Chapter 10: Environmental Justice, Low-Income and Minority Populations, and Forest Management in the NWFP Area

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Guiding Questions

1. What are the trends in the size of low-income and minority populations in the NWFP area since the plan was adopted, and what is their current distribution?

2. How do low-income and minority populations interact with federal forests in the NWFP area?
### Low Income Populations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poverty rate, percent</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NWFP counties</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>14.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metro</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>13.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonmetro</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>19.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Poverty rates increased
- Poverty rates highest in nonmetropolitan counties
Distribution of Low Income Groups

- Highest poverty rates in N CA & S OR
- Lowest poverty rates around San Francisco, Portland, and Seattle
### Minority Populations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1990, %</th>
<th>2000, %</th>
<th>2012, %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Am Indian/ AK Native</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian, Hawaiian, other PI</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥ two races</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Minority populations increased, especially Hispanic/Latino populations
Distribution of Low Income & Minority Groups

- % pop > nonmetro counties:
  - American Indians/AK Natives
- % pop > metro counties:
  - Blacks/African Americans
  - Asians & other PIs
- % Hispanic/Latino similar in metro & nonmetro counties
Poverty and Minority Groups

• Many poor counties have a large concentration of minority residents, but poverty is not limited to such counties.
Interactions with Federal Forests

- Environmental workforce
- Commercial nontimber forest products gathering
- Recreation
- Wildfire management
- Nonrecreational camping and homelessness
Environmental workforce

- Most forest workers are Hispanic/Latino
- Poor working conditions are common & disproportionately affect immigrant workers
- Improvements have occurred in fire suppression work
Environmental workforce

• Actions to improve working conditions:
  • better enforcement of contract requirements, i.e., compliance with labor laws
  • more oversight of contract crews
  • change competitive low-cost bid contracting practice
  • incorporate the beneficial features of fire suppression contracting into other contract types
Nontimber Forest Products

- Low income & minority groups active in commercial harvest
- Federal forests are important harvesting sites
- Concerns = safety, access, immigration officials, racial profiling, conflict w/other harvesters, working conditions
- Harvesters are under-represented in management process
Nontimber Forest Products

• Management considerations:
  • How to address safety issues
  • How regulations/tenure arrangements affect harvesters
  • How forest management affects resources of economic & cultural importance
  • Do more to engage harvesters in management decisions
### Visits to National Forests by Income Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under $25,000</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,000–$49,000</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,000–$74,999</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,000–$99,999</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000–$149,999</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150,000 and up</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Recreation visitation by low-income populations is low
- Key barrier = cost of trip
# Visits to National Forests by Minorities

Recruitment visitation by non-white populations is low

- Barriers = distance, cost, transportation, safety concerns, lack of awareness, lack of information in multiple languages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minority Group</th>
<th>Plan area</th>
<th>National</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent, 2011-2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am Indian/AK Native</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/African Amer</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaiian /other PI</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Increasing Recreation Participation

- Increase information & outreach
- Encourage more transportation options
- Find appropriate ways to address safety concerns
- Match recreation opportunities to user preferences
- Address cost barriers
Summary

- EJ not just about exposure to toxins in urban areas
- Low-income and minority populations are growing
- NWFP impacts on these populations are unknown (except for American Indians)
- Existing research points to important issues
- More information is needed to address local conditions