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NORTHWEST FOREST PLAN

THE FIRST 20 YEARS (1994–2013)

Social and Economic Status and Trends

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for the greatest good

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Abstract

The Northwest Forest Plan 20-year report describes conditions and trends in socioeconomic well-being in the NWFP area. To reveal trends in socioeconomic wellbeing, the 20-year report tracks demographic and economic data as well as data on agency expenditures and several forest-related resources. Unlike the 10-year report, the 20-year report does not attempt to evaluate causation. Data are displayed to indicate possible relationships between socioeconomic data and federal management actions.

Preface

The Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) 10-year report aimed to demonstrate whether or not the Plan met its socioeconomic goals by focusing on goods and services produced from federal land management. The analytical framework used for the 10-year report uncovers linkages between the socioeconomic data and federal land management under the Plan.

The primary purpose of the 20-year report is updating data and trends displayed in the 10-year and 15-year reports. The 20-year report draws heavily on the analysis and writing in the 10-year and 15-year report (Charnley et al. 2006; Grinspoon and Phillips 2008). The 20-year report is similar to previous reports in displaying data related to socioeconomic well-being in the NWFP area.

The analytical framework is consistent with the 15-year report. Unlike the 10-year report, the analytical framework used for the later reports was not designed to uncover linkages between socioeconomic data and federal land management actions under the Plan. The 20-year report simply tracks demographic data as well as data on agency expenditures and several forest-related resources to display potential trends related to socioeconomic well-being. The differences between the 10-year report and the 15-year and 20-year reports are primarily due to new regional priorities and methodologies for NWFP monitoring agreed upon by the Regional Interagency Executive Committee (RIEC) in March 2006.

The monitoring report is presented in 12 chapters. Chapters 1 and 2 offer an introduction and key findings. Chapter 3 through Chapter 7 address data on resource outputs, including timber production, special forest products, grazing, minerals and recreation. Chapter 8 through Chapter 11 evaluate data in economies that may be associated with federal forest management in the NWFP area. Chapter 12 summarizes the analysis of the data.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

The Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) was developed partly in response to the controversy over the harvest of old-growth forests in the Pacific Northwest. By the late 1980s and early 1990s, the controversy became a crisis as a series of lawsuits severely limited federal timber harvest in the Pacific Northwest. In response to the crisis, President Clinton held a summit in 1993 that led to his issuance of a mandate for federal land management and regulatory agencies to work together to develop a plan to resolve the conflict (Charnley et al. 2006). The result is the Northwest Forest Plan, approved in 1994, which amended Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land management plans to include strategies for forest management, economic development, and agency coordination.

One of the overarching goals of the Plan is balancing the need for forest protection with the need to provide a steady and sustainable supply of timber and nontimber resources in order to promote socioeconomic well-being in NWFP area communities. Plan monitoring is a required tool for determining the effectiveness of the Plan in meeting this and the other goals of the Plan. The purpose of this 20-year report is to inform the Regional Interagency Executive Committee (RIEC) and interested publics of the potential trends in socioeconomic well-being in the NWFP area.

Socioeconomic Monitoring Questions

During the first decade of the NWFP (1994-2003), socioeconomic monitoring focused on evaluating two questions: are predictable levels of timber and nontimber resources available and being produced, and are local economies experiencing positive or negative changes that may be associated with federal forest management? The answers to both of these questions provide important information about socioeconomic well-being in the NWFP area. The 10-year socioeconomic monitoring module included collection of both primary and secondary data to answer the questions posed above about predictable levels of timber and nontimber resources and changes experienced by local economies.

In March 2006, the RIEC agreed upon new regional priorities and methodologies for NWFP monitoring. The

RIEC developed a new socioeconomic monitoring question: What is the status and trend of socioeconomic well-being? In order to answer this question, the RIEC specified periodic regional analysis of existing social, economic and agency data. Due to budgetary constraints, no new data was collected.

This 20-year report provides the data compiled in response to the RIEC's modification of NWFP's socioeconomic monitoring questions posed in the NWFP Record of Decision (ROD).¹ The 20-year report also follows the RIEC's direction to use existing data rather than a combination of existing data and primary research as was the protocol for the 10-year report. The aim of this report is to assemble the secondary data in a way that shows the potential trends in socioeconomic well-being in the area

Because over 40 percent of the land in the NWFP area is federally-managed (US Census 2011), monitoring data related to natural resource use shed light on potential relationships between socioeconomic data and federal land management actions. For example, employment in the wood products manufacturing industry is related to change in federal timber harvest. Agency employment is also related to change in federal timber harvest and to agency budgets. A better understanding of the relationships between socioeconomic data and federal land management actions allows land managers to make more informed and better natural resource management decisions that potentially affect socioeconomic well-being of neighboring communities. This information may also assist land managers in prioritizing work.

For the 20-year report, data on population, ethnicity, unemployment, employment, and personal income are charted. Data on quantifiable resource management activities on federal forest lands that contribute to social and economic well-being are also tracked. These include: timber, special forest products, grazing, minerals, and recreation. Lastly, data about agency budgets and employment levels, and agency revenue contributions to local governments are analyzed.

¹The Record of Decision (ROD) is one of two key documents establishing policy and direction for the NWFP; the other document is the Standards and Guidelines (S&G).

Measuring socioeconomic well-being is controversial. As the authors of the 10-year report explain:

The notion of “well-being” has been widely discussed by social scientists, but it has not been rigorously defined at either conceptual or operational levels. Well-being is a concept based on how “the good life” is defined. While the concept has come to be used as a common expression, the characteristics of “the good life” may be different for people in different social, cultural, and economic settings. Socioeconomic well-being reflects the general conditions of people’s lives, or the state of a social system that may include many dimensions of community life. Well-being is also defined on the basis of capabilities and achievements of individuals (Sen 1985) and on the social, cultural, and psychological needs of people and communities (Wilkinson 1991). Well-being is often used to represent general community welfare (Richardson and Christensen 1997) and has been assessed through socioeconomic status and community capacity (Doak and Kusel 1996). Studies of community well-being have focused on understanding the contribution of economic, social, cultural, and political components of a community in maintaining itself and fulfilling various needs of local residents (Christakopoulou et al. 2001, Kusel and Fortmann 1991) (as modified from Donoghue and Sutton 2006).

Although no definitive conceptual or operational definition of community socioeconomic well-being exists, it is accepted that measures of socioeconomic well-being should represent multiple dimensions of the human community, such as social, economic, and human concerns (Force and Machlis 1997). Employment instability can cause hardships on individuals and families, as well as distress in local and regional economies. Therefore, employment is weighted as a primary factor determining socioeconomic well-being within the NWFP area over the report period.

Methods and Data Sources

The social and economic monitoring program assembles existing data to determine the status and trends in social and economic well-being in the NWFP area. Key social

and economic issues include: 1) the role and quantity of federal timber in the market; 2) federal agency obligations to communities near federal timberlands; and 3) the role forests play, especially federal forests, in local and regional economies. The program tracks demographic data as well as data on agency expenditures and forest-related resources to display potential trends. The data are not suitable for a statistically valid cause-and-effect analysis linking trends in socioeconomic well-being to natural resource management activities on federal lands.

The 20-year report builds on the analysis completed for the 10-year and 15-year reports and examines additional data through 2012. Annual data for all indicators in the time period were not always available. The data displayed in the 20-year report vary based on availability, consistency between years, and the need to present the analysis clearly and effectively to show recent social and economic trends. Comparisons of recent data to those in the previous reports are also discussed.

Most of the social and demographic monitoring was conducted at the county level. The data are mostly based on surveys conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. The advantage of using this scale of information is that the data are available and affordable. On the other hand, counties are large and using data at this level often masks change in well-being occurring at the sub-county or community scale. Counties are also part of larger economies that characterize the NWFP area, and as such they show differences within these economies.

Not all data are available at the county-level. Much of the agency resource data are available only at the unit-level (i.e., forest or BLM district). Agency units may cross portions of multiple counties. Moreover, the temporal scales presented in this report necessarily vary due to data limitations. For example, agency recreation data are collected at regular intervals, but changes in sampling methodologies limit the ability to compare data across years to identify trends. Therefore, while some data are presented annually between 1995 and 2012 (e.g., timber harvests), some other data only cover a portion of the 20-year period since the adoption of the NWFP.

Economic Contributions of Federal Land Management Agencies

The 20-year report includes data on the economic contributions from federal land management agencies to counties in the NWFP area. These data are used to estimate how various resource outputs, uses and recreation opportunities affect jobs and income. They are closely related to other social data and the status and trends of socioeconomic well-being in the NWFP area.

The data for these indicators, and many of the other indicators discussed in the following chapters, come from Forest Service Regional and BLM State resource specialists, state and federal social and economic databases, and IMPLAN. Most of the agency data represent complete counts of the identified indicators such as timber harvest, agency employment, and budgets. Other data are based surveys such as recreation use. The survey data used as indicators are described in more detail in the relevant chapter.

Chapter 2: Key Findings

In 2006, the Regional Interagency Executive Committee (RIEC) agreed upon a new socioeconomic monitoring question that replaced the questions posed for the 10-year report. In order to maintain consistency, the 20-year report uses the same methods to answer the question: What is the status and trend of socioeconomic well-being?

- **Total employment in forest products industries, including logging, primary and secondary wood manufacturing has been variable and has declined overall by forty percent since 2001 (figure 2-2). However, employment in forest products industries related to Forest Service and BLM harvests increased between 2001 and 2012.** Timber harvest and related employment have been key issues in forest policy discussions since the early 1970s. Total employment in these sectors has a history of increasing and decreasing in the NWFP area. Timber employment is closely related to timber harvest.
- **Between 2001 and 2012, overall agency employment declined (figure 2-1).** Employment is a foundation of socioeconomic well-being. Agency employment, jobs supported by agency timber harvest and recreational activities are especially important. Data show that recreation-related employment was substantial during the same period.
- **From 2005 to 2009, timber harvest levels declined sharply. Timber harvested from federal forests increased nearly 70 percent between 2009 and 2012.** Most of this decline can be attributed to reductions in timber harvests on non-federal lands. After 2009, timber harvests levels increased. Timber harvested from federal forests has reached volumes not seen since shortly after the adoption of the NWFP. However, timber harvested from non-federal forests remains below the 1995 to 2005 average.

Between 2001 and 2009, timber offered for sale on federal lands more than doubled, and timber harvest in 2009

was 60 percent greater than that of 2001 (figure 2-3). In 2012, timber offered for sale was approximately 80 percent of probable sale quantity (PSQ), and timber harvest was also approximately 80 percent of PSQ. From 2001 to 2012, the percentage of timber harvested on federal lands compared to total harvest on all ownerships increased from 3.2 to 9.6 percent.

- **In the past decade, the population of nonmetropolitan counties has increased more slowly than metropolitan counties (figure 2-4).** Population size is often an indicator of economic diversity. Most people in the NWFP area live in counties that the U.S. Department of Labor describes as metropolitan. These counties contain core urban areas of 50,000 or more population.
- **The effects of changes in timber harvest and related employment on well-being are likely more pronounced in nonmetropolitan counties.** Nonmetropolitan counties are less diverse economically and more strongly tied to the wood products industry. Most of the timber harvested in the NWFP area comes from nonmetropolitan counties. Although forest products manufacturing employment is about equally split between metropolitan and nonmetropolitan counties, it accounts for roughly 10 percent of total employment in nonmetropolitan counties and only 1 percent in metropolitan counties. In periods of economic hardships, such as the one that began in 2008, federal lands and federal agencies played especially important roles in contributing to socioeconomic well-being in rural America. While timber harvested on NFS and BLM lands declined in 2008, the change was modest compared to the decline in harvests from non-federal lands. Timber harvested from NFS and BLM lands reportedly kept mills running during that difficult year.
- **Recreation visitor spending is the largest single source of economic activity associated**

with NFS and BLM management in the NWFP area. Millions of visitors recreate on NFS and BLM-managed lands in the NWFP area. The annual number of visits is estimated at approximately 20 million – with 5.3 million to BLM-managed lands and 14.7 million to NFS lands in the NWFP area (see chapter 7). Visitors to NFS and BLM-managed lands in the NWFP area spend money on lodging, restaurants, souvenirs, and other trip-related expenses. This spending contributes to economic activity in the

NWFP area. In 2012, NFS and BLM recreation visitors supported approximately 6,900 direct jobs and 2,900 indirect and induced jobs in the NWFP area (figure 2-1).

In order to make the status and trends available to a wide range of stakeholders, the monitoring team is creating a webpage on recreation.gov that contains all of the socioeconomic monitoring data related to well-being. This responds to stakeholder requests for more transparency from the Forest Service.

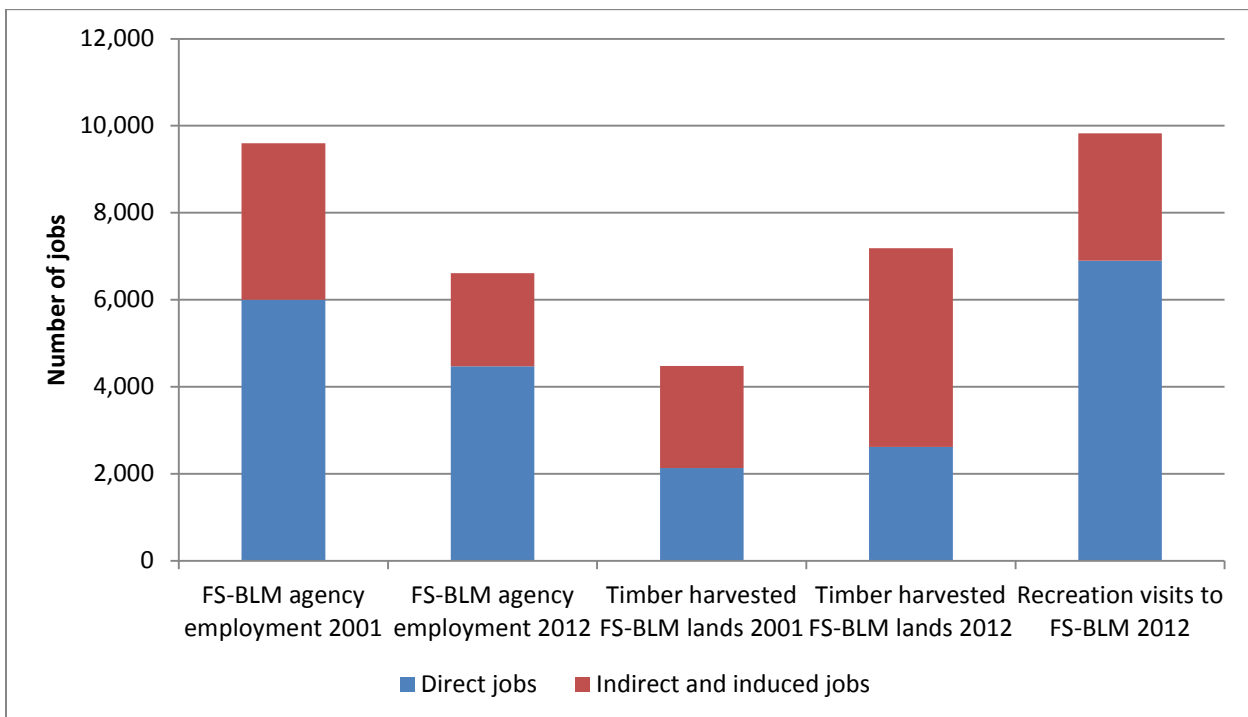


Figure 2-1: Employment supported by agency programs in the NWFP area

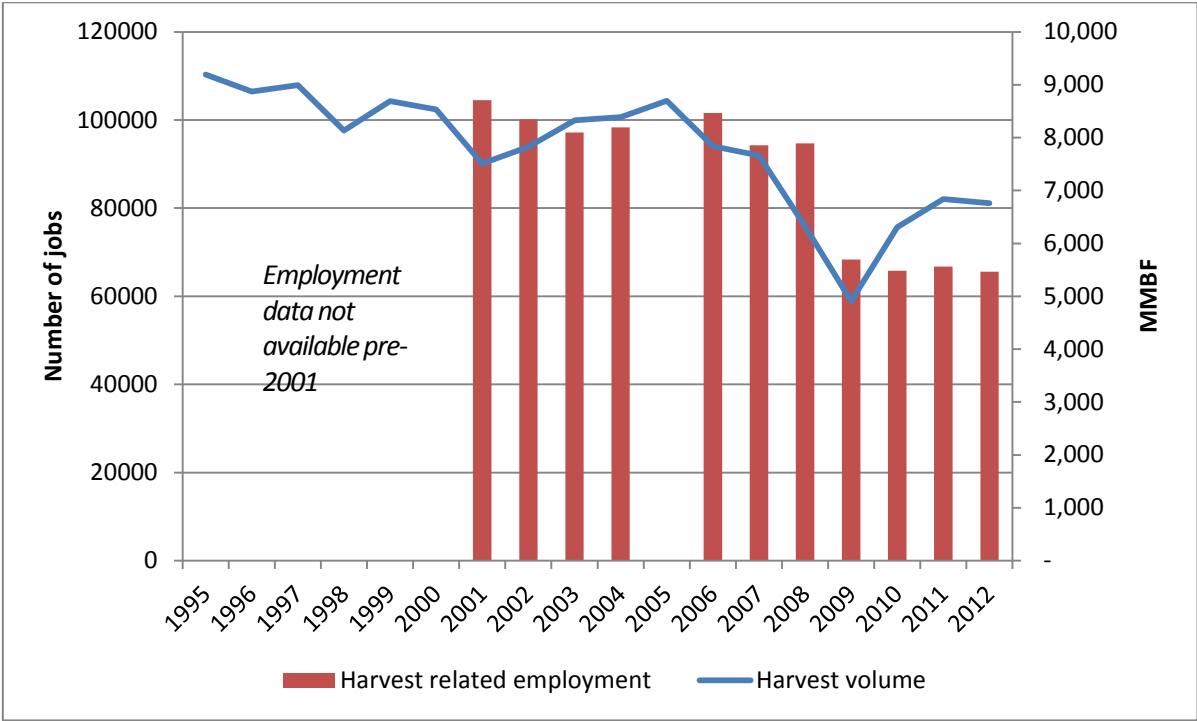


Figure 2-2: Timber-related employment and timber harvest on all ownerships in the NWFP area

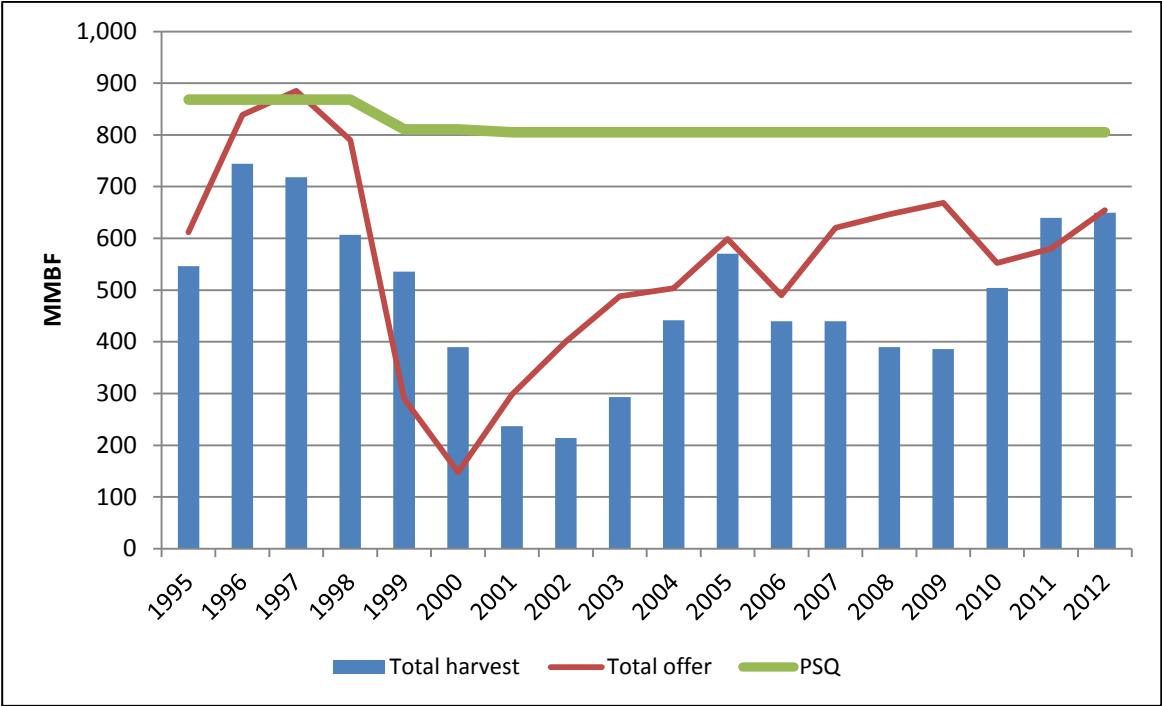


Figure 2-3: Total timber offered for sale, timber harvest and probable sale quantity (PSQ) on federal lands

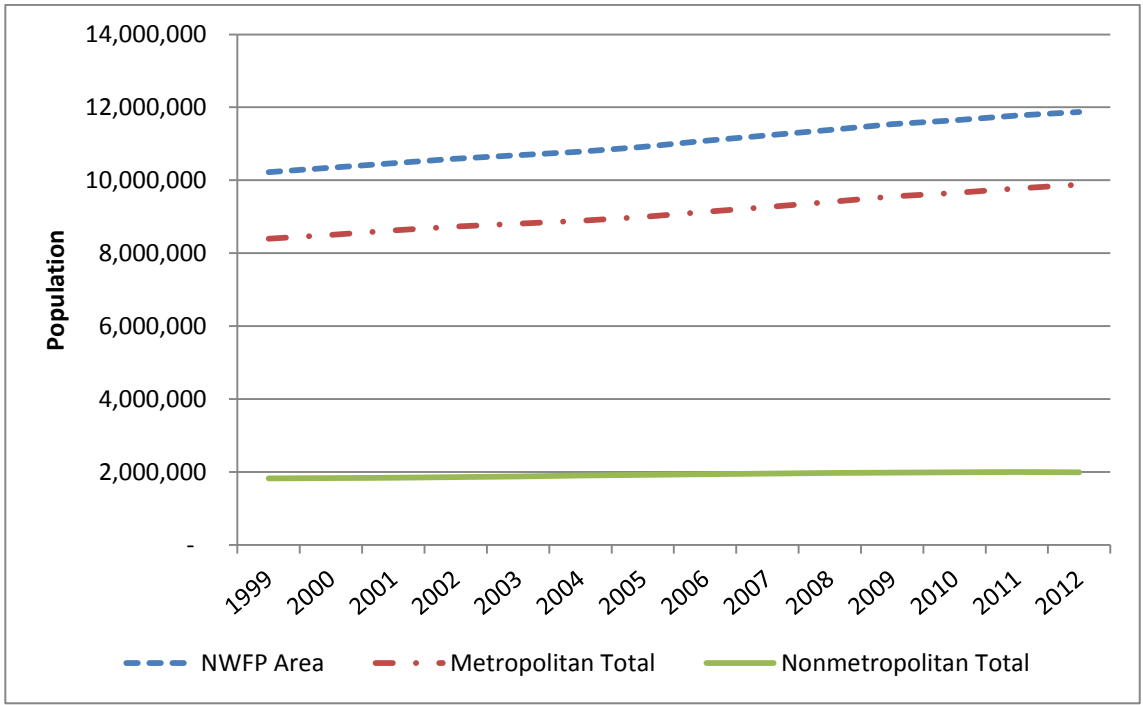


Figure 2-4: Population change in NWFP area, 1999-2012

Chapter 3: Timber

“During the 1990s, much of the discussion about the Plan’s socioeconomic goals focused on timber production (Charnley et al. 2006).” A prevailing concern was that the Plan’s cutbacks in federal timber harvesting would negatively affect local forest communities in the Pacific Northwest. Many of these communities had residents who worked in the timber industry as loggers, mill workers, secondary wood products manufacturers, and transporters of wood and wood products. Any reduction in federal timber harvest volumes had the potential to incur social and economic impacts on timber workers and their families in the region (Charnley et al. 2006). This chapter focuses on data in timber production in the NWFP area.

One objective for timber harvest under the Plan was to meet “...the need for a sustainable supply of timber and other forest products that will help maintain the stability of local and regional economies, and contribute valuable resources to the national economy, on a predictable and long-term basis” (USDA and USDI 1994b: 26). “The concept of predictability, as it applies to timber production on federal lands, has both a long- and a short-term perspective. Long-term predictability is linked to a sustainable timber flow, which is tied to the concept of a regulated forest (Charnley et al. 2006).” One of the methods the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) use for calculating timber production is allowable sale quantity (ASQ), which is the quantity of timber that may be sold from lands identified as suitable for timber production.² During the 1980s, the ASQ from the national forests and the BLM districts in the NWFP area averaged 4.5 billion board feet annually (USDA and USDI 1994a).

Harvest levels associated with the Plan are described using Probable Sale Quantity (PSQ)³ rather than ASQ. The

²The definition of allowable sale quantity (ASQ) is found in the Forest Service Manual (FSM) 1900 and Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 2409.13. The ASQ is the quantity of timber that may be sold from the area of suitable land covered by the forest plan for a time period specified by a plan. This allowable sale quantity (ASQ) is usually expressed on an annual basis as the “average annual allowable sale quantity.”

³The Probable Sale Quantity (PSQ) is defined in the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines Volume 1 – Chapter 1-4, November 2000, p 479.

terminology of “allowable” was changed to “probable” to reflect some uncertainty in calculations for the various alternatives in the Plan, but PSQ is otherwise comparable to ASQ. PSQ is a term used to describe harvest levels that can be maintained without a decline over the long term, and includes only scheduled or regulated yields from the matrix or adaptive management areas and does not include harvests from reserves or administratively withdraw areas (USDA and USDI 1994a). The PSQ represents the anticipated annual flow of timber from this regulated forest; using the average of the anticipated flow during a 10-year period. The current PSQ from national forests and BLM districts under the NWFP is 805 million board feet.

While producing a predictable supply of timber for economies at various scales, the Plan also aimed to maintain ecological sustainability. A second objective for timber harvest under the Plan was to use it as a tool for managing vegetation to achieve ecosystem management objectives, such as promoting development of late-successional and old-growth habitat. The Plan did not quantify the amount of timber harvest produced as a result of management activities in late-successional and riparian reserves. Federal agencies have since completed late-successional reserve assessments that examine reserve conditions and estimate the acreage in which timber harvesting would promote late-successional forest habitat, and use scientific research to determine how to best accelerate late-successional forest development by using harvest treatments (as modified from Charnley et al. 2006).

Timber harvested from reserves contributes to the total volume offered for sale by the agencies and to socioeconomic well-being, but because timber volume produced through treatments in the reserves does not constitute a long-term, sustainable supply of timber, it does not contribute to PSQ volume (USDA and USDI 1994a: 3&4-263).

A shorter term perspective on predictability in timber supply focuses on annual accomplishments providing an annual flow of timber from federal forests to support stable employment. Whether the volume of timber offered for sale by the agencies is identified as PSQ volume or volume produced from a treatment in a late-successional reserve is

less important in terms of supporting stable employment in the short-term. The source, however, affects whether the volume can be sustained on a long-term basis. For example, thinning in reserves may produce volume over the short term, but it cannot sustain long-term production.

This chapter examines data in the total volume of timber offered for sale by the agencies. These data are compared to the total PSQ. Some interpretation of the data is also provided. Predictability of future volume offered for sale and specific features of timber sales such as their size and type, and qualifications for bidding on the sales are not assessed for purposes of this monitoring report.

Expectations

During the first two years of the Plan, the volume of timber sales from NWFP area forests were expected to differ from the PSQ because federal agencies needed time to complete the surveys and assessments required by the Plan. The agencies also needed to prepare new sales consistent with Plan standards and guidelines (USDA and USDI 1994a: 3&4-269). In 1995, agencies were expected to offer for sale 60 percent of the estimated PSQ (USDA and USDI 2004: 221). The next year, agencies were expected to offer for sale 80 percent of the estimated PSQ. After that, agencies expected that the average annual timber volume offered for sale from matrix lands and adaptive management areas would be consistent with PSQ levels. (as modified from Charnley et al. 2006). The PSQ estimates under the NWFP were based on the expectation that most of the harvest volume would come from regeneration harvest of old forest stands in matrix and some adaptive management areas.

“The Forest Ecosystem Management Assessment Team (FEMAT) noted that achieving predictable and sustainable timber sales from federal forests under the Plan would be difficult, if not impossible (Johnson et al. 1993: 23 as modified from Charnley et al. 2006).” For a more complete discussion of expectations, see Vol. II, Ch. 2 of the 10-year report (Charnley et al. 2006).

Data Analysis

The Forest Service and BLM maintain corporate timber-volume reports on: volume of timber offered for sale,

volume of timber sold, and volume of timber harvested. Volume offered is the amount of timber that the federal agencies make available for sale in a given fiscal year (October 1-September 30). Not all timber sales that agencies offer are purchased; therefore, volume of timber sold is the timber that actually receives a bid from a qualified purchaser and is awarded. Once sales are sold, purchasers generally take two to three years to harvest. As a result, the volumes sold and harvested in a given year are rarely the same. Socioeconomic impact analyses use volume harvested, because it is the timber-related value that enters the economy. It is the measure of the timber from federal forests that contributes to employment in a given year.

This chapter uses volume of timber offered for sale as an indicator of intended accomplishment by the agencies. Volume offered for sale measures all volume made available for sale by the agencies, including volume offered from late-successional and riparian reserves, and volume not meeting forest utilization standards. As described above, the PSQ component of that volume is the amount of timber offered for sale from matrix lands and adaptive management areas. In this report, the volume that applies to PSQ is not identified separately. The Forest Service data on the volume of timber offered for sale, sold, and harvested are expressed in terms of long logs. The BLM timber data are expressed as short logs. Long logs are scaled to 32 feet for timber volume measurement and short logs are scaled to 16 feet. BLM short log volume is converted to long log volume using a conversion factor equal to 0.825 times the short log volume.

