

## **Regionwide Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects/Readiness**

**Project Category:** Wildland Fire Management

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

**Estimated Funding:** \$ 4,000,000

**Project Summary:** This project creates or sustains jobs in economically hard-hit areas throughout the Midwestern U.S. It also increases public safety, maintains and restores forests for public use; restores and/or improves habitat for wildlife species; helps stem the spread of non-native invasive species; creates and/or sustains forest products industry jobs; and supports biomass markets. In the economically depressed State of Michigan, jobs will be created and skills learned with the creation and training of local wildland firefighting crews. It will allow for the deployment of a weather station in the State of Ohio to assist in the monitoring of wildland fire conditions, as well as help communities develop community protection plans. Cooperating local and state agencies will be engaged to provide similar opportunities in other Midwestern states.

**Partners:** Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

**State(s):** Michigan

**County(s):** Genesee County

## **Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects/Readiness greater than 120 days**

**Project Category:** Wildland Fire Management

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

**Estimated Funding:** \$ 5,500,000

**Project Summary:** This project creates or sustains jobs in economically hard-hit areas throughout the Midwest and Northeastern U.S. It also increases public safety; maintains and restores forests for public use; restores and/or improves habitat for rare and sensitive species; sustains forest products industry jobs; and supports biomass markets. Using contracts, agreements, and partnerships, and also employing temporary crews for up to three years, the project uses a variety of methods to prioritize needs, prepare plans, and implement treatments of fuels that pose a fire hazard. On the Superior National Forest in Minnesota, The Nature Conservancy will partner with the Forest Service to package hazardous fuel treatments into projects that will employ local businesses. Another exciting project on the Superior NF involves cooperation with the State of Minnesota and the Forest Service's Northern Research Station to study the relationship between forests and global climate change. In Michigan,

where unemployment rates are among the highest in the nation, jobs will be created in surveying property boundaries, marking survey corners, and performing additional tasks needed to prepare the land for treatments that will decrease wildfire risks by removing trees from crowded forests. Similar work and opportunities will be provided in Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio, and Vermont.

**Partners:** The Nature Conservancy; Hocking College

**State(s):** Michigan

**County(s):** Wexford County

### **Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects/Readiness less than or equal to 120 days**

**Project Category:** Wildland Fire Management

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

**Estimated Funding:** \$ 6,192,000

**Project Summary:** People At Work for the Future -- This multifaceted fuels treatment project uses contracts and agreements to employ temporary crews for up to two years. It creates or sustains jobs in economically hard-hit, high fire-risk areas in Minnesota and elsewhere in the Midwest and Northeast. It also increases public safety; maintains and restores forests for public use; sustains forest products industry jobs; and supports biomass markets. In the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia, local farmers and conservation districts will use range management activities to reduce hazardous fuels build up. In Michigan, where unemployment rates are among the highest in the Nation, timber sales will decrease wildfire risks in crowded forests and improve habitat for Kirtland's warbler, a songbird on the federal endangered species list. In Ohio, the work will help restore uncommon open land habitats, such as barrens and oak savannas.

**Partners:** National Resource Conservation Service

**State(s):** Michigan, Minnesota, West Virginia

**County(s):** *Michigan:* Alcona County; Crawford County; Delta County; Iosco County; Lake County; Manistee County; Mason County; Newaygo County; Oceana County; Oscoda County; Wexford County

*Minnesota:* Cook County; Lake County; Saint Louis County

*West Virginia:* Grant County; Greenbrier County; Pendleton County; Pocahontas County; Randolph County; Tucker County