



Fact Sheet

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The Recovery Act: A Report on the Path to Progress in Colorado Creating and Saving Jobs, Boosting Household Resources, Providing Assistance for the Vulnerable in Colorado

On February 13, 2009, the Senate approved the final version of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* and sent the legislation to President Obama to be signed into law (P.L. 111-5). The *Recovery Act* is an extraordinary response by Democrats to an inherited economic crisis unlike any since the Great Depression. The legislation represents an unprecedented effort to jumpstart our economy, create and save millions of jobs, and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can not only recover but prosper once again.

Nationwide, we have already seen companies rehiring laid-off workers, construction and renovation of facilities, and the re-starting of environmental remediation activities. And, just a few months into the two-year *Recovery Act* programs:

- **We have minimized and avoided reductions in essential services in Colorado** by providing aid to help stabilize state and local budgets, protected critical safety-net programs, and saved teaching and law enforcement jobs.
- **Plans for job-creating infrastructure projects in Colorado are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$223.5 million for highway infrastructure investments (through the Federal Highway Administration); and \$10.5 million in airport grants for development projects that enhance safety, capacity and security and airport facilities and equipment upgrades (through the Federal Aviation Administration) (as of June 2, 2009). These *Recovery Act* projects deliver jobs and make important investments in the safety of our transportation systems. [DOT Allocation Report, 6/2/2009].
- **Families and communities in Colorado that have been hard-hit by the recession** can access increased unemployment benefits, assistance with health insurance premiums for those who have become unemployed, and food aid. And 1.8 million households in Colorado – approximately 95 percent of all families and individuals – have already begun seeing an increase in their take-home pay through the landmark Making Work Pay tax credit. The typical family will have about \$800 extra cash delivered to them in their paychecks over the next year. [The White House, 4/2/2009]

Here is a sampling of projects in Colorado that have been covered by local media and press releases in the past several weeks, demonstrating the real-life impacts that the *Recovery Act* has already made for Coloradans, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **\$2.2 million infusion of *Recovery Act* funds to Routt National Forest is enabling companies to rehire laid-off personnel and hire entirely new loggers.** Steamboat Springs-based Rogue Resources owner: “We can now bring some guys that were laid off back to work, and we can hire some new guys. This is just a good deal for us all around.” [*Steamboat Pilot & Today*, 6/15/2009]
- **Fort Collins-Loveland Municipal Airport will repave main taxiway with *Recovery Act* funds.** “Two years after running out of money to rebuild its main taxiway, the Fort Collins-Loveland Municipal Airport soon will have the money to finish the work. A stimulus grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 will provide nearly \$566,800 to cover the costs of restoring and repaving part of the Alpha Taxiway. [*Loveland Reporter-Herald*, 6/14/09]
- **Summit County fleet maintenance facility made possible through *Recovery Act* funds disbursed last week for transit infrastructure.** “Another slice of stimulus money will help Summit County directly by paying for the new fleet maintenance facility near the County Commons. “ Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood: “By reinvesting in our nation's transit infrastructure, we are making our communities more livable, invigorating the local economy, and putting America back to work. [*Summit Daily News*, 6/13/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* grant to five youth training programs allowed Mile High Youth Corps Training to employ 18 new young people this summer.** The federal economic-stimulus money allowed Mile High to hire an additional 18 students. Senator Bennet: “This is an incredible organization that allows you to learn skills and take time to think about what you want to do with your life as you make that contribution to your community. [*Denver Post*, 6/13/09]
- **Four Colorado projects designed to convert wood waste into energy received *Recovery Act* grants.** “The grants were awarded to Noresco to assist the development of a biomass boiler heating system at a prison in Florence; Confluence Energy, for processing wood for a wood- pellet facility; Colorado Springs Utilities, to support the co-firing of a coal facility with woody biomass; and Boulder County Open Space and Parks, to establish a biomass collection site and reinstall a biomass heating system.” [*The Denver Post*, 6/12/2009]
- **Colorado *Recovery Act* funds to “preserve critical jobs,” improve education statewide.** “By spending the money wisely, we can preserve critical jobs, ensure that more kids graduate from high school fully prepared to succeed in college and the workforce and further strengthen Colorado’s competitive position in the global economy.” [*Denver Business Journal*, 6/10/2009]
- **Colorado will use *Recovery Act* funds to train workers who lost jobs to outsourcing.** Colorado will get \$3,270,845 as its share of \$456 million in additional funds to states under the *Recovery Act* to help more of these workers upgrade existing skills or retrain for new careers in industries that have the potential to grow in the coming months and years.” [*Denver Business Journal*, 6/10/2009]