Results

The timber industry became a major economic force in the NWFP area in the mid-nineteenth century. The industry had a dominant role in the region’s economy until the 1960s. During the past half century, the timber industry’s importance declined relative to the region’s economy. An examination of the past decade reveals continued shifts in the timber industry. In 2001, there were more than 100,000 jobs in the NWFP area in timber-related sectors, including logging, primary and secondary processing. By 2012, however, the number of jobs in those sectors dropped by nearly 40 percent to 65,000 jobs (table 9-1).

Nonmetropolitan counties experienced particularly dramatic declines in the timber industry (table 9-1). In 2001, more than 12 percent of jobs in nonmetropolitan counties were in the timber sector. In 2012, that percentage had declined to only 3 percent. During the same period, however, total nonmetropolitan employment in the NWFP area increased. Declines in the timber industry were more than offset by growth in other sectors. Although overall employment increased, changes in the relative importance of various sectors changed. If new jobs do not match existing worker skills, then the changes may increase unemployment. The mismatch between skills and job requirements may be exacerbating unemployment in nonmetropolitan counties, where the unemployment rate now exceeds the metropolitan unemployment rate in all three NWFP area states (figure 8-7).

Changes to timber harvests have not been uniform across states. NWFP counties in Oregon have seen only a modest decrease in total timber harvest volume. In 1995, 3.8 billion board feet were removed from NWFP counties in Oregon across all ownerships. In 2012, 3.5 billion board feet

were removed. In contrast, both Washington and California saw timber harvests on all ownerships in the NWFP area decline by about 40 percent (figure 3-1).

Following a steep decline in federal timber harvests in the late 1990s and early 2000s, harvest volumes increased through 2005 (figure 3-1). However, the housing market crash decreased demand for wood products in the construction industry. As the housing market recovered, timber harvests on federal lands in the NWFP area increased between 2008 and 2012 (figure 3-1). Timber harvest on federal lands are often important to communities near public lands even though federal timber harvests account for only approximately 10 percent of total harvest in the NWFP area (figure 3-3).

In addition to federal regulation and land management, private forces influence timber production in the NWFP area. Globalization has also affected timber markets in the NWFP area. Imports of foreign timber increased from only 12 million board feet in 1995 to 116 million board feet in 2012. In contrast, exports of NWFP timber declined from 1.4 billion board feet in 1995 to 1.1 billion board feet in

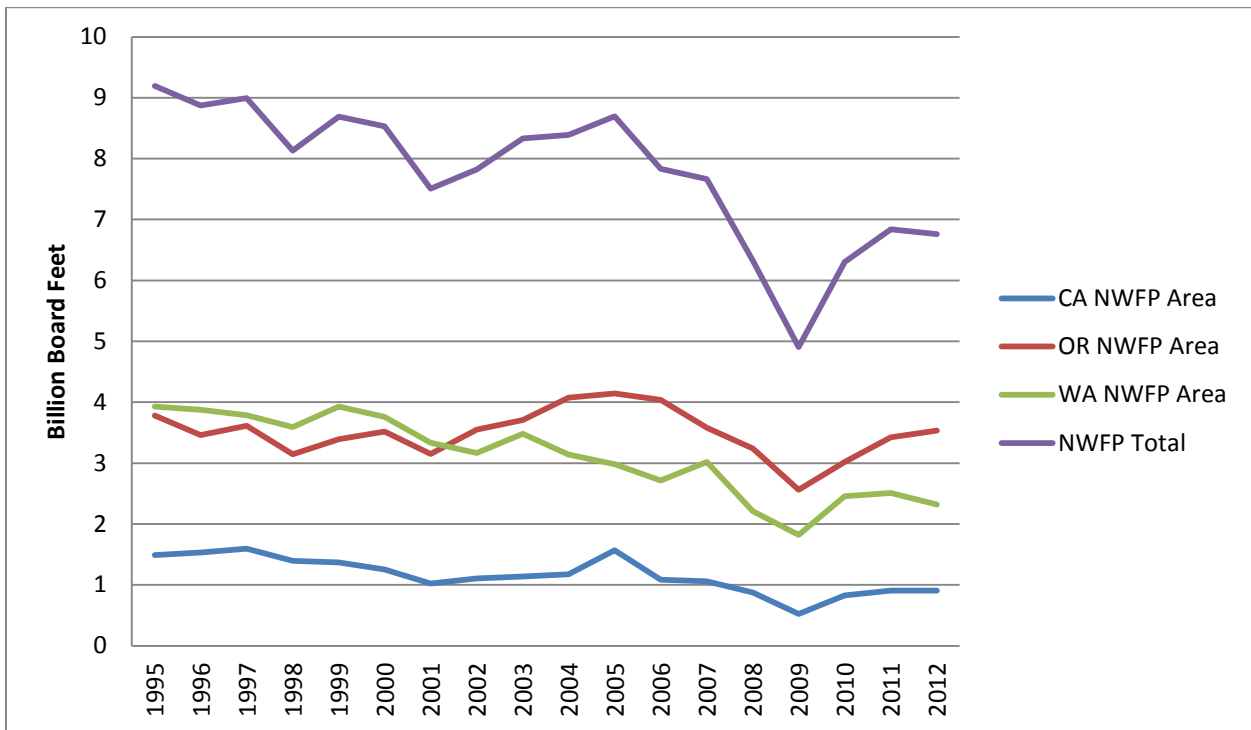


Figure 3-1: Timber Harvest by State in NWFP area, All Ownerships

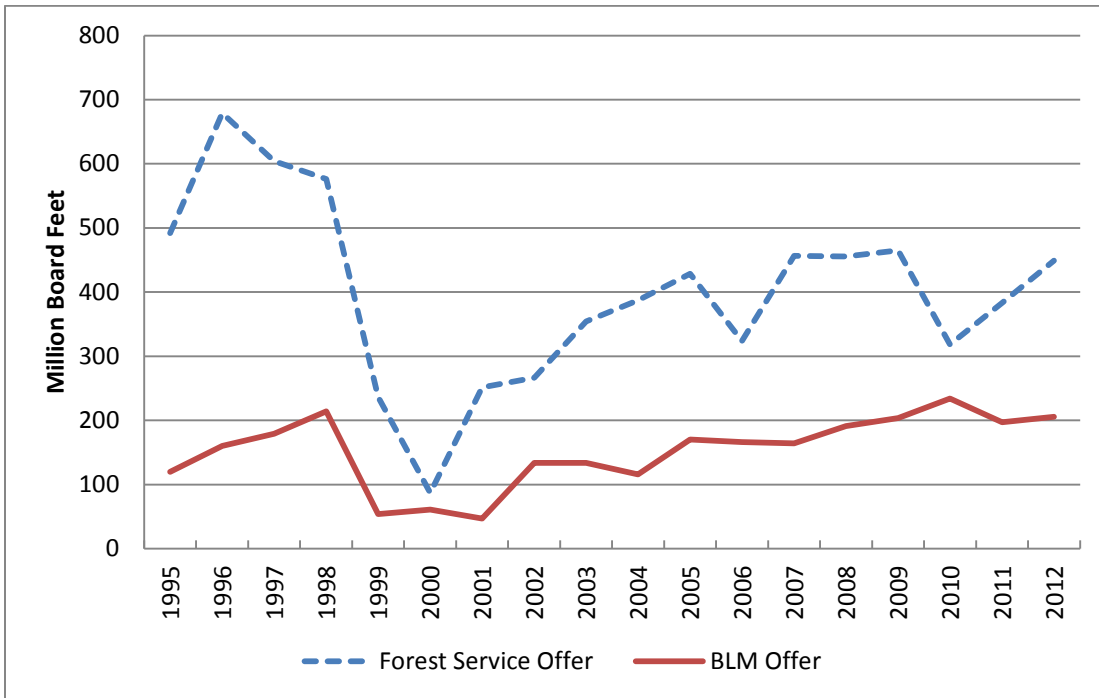


Figure 3-2: Timber offered for sale on National Forest System and BLM lands in the NWFP area, fiscal years 1995-2012

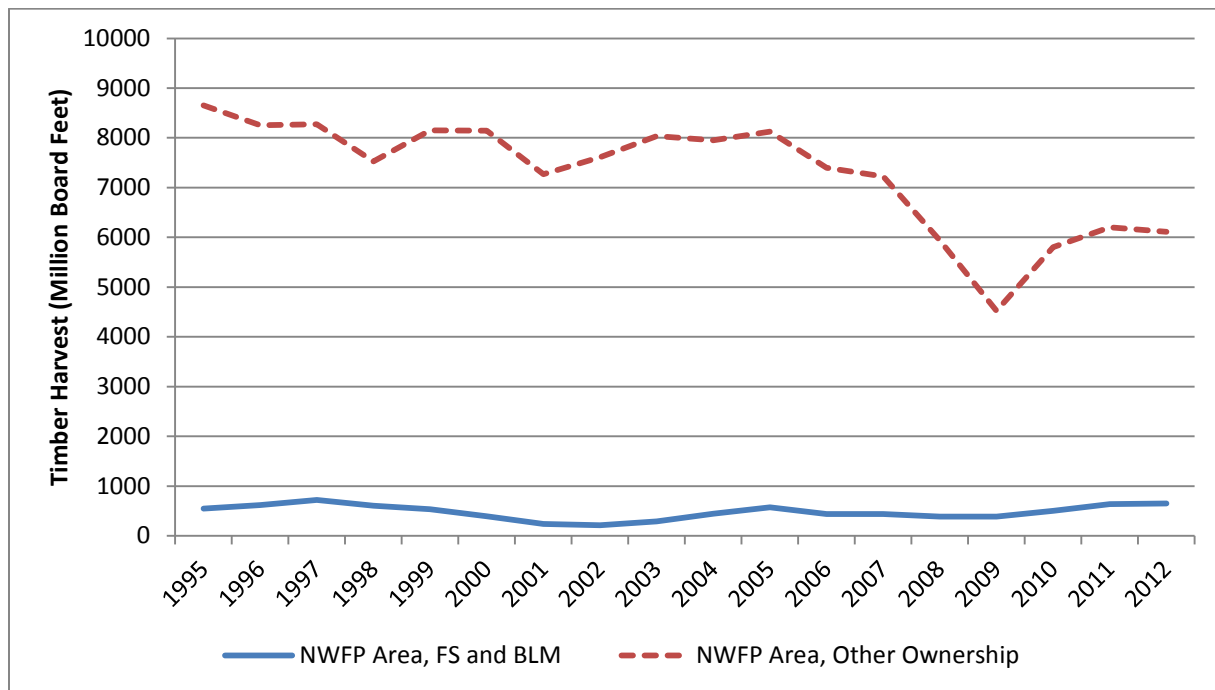


Figure 3-3: Timber harvest on all ownerships, 1995-2012

2012 (figure 9-6). While global competition generally makes consumers better off through lower prices and a wider variety of available goods, some domestic firms become less profitable. Changes in the global marketplace, therefore, affect individuals and firms in the NWFP area.

Pressure from competition may induce efficiencies in the timber sector. Fewer logging and primary wood manufacturing employees are needed for each million board feet of timber (figure 3-4). This suggests employees are becoming more productive and the timber sector is becoming less labor-intensive. Increased labor productivity helps to explain the increase in average annual real income in timber-related sectors between 2001 and 2012 (figure 9-3). Therefore, while fewer people are employed in the timber industry, the individuals in that sector are typically better compensated than they were 15 years ago.

Discussion

Although federal agencies are not meeting PSQ volumes, timber supplies from agency lands are becoming more stable and predictable compared to the early years of Plan implementation. Since the 10-year report, the volume offered for sale from agency lands has continued to increase

gradually (figure 3-5). The drop in timber harvesting following 2009 resulted from broader economic conditions including the national downturn in building construction (figure 3-6). The 10-year report states that shortfalls in timber-sale volumes offered after 1998 are believed to be related primarily to (1) implementing the survey and manage species standards and guidelines after a lawsuit brought by the ONRC; (2) the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations et al. v. National Marine Fisheries Service lawsuit, which constrained timber sales that required biological opinions and limited harvest in watersheds with Endangered Species Act-listed anadromous fish; and (3) protests and appeals on individual timber sales (USDA and USDI 2004: 221–222). The lawsuits described above caused numerous timber sales to be enjoined. And the contentious issue of logging old growth has caused appeals and litigation over proposed sales that include old growth (Dombeck and Thomas 2003, Thomas 2003).

Lawsuits, the implementing of survey and manage species standards and guidelines, protests, and appeals led to a major drop in regeneration harvest timber sales beginning in 1999 (USDA and USDI 2004: 223). Instead of regeneration harvesting, methods defined as partial removal

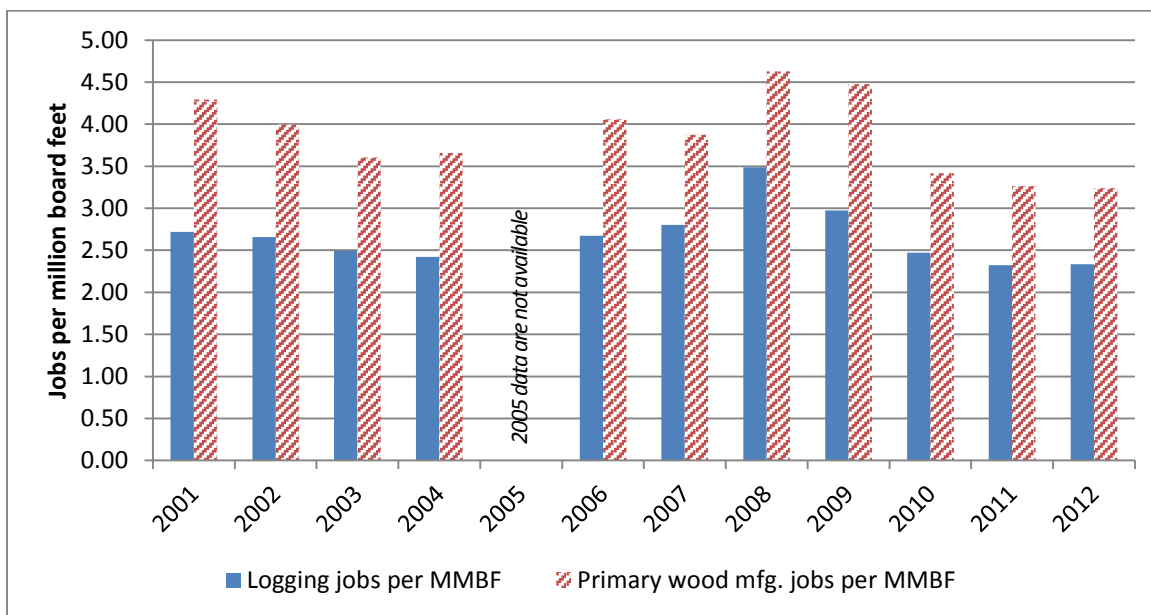


Figure 3-4: Jobs per million board feet of harvest on all ownerships, 2001-2012

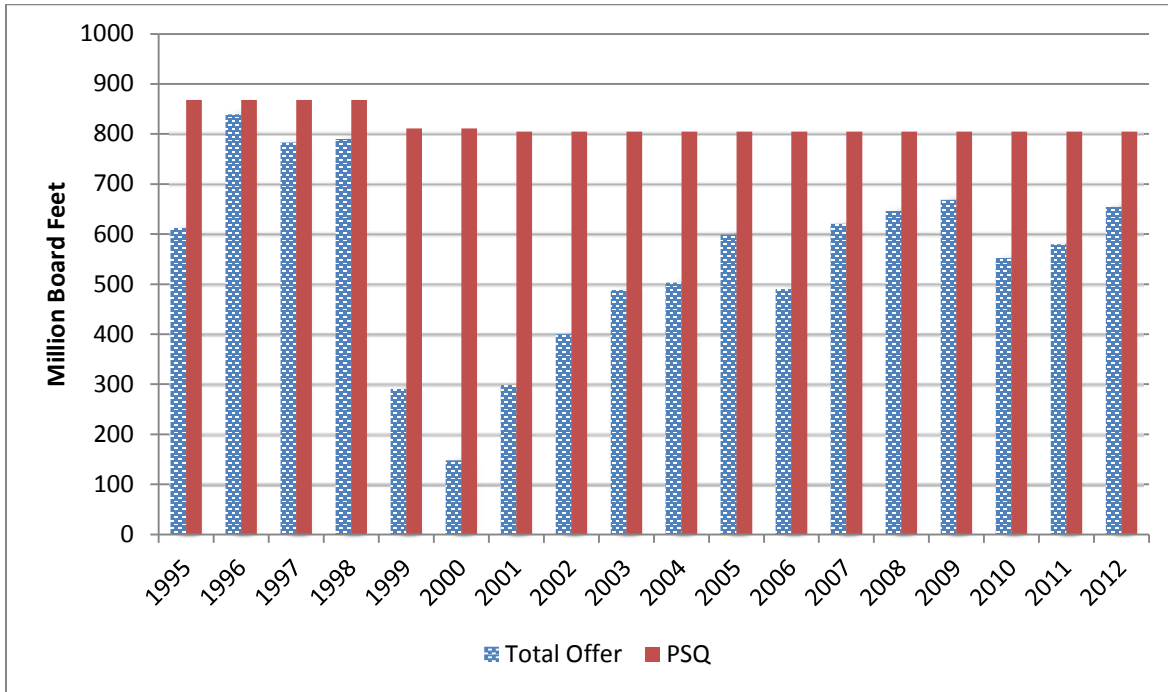


Figure 3-5: Timber offered by the Forest Service and BLM compared to PSQ in the NWFP area, 1995-2012

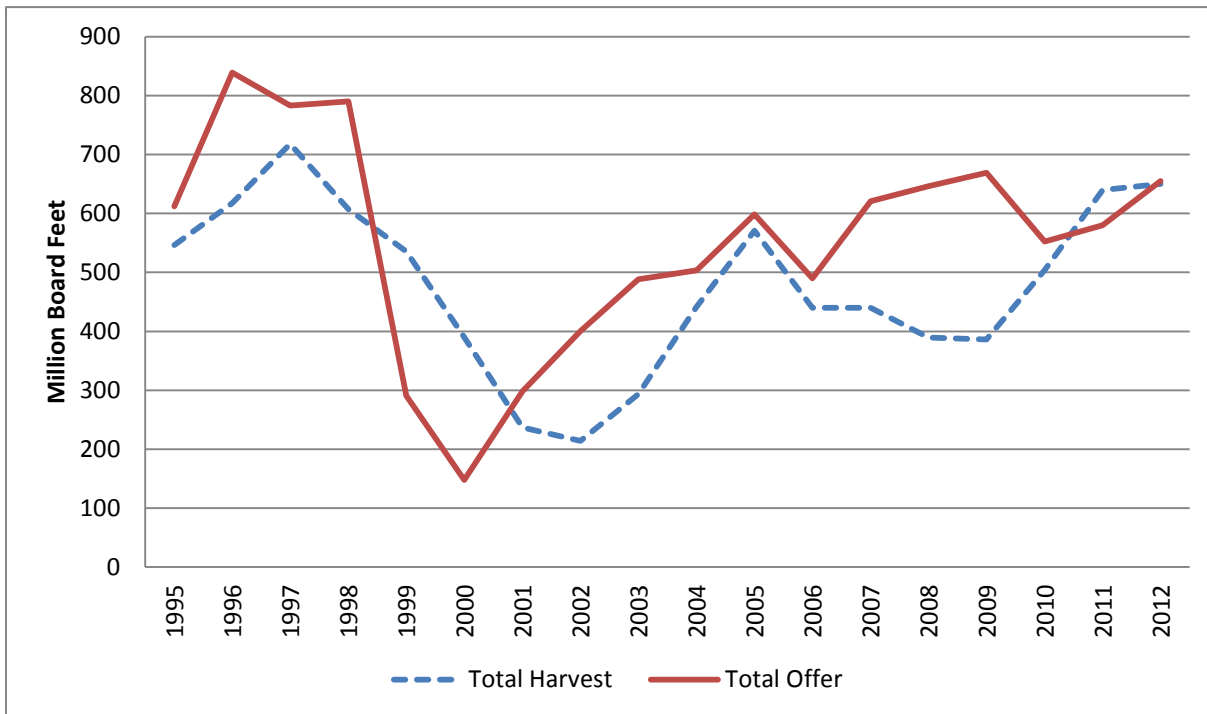


Figure 3-6: Total harvest compared to total offer on National Forest System and BLM lands in the NWFP area, 1995-2012

were used on over 80 percent of the acres harvested during the first nine years of the Plan (Baker et al. 2005) lowering expected yields.

Avoiding harvest in areas occupied by rare species has also contributed to the drop. When pre-disturbance surveys indicated the presence of numerous survey and

manage species sites, potential timber-sale areas were often abandoned in favor of sites less likely to contain survey and manage species because of the added costs in time and money of trying to complete a sale (USDA and USDI 2004: 223–224) (as modified from Charnley et al. 2006).

Chapter 4: Special Forest Products

Special forest products include food, such as mushrooms and berries, medicinal plants and fungi, floral greenery, wildflowers, Christmas trees, and fuelwood. Special forest products are harvested from both Bureau of Land Management and National Forest Systems lands in the NWFP area. Special forest products may be harvested for commercial or personal use. Some individuals earn income through harvesting and selling special forest products. Other individuals and groups harvest special forest products for subsistence, cultural heritage, family traditions, recreation or spiritual fulfillment. Since the late 1980s, interest in special forest products has grown considerably. Not only has consumer demand increased domestically and internationally, but the volume of special forest products harvested has also increased.

In the Pacific Northwest, more than 200 species of special forest products are harvested on private and public lands (Alexander and Fight 2003: 283-384). The growing recognition of the economic and ecological importance of these special forest products has coincided with a decline in the timber industry and associated job loss (Lynch and McLain 2003: 5-6). These trends have further piqued interest in special forest products.

Special forest products have long been important to Native American Indian tribes for subsistence, medicine, cultural uses, construction, art, and trade (Lynch and McLain 2003: 4, Weigand 2002: 57-58). Special forest products including fuelwood are still valued by the tribes and non-tribal people for cultural, recreational, subsistence, and commercial uses. Among the most valued wild and edible species in the Pacific Northwest are huckleberries and mushrooms. Mushrooms of particular value include: morels, chanterelles, boletes, and matsutake. Floral greens are also of major economic importance. These include: salal (*Gaultheria shallon* Pursh), evergreen huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum* Pursh), Oregon grape (*Mahonia nervosa* (Pursh) Nutt.), western red cedar (*Thuja plicata* Donn ex D. Don), western swordfern (*Polystichum munitum* (Kaulfuss) K. Presl), beargrass (*Nolina Michx.*), pine cones, mosses, and coniferous boughs such as noble fir (*Abies procera* Rehd.) (Alexander and McLain 2001: 61-63, Weigand 2002).

Although most commercial harvesters in the Pacific Northwest do not rely on special forest products as a sole source of income, these products provide supplemental and seasonal sources of income that contribute to household economies. They also provide economic opportunities for Southeast Asian and Latino immigrants to the Pacific Northwest. The income from special forest products has become particularly important as the population of immigrants has increased over the last decade, while employment opportunities have been limited (Brown and Marin-Hernandez 2000, Lynch and McLain 2003: 6) (as modified from Charnley et al. 2006).

Expectations

Opportunities for harvesting special forest products were expected to continue under the Plan, however, restrictions on quantity and methods of harvesting in certain areas were expected. Resource values, special status plants and animals, and resource sustainability would be protected, with use restrictions in areas designated for northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) habitat and protected areas (USDA and USDI 1994a: 3&4-277). NWFP standards and guidelines call for evaluating the effects of harvest activities on late-successional reserve objectives (USDA and USDI 1994b: C-18). Harvest restrictions in late-successional reserves could be implemented to prevent adverse effects. Fuelwood gathering was highly restricted in late-successional reserves and managed late-successional areas (USDA and USDI 1994b: C-16). Fuelwood cutting in riparian reserves was prohibited, unless required to attain Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives (USDA and USDI 1994b: C-31–C-32) (as modified from Charnley et al. 2006).

Changes in special forest product harvesting practices may also result from changes in consumer tastes and preferences, cultural and family traditions, and federal land management decisions.

Data Analysis

The special forest products data are reported and discussed separately for the Forest Service and the BLM because the two agencies categorize and measure individual special forest products differently and track them for different time

periods. The BLM data are primarily for the Salem, Eugene, Roseburg, Medford and Coos Bay districts. Data from the Lakeview District are also included because they are partially in the NWFP area and are difficult to separate from the non-NWFP area components.

The Forest Service data are for NWFP area national forests. The Oregon data include all of the Deschutes, Okanogan and Winema National Forests even though parts of these forests are outside of the NWFP area. The data exclude the California national forests in the NWFP area, because the data for Region 5 were not in a format that could be readily used. The NWFP area national forests in California are expected to follow the trends found in the part of the NWFP area in Oregon and Washington. Additional data on special forest products are available in Appendix B of the 10-year report.

Due to the diverse range of products harvested, estimating the economic contribution of special forest products in the NWFP area is difficult. Since many special forest products are collected for subsistence or personal consumption, the economic value of special forest products is not captured in market transactions. One estimate suggests that, across the United States, special forest products account

for billions of dollars of economic activity (McLain and Jones 2005).

Bureau of Land Management Results and Discussion

The BLM tracks special forest products in the Timber Sale Information System. The Agency summarizes the data annually in a publication called BLM Facts. Similar to the Forest Service, the data are available for several categories of convertible-to-timber products such as lumber and chips and nonconvertible products. The 10-year report uses state-level data from Oregon and Washington; however, scientists believe that these data represent special forest product harvests primarily from the five western Oregon BLM districts in the NWFP area and the Prineville District (Roche 2004), because little special forest product harvesting occurs on BLM districts east of the Cascades (as modified from Charnley et al. 2006).

Fewer special forest products are harvested on BLM-managed lands in the NWFP area; however, there are several major products. Collection of mushrooms increased from 243,000 pounds in 2004 to 377,000 pounds in 2012. Floral and greenery harvesting grew from 772,000 pounds to 1.1

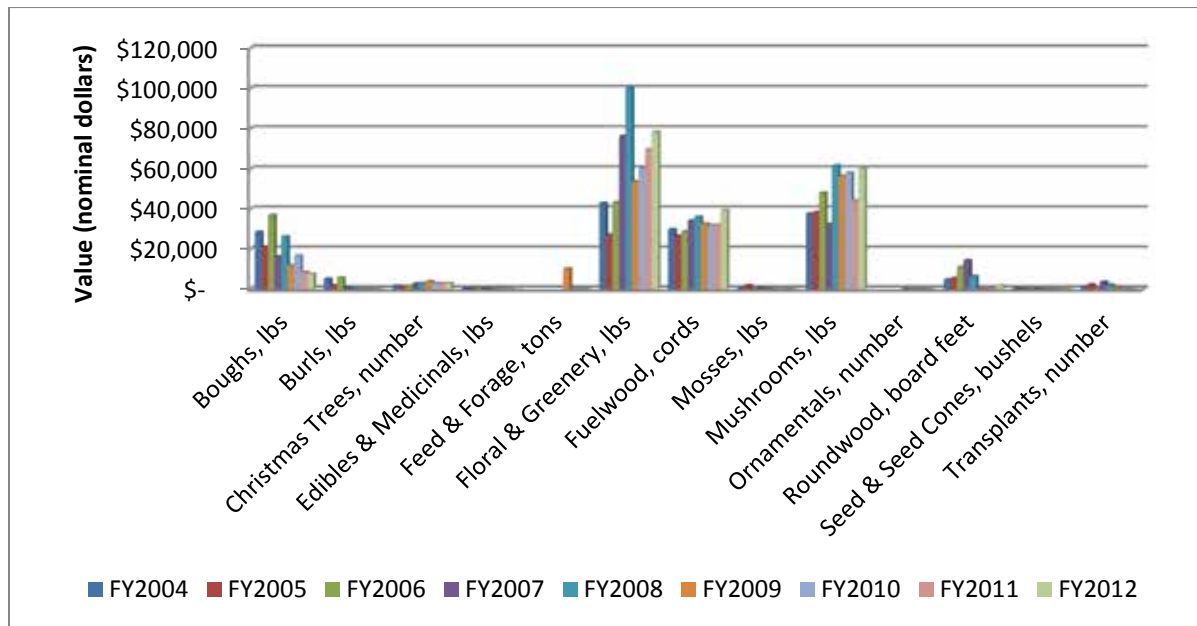


Figure 4-1: Value of special forest products from BLM lands in the NWFP area, fiscal years 2004-2012

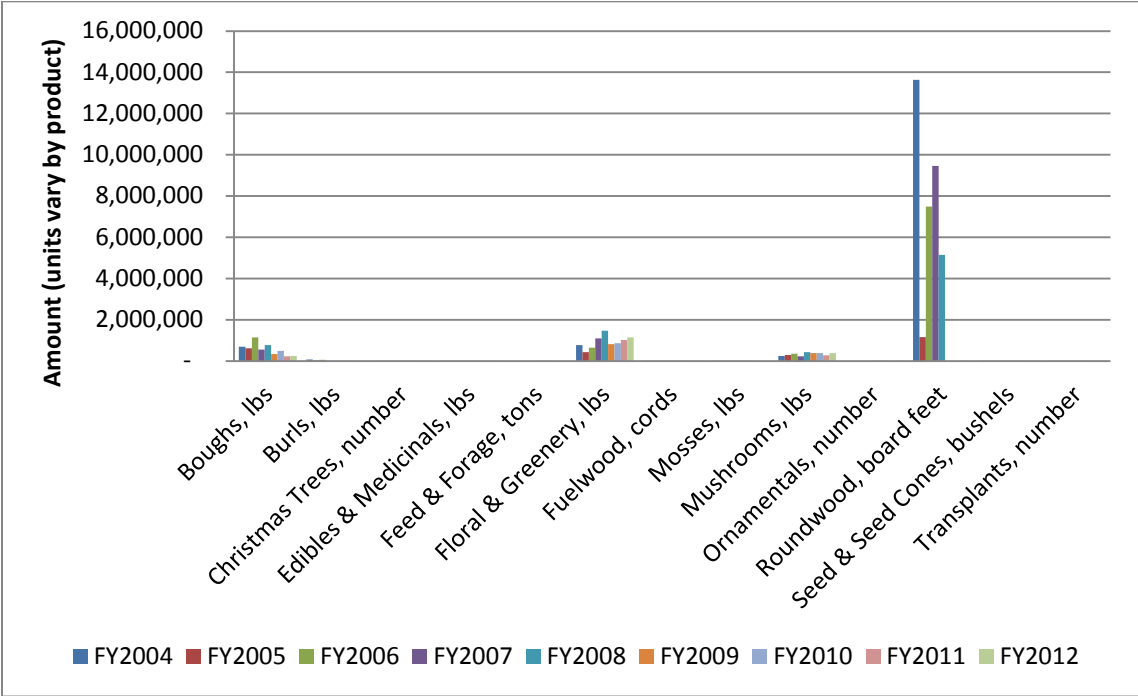


Figure 4-2: Amounts of special forest products sold from BLM lands in the NWFP area, fiscal years 2004-2012

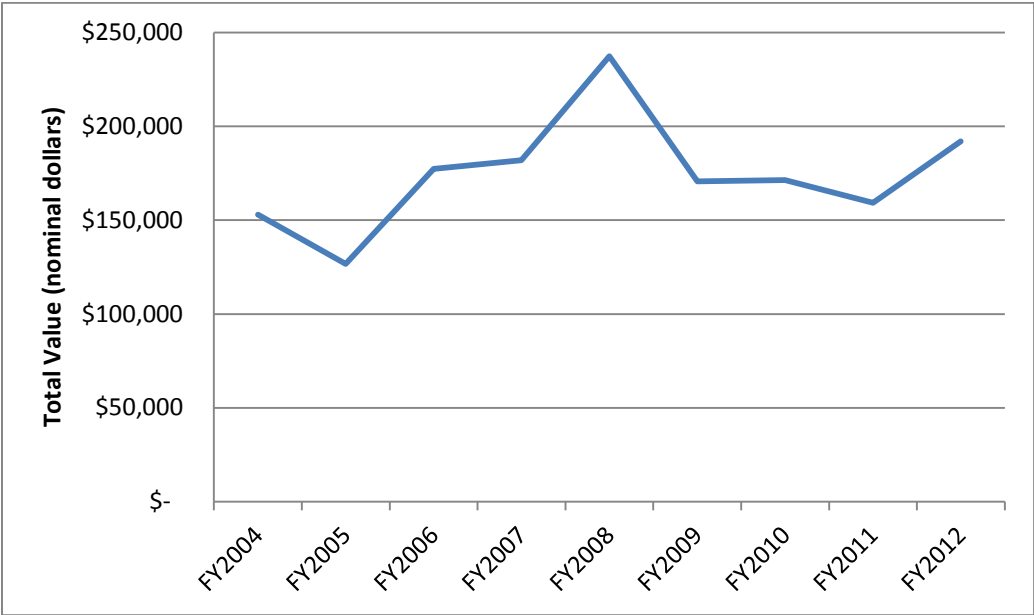


Figure 4-3: Total value of special forest products sold from BLM lands in the NWFP area, fiscal years 2004-2012

million pounds over this period (figure 4-2). Like NFS lands in the NWFP area, the harvesting of boughs on BLM lands declined markedly between 2004 and 2012 (figure 4-2).

