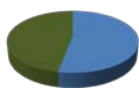




US FOREST SERVICE AND WATER

Watersheds with a large proportion of forest cover are more likely to be associated with good water quality, forest protecting soil, moderated streamflow, and healthy aquatic systems.

Nation's Water Supply



■ Public and Private Forest Lands
■ Other

Excluding Alaska, 53 percent of the Nation's total water supply originates from public and private forest lands, which comprise of only 33.2 percent of the land area.

Water Production



■ National Forest System Lands
■ Other

National Forest System lands contribute 18 percent of our annual water production in the 48 contiguous States, while representing only 11 percent of the land base. More than 900 cities rely on national forest watersheds, and 3,400 public water systems serving 66 million people in 33 States are supplied by watersheds with NFS lands.

Benefits to Communities

The nation's water supply and ecosystem services provided by healthy watersheds are priceless, and public and private forests are critical for watershed health. Local communities throughout the country also benefit economically from millions of annual visitors.

- Fishing occurred on about 12.2 percent of the 178.6 million national forest visits estimated in 2007
- Fishing was the primary purpose for 12.5 million of those visits
- The estimated annual revenue from national forest sportfishing is \$2.2 billion
- Those revenues generated \$265 million in Federal taxes



Tongass National Forest, Alaska

The Many Uses of Water

Water from national forest system lands:

- Operate more than 200 hydroelectric plants
- Supply public water systems, agriculture, and industrial consumers
- Have an estimated value \$3.7 billion



Allegheny National Forest, Pennsylvania

Many ecosystem services supplied by watersheds, such as habitat for abundant and diverse plant and animal species and flood moderation, are not assigned an economic value in the market, and hence are sometimes considered free.

- More than 60 percent of national water supply runs off 70 percent of the Nation's private and State forests are located
- National forest provide only 7 percent of this runoff
- Public and private forests in the 20 Northeastern and Midwestern States help protect more than 1,600 drinking water supplies providing more than 4 trillion gallons per day to households of more than 52 million Americans
- Forested watersheds in the Southeastern States contain 56 percent forest cover and produce the country's highest quality water coming largely from surface supplies.



Willamette National Forest, Oregon