

Reference list: Socioeconomic metrics for U.S. Forest Service planning

Travis Warziniack, Research Economist, USFS

Resource	Description
List of metrics and ecosystem services addressed by national forests that have completed their plans under the 2012 Planning Rule	List of forests and plans available on the USFS planning website https://www.fs.usda.gov/planningrule
Jobs and income supported by forest activities and management	The USFS Ecosystem Management Coordination (EMC) group produces a Benefits to People series for each national forest. The associated At a Glance reports include values by activity on jobs and income supported by each national forest. https://www.fs.fed.us/emc/economics/at-a-glance/benefits-to-people.shtml
Value of agriculture, particularly grazing	County-level data on agriculture activity, particularly grazing, is available from the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, Census of Agriculture. https://www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus/
Data on recreation use and satisfaction	National Visitor Use and Monitoring program https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/nvum/
Number of sites and site visitation for diverse groups	Special use database and permits (internal Forest Service resources) can be used for general statistics for some types of visitation and use.
Data on equity and use of national forests by minority groups	Research by David Flores at the Rocky Mountain Research Station and others https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs_journals/2018/rmrs_2018_flores_d002.pdf
Deferred maintenance costs and change in deferred maintenance backlog	Current status of deferred maintenance and condition assessment of assets are in the Natural Resource Management System, an internal Forest Service resource (Infrastructure / Infra).
Effect of management action on tribal resources	Impacts to tribal resources might be difficult to quantify. Forests may have to use qualitative mapping or a checklist of significant resources to tribes and how they are affected by management action.
Carbon	The USFS Office of Sustainability and Climate produces carbon assessments for forests and regions using FIA data. The assessments address carbon stocks across a variety of carbon pools on the forests and carbon stored in harvested wood products. The assessments can be found at https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/sc/carbon .
Items identified in the USFS Resource Planning Act (RPA) – Land Management Plan Data Catalogue that links RPA data products with Plan directives	Each major resource area covered by the Resource Planning Act (RPA) Assessment has been linked to Plan directives. These include climate change, wildlife and biodiversity, water resources, forest products, rangeland, and recreation. The Data Catalogue is available at https://www.fs.fed.us/research/rpa/links.php .
Other metrics	The Forest Service has a working group called the National Ecosystem Services Strategy Team (NESST). The group maintains a database of metrics related to ecosystem services. Greg Arthaud, national program leader for ecosystem services research, is a good contact for NESST.