On BLM-managed lands in the NWFP area, most of the value (96percent) of special forest product permits results from the harvesting of boughs, floral and greenery, fuelwood, and mushrooms (figure 4-1). As with NFS lands in the NWFP area, this distribution of value is comparable to the 2004 distribution. The total value of special forest products removed from BLM lands in the NWFP area is significantly lower than the value of special forest products removed from NFS lands in the NWFP area (figure 4-3 and figure 4-5).

Forest Service Results and Discussion

Data suggest that the harvest of certain special forest products on National Forest System lands in the NWFP area has declined since 2002. In particular, harvesting of bark, grasses, herbs, mosses, and limbs/boughs declined (figure 4-6). Data show, however, harvesting of some socially and

economically meaningful special forest products increased between 2002 and 2012. Collection of fuelwood, fruits, and berries approximately doubled during that period.

Harvesting of mushrooms grew from 381,000 pounds in 2002 to 461,000 pounds in 2012 (figure 4-6). The number of Christmas trees cut on national forests in the NWFP area remained relatively steady over the ten-year period (figure 4-6).

In 2012, 99 percent of the value of special forest product permits from NFS lands in the NWFP area was from seven categories: foliage, fruits and berries, fuelwood, grass, limbs/boughs, mushrooms, and Christmas trees (figure 4-4). The remaining twelve special forest product categories contributed a small share of total value of permits. While this distribution was roughly similar in 2002, the value of fruits and berries increased dramatically. In 2002, about \$4,000 of permits were issued. By 2012, this figure had grown to \$76,000 (figure 4-4). The total value of special forest products removed from NFS lands in the NWFP area has fluctuated based on demand (figure 4-5).

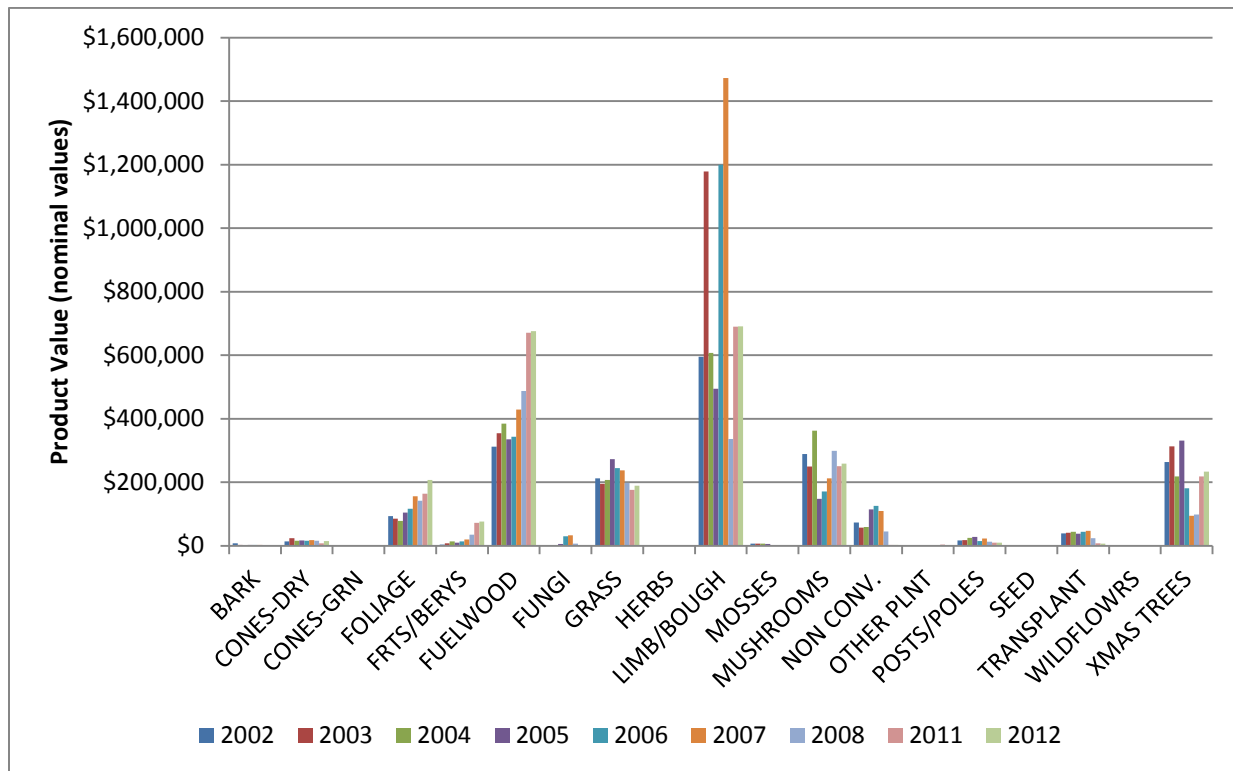


Figure 4-4: Value of special forest products sold from National Forest System lands in the NWFP area, 2002-2012

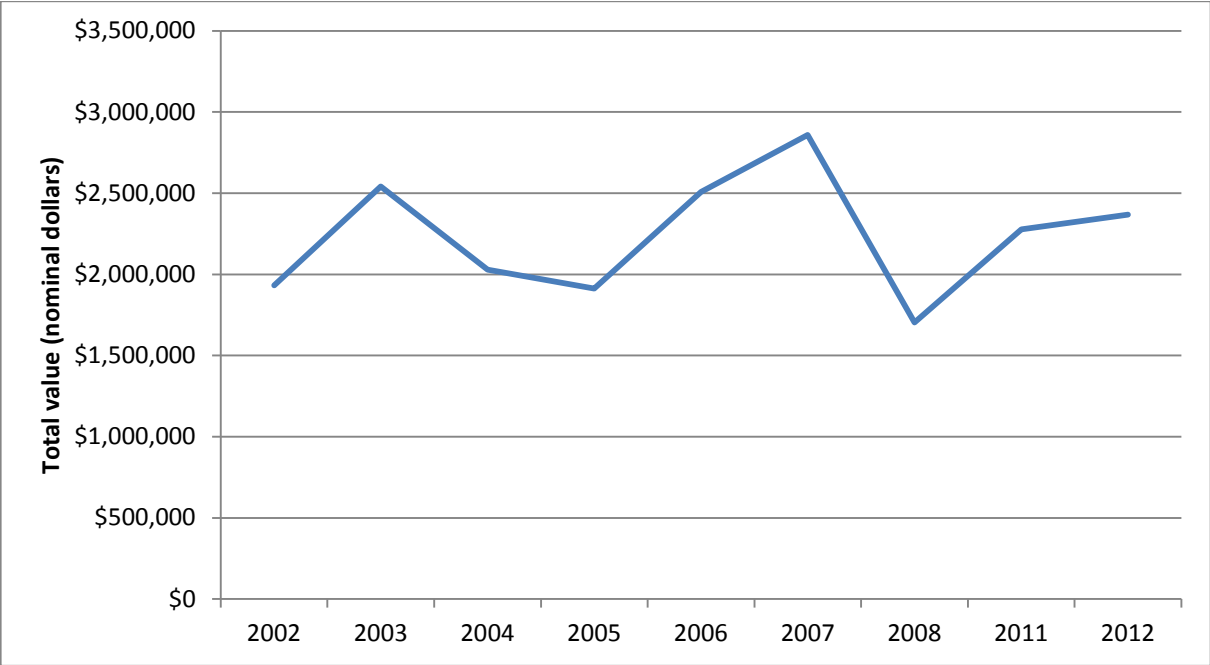


Figure 4-5: Total value of special forest products sold from National Forest System lands in the NWFP area, 2002-2012

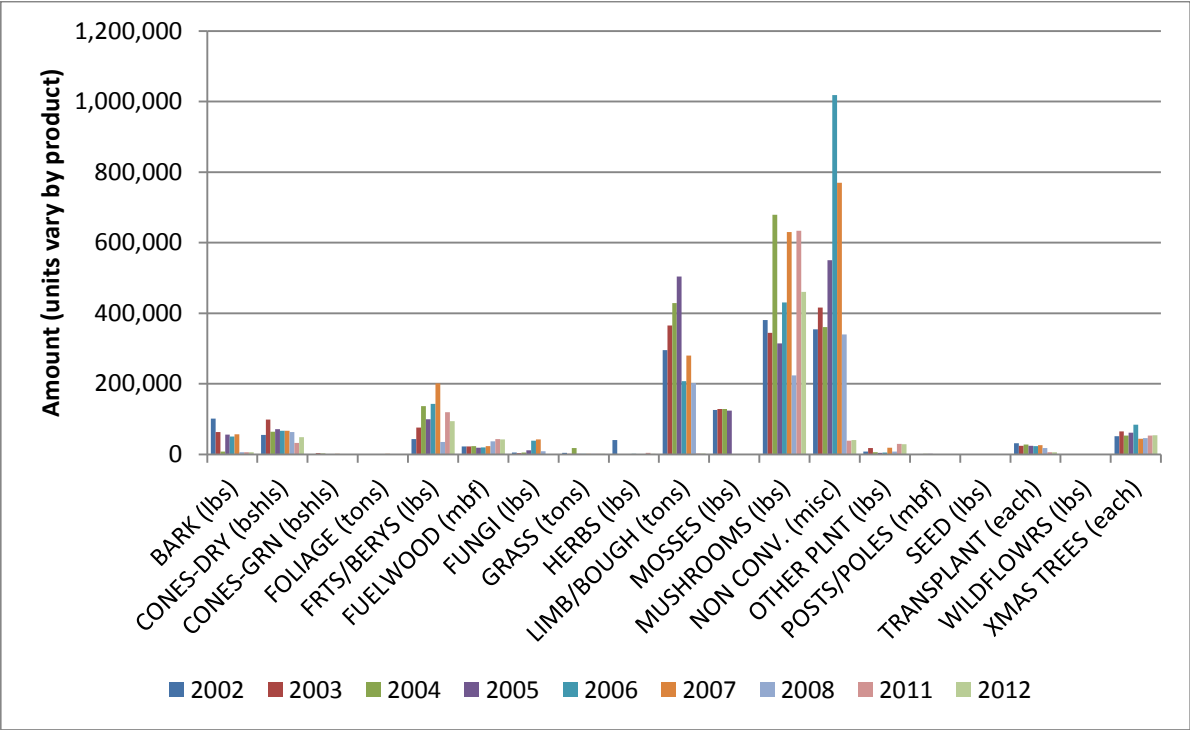


Figure 4-6: Amounts of special forest products sold and removed from National Forest System lands in the NWFP area, 2002-2012

Chapter 5: Grazing

Grazing on NWFP area NFS and BLM lands, which are primarily located west of the Cascade Range, is minor compared to grazing on NFS and BLM lands in eastern Oregon and Washington and northeastern California. Grazing overall on public lands in the West has been declining as cow calf operations have shifted to the Midwest over the past several decades (Mitchell 2000). The Forest Service units in the NWFP area with the most grazing activity are the Okanogan-Wenatchee, Rogue-Siskiyou, and Klamath National Forests. The Medford District had the most grazing activity on the NWFP area BLM districts. There was little or no grazing on the other BLM districts in the NWFP area (as modified from Charnley et al. 2006).

Expectations

Under the NWFP, grazing was expected to continue with modifications to ensure consistency with the management objectives for all land use allocations. Some modifications of grazing practices in riparian reserves were expected (USDA and USDI 1994a: 3&4-276). In all land use allocations, sites where known and newly discovered populations of 10 mollusk species or subspecies and one vascular plant species listed in the ROD were to be protected from grazing (USDA and USDI 1994b: C-6). Grazing could be adjusted or eliminated in riparian and late-successional reserves if grazing would retard or prevent attaining reserve and Aquatic Conservation Strategy (aquatic strategy) objectives (USDA and USDI 1994b: C-17, C-33). New livestock handling or management facilities would be located outside of riparian reserves (USDA and USDI 1994b: C-33). Existing facilities could be moved if they prevent attaining aquatic strategy or reserve objectives (USDA and USDI 1994b: C-17, C-33). Modifications to grazing practices were expected to have consequences for individual permittees (USDA and USDI 1994a: 3&4-276) (as modified from Charnley et al. 2006).

Data Analysis

The number of grazing allotments or leases, allotment acres, grazing permittees, and animal unit months (AUMs) are potential indicators of livestock grazing on federal lands. The Forest Service and the BLM track the number and acres

of active and vacant grazing allotments. The Oregon BLM also tracks the number of grazing leases, but does not report the number of acres leased. The 10-year report monitors the number of active allotments and number of active allotment acres for the Forest Service. Vacant allotments were not included as most are being phased out. For the Forest Service, the number of grazing permittees was also monitored. A grazing permittee, or lessee, is any entity that has a grazing permit or lease for one or more allotments, such as an individual or cooperative with several members (Forest Service Manual [FSM] 2230.5). For the BLM, the number of grazing leases was monitored (as modified from Charnley et al. 2006).

Use of the allotment and lease data in the 10-year report is problematic because it is unclear whether the data uses the same definition for active, inactive and closed allotments, and leases for different years.

This 20-year report uses the permitted AUMs and authorized AUMs as indicators of range use. One AUM is the amount of forage a 1,000 pound mature cow and calf consume in a 30-day period, which is about 780 pounds of dry weight. Permitted AUMs are measures of planned capacity. Permitted AUMs are the number of AUMs that are specified on the grazing permit for the duration of the permit (FSM 2230.5). The permit is usually valid for ten years (FSM 2231.03). Permitted AUMs provides a comparable indicator for Forest Service and BLM grazing capacity. Comparing Forest Service and BLM permitted AUMs is more clear-cut than comparing the number of Forest Service active allotments and BLM active leases. Authorized AUMs are the amounts of forage permittees pay for and are authorized to use in a given year. Authorized AUMs indicate how much of the planned capacity is used annually. It is this amount that contributes to jobs and income.

The Forest Service AUM data used in this 20-year report are not completely comparable to that used in the 10-year report. The 10-year report uses district-level data; districts outside of the NWFP area were excluded. For the 20-year report, district level data were unavailable. Instead, this report uses forest-level data. The data for the entire Okanogan and Wenatchee, and Deschutes National Forests were used even though these forests are partially outside

of the NWFP area. Data from the Winema National Forest are excluded, because this forest was combined with the Fremont National Forest, which is completely outside of the NWFP area. The use of forest level data creates an upward bias of approximately 30 percent overall. Most of the bias is associated with the inclusion of the entire Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests. One half of these forests' AUMs are outside of the NWFP area, and these two forests contribute about 50 percent of the total authorized AUMs across all of the national forests in the NWFP area.

Like the Forest Service data, BLM data used in the 20-year report are not seamlessly comparable with the data used in the 10-year report. The 20-year report includes data for the Klamath Falls Resource Area, which is the portion of the Lakeview District in the NWFP area.

Results

In northwest Oregon⁴ there is an average of 9,052 heads of cattle and calves in each county. In northeastern Oregon⁵ counties the average is 24,859 (NASS 2012). As a result, the economic contribution of grazing in the NWFP area is minor compared to eastern parts of these states. There are approximately 13,000 jobs in the cattle ranching and farming sector across the NWFP area, which is approximately 0.2 percent of overall employment in the area (IMPLAN 2012). The contribution of the cattle ranching and farming sector to income is even smaller - 0.04 percent - which indicates that livestock grazing jobs pay quite a bit less than other jobs in the NWFP area (IMPLAN 2012).

Employment in livestock grazing is more common in nonmetropolitan areas. More than half of the jobs (6,625) in the cattle ranching and farming sector are in nonmetropolitan NWFP area counties (IMPLAN 2012). The relative contribution to employment is much higher, due to the smaller labor market in nonmetropolitan counties. Approximately 0.8 percent of employment in

nonmetropolitan NWFP area counties is in cattle ranching and farming (IMPLAN 2012). Nevertheless, the overall contribution of grazing to economic activity remains minor across the NWFP area.

The employment and income data include all types of cattle ranching and farming. Federal forage constitutes a small share of this sector. In 2012, approximately 100,000 AUMs were authorized on NFS lands in the NWFP area (figure 5-1). This represents a small increase in authorized AUMs since 2006. However, authorized use has fluctuated considerably since 2006, suggesting that the increase does not reflect a trend.

In contrast to the increase in authorized AUMs on NFS lands in the NWFP area, authorized AUMs on BLM-managed lands decreased over the same period from about 15,000 to 10,000 AUMs (figure 5-2). Changes in authorized use may reflect both economic and ecological conditions, which influence both the demand for and availability of forage.

Discussion

The 10-year report notes that a drop in grazing activity on NWFP area federal lands was expected based on the NWFP ROD standards and guidelines. The ROD directed managers to adjust or eliminate grazing to meet the objectives of the aquatic strategy and late-successional reserves. The 10-year report notes, however, that the NWFP was only one of several factors likely to be responsible for reduced grazing on federal forests from 1994 to 2003. Grazing in late-successional reserves still occurs, but has been adjusted in terms of location and timing so as to minimize ecological impacts. The season was shortened and the number of animals reduced.

A major factor reported as contributing to reduced forage availability on some federal lands is the reduction in timber program activity. Reduced timber activity leads to a decrease in transitory range, which is productive for grazing. Later seral stage forest does not offer the quality and abundance of livestock forage found in early seral stage habitat (Mackinnon 2005, Phelps 2003). Although the NWFP may have contributed to the decline in grazing on National Forest System and BLM lands between 1993 and

⁴As defined by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), includes Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Washington, and Yamhill counties.

⁵As defined by NASS, includes Baker, Umatilla, Union, and Wallowa counties.

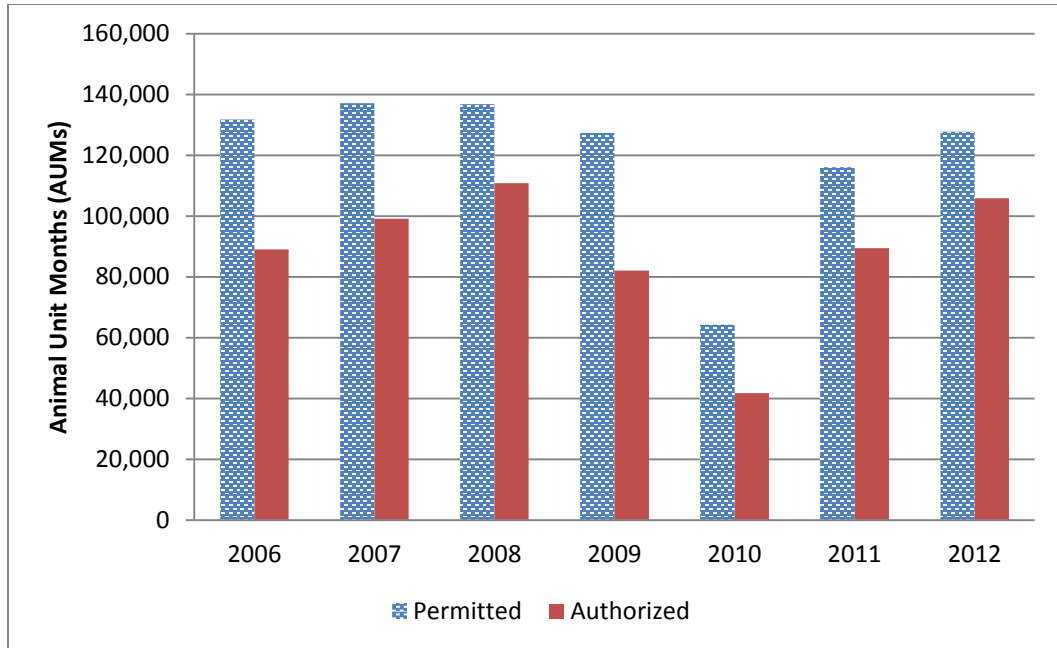


Figure 5-1: Permitted and authorized grazing on National Forest units in the NWFP area, 2006-2012

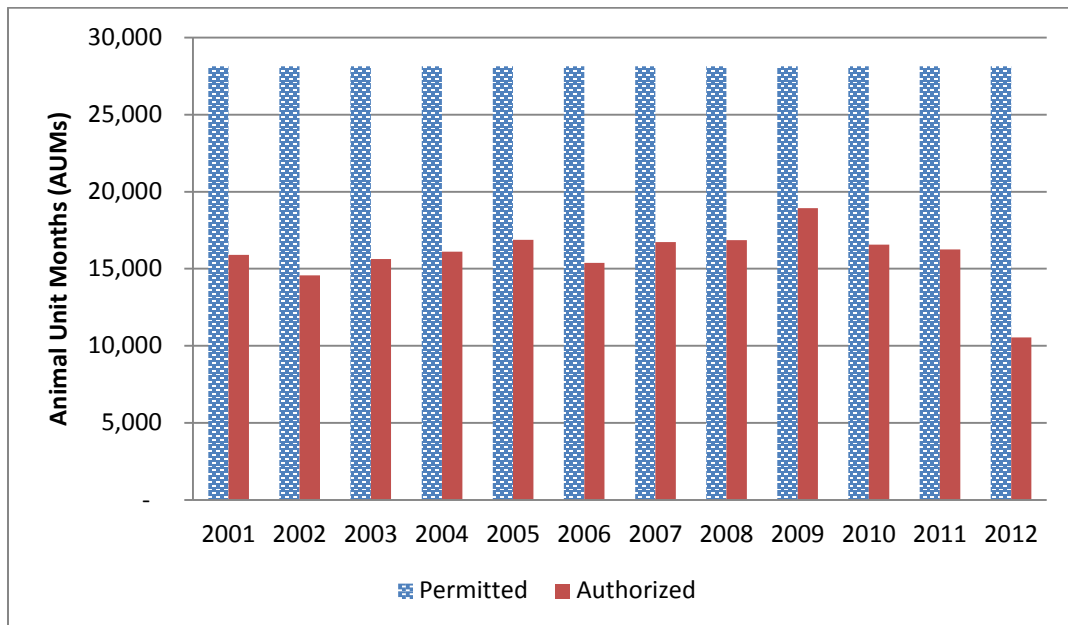


Figure 5-2: Permitted and authorized grazing on BLM units in the NWFP area, 2001-2012

2002, agency grazing specialists report that other factors unrelated to the NWFP have had a greater effect (Mackinnon 2005, Phelps 2003).

In fact, Forest Service grazing specialists reported that the NWFP had little effect on grazing opportunity apart from causing some restrictions in riparian areas (Mackinnon 2005, Phelps 2003). Prolonged drought and Endangered Species Act (1973) requirements relating to anadromous fish in streams on allotments constrained grazing activity. Moreover, the reduced grazing on federal forest lands in the NWFP area was consistent with a nationwide decrease in the level of grazing on Forest Service and BLM managed

lands during the 1990s (Charnley and Langner 2001: 31, Mackinnon 2005).

Agency data presented in the 10-year report indicate that livestock grazing on National Forest System and BLM lands in the NWFP area decreased between the early 1990s and the early 2000s. Some decreases were expected because of management constraints in late-successional and riparian reserves under the ROD standards and guidelines. Grazing levels on BLM lands declined only slightly (as modified from Charnley et al. 2006).

This 20-year report shows a variable annual pattern in BLM and Forest Service authorized grazing between 2008 and 2012.

Chapter 6: Minerals

Mining on federal forests in the NWFP area is a minor land use. For leasable minerals – oil, gas, and geothermal – the Cascade Range in Oregon and Washington and parts of the northern California forests may contain valuable geothermal resources (USDA and USDI 1994a: 3&4-274-275). There has been little geothermal exploration or development in the NWFP area to date. Some federal forest lands in Oregon and Washington may contain oil and gas resources, but they have not yet been explored and developed for production. The four California NWFP forests have no oil or gas.

Some parts of the NWFP area have known deposits of locatable minerals (gold, silver, copper, molybdenum, chromium) and areas with high potential for discovery of mineral deposits (FEMAT 1993: VI-11). Josephine and Jackson Counties in Oregon contain known mineral deposits. The Cascade Range has high potential for the discovery and production of locatable minerals. Salable minerals (gravel, stone, sand) occur throughout the NWFP area. They are used by the managing agencies, other government and commercial entities, and private individuals mainly for construction and road building (as modified from Charnley et al. 2006).

Expectations

Mining was expected to continue, with modifications to ensure consistency with the management objectives of the land use allocations. The NWFP's final supplemental environmental impact statement (USDA and USDI 1994a: 3&4-275) predicted that NWFP effects on minerals would be linked to development constraints and mitigation measures designed to protect late-successional and old-growth (older forest) ecosystems. No effects were expected for salable minerals (USDA and USDI 1994a: 3&4-276). The effects of mining in late-successional reserves and managed late-successional areas would be assessed. Restrictions and mitigation measures would be implemented to minimize negative effects on late-successional habitat (USDA and USDI 1994b: C-17).

The ROD contains several guidelines for minerals management in riparian reserves (USDA and USDI 1994b: C-34-C-35). These guidelines pertain to road building, support structures and facilities, and waste materials, and

they are designed to ensure consistency with the objectives of the aquatic conservation strategy. The ROD also contains standards and guidelines for plans of operation, reclamation plans and bonds, inspection, and monitoring in riparian reserves. These standards and guidelines could increase the cost of extracting minerals from the reserves, and decrease mining activity there (USDA and USDI 1994a: 3&4-276) (as modified from Charnley et al. 2006).

Data Analysis

Finding good indicators for mining is challenging. The indicators differ by mineral class, as do the years for which data are available. Potentially important data for NWFP monitoring are mineral production data. However, the Minerals Management Service, which tracks the production of leasable minerals, shows there is no record that leasable minerals were produced in the NWFP area just before the NWFP was implemented or during the last 15 years. The agencies do not track locatable minerals production so no data were gathered. Information related to locatable minerals is proprietary, and the government does not charge users any royalties or payments. The Forest Service tracks the removal of salable minerals.

The 10-year report does identify leases and mining claims as indicators but found gathering the data and identifying potential trends was challenging. Identifying which of the existing leases were active was also difficult. Assessing trends in mining claim data was also difficult as agency databases do not distinguish between abandoned and active sites. Overall, we believe the NWFP had little effect on mining opportunities (as modified from Charnley et al. 2006).

The 20-year report examines data in mineral production on National Forest System lands for salable minerals. These data are readily available.

Salable Minerals

Volume and value of salable minerals removed are the indicators used for salable minerals production. The Forest Service tracks three categories of use: Forest Service use, free use, and contract use. The Forest Service removes salable minerals mainly for road construction

and reconstruction. The agency issues free-use permits to members of the public and government agencies. Contracts of sale are required for commercial removal of salable minerals (as modified from Charnley et al. 2006).

No data are available for Region 6 before 2000 for free-use permits or contracts of sale. The Forest Service salable minerals data are available annually beginning in 2000. The data are assessed between 2000 and 2008 for even-numbered fiscal years to simplify the presentation.

