



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **FOREST SERVICE ANNOUNCES \$54 MILLION TO CONSERVE AT-RISK FORESTS**

**WASHINGTON**, March 31, 2008 – Forest Service Chief Abigail Kimbell today announced the award of \$54 million in grants today to permanently protect thirty-five working forests across thirty-two states.

“The Forest Legacy Program conserves open space which allows us to respond to climate change, improves water quality and flows, and connects children to nature,” said Kimbell. “The strength of the Forest Legacy Program is the cooperation between States, partners, and private landowners—all working together to protect environmentally and economically important forests that are threatened by conversion.”

The Forest Legacy Program is the only Federal grant program focused on the permanent protection of important private forestland. The Forest Legacy Program promotes voluntary land conservation by operating on the principle of “willing buyer, willing seller.”

Examples of 2008 projects include: a forest vital for wildlife and cultural resources in Georgia; a rare pine barren ecosystem in New Hampshire; and a valley in Montana with abundant recreation opportunities, rare fish and wildlife, and local economic benefits.

Private forest landowners are facing increasing real estate prices, property taxes, and development pressure, resulting in conversion of forests to other land uses. The Forest Legacy Program focuses on conserving working forests – those that provide clean water, forest products, fish and wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities. Most Forest Legacy Program projects are conserved through conservation easements, allowing landowners to keep their forestlands while protecting them from future development.

The Forest Legacy Program uses a national competitive process to select the most ecologically and socially important, threatened, and strategic projects. The program consistently affects more than 50-percent non-federal

match of funds to improve water quality and flows, climate change and to connect children to nature. Each project needs to be at least 75-percent forested, comply with Federal appraisal standards, and complete a multi-resource forest management plan. For 2008, the Forest Service selected 35 projects out of 82 excellent State proposals that totaled \$192 million. For more information on the Forest Legacy Program, please visit: <http://www.fs.fed.us/cooperativeforestry/programs/loa/flp.shtml>

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## 2008 Forest Legacy Program Project Grants

State	Project	Funding Level	Approximate Acres
GA	Paulding County Land area	\$3,464,000	3,500
NH	Ossipee Pine Barrens	\$2,355,000	2,264
ME	Lower Penobscot Forest	\$3,266,000	42,241
AL	Mobile Tensaw Delta	\$1,979,000	1,579
TX	Turkey Creek	\$1,485,000	3,086
MI	Northern Great Lakes Forest Project	\$1,979,000	30,289
MN	Koochiching	\$3,464,000	38,331
VA	Nottoway River	\$1,485,000	5,815
MT	North Swan River Valley	\$1,979,000	464
UT	Chalk Creek South Fork #2	\$1,386,000	2,139
HI	Kealakekua Ranch	\$1,968,000	5,000
WV	South Branch	\$742,000	300
TN	Big Forks	\$990,000	1,867
CT	Skiff Mountain Phase II	\$762,000	292
NJ	Sparta Mountain South	\$2,474,000	800
VT	Brushwood/West Fairlee Community Forest	\$1,485,000	1,800
CA	Chalk Mountain Ranch	\$1,979,000	3,638
ID	Gold Creek Ranch	\$1,583,000	320
SC	Belfast/Piedmont of South Carolina	\$1,485,000	2,229
AS	Ottoville Rainforest Preserve	\$495,000	5
WI	Wild Rivers (Northern)	\$2,276,000	7,260
AR	Moro Big Pine	\$2,192,000	13,000
WA	Tahuya Headwaters	\$1,583,000	3,469
USVI	Annaly Bay Forest Legacy	\$495,000	50
AK	Perenosa Bay, Afognak Island	\$1,113,000	1,620
OH	REMA/Vinton Furnace	\$1,188,000	1,200
IL	Oblate - (River Forest)	\$193,000	44
MD	Broad Creek	\$990,000	400
NC	Coastal Plantation	\$1,485,000	741
ME	Grafton Notch	\$1,113,000	3,454
NH	Crotched Mountain	\$990,000	400
UT	Range Creek/Rainbow Glass Ranch	\$643,000	2,393
KY	Marrowbone Creek State Forest	\$1,110,000	1,300
AZ	Cedar Springs	\$700,000	280
NM	Vallecitos High Country	\$1,133,000	1,260
		\$54,011,000.00	182,830

