

# U.S. assigns \$1.4 million to El Yunque

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

El Yunque National Forest will get a federal funding assignment of \$1.4 million for maintenance and improvements, Resident Commissioner Pedro Pierluisi said Sunday.

The funds are coming from President Obama's economic stimulus package and will be used for upgrades of recreational areas, improvements of the habitat for the highly endangered Puerto Rican Parrot, and the maintenance of the Espiritu Santo River and the paths through El Yunque, he said.

Improvements for the parrot habitat — the rainforest is the only site in the world where the birds still live in the wild — include the demarcation of no-access zones and projects with the Health Department to reduce "threats to the fauna."

The money will also be used to reforest the Espiritu Santo, to expand the range of the parrot, and the cleanup of the riverbanks, which will help improve the health of other species and improve the flow of water.

Pierluisi said the funds were assigned as follows: \$300,000 for capital improvements to and maintenance of recreational areas; \$425,000 for parrot habitat improvements; \$230,000 for the river; and \$200,000 for trail maintenance.