Results

Salable minerals are available for agency use, free-use permits, or sale to commercial entities or individuals. The production of salable minerals on NFS lands in the NWFP area has fluctuated considerably since 2000. In 2000, more than 600,000 tons of mineral materials were removed from NFS lands in the NWFP area. In 2012, less than 100,000 tons were removed (figure 6-1). The type of use also varied over the same period. In both 2000 and 2012 the majority of mineral materials removed were sold to private entities. However, in the intervening years free-use permits and agency use constituted the majority of salable mineral production (figure 6-1). Salable mineral production on NFS lands in the NWFP area do not appear to be linked to

broader economic conditions and trends. Salable mineral production was low during much of the construction boom (2002-2006), and grew to the highest level since 2000 in the midst of the recession and housing bust (2008) (figure 6-1).

Discussion

Little mining occurs on NFS and BLM-managed lands in the NWFP area. No leasable mineral production (e.g., oil and gas) occurs in the area. Data on locatable minerals production is proprietary and not collected. Salable minerals, or mineral materials, (e.g., sand and gravel) are removed throughout the NWFP area. Salable minerals are used primarily for construction and road building. There are 6,077 jobs in mining stone, sand, gravel, and clay in the NWFP area, which is less than 0.1 percent of total employment in the NWFP area (IMPLAN 2012).

The value of salable mineral production on NFS lands in the NWFP area is low. It reached a high above \$2 million in 2000, but declined to about \$100,000 in 2012 (figure 6-2). Throughout the period, the economic contribution of mineral production on NFS lands in the NWFP area has been minor.

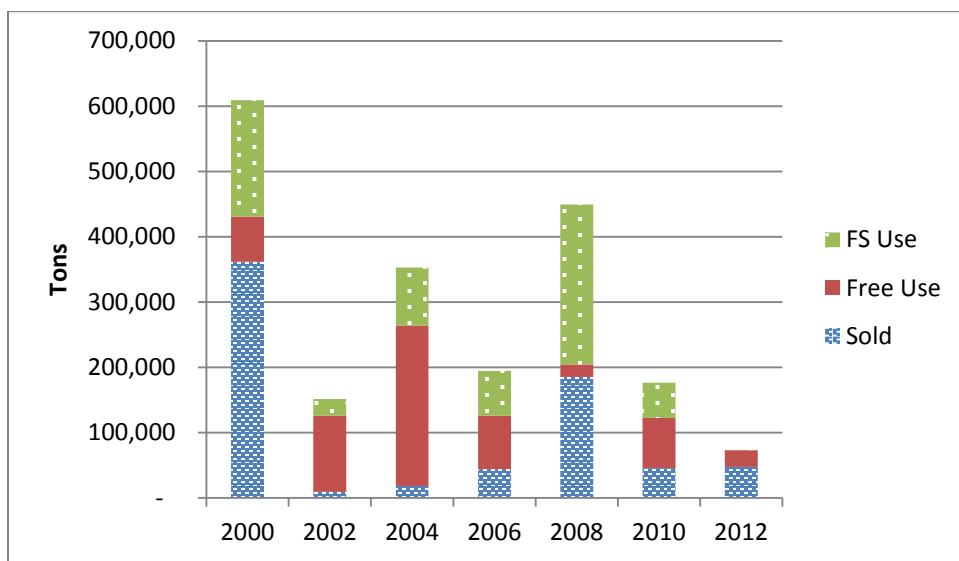


Figure 6-1: Salable minerals production on national forests in the NWFP area

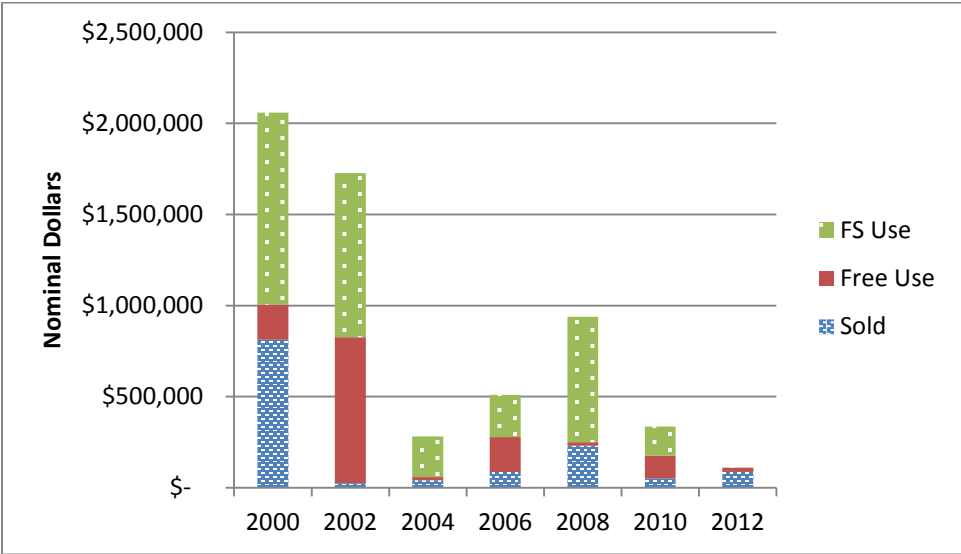


Figure 6-2: Salable minerals value on national forests in the NWFP area

Chapter 7: Recreation

The vast majority of Oregon and Washington residents report participating in outdoor recreation (Oregon 2013, Washington 2013). NFS and BLM-managed lands provide a wide variety of motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities in the NWFP area. Demographic trends, including population growth, an aging population, growing minority populations, and increasing levels of physical inactivity may affect public demand for the quantity and type of outdoor recreation provided by public lands in the NWFP area (Oregon 2013).

Expectations

Recreational use associated with federal lands was expected to continue at existing levels, consistent with the management objectives for specific land use allocations under the NWFP. For certain land use allocations, existing recreation opportunities could be modified to minimize disturbance to protected species. Recreation opportunities could also be adjusted to attain late-successional reserve and aquatic strategy objectives. New recreation developments in the reserves could be approved if their potentially adverse effects were minimized or mitigated. Ski area expansions would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for effects on late-successional and riparian habitat. The NWFP would also foster natural-looking landscapes, which would enhance existing recreation opportunities (as modified from Charnley et al. 2006).

Data Analysis

Agency recreation data provide information related to the supply of and the demand for recreation opportunities on federal forest lands. The 10-year report focuses on recreation supply to assess whether predictable levels of recreation opportunities were produced under the NWFP. The 10-year report does not address the nature or quality of recreational experiences or site-specific recreation opportunities. In the 10-year report, the following indicators are addressed: acres of wilderness, road miles, number of recreation residences, ski-area visitation, number of outfitter guide permits, the number and capacity of developed sites, as well as recreation visitation. Recreation data prior to 1999 were unavailable for most of these indicators (Charnley et al. 2006). Data for

most of the indicators were available only for more recent years and usually only for a single year. The lack of data limits the usefulness of the indicators.

Like the previous reports, the 20-year report tracks data on road miles to indicate recreation opportunities as measures of supply and visitation as an estimate of demand. The number of trail miles is not used as an indicator due to the implementation of the Forest Service's Travel Management Rule, which is a major policy shift in the management of off-highway vehicles and other recreation opportunities. Travel management planning on National Forest System lands masks the potential effects of the NWFP on recreation supply and demand. Other indicators were not used due to the general lack of available and consistent data.

Most of the data are presented and discussed separately for the Forest Service and BLM, because the two agencies track recreation differently and each agency has different data available for different years. The Forest Service began recording data on recreation opportunities using an integrated data management tool called INFRA in 1999. Most recreation data for earlier years are unreliable. The BLM has maintained recreation data in the Recreation Management Information System (RMIS) in electronic form since 1999. Data files for earlier years were recorded on paper; they were not retained by the Oregon state office. The following sections address data sources and limitations in more detail (as modified from Charnley et al. 2006).

Results - Recreation Supply

The agencies' road systems support numerous recreation opportunities. Road mileage can be used as an indicator of recreation opportunities, including driving for pleasure, which is one of the most popular outdoor recreation activities in the United States (USDA FS 2003). Roads provide access to dispersed recreational opportunities such as hiking, camping, hunting and fishing. Roads also serve as recreation sites for individuals who use OHVs and bikes on the NFS road system. The Forest Service and BLM maintain five levels of roads. Level 1 includes roads closed to traffic

year-round. Level 2 roads are maintained for high clearance vehicles. Level 3, 4, and 5 roads are maintained for passenger cars, although levels of convenience and comfort vary. System road miles are the roads agencies include in their inventories and are responsible for maintaining. National forests also have “unclassified” roads, which are not managed as part of the forest transportation system. They include abandoned travel ways, roads proposed for decommissioning, and off-road vehicle tracks that are not designated and managed as trails by the agencies. Unclassified roads are not evaluated because the Forest Service does not consistently manage data on them and they are not intended for public use.

Consistent with the 15-year report, the road mileage results in the 20-year report are only compiled for Region 6 national forests in the NWFP area since these units had readily available data. The Region 6 national forests make up slightly over 60 percent of all forest service and BLM lands in the NWFP area. Data for system roads were obtained for fiscal years 1999 through 2012. Between those years, the miles of roads classified as level 1 increased. The mileage in all other maintenance levels decreased (figure 7-1). The total number of miles of roads open to passenger cars (ML 3-5) decreased by about 2,500 miles between 1999 and 2012. Over the same period, the miles of roads in ML1 increased by approximately 2,500 miles (table 7-1).

The reduction in the miles of roads open to passenger vehicles coincided with staffing reductions in Region 6. While some closed roads are redundant and therefore do not impede access, in general a reduction in road miles indicates a decrease in access and recreation opportunities.

Results - Recreation Demand

Data are available on changing trends in outdoor recreation from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (Oregon 2013) and the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (Washington 2013). Population growth in Oregon and Washington is expected to increase demand for outdoor recreation on public land. This trend will be tempered by changes in the social and demographic composition of the population. Changing age structure and income levels of the population correspond to different

participation rates in recreational activities. Although participation rates for older Americans are increasing, they are still participating at rates lower than people in other age groups. As the population ages, demand for passive activities may increase. Low-income people participate at much lower rates than higher income people in outdoor recreation.

The growing disparity between wealthy and poor people in the NWFP area, which mirrors that in the nation, may lead to further inequities in opportunities for participation. State recreation planning documents for Oregon and Washington have identified this issue as a significant concern for recreation providers (Oregon 2013, Washington 2013). Another important factor in recreation activities in the region is ethnicity. Different ethnic groups participate in outdoor recreation at different rates, exhibit different preferences for specific activities, and use recreation sites in different ways.

Forest Service

The National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) program surveys visitors on each national forest in 5-year intervals. In the 15-year monitoring report, NVUM round 2 data were presented for each national forest in the NWFP area. In this 20-year monitoring report, only some of the national forests have completed NVUM round 3 surveys. Table 7-2 displays the NVUM results for each NWFP area national forest. The Wenatchee, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie, Mt. Hood, Willamette, Deschutes, and Shasta-Trinity national forests report the highest levels of use, with more than 1,000,000 annual visits in each surveyed period. Most of these forests are near urban centers in the NWFP area.

Bureau of Land Management

The BLM tracks visits using the Recreation Management Information System (RMIS). The data are gathered using a combination of census, sampling, and estimation methods. Figure 7-2 displays the number of recreation visits on BLM districts in the NWFP area. Total visitation peaked between 2007 and 2009. Although visitation has declined since 2009, total visits are still above 1999 levels (figure 7-2). The Eugene and Medford districts experienced the most growth in recreation visits between 1999 and 2012, with annual visits approximately doubling on both districts during

Table 7-1: Historic road mileage in operational maintenance Levels 1-5 in the NWFP area

Historic Road Mileage in Operational Maintenance Levels 1-5 in NWFP Area							
Year	ML 1	ML 2	ML 3	ML 4	ML 5	ML 3-5	Total
1999	7,150	26,855	6,718	1,291	413	8,422	42,427
2000	7,247	26,916	6,050	1,288	408	7,746	41,909
2001	7,464	26,707	5,804	1,250	400	7,454	41,625
2002	7,533	26,667	5,808	1,250	401	7,459	41,677
2003	7,705	26,701	5,803	1,242	400	7,445	41,851
2004	7,751	26,888	5,376	1,241	395	7,012	41,653
2005	7,690	27,357	4,997	1,199	418	6,614	41,664
2006	7,886	27,509	4,820	1,062	310	6,192	41,592
2007	7,894	27,344	4,679	1,059	311	6,048	41,291
2008	7,926	27,153	4,674	1,060	296	6,029	41,112
2009	9,499	25,200	4,598	1,043	299	5,940	40,646
2010	9,646	24,779	4,590	1,016	327	5,933	40,370
2011	9,616	24,573	4,580	993	327	5,900	40,097
2012	9,611	24,372	4,643	996	329	5,967	39,959
Change in miles 1999 to 2012	2,461	-2,482	-2,076	-295	-84	-2,455	-2,468
Percent change 1999 to 2012	34	-9	-31	-23	-20	-29	-6

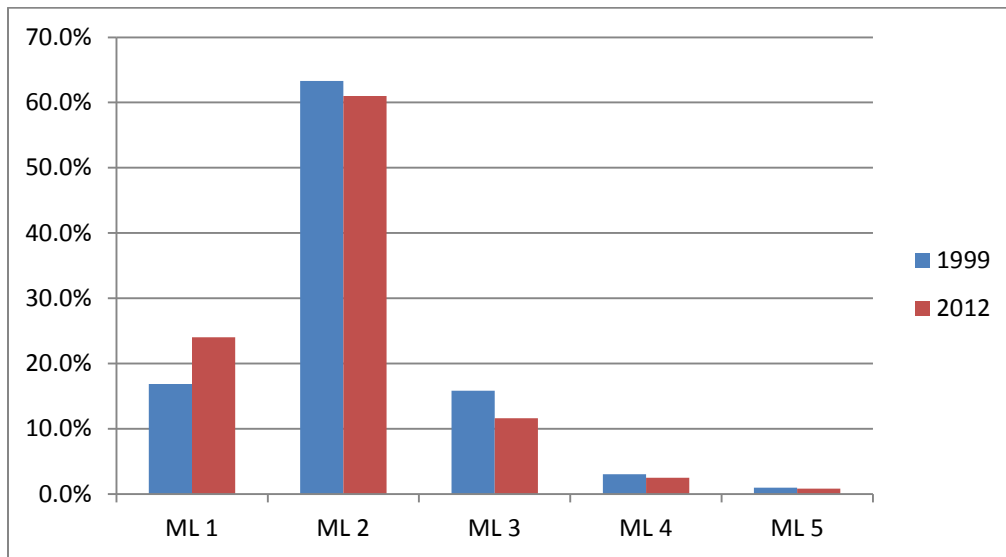


Figure 7-1: Percent of NWFP area Region 6 roads in operational maintenance classes in 1999 and 2012

Table 7-2: Annual Visitation Estimate (thousands) for the NWFP area Forests

National Forest Visitation, National Visitor Use Monitoring Round 2 and Round 3							
State	Forest	Fiscal Year Collected	Round 2 Visits (1,000s)	90% Confidence Interval	Fiscal Year Collected	Round 3 Visits (1,000s)	90% Confidence Interval
Washington	Okanogan	2005	678.9	73.5	2010	272	32.3
	Wenatchee	2005	2,312.20	30.6	2010	1,096	16.9
	Mt. Baker - Snoqualmie	2005	1,677.50	10.1	2010	1,995	20.9
	Gifford Pinchot	2006	1,137.80	14.2	2011	588	29.6
	Olympic	2005	827.6	45.2	2010	462	20.2
Oregon	Mt. Hood	2006	1,830.80	11.6	2011	1,947	12.5
	Willamette	2007	1,360.40	13.6			
	Siuslaw	2005	1,146.50	21.2	2011	946	20.8
	Deschutes	2008	1,894.90	12.3			
	Umpqua	2007	540.9	30.5			
	Winema	2008	296.2	13.9			
	Rogue River	2007	402.3	19.6			
	Siskiyou	2007	513.5	27.8			
California	Klamath	2008	303.5	35.9			
	Six Rivers	2008	224.3	23.4			
	Shasta-Trinity NRA	2008	1,292.30	21.8			
	Shasta-Trinity Non NRA	2008	630.4	24.6			
	Mendocino	2008	346.6	16.6			

this period. In contrast, the Coos Bay, Klamath portion of Lakeview, and Salem districts saw the number of visits decline between 1999 and 2012. Across BLM-managed lands in the NWFP area annual recreation visits grew by 22 percent between 1999 and 2012.

Discussion

The 10-year report concludes that the demand for recreation and tourism grew in the Pacific Northwest during the first decade of NWFP monitoring (Charnley et al. 2006).

The conclusions, however, were limited by the agencies' capacity to determine specific trends in

recreation opportunities and use was limited by the lack of agency regional-scale recreation data for the years before 1999. The only indicators for which reliable data were available from 1994 onward were number of designated wilderness acres, number of Forest Service recreation residences, and number of skier days (as modified from Charnley et al. 2006).

These indicators represent a minor component of the overall recreation program on agency lands, and they are not closely tied to changes expected under NWFP direction.

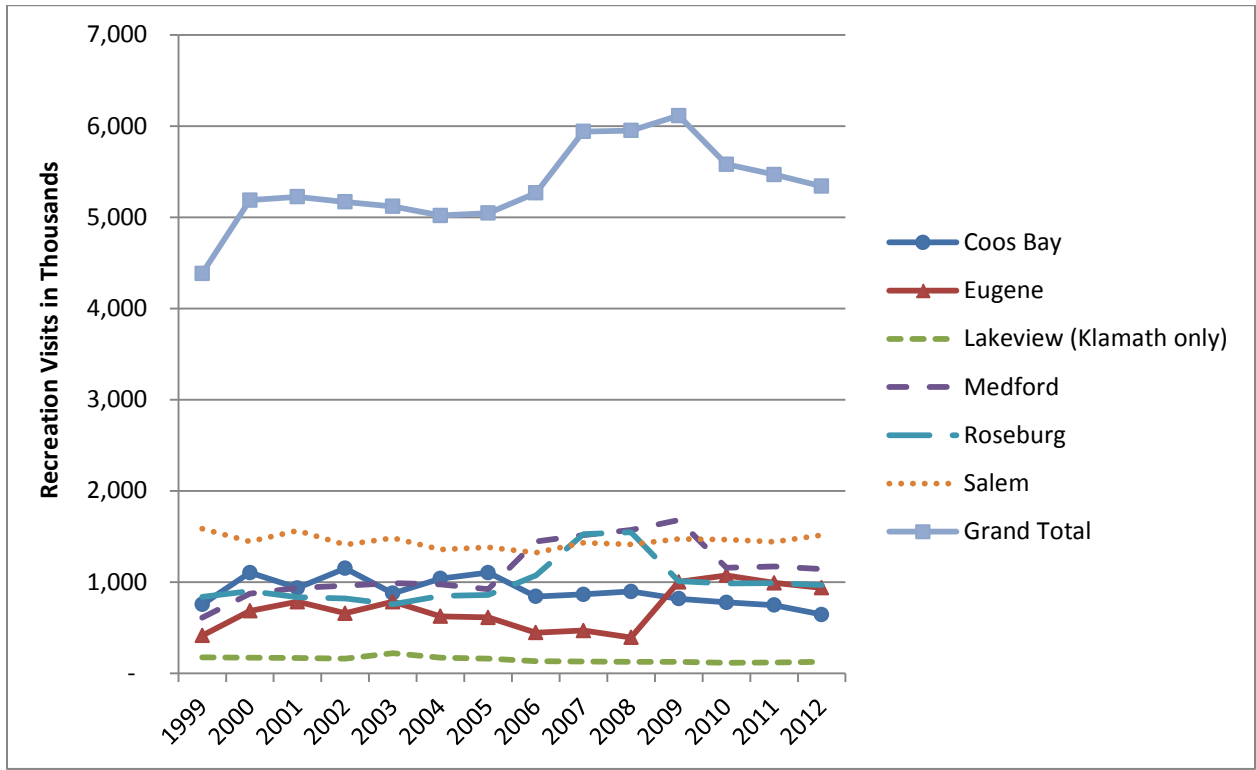


Figure 7-2: BLM recreation visits 1999-2012, NWFP area

Table 7-3: Change in BLM Visits during 1999-2008 and 2004-2008

Change in BLM Visits during 1999-2010 and 2004-2010					
1999-2010 Change			2004-2010 Change		
District	Visits (1,000)	Percent	District	Visits (1,000)	Percent
Coos Bay	23	3	Coos Bay	-261	-25
Eugene	661	159	Eugene	450	72
Lakeview (Klamath only)	(58)	-33	Lakeview (Klamath only)	-57	-33
Medford	546	89	Medford	184	19
Roseburg	146	17	Roseburg	137	16
Salem	(122)	-8	Salem	108	8
Grand Total	1,195	27	Grand Total	561	11

For the 20-year report, the quality and quantity of available recreation related data did not improve. The changes the study protocol used in Round 1 and Round 2 of Forest Service NVUM visitor use surveys make it difficult to use the data to track trends on National Forest System lands. BLM recreation use data generally show upward trends in visitation.

The overall decrease in road mileage also potentially affects the quantity of recreation opportunities associated

with driving for pleasure. The miles of roads in Levels 3, 4, and 5 show declines leading to fewer opportunities and decreases in quality related to reduced access to dispersed sites and, in combination with increased demand, more crowding at accessible sites. While this reduction is likely to negatively impact those in passenger cars, the increase in the number of Level 2 miles may positively impact those using high clearance vehicles. The impacts of these changes in terms of magnitude and quality are unknown.

Chapter 8: Socioeconomic Conditions and Trends for Counties

The 20-year report addresses social and economic change at the county scale. This level of detail was selected because data are readily available at this scale. The 72 counties displayed in table 8-1 are included in the analysis. The counties were identified because of their proximity, and social and economic ties to the national forests and BLM districts in the NWFP area. The counties are the same counties used in the previous reports.

Data Analysis

The counties in the NWFP area are divided into two groups: metropolitan or nonmetropolitan. The designation is determined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. The 2011 designations were obtained from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/county_links.htm, accessed 8/17/2012). Classifying the counties into metropolitan and nonmetropolitan groups is helpful because

Table 8-1 - Counties in the Northwest Forest Plan area (2011 designation)

State, county, designation	State, county, designation
CA, Colusa County (nonmetropolitan)	OR, Polk County (metropolitan)
CA, Del Norte County (nonmetropolitan)	OR, Sherman County (nonmetropolitan)
CA, Glenn County (nonmetropolitan)	OR, Tillamook County (nonmetropolitan)
CA, Humboldt County (nonmetropolitan)	OR, Wasco County (nonmetropolitan)
CA, Lake County (nonmetropolitan)	OR, Washington County (metropolitan)
CA, Lassen County (nonmetropolitan)	OR, Yamhill County (metropolitan)
CA, Marin County (metropolitan)	WA, Adams County (nonmetropolitan)
CA, Mendocino County (nonmetropolitan)	WA, Benton County (metropolitan)
CA, Modoc County (nonmetropolitan)	WA, Chelan County (metropolitan)
CA, Napa County (metropolitan)	WA, Clallam County (nonmetropolitan)
CA, Shasta County (metropolitan)	WA, Clark County (metropolitan)
CA, Siskiyou County (nonmetropolitan)	WA, Cowlitz County (metropolitan)
CA, Sonoma County (metropolitan)	WA, Douglas County (metropolitan)
CA, Sutter County (metropolitan)	WA, Franklin County (metropolitan)
CA, Tehama County (nonmetropolitan)	WA, Grant County (nonmetropolitan)
CA, Trinity County (nonmetropolitan)	WA, Grays Harbor County (nonmetropolitan)
CA, Yolo County (metropolitan)	WA, Island County (nonmetropolitan)
OR, Benton County (metropolitan)	WA, Jefferson County (nonmetropolitan)
OR, Clackamas County (metropolitan)	WA, King County (metropolitan)
OR, Clatsop County (nonmetropolitan)	WA, Kitsap County (metropolitan)
OR, Columbia County (metropolitan)	WA, Kittitas County (nonmetropolitan)
OR, Coos County (nonmetropolitan)	WA, Klickitat County (nonmetropolitan)
OR, Crook County (nonmetropolitan)	WA, Lewis County (nonmetropolitan)
OR, Curry County (nonmetropolitan)	WA, Mason County (nonmetropolitan)
OR, Deschutes County (metropolitan)	WA, Okanogan County (nonmetropolitan)
OR, Douglas County (nonmetropolitan)	WA, Pacific County (nonmetropolitan)
OR, Hood River County (nonmetropolitan)	WA, Pierce County (metropolitan)
OR, Jackson County (metropolitan)	WA, San Juan County (nonmetropolitan)
OR, Jefferson County (nonmetropolitan)	WA, Skagit County (metropolitan)
OR, Josephine County (nonmetropolitan)	WA, Skamania County (metropolitan)
OR, Klamath County (nonmetropolitan)	WA, Snohomish County (metropolitan)
OR, Lane County (metropolitan)	WA, Thurston County (metropolitan)
OR, Lincoln County (nonmetropolitan)	WA, Wahkiakum County (nonmetropolitan)
OR, Linn County (nonmetropolitan)	WA, Walla Walla County (nonmetropolitan)
OR, Marion County (metropolitan)	WA, Whatcom County (metropolitan)
OR, Multnomah County (metropolitan)	WA, Yakima County (metropolitan)

This chapter uses U.S. Census population data, IMPLAN employment data, and Bureau of Labor Statistics populations and unemployment data to address conditions and trends for the following indicators:

- Total Population (BEA 2010)
- Metropolitan vs. Nonmetropolitan Population (BEA 2011)
- Total Population Change (BEA 2010)
- Population by Age (US Census 2010a)
- Population by Race (US Census 2010b)
- Employment and Personal Income by Industry (2001-2007) (MIG 2009)
- Unemployment (BLS 2010)
- Total Population and Metropolitan vs. Nonmetropolitan Population

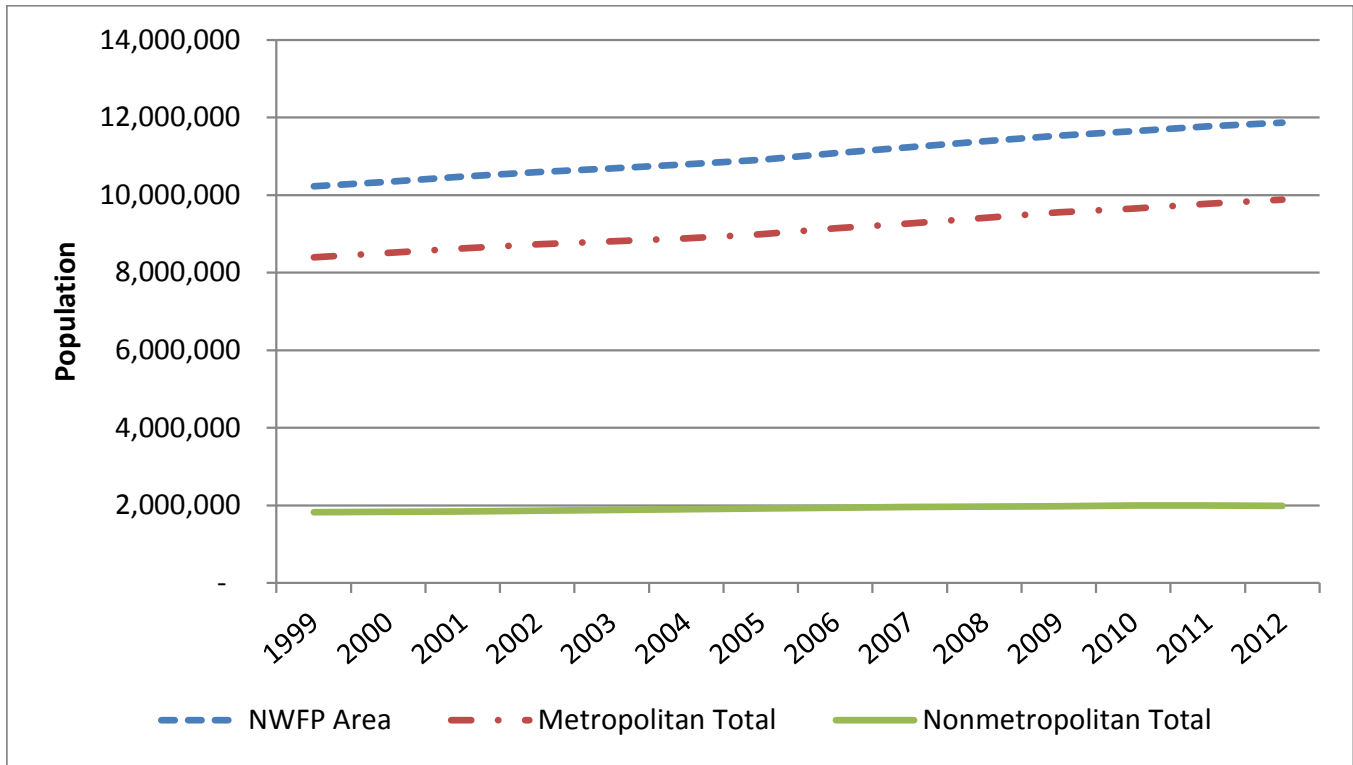


Figure 8-1. Population Growth in Metro and Nonmetro between 1999 and 2012.

the social and economic conditions are different in urban and rural areas. If the two were combined then positive and negative data might cancel each other out. Separating the counties into two groups helps to identify trends more clearly.

Results and Discussion

Total Population and Metropolitan vs. Nonmetropolitan Population

Nearly all of the population growth in the NWFP area since 1999 is attributable to metropolitan counties (figure 8-1). Migration to urban areas may be driven by economic opportunities or desirable amenities. The size and diversity of metropolitan counties may also make them more resilient

to changes in natural resource markets and management. Across all NWFP area counties, the metropolitan population growth rate was double the non-metropolitan population growth rate between 1999 and 2012 (18 percent vs. 9 percent), (table 8-2). Nevertheless, non-metropolitan counties may also provide desirable amenities – open space, access to recreation opportunities, and environmental quality. While many rural areas of the United States have lost population in recent years, the non-metropolitan counties of the NWFP area did experience moderate growth between 1999 and 2012 (figure 8-1).

