



## 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Grant Announcement

**\$10,643,000  
Awarded  
Create and  
Estimated  
402 jobs**

Through Title 7 of the U.S. Forest Service Federal Stimulus Grants the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) has been awarded six grants that total \$10,643,000 in funding. These grants will create 43 jobs directly with the Agency and another estimated 359 jobs indirectly through the multiplier reflected in the ripple effects of these funds hitting local economies through contracts to landowners and other local vendors. The efforts accomplished through these grants will reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire, restore native ecosystems, and improve the health of Georgia's forest.

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**09-DG11084419-027  
GFC - 1G319  
Enhanced Fuels  
Management and  
Community Wildfire  
Protection Plans  
\$3,589,000  
YTD - \$621,089.23  
6/30/10 Jobs -  
14.04 FTE**

More than 100 million dollars were spent protecting timber and communities from the 2007 Georgia Bay Complex wildfire. The Okefenokee is a fire dependent ecosystem, which needs to burn periodically. \$2.5 million in contracts will be administered on lands within one mile of the Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge boundary. Landowners will be reimbursed for fuel reduction & forest management practices such as prescribed burning, mowing & herbicide of forest fuels, creation of openings in the forest, planting of fire resistant landscapes, installation of firebreaks. Local communities likely to be adversely affected by wildfires in the Okefenokee will receive sub-grants to perform Firewise practices.  
Lead and Contact Information: Bob Campbell, 5003 Jacksonville Hwy, Waycross, GA 31503, 912-287-4915

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**09-DG11084419-039  
GFC - 1G219  
Stewardship  
Revisit Prescribed  
Fire  
\$2,243,000  
YTD - \$992,868.24  
6/30/10 Jobs -  
24.29 FTE**

Georgia's 6,400 Forest Stewardship farms need revisiting to ascertain each land owner's progress implementing prescribed fire and other forest management recommendations. Hiring of 20 foresters and forestry technicians will facilitate visitation to some 5,000 Stewardship farms over the 18 month span of the grant. Each farm will be surveyed for prescribed fire use and needs with a prescribed fire plan written for one timber stand on each farm. The GFC has recently allocated \$500,000 to a Prescribed burning incentive program for landowners to burn up to 25,000 acres.  
Lead and Contact Information: Alan Dozier, P.O. Box 819 Macon GA 31202, 1-800-GATREES

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**09-DG11084419-052  
GFC - 1G229  
Dixon State Forest  
Wildfire recovery &  
Habitat Restoration  
\$377,000  
YTD - \$110,169.01  
6/30/10 Jobs -  
0.0 FTE**

During the spring and summer of 2007, the Dixon Memorial State Forest, located 10 miles southeast of Waycross, GA, was part of one of the largest wildfires in the history of the Southeast. Approximately 19,000 acres of the forest were burned. The Georgia Forestry Commission is committed to reestablishing longleaf pine where it naturally occurred on the forest. Approximately 960 acres of longleaf seedlings have been planted to date, and approximately 1,200 acres will be planted in February 2011.  
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**09-DG11084419-040**  
**GFC - 1G239**  
**Forest Invasive**  
**Species &**  
**Cogongrass**  
**Eradication**  
**\$1,795,000**  
**YTD – \$713,489.88**  
**6/30/10 Jobs –**  
**15.77 FTE**

Cogongrass, *Imperata cylindrica* (L.), is considered the 7<sup>th</sup> worst weed in the world and has taken over vast ecosystems in southern Alabama and Mississippi as well as Florida. The number of known sites is now over 250 in 29 Georgia counties. This project will expand the current cogongrass education, detection, and eradication efforts by working through the cogongrass task force. Approximately 1,900 acres of six target invasive species have been awarded for treatment, and approximately 1,600 acres has been treated to date. The removal of these invasive plants will allow native flora to recapture the site, which will provide ecosystem benefits.

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**09-DG11084419-042**  
**GFC - 1G249**  
**Regional Longleaf**  
**Pine Restoration**  
**Initiative and Fuel**  
**Reduction**  
**\$1,742,000**  
**YTD – \$590,425.79**  
**6/30/10 Jobs –**  
**12.06 FTE**

This grant is part of a regional project involving the states of Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, and North Carolina. Longleaf pine forests once were the most dominate forest type of the coastal plain, but have been reduced to three percent of historical acreage due to conversion to other land uses and forest types. Longleaf pine forests are highly valued for their resistance to damage by insects, diseases, wildfire, and storms, and for their yield of high quality wood products, biological diversity, and scenic beauty. Work under this grant will occur within activity categories established for guiding the regional program.

These categories are:

1. Public Lands Management - 51% or \$900,000 of the grant is to be spent to increase the acreage and improve the condition of longleaf pine forests on state or locally-owned public lands. Federal public lands are excluded from the scope.
  - 120 acres - Dixon Memorial State Forest
  - 165 acres – University of Georgia, College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences, Alapaha Experiment Station
  - 2,177 acres – Georgia Department of Natural Resources lands. This includes Wildlife Management Areas, Natural Areas and State Parks
  - 38 acres - Broxton Rocks (understory vegetation)
2. Private Lands Management - 36% or \$635,515 of the grant involves longleaf pine restoration and management on privately-owned forest lands. Approximately 1,500 acres planted to date.
  - Establishing approximately 3,500 acres of longleaf pine on storm damaged lands.
3. Plant Materials Capacity - \$36,000 will be spent on activities that involve increasing the availability of longleaf pine seed, seedlings, and associated understory plant materials for use in restoration work.
4. Planning - \$150,485 involves ensuring program activities are implemented strategically and are integrated with efforts of other longleaf restoration partners.
5. Education and Outreach - \$20,000 - This activity involves educating the public and program staff about values, opportunities, and methods of longleaf pine restoration.

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**10-DG11084419-034**  
**GFC - 1G259**  
**Community Tree**  
**Planting for**  
**Ecosystem**  
**Restoration and**  
**Green Jobs:**  
**Georgia's Growing**  
**Green**  
**\$897,000**  
**YTD – \$214,179.33**  
**6/30/10 Jobs –**  
**4.97 FTE**

This ARRA funding will create 30 jobs in the private sector such as nursery professionals, tool and equipment sales, landscape architects, certified arborists and planners who will be hired or contracted. Jobs created should contribute to sustainable operations including reducing the footprint of infrastructure, provide technical assistance to communities and state and local organizations in maintaining forested lands and individual trees in urban and community settings, improve strategic community forestry planning efforts and identify appropriate tree species and sites for expanding forest cover.

Awarding of funds began in November 2009 and projects are expected to be completed by May 31, 2011. Projects awarded will involve new plantings for trees in watersheds, stream banks, parking lots, streets, housing developments, brownfields and schools to restore ecological health. Priority will be placed on projects that demonstrate economic and environmental benefits in tree plantings that improve water and air quality, energy savings, greenhouse gas reduction, and migration of storm water runoff.

GFC will focus projects mainly in communities across north Georgia where the highest net changes in unemployment rates are and strong potential partners for building tree planting capacity exist.

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Update 8/19/10