

# National Forest Socioeconomic Indicators

Data sources and Methods, November 2016



## *Purpose of the Reporting Tool*

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The National Forest Socioeconomic Indicators reporting tool makes socioeconomic data accessible and useful for Forest Service planning. The reporting tool is free and an ideal solution for Forest NEPA project documentation at all levels, from forest plans to categorical exclusions to large landscapes. The tool delivers county and Forest-level socioeconomic indicators that are defensible (accurate, relevant, and reliable) and establish appropriate context for monitoring National Forest contributions and impacts on surrounding communities. (Link: <http://headwaterseconomics.org/dataviz/forest-indicators/>)

## *Geographic Scope*

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The reports are available for each National Forest unit in the contiguous United States and Alaska.

The reports contain county-level data. When the tool is used to generate a report for a National Forest unit, the output report contains data for each individual county associated with the Forest as well as aggregate data for the group of counties. The default list of counties associated with each National Forest unit is preset using a nation-wide economic contribution model<sup>1, 2</sup> that identifies counties economically associated with National Forests.

A primary advantage of the National Forest Socioeconomic Indicators report is standardized analysis using continuously updated data for preset areas for each National Forest. With the tool's user interface, agency staff and other users can quickly reference their National Forest(s) of interest and run reports that are spatially relevant, without any requirement to identify administrative boundaries or socioeconomic geographies.

The preset areas also are easy to modify using the tool's user interface. For example, counties can be added or removed from the default list.

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<sup>1</sup> METI Corp/Economic Insights of Colorado, LLC. 2010. *"USDA Forest Service Protocols for Delineation of Economic Impact Analysis Areas."*

<sup>2</sup> Forest Service staff can access the following document and link. Others can contact Headwaters Economics for more information. Ecosystem Management Coordination, May 2016. *"Website Analysis Methods Guide The Estimated Economic Contributions of National Forests and Grasslands."*  
[http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/economic\\_contribution/documents/WebsiteAnalysisMethodsGuide20160505.pdf](http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/economic_contribution/documents/WebsiteAnalysisMethodsGuide20160505.pdf)

## Report Output

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The reports are designed to be content practical and Forest relevant. Each report is formatted as a single compressed executive summary for quick use in project files and other standard analysis. The reports can be downloaded as Excel or PDF files.

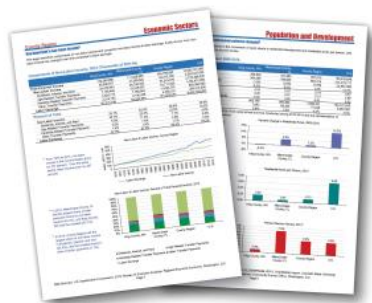
Critical indicators in the report were selected by an agency-partnered team covering the most essential information for National Forest socioeconomic monitoring.

Agency staff and other users now will be able to run consistent reports over time, tracking changes on individual or multiple National Forests.

## More Detailed Reports Are Available

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## Contact

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