



# Fact Sheet

BYRON L. DORGAN  
CHAIRMAN

DPC Staff Contact: Erika Moritsugu (202) 224-3232  
 DPC Press Contact: Barry Piatt (202) 224-2551  
 Available Online: [dpc.senate.gov](http://dpc.senate.gov)

June 16, 2009

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

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 Idaho** 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 Idaho are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$141.8 million for highway infrastructure investments (through the Federal Highway 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 Idaho 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 500,000 households in Idaho – 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 Idaho 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 Idahoans, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **A *Recovery Act*-funded highway project on Moscow Mountain is expected to save or create 50 jobs.** Gov. C.L. 'Butch' Otter says the project, due to be completed within 70 days, is helping create work for Idaho families at a time when unemployment is rising. [[Associated Press](#), 6/9/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funds will help the Idaho Panhandle National Forest address a multi-year backlog of road repairs and bridge work.** *Recovery Act* grants will fix or obliterate eroding roads and update antiquated wooden bridges, and they will help maintain public access to popular hunting, picnicking and huckleberry-foraging areas [[The Spokesman-Review](#), 6/4/2009]
- **Stimulus grant will enable epilepsy foundation of Idaho to keep running, help clients find jobs, avoid cutting services to the 15,000 Idahoans with epilepsy.** [[Idaho Falls Post Register](#), 5/20/2009]
- **Nez Perce tribal leaders say they have submitted applications to tap into *Recovery Act* money set aside for tribal road and bridge projects.** Plans include additional funding for a \$15 million bridge spanning the Clearwater River. [[Native Times](#), 5/11/2009]
- **Bonneville County will use *Recovery Act* funds to contract park repairs, build bridges, do transit upgrades.** [[Idaho Falls Post Register](#), 5/7/2009]
- **Idaho will receive \$14 million in *Recovery Act* funding for 40 Bureau of Labor management projects.** Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar: "Through these economic recovery investments, we will make a down-payment on restoring and protecting the stunning landscapes that BLM manages on behalf of the American people." The \$14 million announced on Saturday for Idaho will go to Bureau of Land Management programs including: capital improvements (\$657,000), deferred maintenance (\$7.99 million), habitat restoration (\$2.79 million), roads and bridges maintenance and construction (\$325,000), trails maintenance and construction (\$1.04 million), and renewable energy authorizations and permits (\$1.2 million). [[Idaho Mountain Express](#), 5/5/2009]