

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Total ARRA Funds Available \$1,500.0 Federal
Total ARRA Budget Request \$1,500.0 Fed ES and \$1,000.0 SDPR

✓USDA FOREST SERVICE, HAZARDOUS FUEL TREATMENT AND FOREST MANAGEMENT

Total ARRA Funds Available: \$1,500.0

Budget Request: \$1,500.0 Federal ES, \$1,000.0 SDPR FY09 Capital

Purpose: Provide funding for hazardous fuel mitigation, Firewise Education, Community Wildfire Protection Planning, Forest Restoration & Production, Wood to Energy, Expanded Natural Resources Intern Program and Community Forestry. This project puts Alaskans to work in underserved communities by hiring them for hazardous fuels mitigation projects across the state. Projects educate the public on Firewise principles and guides communities in developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans thereby reducing loss due to wildfire. Hazardous fuels mitigation projects have the added benefit of providing wood energy to communities and stimulating local economies. Community forestry projects improve air and water quality, sequestering of storm water and creation of wildlife habitat and areas for recreation. Forest Restoration and Production projects provide for pre-commercial thinning which will immediately contribute toward fish habitat improvement, restoration, water quality improvement, and enhance forest growth and yield on private lands. An expanded natural resources intern program educates Alaska's high school juniors and seniors about Alaska's resources through class-room and outdoor skill building activities highlighting forestry, recreation, soil and water conservation and wildlife and fisheries management.

The ARRA funding will expand Forestry's already existing (federally- and SDPR- funded) hazardous fuels, Firewise education, CWPP planning Community Forestry and Forest Management programs. The one-time projects are estimated to put almost 200 people to work in the private sector or with the state in non-perm firefighting/fuels crews. The state does not bear the burden of continued operating budget obligations for the projects and services. For fire fuel mitigation crews, the state will create limited-duration short term non-perms (approximately 60 to 80) to work at specific project locales. As fuels treatment projects are completed in a geographic location, the vacant non-perm positions will be transferred to new duty stations for reuse with new crew hires on new projects. Extension of some employees' field seasons and some non-perm project management positions will be needed to coordinate the various Economic Stimulus projects.

Timing Issues:

- Funding is available until September 30, 2010
- Some projects require implementation from 7 days of award of funding; some projects require implementation within 30 days of award of funding
- Projects for consideration have been submitted as part of a competitive evaluation through the State & Private Forestry Programs of the USDA Forest Service.
- USFS announced on March 13, 2009 that Division of Forestry would receive \$1,500.0 in economic stimulus funds.

Other Restrictions

- Strict federal reporting requirements on accomplishments
- Funding must create jobs
- Up to 3% may be used for management and oversight of the programs, grants and activities
- Entire amount must be authorized upon award
- No state match required

Sub-Recipients

- Grants will be provided to boroughs and municipalities for community forestry and hazardous fuels reduction.

March 20, 2009