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Forest Service
**Research
and Development**
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U.S. Forest Service R&D Newsletter: July 2020 *News from the Washington Office and Research Stations*

SPECIAL ISSUE ON RECREATION RESEARCH



FEATURED STORY

Advancing Recreation Research Through Multidisciplinary Collaboration

Sustainable recreation is crucial for the health of national forests and drives a [billion dollar industry](#). A new

Forest Service [report](#) "Igniting Research for Outdoor Recreation" chronicles the latest research, tools, and frameworks to support public land managers in providing recreation experiences while protecting natural and cultural resources. Led by scientists at the Pacific Northwest Research Station, the report's 17 chapters were authored by practitioners from across agencies and disciplines and cover topics ranging from governance to the use of social media in recreation research to building a more diverse visitor base.

DELIVERING BENEFITS TO THE PUBLIC



Recreation on National Forests Boosts Local Economies

Public lands offer a host of benefits to surrounding communities, including contributing to local economies. A recent Forest Service [study](#) found the average spending by visitors to national forests ranges from about \$36 per party per trip for local residents on day trips to more than \$740 per party per trip for out-of-town skiers and snowboarders recreating on national forest lands.

DELIVERING BENEFITS TO THE PUBLIC



Confronting COVID-19 Challenges Head-On

Forest Service scientists are managing COVID-19 challenges by creating tools and carrying out research to help mitigate risks and consequences. They are evaluating socioeconomic impacts on local economies, developing tools to guide the resumption of field work, and studying the relationships between wildfire smoke and COVID-19 symptoms among vulnerable populations. Read more [here](#).



DELIVERING BENEFITS TO THE PUBLIC

Social Media Offers a Data Boon to Research

Social media is transforming the management of public lands as researchers increasingly use it to better understand visitor behavior. This Forest Service [study](#) explores the use of social media to provide land managers with useful insights about recreational use in dispersed areas and provides lessons learned. *Image Credit: Cedric Letsch on Unsplash*



CONSERVING WILDLIFE

Sharing the Slopes with Lynx

As the popularity of winter sports grows, managing recreational experiences and sustaining habitat for wildlife brings new challenges. Forest Service researchers [studied](#) how Canada lynx responded to winter recreation areas in Colorado using GPS devices. They found the lynx have a threshold for interaction, with a greater tolerance for dispersed recreation and avoided higher intensity areas.

FOREST MANAGEMENT



Study Reveals Inequity in Use of Forest Service Lands

Diversity and inclusion across public lands has been a long-time [goal](#) for agencies. In this [study](#), Forest Service researchers compared data from the agency's [National Visitor Use Monitoring Program](#) to U.S. Census data to examine the use of recreation resources on Forest Service lands. They found racial minorities are still not utilizing recreation opportunities at the same rate as their white counterparts.



FOREST MANAGEMENT

Adapting Recreation Management to the Impacts of Climate Change

Shifting seasons and warming temperatures brought on by climate change will alter recreation patterns and demand. A new Forest Service [report](#) offers natural resource managers guidance on adapting to these changes and offers six broad climate adaptation strategies and 25 more specific approaches.



SHARING KNOWLEDGE GLOBALLY

New Report on Forests in Global Drylands

Forest Service scientists recently [contributed](#) to a comprehensive world-wide assessment of drylands published by United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. They described wildfires, sagebrush habitat loss, and vegetation types across North and Central American and Caribbean drylands.



FOREST MANAGEMENT

Forest Service Leads Carbon Accounting Initiative in Pacific Northwest

The Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Research Station has assumed a convening role with states and non-government organizations to address carbon accounting research needs across stewardship boundaries. Partnerships are forming between California, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia to establish consistent methods for carbon reporting and discuss key research gaps. Read more about it [here](#).



DID YOU KNOW?

Outdoor Recreation is a [Billion](#) Dollar Industry

Nearly 900 million visits to federally managed lands in the United States support over 800,000 jobs and contribute \$49 billion in economic activity annually.

Webinars



The Forest Service is co-hosting a monthly [webinar](#) series that covers basic information about biochar, and its applications and environmental benefits. Tune in on July 23 at 11 a.m. EST for the next webinar: "The Economics of Biochar."



The Forest Service's Urban Forest Connections [webinar](#) series brings together experts to discuss the latest science, practice, and policy on urban forestry and the environment. It is held on the second Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. EST.

Message from the Forest Service R&D Deputy Chief



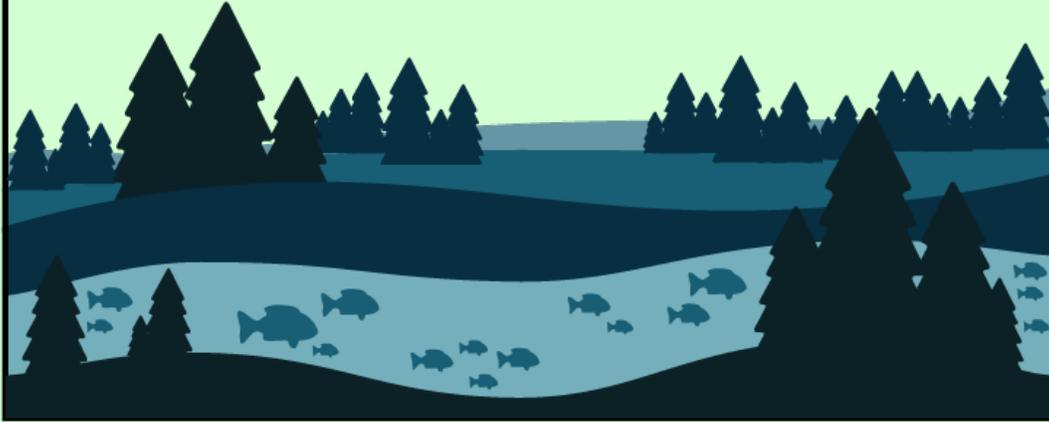
Celebrating National Parks and Recreation Month

In July, our National Forest System welcomes a swell of visitors who enjoy the opportunities our public lands afford us to convene with nature. Across USDA Forest Service research stations around the country, our scientists and staff are dedicated to optimizing that experience through research and applied science. Whether investigating the impacts of recreation activities on wildlife, finding new ways to leverage social media data, examining the make-up of our visitor base, or evaluating economic relationships with local economies, we are continuously working to improve sustainable recreation experiences and opportunities for the public. In this spirit, I heartily invite you to celebrate National Parks and Recreation Month with me and plan a [visit](#) to one of our national forests and grasslands.

JULY INFOGRAPHIC

BY-THE-NUMBERS

Millions of people **fish** on national forests and grasslands, providing **more than \$2.2 billion** of economic activity each year.



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Forest Service

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