The NWFP area counties grew more quickly than non-NWFP area counties in California, Oregon, and Washington. Overall, non-metropolitan counties in those three states lost 6 percent of their populations between

Table 8-2: Population change by metropolitan and nonmetropolitan counties, NWFP area counties and state totals.

		1999-2012		2005-2012	
CA-			Percent change		Percent change
NWFP area counties	Total	166,014	10	79,259	4
	Metropolitan	136,481	11	73,496	6
	Nonmetropolitan	29,533	6	5,763	1
OR-					
NWFP area counties	Total	499,808	16	282,564	8
	Metropolitan	454,164	18	263,492	9
	Nonmetropolitan	45,644	7	19,072	3
WA-					
NWFP area counties	Total	981,145	19	596,840	11
	Metropolitan	888,262	19	549,863	11
	Nonmetropolitan	92,883	13	46,977	6
Total NWFP counties					
	Total	1,646,967	16	958,663	9
	Metropolitan	1,478,907	18	886,851	10
	Nonmetropolitan	168,060	9	71,812	4
Oregon, Washington, California	Total	6,102,086	14	3,139,345	7
	Metropolitan	6,231,488	15	3,388,487	8
	Nonmetropolitan	(129,402)	-6	(249,142)	-10

1999 and 2012. In contrast, non-metropolitan NWFP area counties grew 9 percent over the same period. Similarly, the metropolitan areas in the NWFP area grew more quickly than metropolitan areas in the three states overall (18 percent vs. 15 percent) (table 8-2). Therefore, the NWFP area counties are attracting more residents than counties outside the NWFP area in the three states. These data reflect that both the metropolitan and non-metropolitan counties in the NWFP area continue to be appealing places to live.

Population by Age

Demographic changes, particularly shifts in the age distribution, provide additional context for population growth trends. Non-metropolitan NWFP area counties are

losing younger residents. From 2000 to 2012, the share of young children, teenagers, and working age adults (25-44) declined in the non-metropolitan counties. In contrast, the 45-64 and 65 and older age brackets grew the most over the same period (figure 8-2). The aging of the population in the non-metropolitan counties may reflect a lack of educational and employment opportunities for young people in these counties. Additionally, this trend suggests that population decline in these counties may be imminent. The metropolitan counties in the NWFP area have also seen a sharp increase in the share of individuals in the 65 and older age bracket (figure 8-3). In part, this trend reflects national, and global, demographic shifts toward an older population.

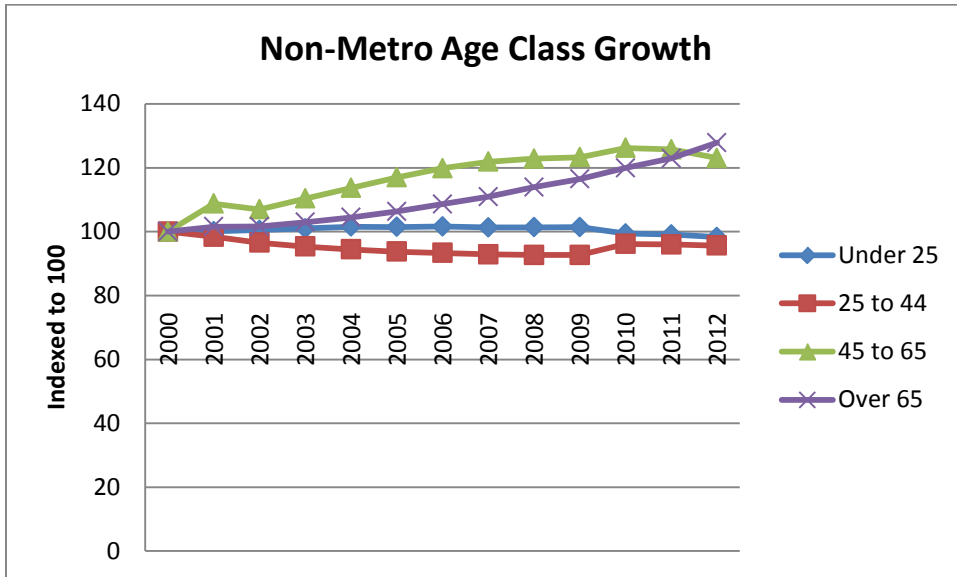


Figure 8-2: Age class growth in the NWFP area nonmetropolitan counties, 2000-2012

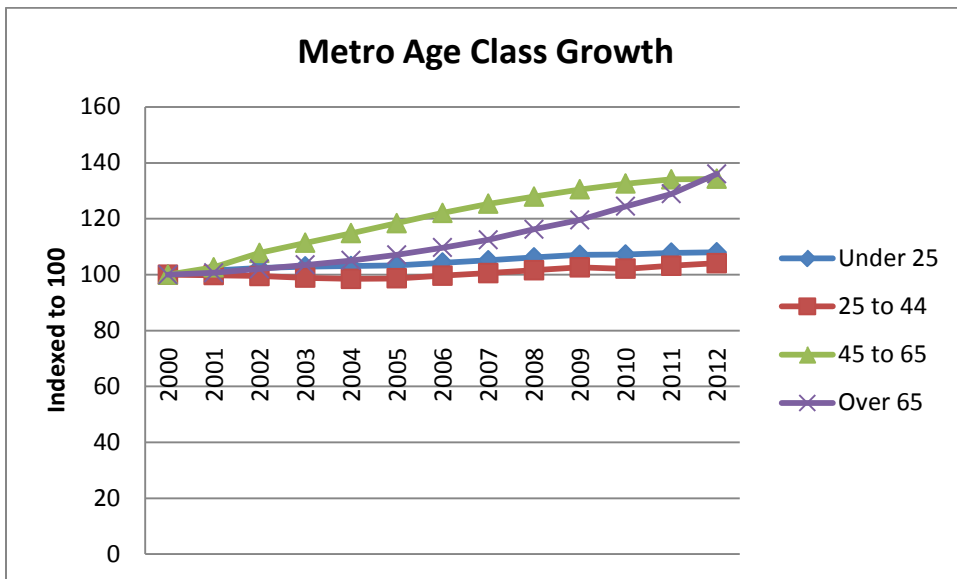


Figure 8-3: Rate of change by age class in NWFP area metropolitan counties, 2000-2012

Population by Race and Origin

The NWFP area is becoming more racially and ethnically diverse. The share of non-white residents in the non-metropolitan counties increased from 7 percent to 10 percent between 2000 and 2012 (table 8-4). In the metropolitan counties, the share of non-white residents increased from

14 percent to 18 percent (table 8-4). The share of Hispanic/Latino residents increased from 8 percent to 12 percent in non-metropolitan NWFP area counties and 9 percent to 14 percent in metropolitan NWFP area counties (table 8-5). As with the aging population in the NWFP area, increasing racial and ethnic diversity in the area also reflects national trends.

Table 8-3: Population and population change by age class in metropolitan and nonmetropolitan NWFP area counties

	Total		Under 25		Age 25-44		Age 45-64		Age 65 Plus	
	Number	Number	Share	Number	Share	Number	Share	Number	Share	
Nonmetro			%		%		%		%	
2000	1,742,079	580,989	33	443,977	25	441,284	25	275,829	16	
2012	1,891,377	571,154	30	424,627	22	543,019	29	352,577	19	
Change	149,298	-9,835		-19,350		101,735		76,748		
Percent change	9	-2		-4		23		28		
Metro										
2000	8,601,903	2,992,790	35	2,653,867	31	1,991,901	23	963,345	11	
2012	9,979,685	3,231,899	32	2,763,024	28	2,674,475	27	1,310,287	13	
Change	1,377,782	239,109		109,157		682,574		346,942		
Percent change	16	8		4		34		36		
Total										
2000	10,343,982	3,573,779	35	3,097,844	30	2,433,185	24	1,239,174	12	
2012	11,871,062	3,803,053	32	3,187,651	27	3,217,494	27	1,662,864	14	
Change	1,527,080	229,274		89,807		784,309		423,690		
Percent change	15	6		3		32		34		

The percent of the population identified as Hispanic in origin in the NWFP area is closer to the national average of 15 percent (table 8-5). California exceeds the national average while Oregon and Washington are less. Generally, the nonmetropolitan counties have a lower percentage classified as Hispanic and most of the growth in the Hispanic percentage is in the metropolitan counties.

Employment and Personal Income by Industry

Demographic changes have coincided with changes in economic activity and labor market conditions in the NWFP area. Between 2001 and 2012, employment in the transportation and warehousing, health and social services, and government sectors grew the most across the NWFP area. The agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting sector also grew during this period, although the growth was modest compared to the three sectors identified above (figure 8-5). Nevertheless, this growth is notable, since employment change in this sector was flat between 1990 and

2000 (figure 8-4). Although employment in the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting sector experienced modest growth between 2001 and 2012, the labor income (salary, wages, and proprietors' income) grew markedly over this period (figure 8-6). This mirrors the trend discussed in the timber harvest section, which notes that while employment in timber-related sectors declined, the average wage paid to employees in those sectors increased.

Unemployment

The unemployment data for the last 10 years in the NWFP area and the US are presented in figure 8-7. The data are grouped into metropolitan and nonmetropolitan counties in each state. The data are annual rates and are not seasonally adjusted. Except for the Washington metropolitan counties, all other areas have unemployment rates higher than the rates for the US. The nonmetropolitan areas in California, Oregon, and Washington have unemployment rates higher than their corresponding metropolitan areas.

All NWFP area counties and the US follow similar

trends with increasing unemployment from 2008 to 2010 and decreasing unemployment from 2010 to 2012. The data for the NWFP area and the US as a whole reflect the major

economic downturn that began in late 2007. Unemployment rates in the NWFP area doubled between 2007 and 2010.

Table 8-4: percent of population by race in the NWFP area, 2000 and 2012

	2000		2012	
	Non-metropolitan	Metropolitan	Non-metropolitan	Metropolitan
	Percent			
California				
American Indian & Alaska Native	4	1	5	2
Asian	1	5	2	7
Black	2	2	2	2
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5
Two or more races	3	2	4	4
White	90	89	87	85
Oregon				
American Indian & Alaska Native	2	1	2	1
Asian	1	1	2	6
Black	1	3	1	3
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	0.5
Two or more races	2	2	3	4
White	94	90	92	86
Washington				
American Indian & Alaska Native	3	1	3	2
Asian	2	7	2	9
Black	1	4	1	5
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	<0.5	1	<0.5	1
Two or more races	2	3	3	5
White	92	84	90	79
NWFP Area				
American Indian & Alaska Native	3	1	3	2
Asian	1	6	2	8
Black	1	3	1	4
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	1
Two or more races	2	3	4	4
White	93	86	90	82

Table 8-5: Percent of population with Hispanic origin in the NWFP area 2000 and 2012

Area	Percent Hispanic		
	2000		2012
CA			
Nonmetropolitan	14		19
Metropolitan	17		23
Total	16		22
OR			
Nonmetropolitan	6		9
Metropolitan	9		15
Total	8		13
WA			
Nonmetropolitan	7		11
Metropolitan	7		12
Total	7		11
NWFP AREA			
Nonmetropolitan	8		12
Metropolitan	9		14
Total	9		13

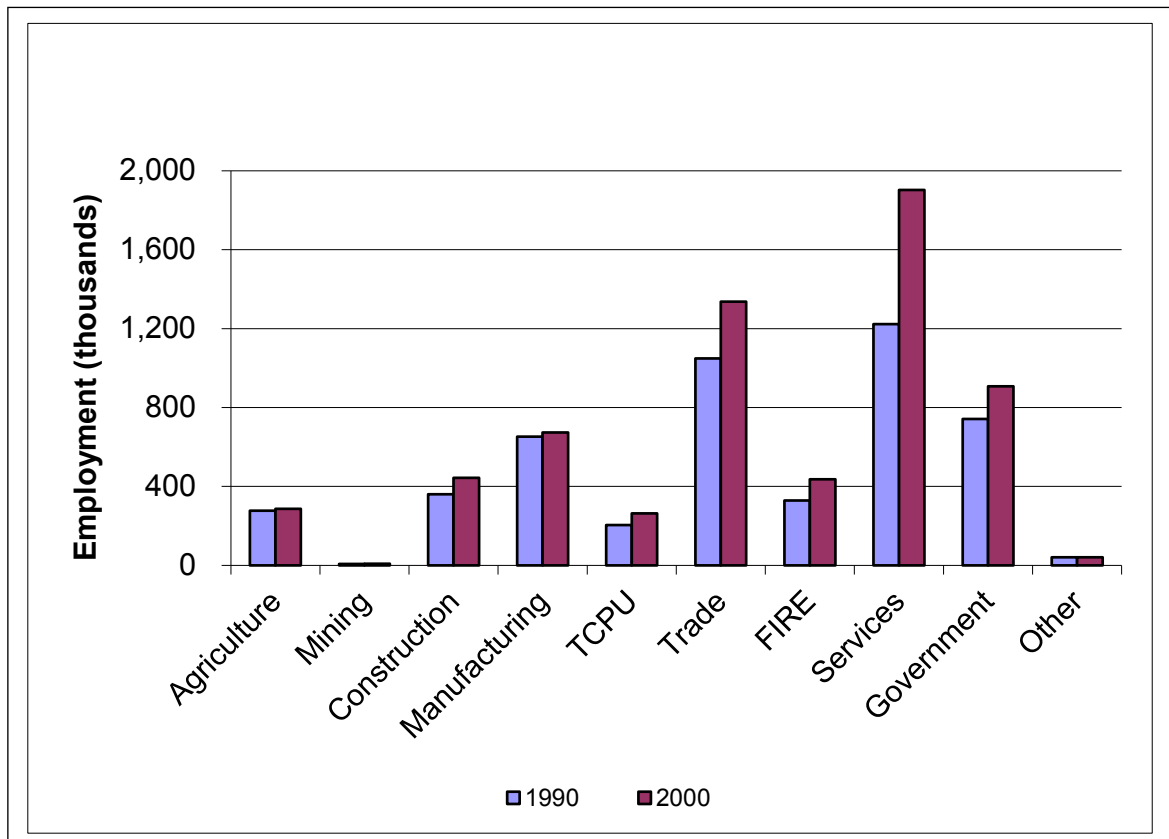


Figure 8-4. Employment by major industry Average Annual Wage.

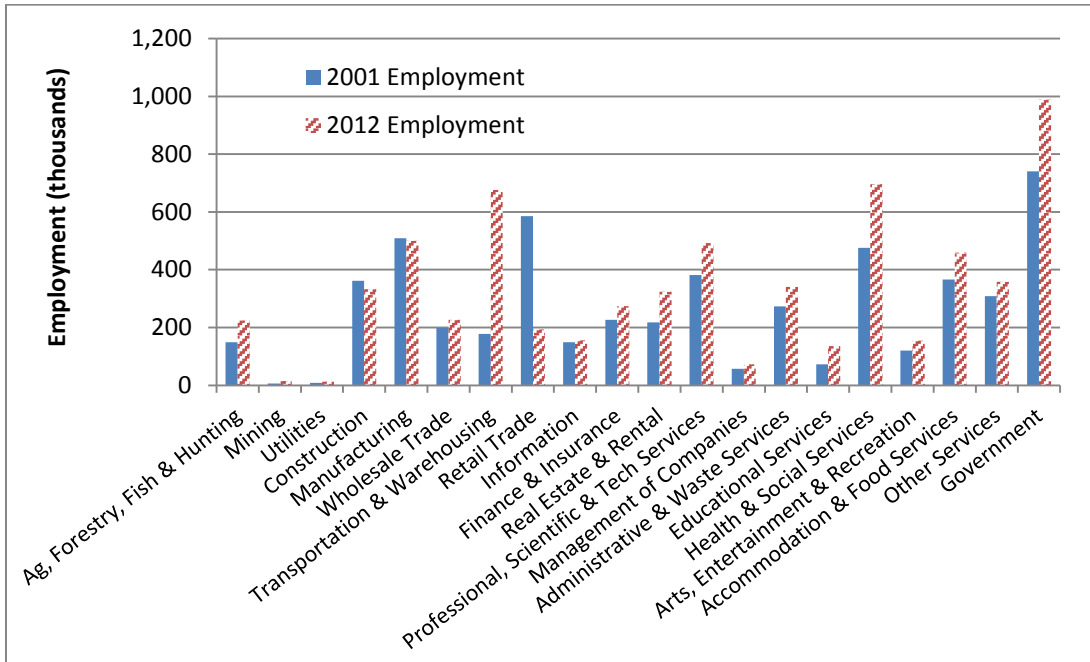


Figure 8-5: Employment by major industry (NAICS), 2001 and 2012

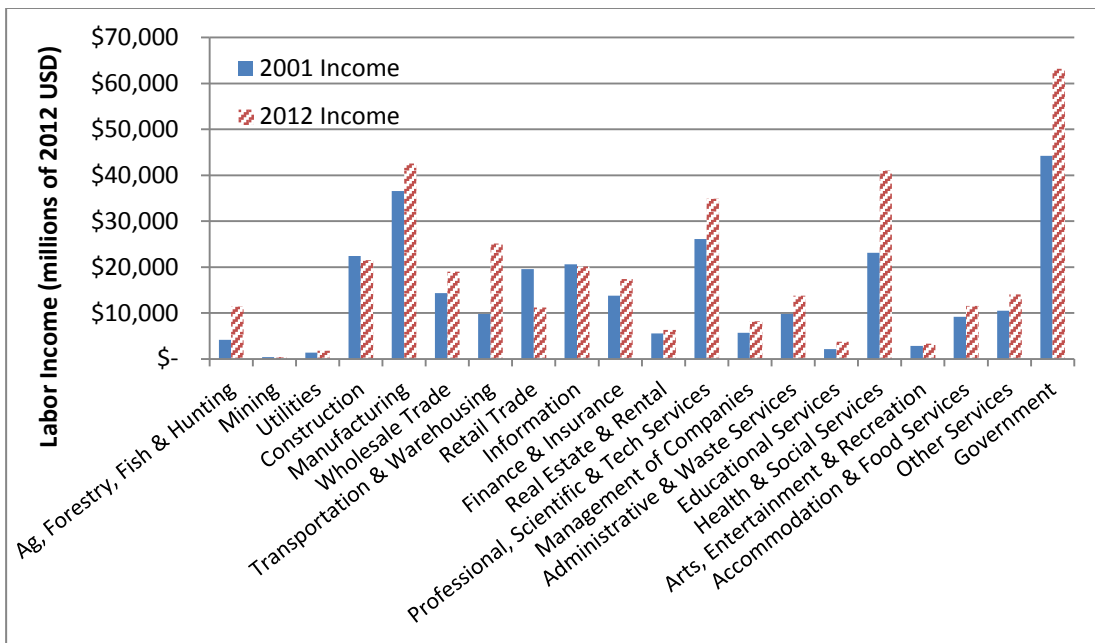


Figure 8-6: Income by major industry, 2001 and 2012

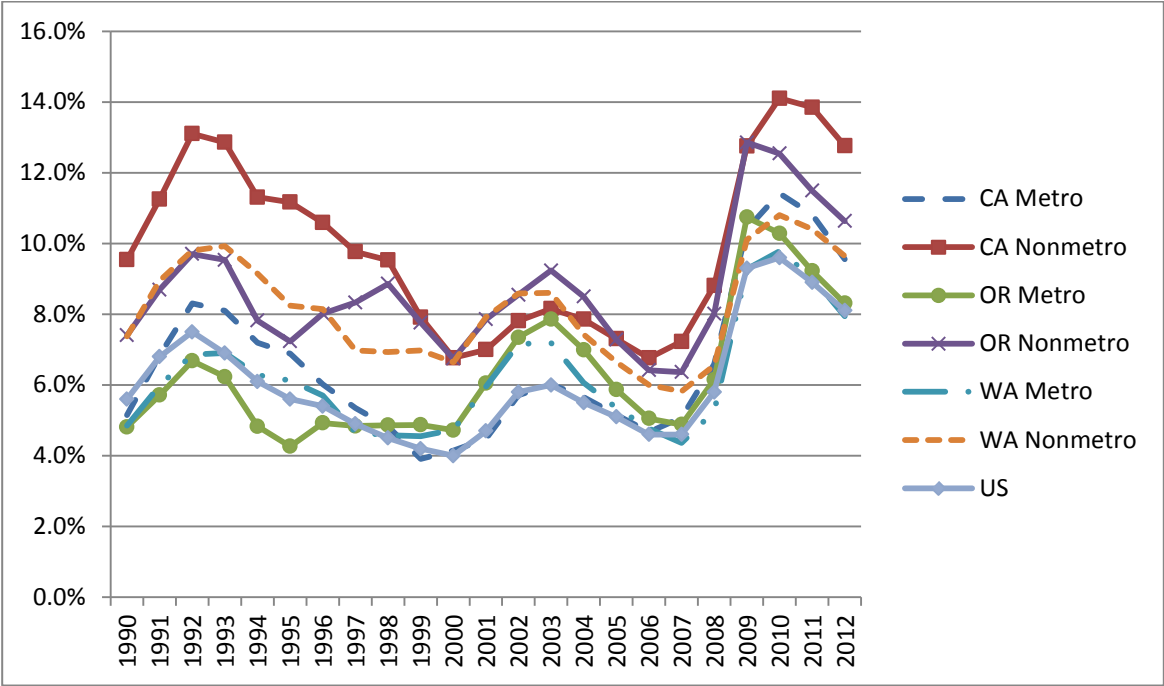


Figure 8-7: Unemployment rates in the NWFP area and US, 1990-2012

Chapter 9: Jobs and Income Associated with Resources and Recreation

The Pacific Northwest is endowed with vast forest resources. Federal lands are an important part of the forest resource base, which contribute to socioeconomic well-being by providing a variety of commodities, uses, and services. These lands provide forest resources that support consumptive, nonconsumptive, commercial and noncommercial uses as well as an array of employment opportunities. Timber production was one of the largest drivers of regional economic development in the Pacific Northwest over the past century and it remains an important economic component in many parts of the NWFP area (as modified from Charnley et al. 2006).

This section of the 20-year report presents an assessment of the role that forest resources from National Forest System and BLM lands play in the economy of the NWFP area.

Factors affecting the NWFP area's industrial composition and associated rates of employment and income over time include changes in technology, industrial diversification and growth, regional competitiveness, product demand, and supply of raw materials. Federal land management agencies directly influence the supply of raw materials, including timber; recreation opportunities, forage, minerals, wildlife, fish, water, and other nontimber forest products. The supply and use of these resources have direct effects on the industries involved in their primary production and conversion, and indirect effects on the businesses and workers supporting these industries.

In the years leading up to the creation of the NWFP, discussions about the effects of ecosystem protection and restoration on socioeconomic well-being were often presented as a choice between owls and jobs which later became the broader issue of jobs versus the environment. Although the supply of timber and employment in the wood products

industry are directly related, reducing the debate to a choice between owls and jobs is an oversimplification that ignores the complex social and economic changes in the Pacific Northwest.

During the past three decades, high rates of population growth, especially in the urban areas along the Interstate 5 corridor, brought new people to the Pacific Northwest who had different values and beliefs about the appropriate uses of federal lands. At the same time, long-time residents of the Pacific Northwest and people across the country began to question the management of public forest lands for intensive timber production (FEMAT 1993). The public began to recognize other values of public land including recreation, visual quality, as well as the protection of water, wildlife, and fish (as modified from Charnley et al. 2006).

The economy of the Pacific Northwest was also changing. Agriculture and industries based on forest resource extraction grew little. Fewer people in the region depended on the extraction of goods and services from federal lands for their livelihoods. New businesses and employment opportunities fueled by the expanding population were primarily in the trade and services sectors. Growth in the forest products industry shifted to the U.S. South and interior Canada as relative costs changed and engineered forest products gained consumer acceptance (Haynes et al. 2007). During this same time, the forest products industry in the NWFP area has become less diverse and more focused on softwood lumber production at large mills (Haynes 2008).

Expectations

“Predictable levels of resource outputs and recreation opportunities from National Forest System and BLM lands were expected to provide predictable levels of employment” (Charnley et al. 2006). This relationship between resource flows and uses from federal lands and employment has been the basis for many federal policies associated with sustaining rural communities. These policies are documented in the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960 and the

non-declining even-flow policy for timber adopted in 1973 and included in the Forest Service 1982 planning regulation (36 CFR 219). The implementation of the NWFP shifted the emphasis to predictable levels of resource outputs and uses within the NWFP area. With predictable levels, workers and industry supported by resources from federal lands will know with greater certainty the level of future investments necessary to maintain their businesses.

The 10-year report emphasizes three points related to jobs and income associated with resource and recreation outputs: (1) The NWFP fixed average annual planned harvest levels at 1.1 billion board feet. This quantity was scaled back to 0.8 billion board feet during the first few years of NWFP implementation. The new planned harvest levels were more than 80 percent less than the Forest Service and BLM planned annual harvest levels of 4.5 billion board feet during the 1980s. (2) Initial projections documented by the Forest Ecosystem Management Assessment Team (FEMAT 1993) indicated that the permanent reduction in timber supply would result in an initial loss of about 25,000 direct jobs or 17 percent of total timber industry employment. After adjusting to the reduction in timber supply, NWFP implementation was expected to provide a stable flow of timber from federal lands and support predictable rates of employment in the timber industry. (3) Data associated with nontimber resources and recreation outputs are scarce. During the development of the NWFP, the agencies did not know the effect of the NWFP standards and guidelines on nontimber commodity and noncommodity products, uses, and services derived from the region's forests. They needed to clarify the short- and long-term effects expected on municipal and nonfederal water systems, grazing, minerals, special forest products, recreation residences, and recreation facilities (Tuchmann et al. 1996) (as modified from Charnley et al. 2006).

Data Analysis

Employment and income estimates come from IMPLAN Professional Version 3.0 with 2012 data. IMPLAN is an input-output model that evaluates how an industry event or change in policy affects economic activity in an area. IMPLAN captures direct, indirect, and induced economic activity. Direct effects occur in the immediately affected industry. For example, a logging company experiences direct effects from a federal timber sale. Indirect effects occur in industries that supply the directly affected firm. When the logging company buys equipment – e.g., trucks and tools – economic activity increases in other firms in the local area. Induced effects occur when employees of the directly and indirectly affected firms spend their earnings in the local area. Employees purchase housing, food, fuel, and other goods and services. All of these transactions influence local economic activity. Therefore, the economic effects of a federal timber sale affect many firms in an economy, not just those in the forestry sector.

The 10-year report covers the years 1990 through 2000 organized by industry or industry group using the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system. The more recent IMPLAN data, 2001 and later, are organized by industry or industry group using the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS). The IMPLAN data sets are selected because they interpret data from a variety of published government sources to fully disclose disaggregated employment and income for individual counties. This disclosure provides the ability to identify individual industries, such as the primary and secondary wood products processing sectors, in the NWFP area's 72 counties.

The IMPLAN data also include estimates for the self-employed, which are especially important in the logging industry. The 10-year report used data from Christensen et al. (2000) to identify whether the counties were metropolitan or nonmetropolitan. The 20-year report uses updated 2011 metropolitan and nonmetropolitan data obtained from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) website. These 72 counties (table 8 -1) constitute the area of analysis for the discussions

in this chapter.⁶ The quantity of resource outputs and uses for estimating employment and income associated with Forest Service and BLM managed lands in this chapter are taken from Chapter 3 through Chapter 7 of this report. The timber harvest data from all ownerships used here are taken from state harvest reports that identify timber harvest by county. The timber data from all ownerships incorporate other owner responses to the changing timber supply from federal lands.⁷

Timber-industry employment and income data are from IMPLAN data sets for the 72 counties in the NWFP area. IMPLAN data for the 10-year report are developed for the years 1990 through 2000. The 20-year report uses IMPLAN data for the years 2008 through 2012. IMPLAN data are used in this section to provide specific timber industry level detail not available in Bureau of Labor Statistics and other readily available data sets.

The employment and income data are compared to the data in timber harvest from all ownerships in the NWFP area. The division of timber industry employment and income by the volume of logs consumed by primary processing timber industries provides an estimate of the direct employment response to timber harvest. The amount of Forest Service- and BLM-supported timber industry direct employment is a ratio based on the amount of the agencies' timber harvest to the total amount of logs harvested from all ownerships. Drawing conclusions about timber harvest and employment data for individual counties is inappropriate and not considered because of economic leakages (Sommers 2001). One of the most important leakages is log flows to timber mills across county boundaries (as modified from Charnley et al. 2006).

⁶http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/county_links.htm

⁷These reports are available from the Oregon Department of Forestry publications section (http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/STATE_FORESTS/FRP/annual_reports.shtml), the Washington Department of Natural Resources publications section (<http://www.dnr.wa.gov>), the Washington Department of Revenue (http://dor.wa.gov/content/FindTaxesAndRates/OtherTaxes/Timber/forst_stat.aspx) and the California Board of Equalization property-tax section (<http://www.boe.ca.gov/proptaxes/timbertax.htm>).

A change in timber industry output generates changes in purchases from supporting industries and expenditures by employees, known as indirect and induced effects. In order to estimate timber-related indirect and induced employment and income, IMPLAN impact models were built for the region to produce employment and income multipliers based on the effects of a final demand change in the timber industry.

Recreation-related employment and income cannot be defined using a single tourism industry. Recreation dollars are spent on a variety of goods and services. Associated employment and income were generated by building IMPLAN impact models to identify the direct, indirect, and induced employment and income associated with the total expenditures by the recreation users. The expenditure patterns are based on data identified in the National Visitor-Use Monitoring program. The methods to derive this data are presented in the *Updated Spending Profiles for National Forest Recreation Visitors by Activity* (White and Stynes 2010).

The following sections discuss results for timber, other forest products, and recreation. The timber section is the most developed because the data identifying the trends in timber flows are readily available and the relationships between timber flows and employment are generally known. Little or no comparable data are available for nontimber forest products.

