

National Forest Timber Sales and Timber Cuts, FY 1980-2018

Methods and Data Sources, Winter 2019



Background

This interactive map allows users to view and download data on total timber volume, value, and price sold and cut from National Forests. Data are presented at the National Forest, State, and National Forest Region scale for Fiscal Years 1980 to 2018.

Why Is It Important?

Timber and forestry jobs remain an important part of the economy in many rural communities throughout the U.S. West and South. As public land management priorities and timber markets change, tracking timber sales, cuts, and price on public lands can be important to understanding local and regional economic dynamics and opportunities.

Timber cuts from public lands also feature in policy and political debates, and good information can inform better decisions. For example, see the bill draft introduced in 2011 in the U.S. House of Representatives (the *National Forest County Revenue, Schools and Jobs Act*) or Headwaters Economics ongoing discussion of potential county payments reform.ⁱ

The Forest Service makes cut and sold reports available to the public, but only by downloading pdf's published on its website for each Forest Region, making trend and comparative analysis difficult. These interactive maps allow users to track trends and easily compare timber sales, cuts, and prices across geographies. The download option makes data available in Microsoft Excel for more sophisticated analysis.

Methods

Average sold price and average cut price is the quotient of total timber volume sold and cut divided by total timber value sold and cut for each National Forest, State, or Forest Service Region. This is the average price received by the Forest Service for timber sold and cut in each year and may not reflect market value for timber sold and cut from private, state, or other federally managed lands.

Data Sources

USDA Forest Service Forest Management. FY 1980 to FY 2018 Cut and Sold Reports. Convertible Products by State, National Forest, and Region.

<https://www.fs.fed.us/forestmanagement/products/cut-sold/index.shtml>.

Additional Resources

Timber receipts and receipts from other commercial activities on federal lands affect payments to local governments that are made to compensate for the non-taxable status of federal lands. Headwaters Economics also updates interactive maps showing how federal land payments are distributed to counties and states. Maps and data cover historic payments as well as current policy maps which project what happens if SRS is not reauthorized and counties receive only a revenue sharing payment from the Forest Service, and what happens if PILT is reformed into a single payment to counties: <https://headwaterseconomics.org/dataviz/county-payments/>.

In addition to Timber Sales and Timber Cuts, Headwaters Economics also produced an interactive map, the Gross Receipts from Commercial Activities for FY 1986-2017, that allows users to view and download view and download data on gross receipts from all commercial activities at the National Forest, State, and National Forest Region scale: <https://headwaterseconomics.org/dataviz/national-forests-gross-receipts/>.

Also see the Headwaters Economics analysis of various proposals to reform county payments for examples of how these data can provide information that helps decision-makers make better decisions: <https://headwaterseconomics.org/county-payments/county-payments-research/>.

Headwaters Economics *Economic Profile System* allows users to produce free, detailed socioeconomic profiles at a variety of geographic scales. The EPS software includes a detailed county-scale report on timber employment and income for every county in the nation. EPS was designed and funded in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service. Download and install for free at <https://headwaterseconomics.org/tools/economic-profile-system/about/>.

Contact

Mark Haggerty, mark@headwaterseconomics.org, (406) 570-5626

ABOUT HEADWATERS ECONOMICS

Headwaters Economics is an independent, nonprofit research group whose mission is to improve community development and land management decisions in the West, <https://headwaterseconomics.org/>.

ⁱ The National Forests County Revenue, Schools, and Jobs Act of 2011. Discussion draft released September 15, 2011. US House of Representatives. <http://naturalresources.house.gov/UploadedFiles/SRS2011DiscussionDraft.pdf>. The Headwaters Economics analysis is found here: <https://headwaterseconomics.org/topic/county-payments/>.
