

National Forest Gross Receipts from Commercial Activities, FY 1986-2016

Methods and Data Sources, Summer 2017



Background

This interactive map allows users to view and download data on gross receipts from all commercial activities on National Forests. Receipts are grouped in nine class codes (sources of receipts) associated with the National Forest Fund (NFF) and five additional class codes of receipts, deposits, or credits associated with the timber sale program (for a full description of the class codes, see the box on page 2).

Data are displayed at the National Forest, State, and National Forest Region scale for Fiscal Years 1986 to 2016. Data are available to download at the National Forest, State, and Forest Service Region scale.

These data are receipts that are deposited in the National Forest Fund, for subsequent deposit in the General Fund of the U.S. Treasury. They do not include receipts that are deposited into special accounts and trust funds that are available to the Forest Service without additional appropriation by Congress. The totals include only the geographies displayed on the map, and therefore do not include Puerto Rico.

Why Is It Important?

National Forests provide important economic opportunities to adjacent communities, ranging from commercial timber, grazing, and minerals extraction to recreation and the provision of ecosystem services such as clean air and water. The economic opportunities change over time and vary from community to community based on forest resources and policy, and also on community characteristics including access to markets, education, and tourism infrastructure.

Communities with federal public lands also receive payments to compensate for the non-taxable status of federally managed lands. Historically, these payments were linked to the value of gross receipts. With the expiration of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act, payments again will be linked to commercial activities on public lands. Congress is considering extending or reforming how county payments are funded, and understanding historic and current levels of gross receipts will help decision-makers make better decisions.¹

The Forest Service makes statistics on gross receipts available to the public only for the last several years (currently FY 1986-2016), and only by downloading pdf's published on its website, making trend and comparative analysis difficult. These interactive maps allow users to track trends and easily compare gross receipts from timber, recreation, grazing, and other commercial uses of public lands across geographies. The download option makes data available in Microsoft Excel for more sophisticated analysis.

¹ Headwaters Economics has an ongoing discussion of various reform proposals to county payments that can be found here: <https://headwaterseconomics.org/county-payments/county-payments-research/>.

Additional Information About Receipts

National Forest Gross Receipts are reported by Proclaimed National Forest by State in the following classes and are used to calculate the 25% Payment to States:

Class 1 - Timber. Amounts collected and deposited into the timber sale deposit fund from the sale of timber and certain other forest products such as posts, poles and firewood. (It does not include interest, fines, penalties, or amounts in excess of contract stumpage rates collected in timber trespass, timber property, or other timber settlement activities.)

Class 2 - Grazing East (grazing except 16 Western States.) Amounts collected for all grazing trespass settlements for resource value and grazing fees, regardless of class of livestock, received for forage consumed on other than the sixteen western States (Class 8).

Class 3 - Land Use. Amounts collected for land uses including resource value of trespass settlements and entire amounts of pasture permit fees. (It does not include fees from land uses related to power, minerals, or recreation uses covered in other classes.)

Class 4 - Recreation Special Uses. Amounts collected for all types of recreation use except user fees collected under Land and Water Conservation Fund (class 7).

Class 5 - Power. Amounts collected for uses authorized by Forest Service permits or easements for all types of power generating projects and power transmission line rights-of-way

Class 6 - Minerals. Amounts collected from sale of minerals and permit fees. Includes mineral lease and permit fees collected by the United States Department of the Interior on acquired lands having National Forest status but does not include any mineral revenue derived from National Forest land which was established from the public domain.

Class 7 - Recreation User Fees. Amounts collected for admission and user fees at designated Land and Water Conservation Fund areas.

Class 8 - Grazing West. Amounts collected for grazing fees in national forests in the sixteen western States: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Class 9 - Quartz Crystals. Amounts collected subject to Public Law 100-446 for quartz in Arkansas.

The following deposits, credits and collections are included in the calculation for sharing 25% of receipts in Payments to States:

KV Revenue includes collections under the Knutson-Vandenberg Act of June 9, 1930, as amended (16 U.S.C. 576-576b). The K-V Act authorizes collections from timber sale purchasers for sale area improvement work including reforestation.

Purchaser Road Credit and Specified Road Costs are, generally, credits, deposits or adjustments to payments by purchasers of timber sale contracts.

The Timber Salvage Sale receipts are payment for salvageable material used to facilitate the timely removal of timber damaged by fire, wind, insects, diseases, or other events.

TPTP, Timber Sale Pipeline Restoration Fund, is used for restoring the timber sale "pipeline" and addressing backlog recreation project needs. These funds are revenue from timber sales released under section 2001(k) of the fiscal year 1995 Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Assistance and Recessions Act, minus payments to States and local governments and other necessary deposits (sec. 60.1, para. 27).

Source: U.S. Forest Service Secure Rural Schools Payments and Receipts, *Additional information about receipts*.

Data Sources

USDA Forest Service Secure Rural Schools Payments and Receipts, Receipts Reports. ASR 13-2, National Forest Statement of Receipts by State. FY 1986 to FY 2016.

http://www.fs.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsinternet/lut/p/c4/04_SB8K8xLLM9MSSzPy8xBz9CP0os3gjAwhwtDDw9_Al8zPwhQoY6BdkOyoCAPkATIA!/?ss=119985&navtype=BROWSEBYSUBJECT&cid=null&navid=101130000000000&pnavid=101000000000000&position=BROWSEBYSUBJECT&ttype=main&pname=Secure%20Rural%20Schools-%20Payments%20and%20Receipts.

Additional Resources

The 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/>.

In addition to Gross Receipts, Headwaters Economics also produced an interactive map, the Timber Sales and Timber Cuts for FY 1980-2016, that allows users to view and download cut and sold data on timber volume, value, and price at the National Forest, State, and National Forest Region scale: <https://headwaterseconomics.org/dataviz/national-forests-timber-cut-sold/>.

Also see a summary of all Headwaters Economics analysis on 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/>.

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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/>.