Results

Timber-Related Jobs and Income

Timber-related jobs and income are in logging, solid wood product manufacturing, and pulp and paper processing. Solid wood manufacturing and pulp and paper processing can be further subdivided into primary and secondary manufacturing industries. Primary processing in solid wood manufacturing includes sawmills, wood preservation, and veneer and plywood mills. Secondary manufacturing in solid wood products includes industries such as millwork, reconstituted wood products, and cabinetry. Primary processing in pulp and paper includes pulp, paper, and paperboard mills. Secondary manufacturing in pulp and

paper includes paperboard containers, paper bags, and stationery.

Chapter 8 describes the shifts in sectoral composition across the NWFP area. In both urban and rural areas of the NWFP area, the role of timber harvesting and processing is declining as a share of total employment. Employment in all timber-related industries declined between 2008 and 2012 in the NWFP area (figure 9-1). Secondary wood manufacturing saw the largest decline – from more than 25,000 jobs in 2008 to approximately 15,000 jobs in 2012. The decline in timber-related industries coincided with the recession, but employment in these industries has not recovered since the end of the recession. Likewise, income in timber-related industries declined between 2008 and 2012 (figure 9-2). However, the decline in income was less stark than the decline in employment. Indeed, income in the logging sector had increased to pre-recession levels by 2012. Both metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas in the NWFP area saw employment decline in all timber-related sectors between 2001 and 2012 (table 9-1). Timber-related industries account for a larger share of employment and

income in nonmetropolitan counties in the NWFP area. Therefore, the decline of timber-related industries was experienced more acutely in rural areas.

Forest Service and BLM effects

The 10-year report provides the historical context for broad changes in timber supply and variability in the region by analyzing data from 1965 through 1989 for Oregon, Washington, and California. Data for 1979, however, were missing for all states. Some historical data for California were also unavailable (Charnley et al. 2006). All other analyses in this chapter include data for California.

Annual timber harvest amounts from National Forest System and BLM lands in the NWFP area excluding California averaged about 4.7 billion board feet from 1965 through 1989. Harvests on non-federal ownerships averaged about 8.5 billion board feet. The total across all ownerships was about 13.2 billion board feet. The Forest Service and BLM contribution was about 36 percent of total timber harvest until 1990.

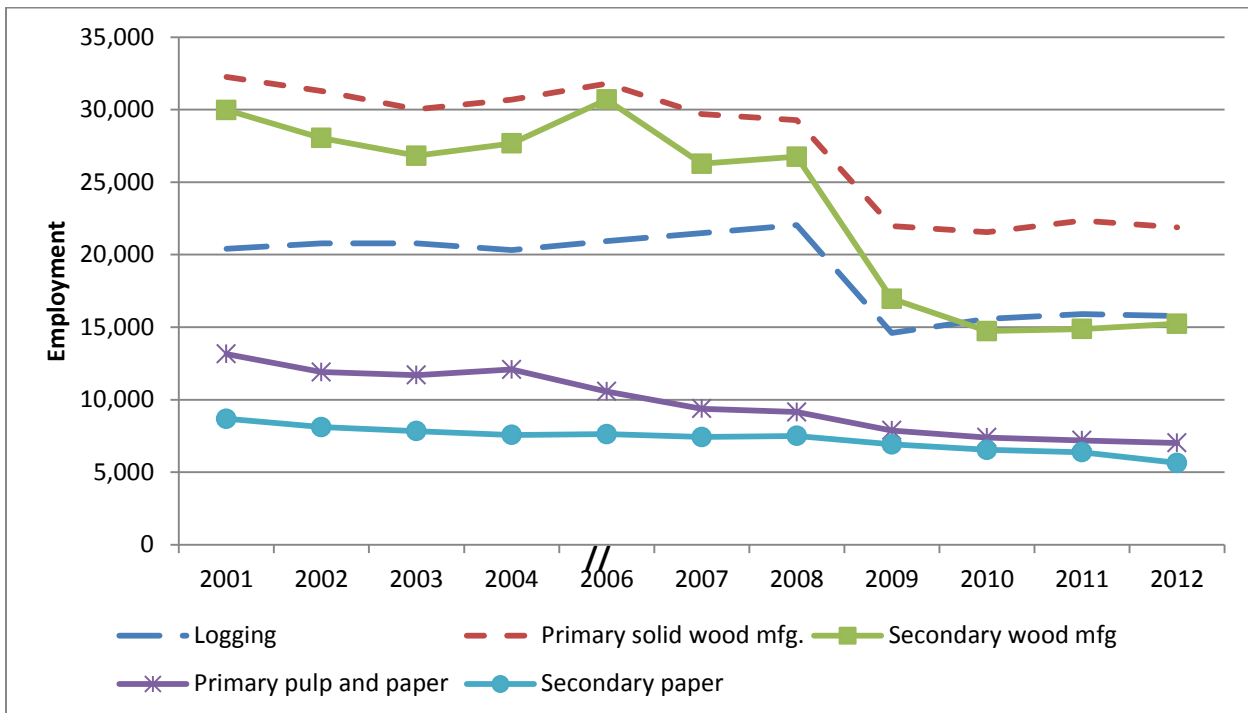


Figure 9-1: Timber industry employment, NWFP area, 2001-2012

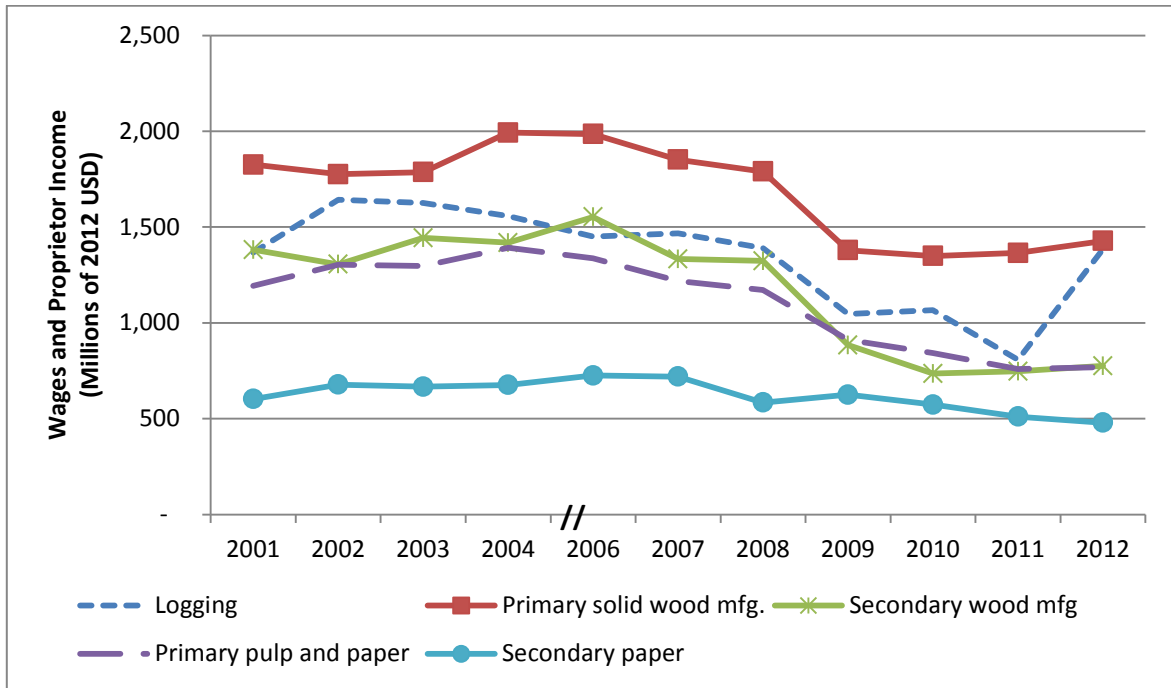


Figure 9-2: Timber industry wages and proprietor income, NWFP area, 2001-2012

Table 9-1: Metropolitan and nonmetropolitan job change, 2001 through 2012

Metropolitan	2001 Jobs	2012 Jobs	2001 -2012 Job Change	2001-2012 Percent Change
Logging	9,914	7,442	-2,472	-24.9
Primary solid wood mfg	13,001	10,862	-2,139	-16.5
Secondary wood mfg	19,763	9,932	-9,831	-49.7
Primary pulp and paper	5,567	4,262	-1,305	-23.4
Secondary paper	7,259	5,031	-2,228	-30.7
All wood related	55,503	37,529	-17,974	-32.4
All industries	5,387,931	5,755,296	367,365	6.8
Nonmetropolitan				
Logging	10,498	8,326	-2,172	-20.7
Primary solid wood mfg	19,244	11,028	-8,216	-42.7
Secondary wood mfg	10,210	5,308	-4,902	-48.0
Primary pulp and paper	7,589	2,762	-4,827	-63.6
Secondary paper	1,428	613	-815	-57.1
All wood related	48,970	28,038	-20,932	-42.7
All industries	859,022*	878,434	19,412	2.3

*Due to data discrepancies, this employment estimate is from the Bureau of Economic Analysis. All other data in this table are from the IMPLAN modeling system.

Large variations were found in harvest rates during this period. The slumps are typical of national economic downturns such as the large recession of the early 1980s. Excluding the 1980s recession, Forest Service and BLM harvests in the NWFP areas of Oregon and Washington ranged between 4 and 6 billion board feet until 1990. The other ownership harvests ranged between 8 and 10 billion board feet. Since economic recessions and recoveries affect all owners, the peaks and valleys in harvest levels generally coincided across all ownerships. The result was that total harvest levels varied between 12 and 16 billion board feet.

The 10-year report also discloses between 1990 and 1994, Forest Service and BLM harvests the NWFP area decreased by 2.5 billion board feet from a level of about 3.3 billion board feet to 0.8 billion board feet. At the same time, harvests on other ownerships in the NWFP area also decreased by 1.5 billion board feet. The decrease in harvest from other ownerships was due primarily to regulation under state forest practices acts, the availability of harvestable volume, and harvesting restrictions on state lands. The combined result was a total loss of 4.0 billion board feet in timber harvest over the first part of the decade from a level of 12.8 billion board feet in 1990 to 8.8 billion board feet in 1994 (as modified from Charnley et al. 2006).

The data for the 20-year report show continued timber harvesting declines on all ownerships between 2004 and 2009 (figure 9-6). Harvests on all ownerships declined by 3.5 billion board feet. Forest Service and BLM harvests declined by 0.2 billion board feet over this period. However, federal timber harvests in the NWFP area rebounded and by 2012 exceeded 2009 harvest volumes (figure 9-5).

Although there is a strong direct cause and effect relationship between timber harvest levels and the number of timber industry jobs and income, this relationship was affected by industry restructuring that included adjusting the amount of logs exported and imported, the closure of

less efficient mills that were unable to compete under new log supply market conditions, and technological change (FEMAT 2003).

The 10-year report shows that the reduction in timber harvest across all ownerships forced the local timber industry to pay higher log prices. This increase in price was similar to log prices in the international market resulting in shifts in log exports and imports. The information on log exports and imports are based on data from the Seattle and Snake-Columbia Customs Districts (Warren 2004, Warren 2009). Since the export and import data generally cover the entire Pacific Northwest, the values were reduced by 10 percent. The factor is the average ratio of east-side harvests in Oregon and Washington to total harvest in these states during the years 2004 through 2007. The resulting import and export data likely represent a better approximation of the values associated with the NWFP area than the unadjusted totals. Softwood log exports dropped from 2.7 billion board feet in 1990 to 0.7 billion board feet by 2000. At the same time, imports increased from about 7 million board feet to almost 250 million board feet. The result was an overall shift in exports and imports providing about 2.3 billion board feet more to local timber processing industries in 2000 than in 1990 (as modified from Charnley et al. 2006).

Changes in the Japanese market and higher log prices led to the redirection of logs from the export market that helped timber manufacturing industries. These changes negatively impacted the timber export industry and reduced revenues for some private land owners (Haynes 2008).

Imports steadily increased as exports decreased until 2005 when they offset each other. However, the imports and export trends reversed beginning in 2006 lowering the amount of logs available for timber processing industries in the NWFP area. Since timber industry employment and income is based on the quantity of logs processed, the net exports are subtracted from the timber harvest amounts to approximate the volume of logs available for processing by

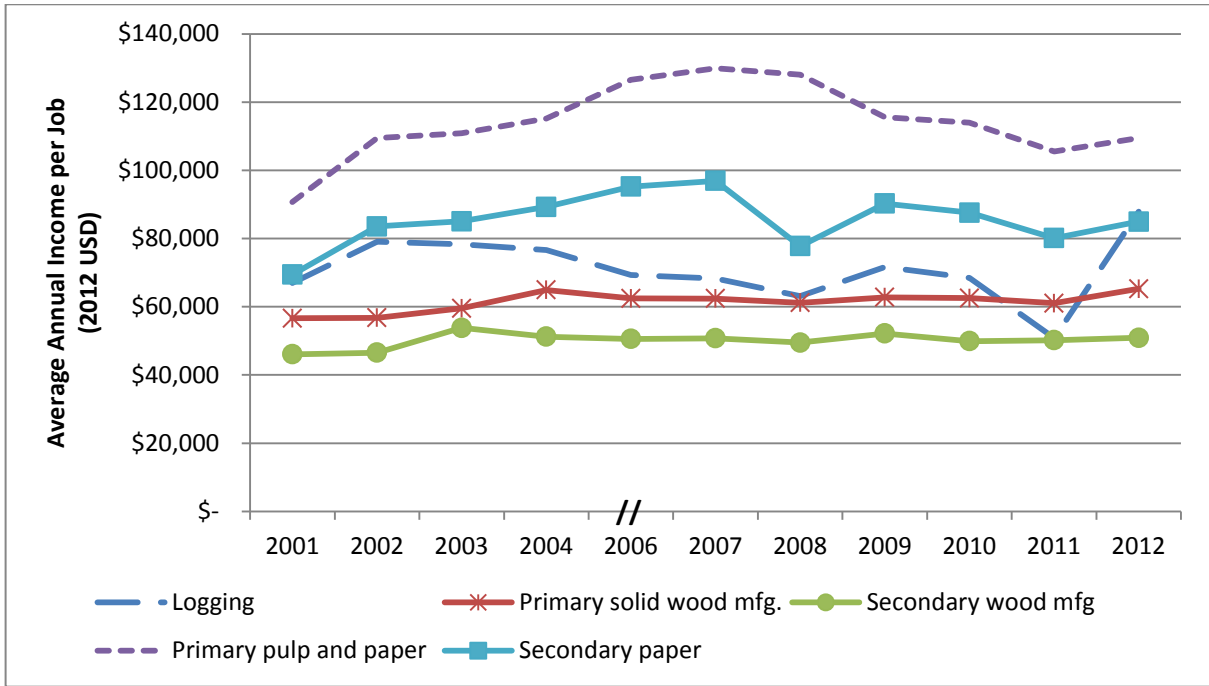


Figure 9-3: Average annual real income per job for five wood-products sectors in the NWFP area, 2001-2012

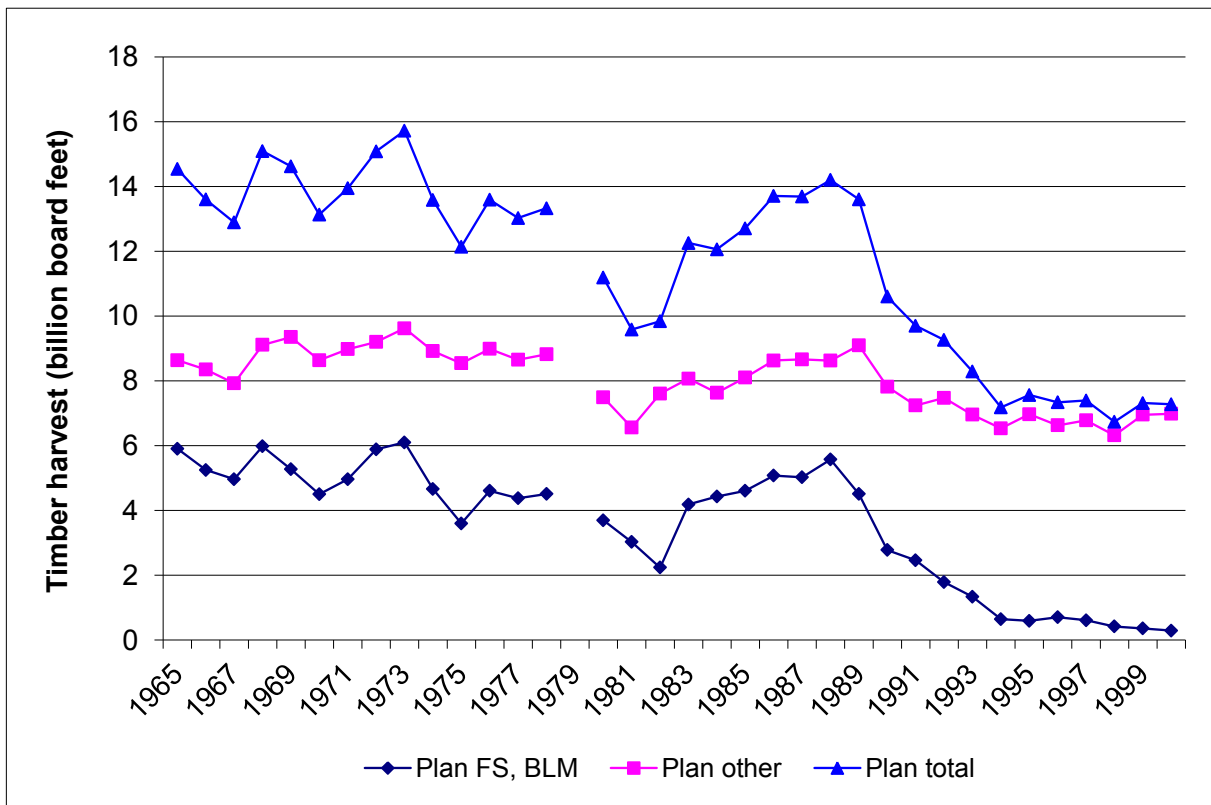


Figure 9-4. Timber Harvest in the NwFP Area of Oregon and Washington States

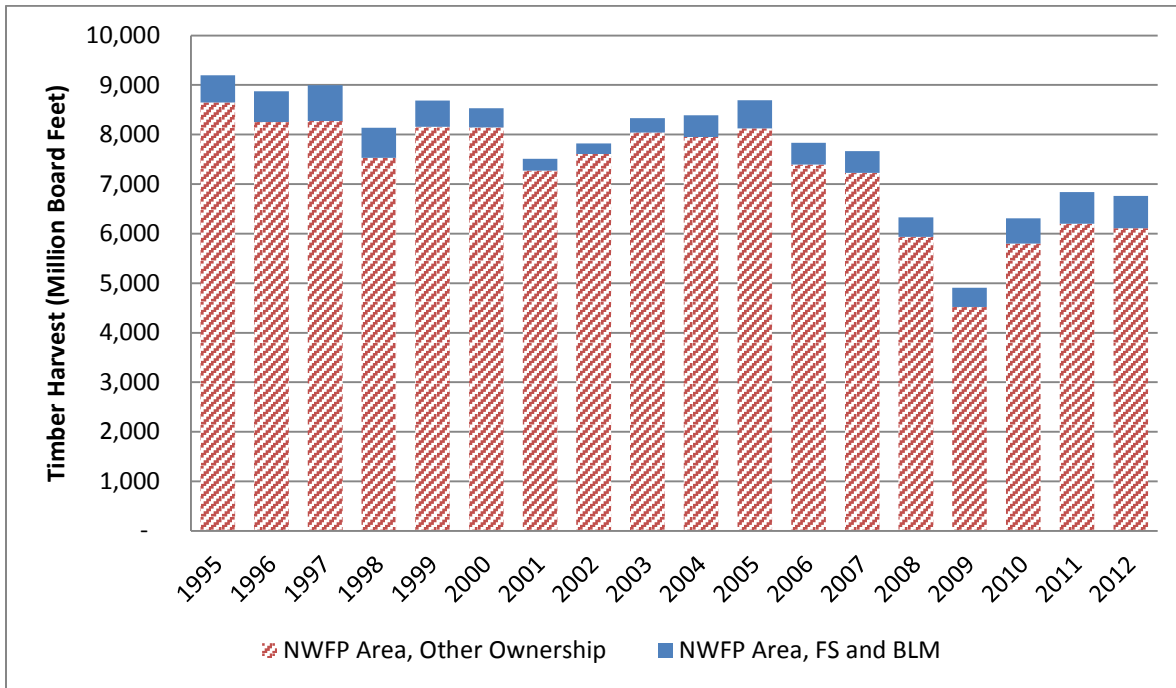


Figure 9-5: Timber harvest by general ownership-class, 1995-2012

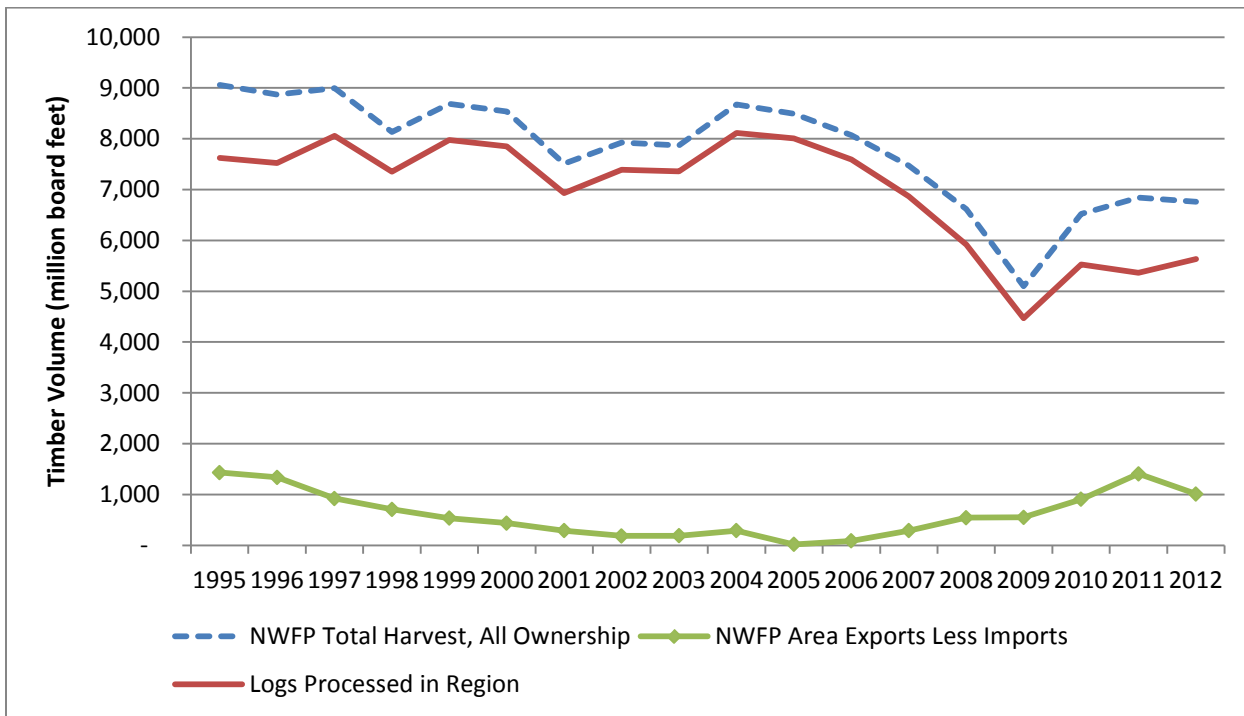


Figure 9-6: Timber harvest, net export, and volume processed in NWFP area, 1995-2012

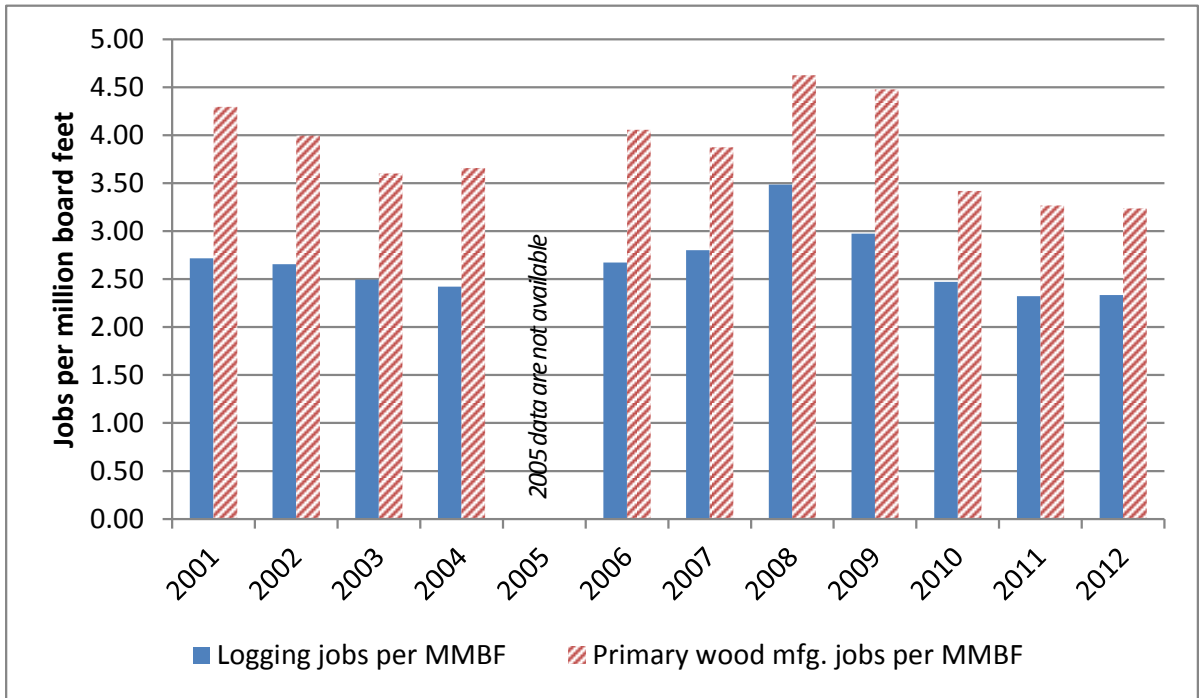


Figure 9-7: Jobs per million board feet of harvest on all ownerships. 2001-2012..

local primary wood products industries in the NWFP area (figure 9-6). Decreasing exports have mitigated some of the effects of the federal harvest reductions.

The 10-year report showed that about two-thirds of the primary-wood-products employment was lost in the first half of the 1990s and that the rate of decline was much slower at the end of the decade. Although most of the job losses were associated with the decline in volume harvested, some of the losses were also due to technological changes in the primary wood manufacturing industries.

To identify potential changes in employment opportunities related to technological advancements, employment in the primary wood products manufacturing and in logging is compared to the volume available to these industries each year from 2001 through 2012. The logging industry is identified separately because this work is done whether or not the logs are processed locally or exported

out of the NWFP area. To identify direct jobs per million board feet of timber harvest, employment in the remaining primary wood products industries is compared to the volume available to these industries. These data are presented in table 9-3.

The jobs per million board feet remain fairly constant in the logging industry across the years 2001 through 2012 analyzed in this report. There was a steady decline in primary wood manufacturing jobs per million board feet between 2001 and 2004. Primary wood manufacturing shows a 19 percent decline in jobs per million board feet during this time period (table 9-3).

In 2012, timber harvested from NFS and BLM-managed lands in the NWFP area supported approximately 2,300 direct jobs and an additional 2,500 indirect and induced jobs throughout the 72 counties (figure 2-1).

Table 9-3: Employment rates for the logging and primary wood manufacturing, 2001-2012

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Employment												
Logging	20,412	20,777	20,777	20,322	na	20,936	21,480	22,048	14,598	15,585	15,900	15,768
Primary wood manufacturing	45,401	43,183	41,721	42,774	na	42,357	39,068	29,269	21,978	21,565	22,357	21,891
Total Employment	65,813	63,959	2,497	63,096	na	63,294	60,548	51,317	36,576	37,149	38,257	37,659
Harvest (million board feet)												
Total harvest	7,508	7,927	7,866	8,672	8,490	8,072	7,474	6,613	5,099	6,519	6,841	6,758
Logs Processed in Region	6,930	7,388	7,360	8,112	8,008	7,591	6,869	5,914	4,471	5,528	5,362	5,631
Jobs per million board feet												
Logging	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.3	na	2.6	2.9	3.3	2.9	2.4	2.3	2.3
Primary wood manufacturing	6.6	5.8	5.7	5.3	na	5.6	5.7	4.9	4.9	3.9	4.2	3.9

Nontimber and Recreation-Related Jobs and Income

The region’s forests contribute to employment and income in several industries based on both commodity and noncommodity products, uses, and services. Dispersed and developed recreation, commercial fishing, hunting, special forest products, mining, and grazing all contribute to the region’s economic health, and they are all affected by changes in federal forest management.

Nontimber Forest Industries

Several nontimber forest-based industries are significant to employment in the Pacific Northwest. The 10-year report discusses these industries and their associated employment to identify potential trends that may be associated with NWFP implementation.

The authors of the 10-year report found that comparing jobs and income associated with the nontimber-related industries to the earlier estimates identified in the FEMAT report was impossible because of differences in reporting techniques and unknown assumptions about full-time job equivalents. For example, many forestry-related activities like gathering floral greens and mushrooms are seasonal and short in duration

so estimating comparable job figures is difficult. Data availability is also a problem, because the proportion of these industries supported by federal lands is unknown.

Instead of trying to estimate actual employment opportunities supported by federal forests in these industries, the 10-year report shows trends in employment for related industries using IMPLAN data for 1994 through 2000. These data show the importance, and status and trends of these industries in the region. The results of that analysis was that the nontimber forest industries associated with the livestock industry, forestry products, forestry services, fishing and mining together comprised less than two percent of all employment in the NWFP area, and only a portion of these jobs are associated with federal lands. The 10-year report also reveals that annual changes in these industries varied by less than three percent (as modified from Charnley et al. 2006).

As with the 15-year report, the 20-year report does not carry forward the analysis completed for the 10-year report. The switch from the SIC to the NAICs industry classification system made comparisons of industry data before 2001

to data for 2001 and later not possible; Forest Service and BLM related employment in these industries was a small contribution and there was relative employment stability within these industries.

