

Early Adopter Forests and Ecosystem Services Under the 2012 Planning Rule

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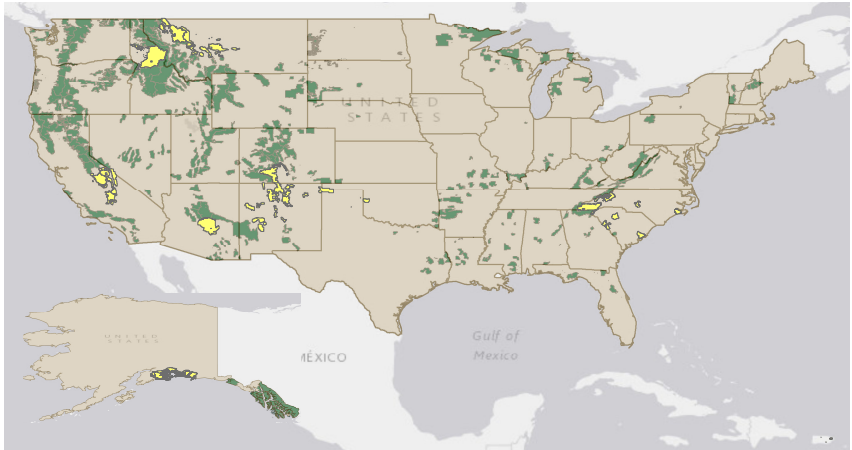
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National Forests Currently Revising Under 2012 Planning Rule



Early Adopters as Laboratory

- ▶ Limited national direction; focused on outcome not process
- ▶ Range of ID team approaches - fully integrated team, economist-led, no social scientist/economist involvement
- ▶ Range of plan contents - integrated across resource areas, separate section, minimal to detailed

Lessons Learned: Internal Challenges

- ▶ Question "how is this different from what we already do?"
- ▶ Hard to distinguish between intermediate and final ES
- ▶ Difficult to shift thinking to socially-relevant conditions (e.g., scientists' interests may not align with public values)
- ▶ Need buy-in from all team members for effective process



Lessons Learned: Public Engagement

- ▶ As much about education as identification of ES
- ▶ Challenging to disentangle ES from other "benefits" (e.g., jobs and infrastructure)
- ▶ Be open to brainstorming - public is less concerned with distinctions between ES and multiple uses, other benefits
- ▶ Methods: workshop, collaborative mapping, web-based sticky notes



Lessons Learned: Plan Components

- ▶ Social scientists and economists often have limited involvement in identification of desired conditions, development of alternatives
- ▶ ES can be a bridge between ecological and socioeconomic considerations
- ▶ Resource integration improves process



Next Steps

- ▶ Forests will begin to evaluate tradeoffs as they develop plan and EIS
- ▶ Issues related to quantification and monetization given data and expertise constraints
- ▶ ES are easier to address at project-level; forest plan isn't site-specific, so measurable indicators to differentiate effects are scarce