- **USDA allocates *Recovery Act* funding for ecosystem restoration and forest road upkeep in Colorado.** Coloradans can expect to benefit from safer roads and healthier, more vibrant ecosystems thanks to \$7.4 million in U.S. Department of Agriculture funding coming to the state for forest road maintenance and associated watershed and ecosystem restoration. [[Press Release – Senator Michael Bennet](#), 6/3/2009]
- **The second *Recovery Act*-funded transportation project in Colorado’s Seventh District began today.** The \$4.7 million project is one of two *Recovery Act* projects starting this week in the Denver metro area, bringing the total to four in Denver. [[Cherry Creek News](#), 6/2/2009]
- **Colorado’s 15 community health centers are expected to get \$1.2 million in *Recovery Act* funds.** Federal money will help to address increased need with more Coloradans losing their jobs and health insurance. [[Denver Business Journal](#), 5/28/2009]
- **Denver Water become’s the state’s first agency to issue Build America Bonds, a new bond program created by the *Recovery Act*.** [[Denver Business Journal](#), 5/28/2009]
- **Governor Ritter launched Colorado’s first *Recovery Act*-funded highway project on Tuesday.** CDOT has committed money to 32 projects. [[Denver Post](#), 5/20/2009]
- **Colorado’s first road project funded by *Recovery Act* funds will break ground Tuesday.** The project would probably have between 12 and 20 people working on it. [[Denver Business Journal](#), 5/18/2009]
- **Custer County clinic receiving *Recovery Act* funds to upgrade equipment.** [[Associated Press](#), 5/18/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* tax incentives for green energy encouraged Nestle Purina to hire REC Solar to set up solar energy system at Denver plant.** REC CEO: “We expect that the focus of the federal stimulus package on renewables will spur more and more Colorado businesses and organizations to find ways to increase their sustainability and reduce their carbon footprint. In addition, we are proud to contribute to the local economy by creating more solar jobs in Colorado.” [[Nestle Purina Release](#), 5/15/2009]
- **Colorado will receive \$86 million in *Recovery Act* funds from the Interior Department.** Projects will repair bridges and road, restore wildlife habitats, and update Mesa Verde National Park’s water system. [[Associated Press](#), 5/13/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funds allowed the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps to bolster its staff and support community businesses.** RMYC will add an additional three crews this summer, each consisting of 10 young adults ages 19 to 25 who will work 40 hours a week this summer removing beetle-killed trees 12 inches in diameter and less. [[The Steamboat Pilot & Today](#), 5/10/2009]
- **Western Colorado will receive \$48 million for transportation projects.** Head of Mesa County Workforce Center said it was an opportunity for unemployed and underemployed to get back into the job market. [[KJCT-8](#), 5/5/2009]

- **Recovery Act funding helps remove uranium contamination that threatened Colorado River.** [[Denver Post](#), 5/5/2009]
- **Colorado will spend Recovery Act funds on solar projects in Dolores, construction in Zapata Falls.** Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar: “Through these economic recovery investments, we are also making a down payment on restoring and protecting the stunning landscapes that BLM manages on behalf of the American people.” In Colorado, Bureau of Land Management projects to be funded include \$5,972,000 for 17 capital-improvement projects, many of them involving solar energy. The capital projects range from replacing the roof and installing a solar-power system at the Anasazi Heritage Center museum in Dolores to campground construction at Zapata Falls near the Great Sand Dunes. [[Denver Business Journal](#), 5/4/2009]