Recreation

Forest-based recreation associated with the National Forest and BLM lands under the Plan included activities such as off-road vehicle use, sightseeing, hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, boating, rafting, bicycling, and winter sports. Measuring the number of people employed in association with these activities is not easy.

The 10-year report states that employment gains were expected in some of the recreation and tourism industries because of the land-allocation strategies in the NWFP. However, Tuchman et al. (1996) concluded that not enough is known to reliably estimate the effects of NWFP implementation on jobs and income associated with forest-based recreation. The finding was true for the 10-year report, and remains true for the 15-year report. We were not able to conduct an analysis of job and income trends associated with recreation uses. However, an analysis of recreation data current at this time is included to provide an indication about the importance and status of the industry in the region and to document existing data for future use (as modified from Charnley et al. 2006).

Millions of visitors recreate on NFS and BLM-managed lands in the NWFP area. The annual number of visits is estimated at approximately 20 million – with 5.3 million to BLM-managed lands and 14.7 million to NFS lands in the NWFP area (see chapter 7). Visitors to NFS and BLM-managed lands in the NWFP area spend money on lodging, restaurants, souvenirs, and other trip-related expenses. In 2012, NFS and BLM recreation visitors supported approximately 6,800 direct jobs and 2,900 indirect and induced jobs in the NWFP area (figure 2-1). Recreation visitor spending, therefore, is the largest single source of economic activity associated with NFS and BLM management in the NWFP area.

Discussion

The 10-year report notes the expectation that the NWFP would provide predictable levels of resource outputs and recreation opportunities, which would in turn provide predictable levels of employment. This was not achieved with respect to timber supply. The NWFP's effect on nontimber resources and recreation opportunities was either minimal or not readily discernable. Federal public lands continue to be an important part of the forest base in the Pacific Northwest, but the amount of forest resources, specifically timber, that support consumptive and commercial uses has lessened along with the relative importance of federal forest resource-related employment and income. Timber outputs from National Forest System and BLM lands vary and remain at a much lower level than before the NWFP. Initial projections in the loss of timber-related employment were realized. Recreation uses of these lands will likely increase as will recreation-related employment.

Data associated with nontimber resources and recreation outputs were scarce during NWFP development. At that time, the agencies could not predict the effect of the NWFP standards and guidelines on nontimber commodity and noncommodity products, uses, and services from the region's forests. The data are still not available, and information on relationships is generally not known. There has been little clarification of the short- and long-term economic effects expected on municipal and nonfederal water systems, grazing, minerals, special forest products, recreation residences, and recreation facilities.

Because the economic contribution of all forest resources to the regional economy of the NWFP area in 2000 was small, continued implementation is not likely to change existing economic conditions and trends in the NWFP area overall. As noted earlier, however, resources and effects of the NWFP are not evenly distributed. Subregions, individual businesses, and individuals are not affected equally (as modified from Charnley et al. 2006).

Chapter 10: Agency Jobs, Unit Reorganizations, and Budgets

The Forest Service and BLM employ thousands of individuals throughout the NWFP area. The Forest Service and BLM provide quality jobs in rural communities by offering permanent full-time and seasonal or part-time jobs. Part-time jobs can be a component of a broader livelihood strategy for people engaged in a number of pursuits. Seasonal jobs are especially important for young people looking for summer work. Table 10-1 identifies the NWFP area units included in this analysis.

Agency Jobs

Agency jobs are an important socioeconomic benefit associated with federal forest lands in the NWFP area. The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are among the few sources of quality jobs in rural, forest-based communities. Agency jobs generally pay well, offer benefits, have opportunities for training and advancement, are relatively stable, and are conducted in safe working environments. The

Table 10-1: Northwest Forest Plan units included in this analysis*

Agency and state	National Forests/BLM Districts
Forest Service: Washington	Gifford Pinchot NF Mount Baker-Snoqualmie NF Okanogan NF Olympic NF Wenatchee NF
Oregon	Deschutes NF Mount Hood NF Rogue River NF Siskiyou NF Siuslaw NF Umpqua NF Willamette NF
California	Klamath NF Mendocino NF Shasta-Trinity NF Six Rivers NF
Bureau of Land Management: Oregon	Coos Bay District Eugene District Medford District Roseburg District Salem District

* The Winema National Forest is within the NWFP area, but it was administratively combined with the Fremont National Forest in 2002. The Winema National Forest was dropped from this analysis because data specific to the Forest is not longer readily available.

Forest Service and BLM historically offered many permanent full-time and seasonal or part-time jobs in local communities. Part-time jobs are especially important for young people looking for summer work, and provide a component of a broader livelihood strategy for people engaged in a number of different employment and social pursuits. Not only are federal jobs valued, but federal employees and their spouses are often well educated and active in their communities. They may be volunteers in local schools, fire departments, and civic groups, and in some cases, they can be looked upon as local leaders. They contribute substantial human capital that enhances the capacity of communities where they reside (as modified from Charnley et al. 2006).

Expectations

With the implementation of the Plan, it was estimated that rural communities in the NWFP area would lose fewer than 2,000 Forest Service jobs. Potential staffing changes were not estimated for the BLM (as modified from Charnley et al. 2006).

Data Analysis

This report uses similar data to previous reports and extends the time series through 2012. The data are reported by BLM state and National Forest region. The Winema NF is excluded from this data set since it was administratively combined with the Fremont NF. There are no trends at the unit level that provide a distinctly different picture than the one provided at the agency scale. The unit data are not included in this report.

Results and Discussion

Analysis in this 20-year report is consistent with the 15-year report. The 15-year report showed a marked decline in employment on NWFP-area forests in Oregon and Washington (Region 6). This trend has continued, with employment in Region 6 falling to approximately 2,300 by 2012. In 2008 Region 6 NWFP forests had 2,500 employees

and in 1993 they had 5,700 employees (figure 10-1). The decline in employment on NWFP-area forests in California has been less steep. Indeed, in the 15-year monitoring report employment on these forests had risen above 1993 levels. However, by 2012 employment on NWFP-area forests in California had again fallen to the 2007 level (figure 10-1). The BLM units in the NWFP area employ far fewer people than the Forest Service. In the 15-year monitoring report, BLM employment trends mimicked those in the Forest Service. However, between 2008 and 2012 BLM employment grew from about 500 to 1,000. By 2012, BLM units employed as many people as they had in 1993 (figure 10-1). Therefore, over the past 5 years BLM and Forest Service employment trends have diverged.

Unit Reorganizations

Meaningful collaboration between federal agencies and local communities requires that community members have ongoing access to federal decision-makers such as BLM district managers and Forest Service supervisors. Interactions between local people and agency employees also help build trust. One potential effect of reductions in agency staffing levels is office closures. The number of agency offices housing decision-makers changed during the study period affecting the level and type of agency presence in local communities (as modified from Charnley et al. 2006).

Expectations

Although staffing losses were projected for the Forest Service, the projections did not include expectations for a change in the distribution of agency offices (as modified from Charnley et al. 2006).

Data Analysis

The distribution of offices housing field-unit line officers is used as an indicator to measure the presence of empowered agency officials in NWFP area communities (Charnley et

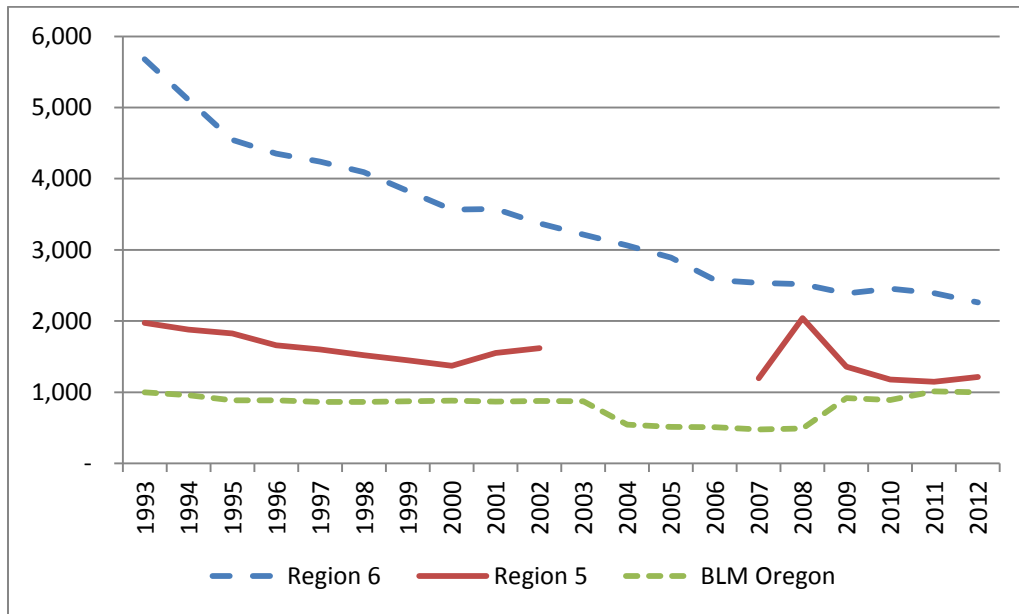


Figure 10-1: NWFP area staffing by agency, 1993-2012

al. 2006). The data analyzed in the 10-year report compares 1990 and 2004. The year 2010 was added to the data set for the 15-year report. The 2010 data were gathered from agency websites and agency contact lists. These data have not been updated for the 20-year report.

Results and Discussion

The Forest Service in the NWFP area had 17 supervisor offices and 79 district ranger offices in 1990 (table 10-2). In 2004, these numbers had decreased to 15 forest supervisor offices and 59 district ranger offices, and by 2010, there was a further net reduction of four district ranger offices. The reduction included six closures and two openings. This reduction in offices represents a 27 percent decrease by 2010 in the number of Pacific Northwest communities with Forest Service line officers.

In 1990, 24 line officers led local BLM NWFP area units excluding associate district managers. The total includes five district managers and 19 field managers. By 2004, seven line officers positions (almost 30 percent) were lost (table 10-2). All of these positions were field managers. The number of district managers and the locations of offices

housing line officers remained unchanged. There are no differences in the total number of line officers and locations of offices in 2010. However, the number of field managers in offices has changed.

Budgets

The budget allocations determine the funding levels for the staffs and offices on units in the NWFP area. For this reason, budgets are assessed as an explanatory factor for the staffing and office consolidation trends identified in the previous sections (Charnley et al. 2006).

Expectations

Even though no estimates were provided of the funding needed by agency field units or programs to accomplish ecosystem management as envisioned under the Plan, the decreases in timber harvest levels and other resource management activities were expected to result in a downward trend in budgets and programs supporting those activities (Charnley et al. 2006).

Table 10-2: Locations of Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management offices with line officers, 1990, 2004 and 2010.

1990	2004	2010
Forest Service (Washington State)		
Vancouver (Gifford Pinchot SO)	Vancouver (Gifford Pinchot SO)	Vancouver (Gifford Pinchot SO)
Randle	Randle (Cowlitz Valley RD)	Randle (Cowlitz Valley RD)
Trout Lake (Mount Adams RD)	Trout Lake (Mount Adams RD)	Trout Lake (Mount Adams RD)
Amboy (Mount St. Helens NM)	Amboy (Mount St. Helens NM)	Amboy (Mount St. Helens NM)
Packwood		
Carson (Wind River RD)		
Mountlake Terrace (Mt Baker-Snoqualmie SO)	Mountlake Terrace (Mt Baker-Snoqualmie SO)	Mountlake Terrace (Mt Baker-Snoqualmie SO)
Sedro Woolley (Mount Baker RD)	Sedro Woolley (Mount Baker RD)	Sedro Woolley (Mount Baker RD)
Darrington	Darrington	Darrington
Skykomish	Skykomish	Skykomish
North Bend	North Bend (Snoqualmie RD)	North Bend (Snoqualmie RD)
Enumclaw (White River RD)		
Wenatchee (Wenatchee SO)	Wenatchee (Okanogan and Wenatchee SO)	Wenatchee (Okanogan and Wenatchee SO)
Chelan	Chelan	Chelan
Cle Elum	Cle Elum	Cle Elum
Entiat	Entiat	Entiat
Lake Wenatchee		
Leavenworth	Leavenworth (Lake Wenatchee/Leavenworth RD)	Leavenworth (Wenatchee River RD)
Naches	Naches	Naches
Okanogan (Okanogan SO)		
Winthrop	Winthrop (Methow Valley RD)	Winthrop (Methow Valley RD)
Twisp		
Tonasket	Tonasket	Tonasket
Olympia (Olympic SO)	Olympia (Olympic SO)	Olympia (Olympic SO)
Hoodsport (Hood Canal RD)	Hoodsport (Hood Canal RD)	Hoodsport (Hood Canal RD)
Quilcene		
Quinalt		
Forks (Soleduck RD)	Forks (Soleduck RD)	Forks (Pacific RD)
Forest Service^b - Oregon		
Bend (Deschutes SO)	Bend (Deschutes SO)	Bend (Deschutes SO)
Bend	Bend	Bend (Bend-Ft. Rock RD)
Crescent	Crescent	Crescent
Sisters	Sisters	Sisters

1990	2004	2010
Medford (Rogue River SO)	Medford (Rogue River and Siskiyou SO)	Medford (Rogue River and Siskiyou SO)
Jacksonville (Applegate RD)	Jacksonville (Applegate RD)	Ashland (Siskiyou Mtns, RD)
Ashland	Ashland	
Butte Falls	Butte Falls	
Prospect	Prospect	Prospect (High Cascades RD)
Grants Pass (Siskiyou SO)		
Brookings (Chetco RD)	Brookings (Chetco RD)	
Grants Pass (Galice RD)	Grants Pass (Galice RD)	Grants Pass (Wild Rivers RD)
Gold Beach	Gold Beach	Gold Beach
Cave Junction (Illinois Valley RD)	Cave Junction (Illinois Valley RD)	
Powers	Powers	Powers
Corvallis (Siuslaw SO)	Corvallis (Siuslaw SO)	Corvallis (Siuslaw SO)
Aalsea		
Waldport (Alsea/Waldport RD)		Waldport (Central Coast RD)
Hebo	Hebo	Hebo
Mapleton	Florence (South Zone RD)	
Reedsport (Oregon Dunes NRA)	Reedsport (Oregon Dunes NRA)	
Roseburg (Umpqua SO)	Roseburg (Umpqua SO)	Roseburg (Umpqua SO)
Cottage Grove	Cottage Grove	Cottage Grove
Tiller	Tiller	Tiller
Tokete (Diamond Lake RD)	Tokete (Diamond Lake RD)	Tokete (Diamond Lake RD)
Glide (North Umpqua RD)	Glide (North Umpqua RD)	Glide (North Umpqua RD)
Eugene (Willamette SO)	Eugene (Willamette SO)	Eugene (Willamette SO)
Westfir (Oak Ridge RD)	Westfir (Middle Fork RD)	Westfir (Middle Fork RD)
Oakridge (Rigdon RD)		
Lowell		
Blue River		
McKenzie Bridge (McKenzie RD)	McKenzie Bridge (McKenzie River RD)	McKenzie Bridge (McKenzie River RD)
Sweet Home	Sweet Home	Sweet Home
Mill City/Detroit (Detroit RD)	Mill City/Detroit (Detroit RD)	Mill City/Detroit (Detroit RD)
Sandy (Mount Hood SO)	Sandy (Mount Hood SO)	Sandy (Mount Hood SO)
Dufur (Barlow RD)	Dufur (Barlow RD)	Dufur (Barlow RD)
Maupin (Bear Springs RD)		
Estacada (Clackamas RD)	Estacada (Clackamas RD)	Estacada (Clackamas RD)
Troutdale (Columbia Gorge RD)		
Mount Hood-Parkdale (Hood River RD)	Mount Hood-Parkdale (Hood River RD)	Mount Hood-Parkdale (Hood River RD)
Zigzag	Zigzag	Zigzag

1990	2004	2010
Klamath Falls (Winema SO)	Klamath Falls (Winema SO)	
Chemult	Chemult	Chemult
Chiloquin	Chiloquin	Chiloquin
Klamath Falls (Klamath RD)	Klamath Falls (Klamath RD)	Klamath Falls (Klamath RD)
Forest Serviceeb – California		
Yreka (Klamath SO)	Yreka (Klamath SO)	
Klamath River (Oak Knoll RD)		
Happy Camp	Happy Camp	Happy Camp (Happy Camp/Oak Knoll RD)
Etna (Salmon River RD)		
Mount Hebron (Goosenest RD)	Mount Hebron (Goosenest RD)	Mount Hebron (Goosenest RD)
Orleans (Ukonom RD) ^d		
Fort Jones (Scott River RD)	Fort Jones (Salmon River and Scott River RDs)	Fort Jones (Salmon River and Scott River RDs)
Willows (Mendocino SO)	Willows (Mendocino SO)	Willows (Mendocino SO)
Covelo		Covelo (Covelo RD)
Upper Lake	Upper Lake (Covelo and Upper Lake RDs)	Upper Lake (Upper Lake RD)
Stonyford	Willows (Grindstone RD)	Willows (Grindstone RD)
Corning		
Redding (Shasta-Trinity SO)	Redding (Shasta-Trinity SO)	Redding (Shasta-Trinity SO)
Big Bar		
Hayfork (Yolla Bolla and Hayfork RDs)	Hayfork (Hayfork and Yolla Bolly RDs)	Hayfork (Hayfork and Yolla Bolly RDs)
Weaverville (Weaverville and Redding RDs)	Weaverville (Big Bar and Weaverville RDs)	Weaverville (Big Bar and Weaverville RDs)
Mountain Gate/Redding (Shasta Lake RD)	Mountain Gate/Redding (Shasta Lake RD)	Mountain Gate/Redding (Shasta Lake RD)
Mount Shasta (Mount Shasta and McCloud RDs)	McCloud (Mount Shasta and McCloud RDs)	McCloud (Mount Shasta and McCloud RDs)
Eureka (Six Rivers SO)	Eureka (Six Rivers SO)	Eureka (Six Rivers SO)
Orleans (Orleans RD)	Orleans (Orleans RD)	Orleans (Orleans RD)
Willow Creek (Lower Trinity RD)	Willow Creek (Lower Trinity RD)	Willow Creek (Lower Trinity RD)
Bridgeville (Mad River RD)	Bridgeville (Mad River RD)	Bridgeville (Mad River RD)
Gasquet (Smith River NRA)	Gasquet (Smith River NRA)	Gasquet (Gasquet RD and Smith River NRA)

1990	2004	2010
Bureau of Land Management – Oregon		
North Bend (Coos Bay District Manager and 3 resource area managers)	North Bend (Coos Bay District Manager and 2 field managers)	North Bend (Coos Bay District Manager and 1 field manager)
Eugene (District Manager and 3 resource area managers)	Eugene (District Manager and 2 field managers)	Eugene (District Manager and 2 field managers)
Salem (District Manager and 4 resource area managers)	Salem (District Manager and 1 field manager)	Salem (District Manager and 2 field managers)
Tillamook (resource area manager)	Tillamook (field manager)	Tillamook (field manager)
Medford (District Manager and 4 resource area managers)	Medford (District Manager and 4 field managers)	Medford (District Manager and 4 field managers)
Roseburg (District Manager and 4 field managers)	Roseburg (District Manager and 2 field managers)	Roseburg (District Manager and 2 field managers)

Notes: SO = supervisor's office, RD = ranger district office, NM = national monument office, NRA = national recreation area office. Locations of Forest Service supervisors' offices and Bureau of Land Management district offices are distinguished by boldface. Forest Service data omit deputy forest supervisors and assistant district rangers. Place names are shown. Where place name and ranger district name differ, both are provided. Administration of the Ukonom RD moved from the Klamath NF to the Six Rivers NF in 1999.

Data Analysis

Budget data at several scales across the study period are evaluated in the 10-year report to understand the role budgets play. The 10-year report compares NWFP area budget allocations to agency allocations at the national scale, among local units, and among programs (Charnley et al. 2006).

In the 15-year and 20-year reports, the scales chosen for the budget evaluation are Forest Service regional and BLM state offices, and agency units. This reduces the complexity of the analysis to focus on the important social and economic consequences related to changing budgets. Agency national perspectives were not addressed since they do little to identify social and economic trends in the NWFP area. A program level analysis was also not undertaken since we believe the trends in total budget provide a reliable indicator of how dollar spending affects staffing and office management. Program expenditures tend to vary based on management emphasis during a particular year, and it does not matter which program pays for staffing and facilities. The sources of data for the 15-year and 20-year reports budget analyses are the total annual allocations to NWFP area units from agency regional and state offices. The data are generally available for 2004 through 2012.

The 2003 through 2005 Forest Service budget for Region 6 were increased by 20 percent. During those years, cost pools to pay for items such as overhead were managed off the top so the dollars were not included as part of the individual unit budgets. Without this adjustment, the Forest Service budgets during the three years would not be comparable to the other years. The 20 percent factor is based on an average cost pool amount identified in the 2006 through 2008 budgets.

All budget data presented here were adjusted to constant dollars using 2012 as the base year. Gross domestic product (GDP) price deflators from the Bureau of Economic Analysis were used to convert annual budget amounts to real 2012 dollars.

The 2004 through 2012 data are added to similar 10-year report data. However, the data presented here will not be directly comparable to the earlier report for two reasons. The base year for the budget data was 2003 in the 10-year

report, and secondly, the Winema NF data are removed. The Winema is now administratively combined with the Fremont NF so that budget data for the Winema NF after 2001 are no longer available.

Results

While budget reductions may be one explanation for lower agency employment, the data do not substantiate this explanation. Figures 10-2 and 10-4 show that NWFP-area

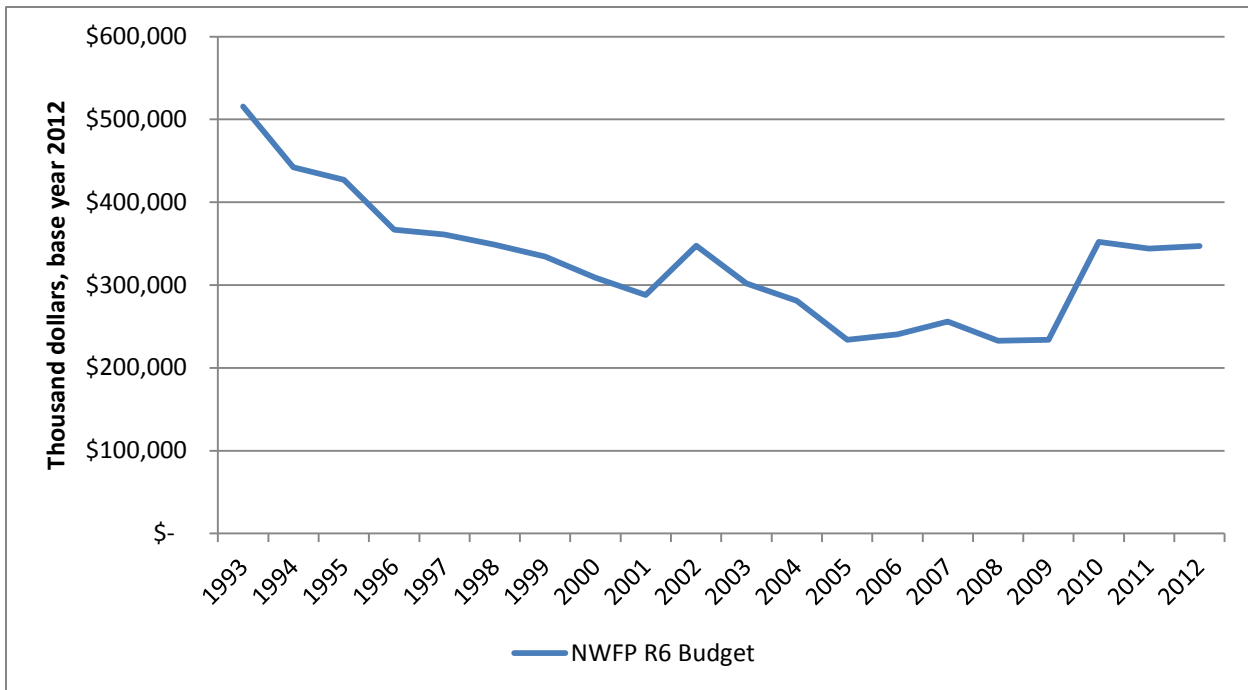


Figure 10-2: Total budget for all R6 forests in the NWFP area, 1993-2012

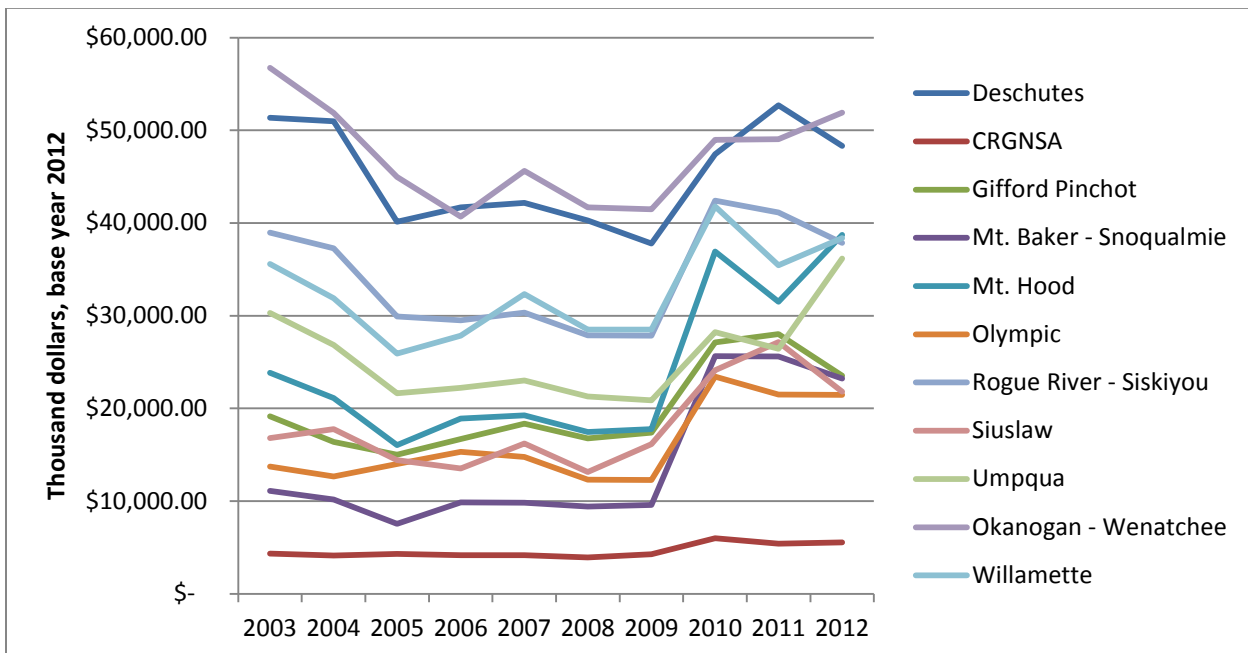


Figure 10-3: Budgets for all R6 national forests in the NWFP area, 2003-2012

forests’ budgets have increased since 2008 and agency employment continued to decline. Furthermore, by 2012 NWFP-area forests had budgets similar to 1993 (in real terms) and approximately half of the number of employees. Overall, BLM budgets have been relatively stable compared to the Forest Service in the NWFP area (figure 10-6). While

BLM budget has fluctuated somewhat over the past 20 years, it does not display a clear trend.

Discussion

Agency staffing and budgets determine how effectively forests are managed and policies are implemented. Declines

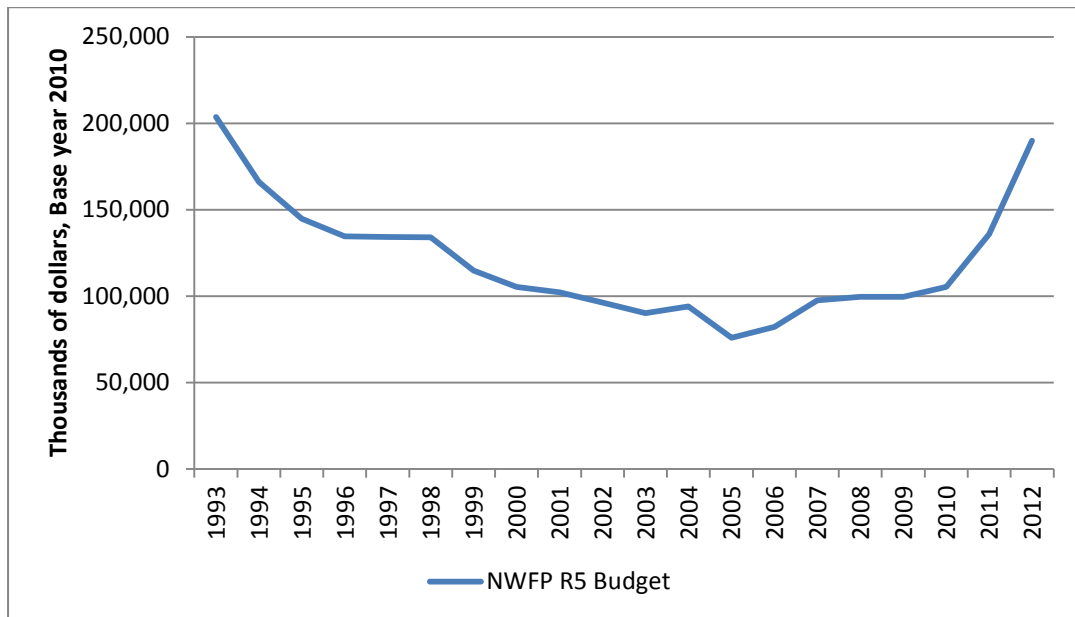


Figure 10-4: Total budget for all R5 national forests in the NWFP area, 1993-2012

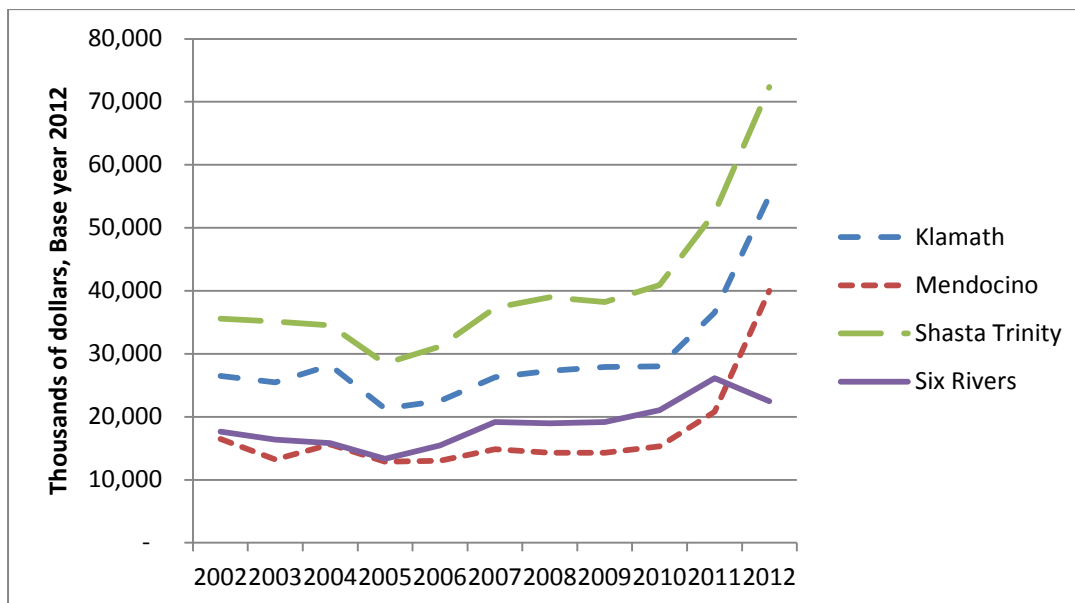


Figure 10-5: Budgets for R5 national forests in the NWFP area, 2002-2012

in staffing affect the amount of resource management work that can be accomplished and the amount and quality

of services provided, such as recreation opportunities on federal lands.

