest Conservation Corps

**County(s):** Archuleta, Conejos, Dolores, Hinsdale, La Plata, Mineral, Montezuma, San Juan

The San Juan National Forest averages 1.7 million visitor days annually, contributing significantly to the tourism industry in the Four Corners area of Colorado. The 1,800 mile trail system attracts many visitors and includes major segments of the Continental Divide and Colorado trails. This project will repair hundreds of trail miles and numerous trail bridges to ensure resource protection and visitor safety. Work will include tread and drainage improvements, stabilization, cribbing, clearing, brushing, bridge repair, and signing. Trail work will be accomplished through an agreement with Southwest Conservation Corps, an established partner that trains crew leaders and maintains a ready pool of job applicants. Crews include American Indian and Hispanic youths from low-income families. The bridge work will be accomplished by contract. This project will enhance visitor safety and experience, improve forest health, and preserve access for management and fire suppression.

#### **Region-wide Historic Buildings Restorations**

**Date of Announcement:** July 21, 2009

**Estimated Funding:** \$ 3,252,000 for Capital Improvement and Maintenance

**Partners:** Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, Adams State College, San Juan Mountain Association, Colorado Historical Society, Save Americas Treasure, Colorado Preservation Inc, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Colorado Mountain College, Historic Preservation Department, Deadwood Historical Society, Friends of Clay Butte Lookout, Gates Family Fund, Ballantine Foundation, Bacon Family Trust, National Smokejumpers Assoc., Dominguez Archeology Resource Group, Cortez VFW, Rio Grande County Museum, Chimney Rock Association, Friends of Alpine Tunnel (Alpine Tunnel Historic Association), Denver South Park Railroad Group, Pitkin Historic Association, Mile High Jeep Club/All 4 Fun

**States:** Colorado, South Dakota

**Countries:** Colorado: Archuleta, Conejos, Dolores, Eagle, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Lake, Park, Saguache.

South Dakota: Custer, Lawrence

This project supports the recent Preserve America legislation. The Rocky Mountain Region has a rich historic legacy reflected in old ranger stations, fire lookouts, and cow camps. This project will upgrade several of these structures, making them safe, comfortable, and accessible public destinations. Most of these buildings will become part of the cabin rental program, available for public overnight use, but some structures will be set up as interpretive sites. Pieces of this project will involve a cost-efficient way to retrofit old buildings with sustainable energy systems, increasing their efficiency and making them useful again. Many partners are involved in this project. They have either helped raise significant funds for these projects or have contributed labor hours. When the project is finished, 21 sites will be open for overnight rental use and other sites will be renovated to ensure public safety, provide interpretation, and restore an American Indian sacred site.

**(San Juan National Forest projects: Glade Guard Station (Dolores County) – contract(s) to upgrade water system and install photovoltaic array for energy efficiency; Chimney Rock Archaeological Area (Archuleta County) – contract(s) to restore and stabilize prehistoric, Chacoan cultural site.)**