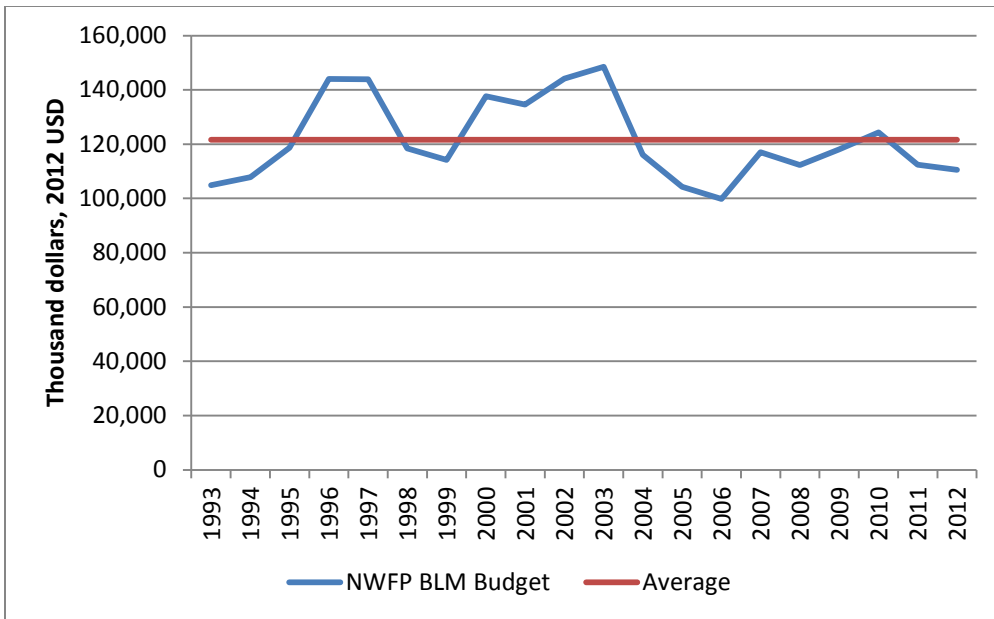


Figure 10-6: Total budget for all Oregon BLM districts in the NWFP area, 1993-2012

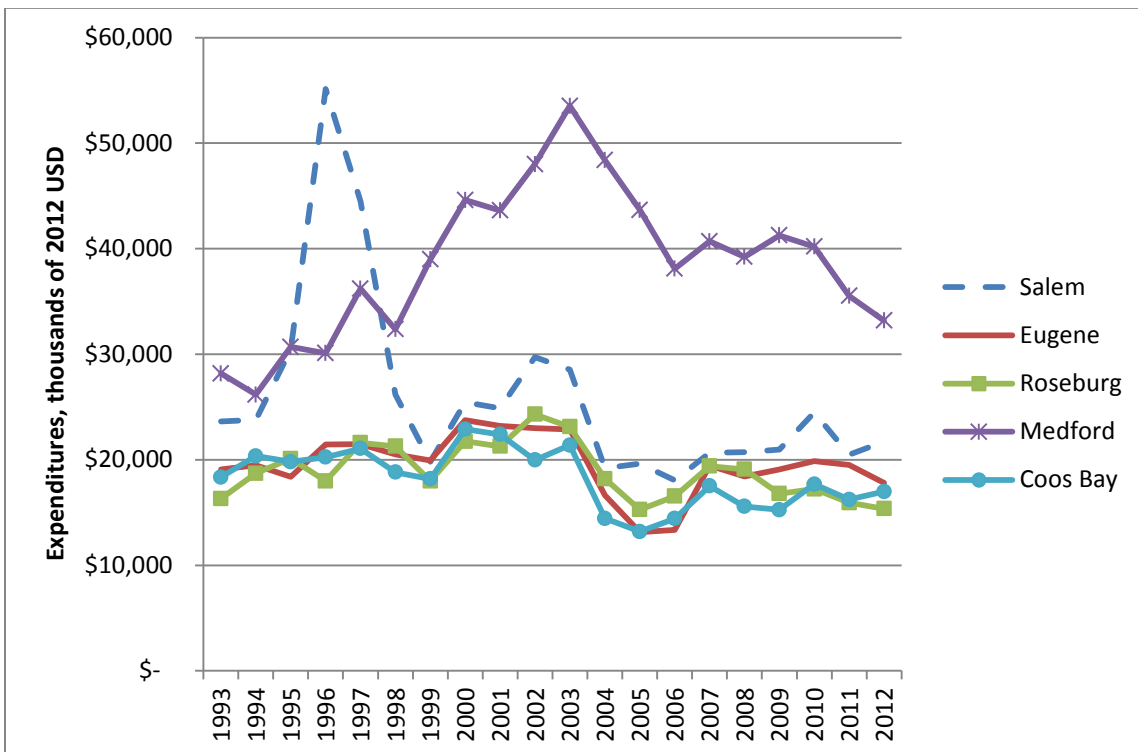


Figure 10-7: Budgets for Oregon BLM districts in the NWFP area, 1993-2012

Chapter 11: Payments to County Governments

The federal lands managed by the Forest Service and BLM total approximately 22.1 million acres in the NWFP area.⁸ Congress has long recognized the loss of tax revenue as compared to what would be received by local governments if the land were retained in private ownership. As compensation, Congress initiated the Twenty-five Percent Fund Act in 1908. The Act allocates 25 percent of revenue generated from timber sales or use of National Forest System land to the states for distribution to the counties. In 1937, Congress passed the Oregon and California Revested Railroad Lands Act (O&C Act). The O&C Act placed management jurisdiction of revested Oregon and California Railroad lands and Coos Bay Wagon Road (Wagon Road) lands under the Department of Interior. The O&C Act allocated 50 percent of timber receipts generated from revested lands to the counties.

The revenue sharing between federal and local governments based on the Twenty-five Percent Fund Act and the O&C Act resulted primarily from the sale of timber from public lands. Up to 1991, because the amount of payment is based on timber markets, and these markets rose and fell, federal revenue sharing was not a dependable source of funds for local governments. In the early 1990s, payments from the Twenty-five Percent Fund began a sharp decline as timber receipts from Forest Service timber sales fell dramatically. The decline in payments impacted rural communities in the West, particularly in the range of the northern spotted owl (Washington, Oregon, and northern California).

Recognizing the loss of timber revenue and the necessity to support county schools and infrastructure, Congress, in 1991, began making payments as stop-gap measures to mitigate the reduction in revenue to 48 counties in western Oregon, Washington, and northern California.⁹ In 1993, Congress passed the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 to provide more long-term alternative payments. The payments, known as the Spotted Owl Safety Net payments, began in 1994 at 85 percent of the average of payments made based on timber receipts from fiscal years 1986-1990, and then declined annually by three percent through 2003. In 2004 the payments would terminate.

⁸NWFP Overview, <http://www.reo.gov/general/aboutnwfp.htm>, Accessed 9/9/2010.

⁹Congress also made payments, as part of the stop-gap measures, to Lake County, Oregon, which is not in the NWFP area.

In 2000, to increase support to timber-dependent counties as well as to other counties containing public land, Congress enacted the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act.¹⁰ The Secure Rural Schools Act provided payments, which replaced Spotted Owl Safety Net payments. The size of the payment was set equal to the average three highest receipt years, by county, under the Twenty-five Percent Fund Act from 1986-1999. The Secure Rural Schools payments to counties associated with National Forest System lands allocated funds to benefit public education and county road systems.

The Secure Rural Schools payments are also part of BLM revenue sharing associated with O&C and Wagon Road lands. Eighteen counties in western Oregon receive these payments. The funds are allocated to county general purposes.

With the Forest Service portion of the Secure Rural Schools Act, counties are allowed to set aside up to 15 to 20 percent of the full payment amount for use on projects, such as resources improvement projects on, or near, federal lands. Or, the counties can use the 15 to 20 percent of funds to support services including search, rescue, and emergency services on federal lands; community service work camps; easements for conservation or recreational purposes; forestry-related education activities; fire prevention; and county planning.

The last payment under the original Secure Rural Schools Act was planned for Fiscal Year 2006. An extension of the SRS Payments was signed into law in 2007 with the Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act. The next year, the Emergency Stabilization Act of 2008 was signed into law reauthorizing the Secure Rural Schools Act payments through 2011. The Secure Rural School Act payments were reauthorized through 2016.

Another federal program designed to compensate local governments for the presence of tax-exempt federal lands within their jurisdictions is called Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT). PILT legislation was passed in 1976. Seventy-one of the seventy-two NWFP counties receive PILT payments.¹¹

¹⁰The following counties in the Northwest Forest Plan area do not receive SRS Act payments: Marin, Napa, Sonoma, Sutter, and Yolo in California, Clatsop, Columbia, Sherman, Washington in Oregon, and Adams, Benton, Franklin, Grant, Island, Kitsap, Pacific, San Juan, Wahkiakum in Washington.

¹¹Kitsap is the only county in the NWFP area that does not receive PILT payments.

Payments are tied to other federal revenue-sharing programs, including the Twenty-five Percent Fund, the O&C Act and Wagon Road. The size of PILT-based payments to local governments depends on the number of acres of federal land in the county,¹² the amount of non-PILT revenue-sharing payments received the previous year, and a payment “formula” involving population levels (USDI 2010).

Expectation

Payments-to-states mitigation measures, especially the Secure Rural Schools payments, were expected to offset the effects of reduced federal timber-harvest receipts on county governments. The mitigation measures, however, have termination dates.

Data Analysis

The primary sources of Forest Service Secure Rural Schools payment data are the annual Forest Service All Service Receipts reports (Forest Service 2012). Forest Service data before 2004 are from the 10-year report (Charnley et al. 2006). The BLM Secure Rural Schools payment data are from the BLM Oregon State website providing official payments made to counties data (BLM 2012). The PILT data source is the U.S. Department of the Interior payments in lieu of taxes website (USDI 2010).

Results

The 15-year report indicated the Secure Rural Schools payments were declining. The latest data show that Secure Rural Schools payments have continued to decline from their peak in 2006. By 2012, SRS payments were at half of the 2008 amount (figure 11-1).

Secure Rural Schools Act payments have not been reauthorized, so county payments will revert to the Twenty-five Percent Fund. The Twenty-five Percent Fund gives counties a share of federal timber receipts. As the 15-year report noted, the Secure Rural Schools adjustment resulted in payments to counties over 20 times higher than what would have occurred under Twenty-five Percent Fund revenue sharing.

Figure 11-2 shows the data for the BLM’s O&C Act and the Wagon Road payments which are also called Secure

Rural Schools payments. Oregon and California Railroad and Coos Bay Wagon Road payments have also sharply declined since 2008. By 2012 these payments were at about 1/3 the level of the 2007 payments.

Figure 11-3 shows the data for PILT-based payments from 1996 to 2012. PILT increased by approximately 50 percent in the NWFP area between 2008 and 2012. However, the increase in PILT is not enough to offset declines in SRS, O&C, and CBWR payments.

Discussion

The 48 counties in the NWFP area that qualify for Secure Rural Schools payments received more than \$205 million annually from 2001 to 2004. In 2005, payments rose to \$219 million. The next year, the payments peaked at \$225 million. By 2012, payments had declined to less than \$100 million. Since the Secure Rural Schools payments have not been reauthorized, the counties will receive payments under the Twenty-five Percent Fund. The Twenty-five Percent Fund payments will be a small fraction of the money that was paid under the Secure Rural Schools Act.

As stated in the NWFP 10-year report, the initial payments-to-counties legislation generally mitigated the effects of declining timber receipts for the 48 counties covered by the legislation. The intent behind the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 was to provide a transition to a lower rate of assistance though declining Spotted Owl Safety Net payments (Charnley et al. 2006). Figure 10-1 shows that the transition path downward was replaced by a higher rate of revenue support by the Secure Rural Schools Act.

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 and the Secure Rural Schools Act met their goals of replacing past dependence on timber harvest revenues and mitigated the loss of revenues associated with the declines in federal timber harvest in the region. It is still not known how these payments affected overall county financing. As stated in the 10-year report, a guaranteed amount would likely have a stabilizing effect. Because the Secure Rural Schools legislation has not been reauthorized in 2015, the long-term stability of the payments is uncertain. Without new congressional action, counties in the NWFP area will need to address a short fall of several hundred million dollars.

¹²Federal lands are generally those administered by natural resource management agencies. Military lands are mostly excluded.

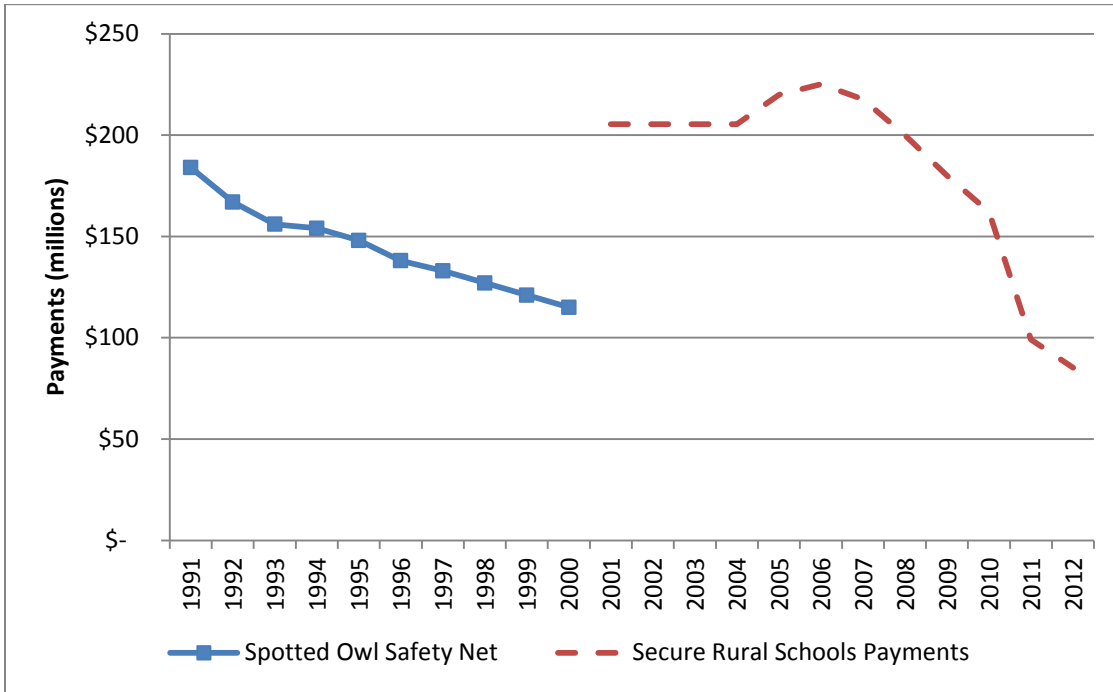


Figure 11-1: National Forest payments to counties in NWFP area

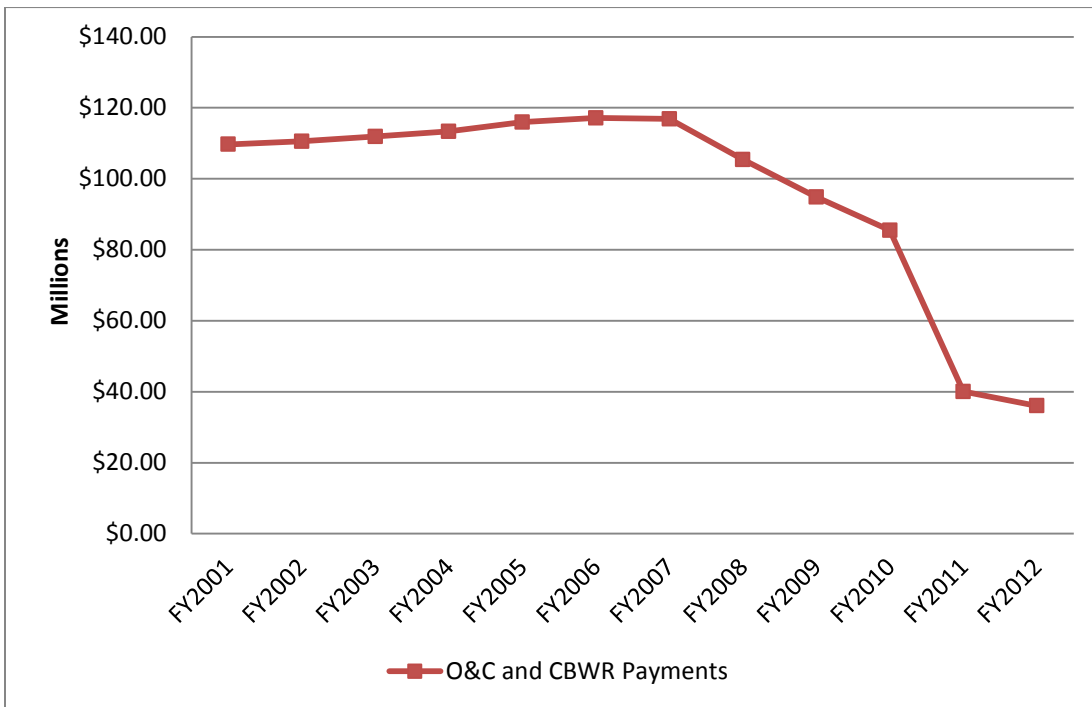


Figure 11-2: Oregon and California Railroad and Coos Bay Wagon Road Payments to counties in NWFP area

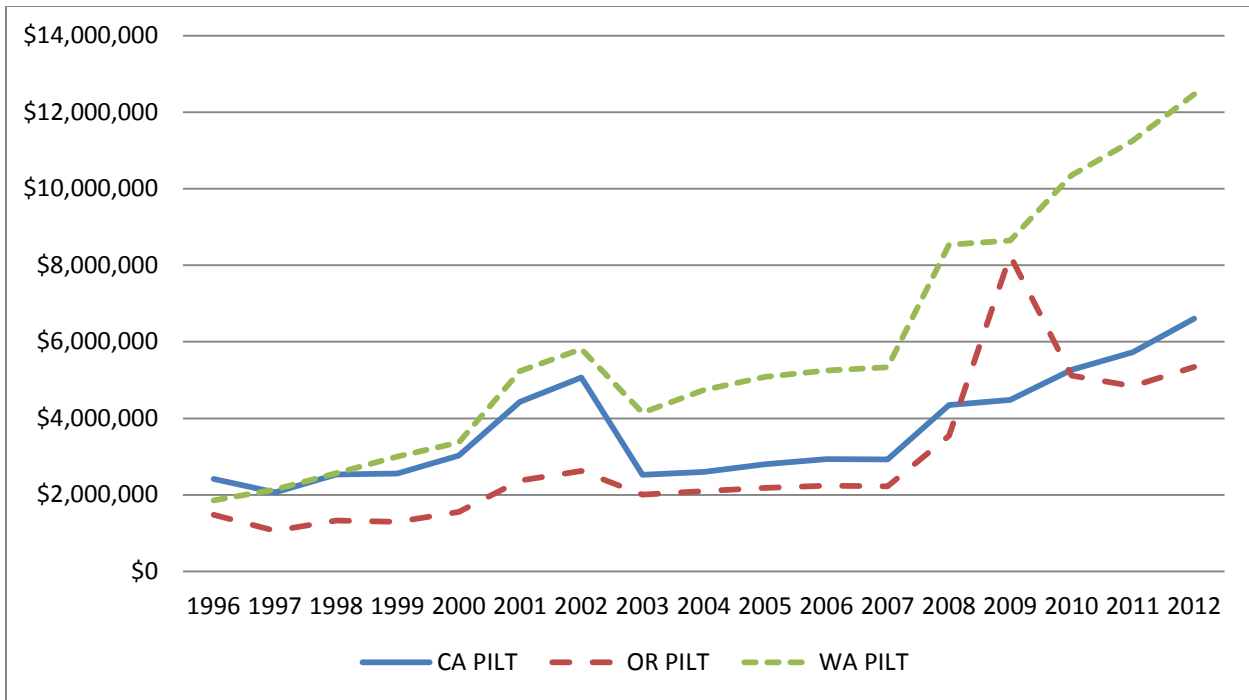


Figure 11-3: NWFP area payments in lieu of taxes

Chapter 12: Conclusion

Introduction

The aim of this 20-year report is to use social, economic, demographic, and federal agency data to show the potential relationships among these data that may address changes in socioeconomic well-being in the NWFP area. The report provides data and analysis in response to the RIEC's modified monitoring question: What is the status and trend of socioeconomic well-being? It uses existing data rather than a combination of existing data and new research, as was the protocol for the 10-year report. Data collected for the report indicate possible relationships between comparisons of socioeconomic information with natural resource uses and management activities on federal lands.

Objective

Social and economic issues are part of the controversy that led to development of the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) Record of Decision. This controversy emerged in the late 1950s and included three related social and economic issues: (1) the role and quantity of federal timber in the market; (2) federal agency obligations to communities near or among federal timberlands; and, (3) the role forests play, especially federal forests, in local and regional economies.

The social and economic monitoring program assembles existing data to address these issues in the NWFP area. The program tracks demographic data as well as data on agency expenditures and forest-related resources to display potential trends. The data are not suitable for a statistically valid cause-and-effect analysis linking trends in socioeconomic well-being to natural resource management activities on federal lands.

Key Results

Employment associated with Forest Service and BLM programs contributes to socioeconomic well-being in the NWFP area. Agency employment, jobs supported by agency timber harvest and recreational activities are especially important. Between 2001 and 2012, overall agency employment declined, while agency timber-harvest-related employment increased slightly (figure 2-1). Data show that recreation-related employment was substantial during the same period.

Timber harvest and related employment have been key issues in forest policy discussions since the early 1970s. Total employment in forest products industries, including logging, primary and secondary wood manufacturing, has a history of increasing and decreasing in the NWFP area. Total employment in these sectors has been variable and has declined overall by forty percent since 2001 (figure 2-2).

Timber employment is closely related to timber harvest. From 2005 to 2009, timber harvest levels declined sharply. Most of this decline can be attributed to reductions in timber harvests on non-federal lands. After 2009, timber harvest levels increased. Timber harvested from federal forests has reached volumes not seen since shortly after the adoption of the NWFP. However, timber harvested from non-federal forests remains below the 1995 to 2005 average.

Between 2001 and 2009, timber offered for sale on federal lands more than doubled, and timber harvest in 2009 was 60 percent greater than that of 2001 (figure 12-1). Timber harvested from federal forests increased nearly 70 percent between 2009 and 2012. At its peak in 2012, timber offered for sale was approximately 80 percent of probable sale quantity (PSQ), and timber harvest was also approximately 80 percent of PSQ. From 2001 to 2012, the percentage of timber harvested on federal lands compared to total harvest on all ownerships increased from 3.2 to 9.6 percent.

Population size is often an indicator of economic diversity. Most people in the NWFP area live in counties that the U.S. Department of Labor describes as metropolitan. These counties contain core urban areas of 50,000 or more population. Across the United States, many rural areas have lost population in recent years. However, the non-metropolitan counties of the NWFP area did experience moderate growth between 1999 and 2012 (figure 8-1). Similarly, the metropolitan areas in the NWFP area grew more quickly than metropolitan areas in the three states overall (18 percent vs. 15 percent) (table 8-2). Therefore, the NWFP area counties are attracting more residents than counties outside the NWFP area in the three states (figure 2-4).

Nonmetropolitan counties are less diverse

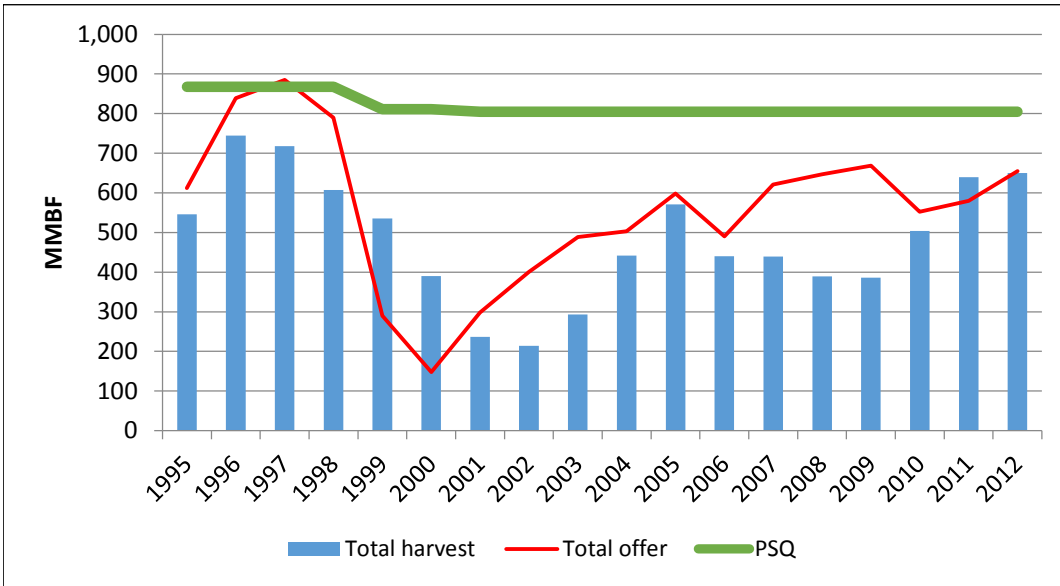


Figure 12-1. Total timber covered for sale, timber harvest and probable sale quantity (PSQ) on federal lands.

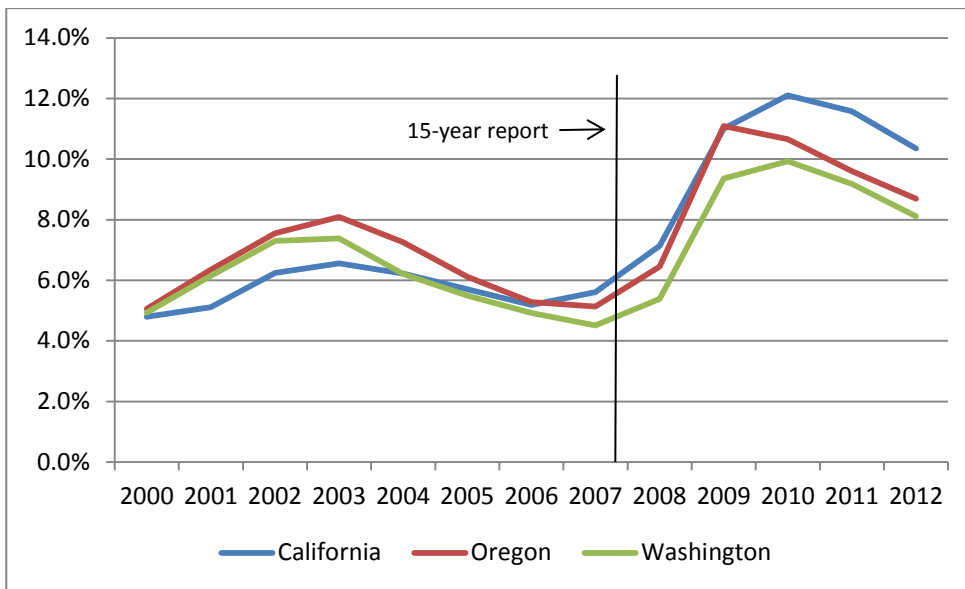


Figure 12-2: Unemployment in California, Oregon, and Washington (2000-2012)

economically and more strongly tied to the wood products industry. Most of the timber harvested in the NWFP area comes from nonmetropolitan counties. Although forest products manufacturing employment is about equally split between metropolitan and nonmetropolitan counties, it accounts for roughly 10 percent of total employment

in nonmetropolitan counties and only 1 percent in metropolitan counties. The effects of changes in timber harvest and related employment on well-being are likely more pronounced in nonmetropolitan counties. In periods of economic hardships, such as the one that began in 2008 (figure 12-2), federal lands and federal agencies played

especially important roles in contributing to socioeconomic well-being in rural America. While timber harvested on federal land declined in 2008, the harvest was relatively high compared to non-federal lands and reportedly kept mills running during that difficult year.

Next Steps and Recommendations

In order to make the status and trends available to a wide range of stakeholders, the monitoring team is creating an easy-to-use website that contains all of the socioeconomic monitoring data related to well-being. This responds to stakeholder requests for more transparency from the Forest Service.

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