THE OUTDOOR ECONOMY
VISITORS TO NATIONAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS GIVE BACK IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC VITALITY OF WASHINGTON

$977 Million spent annually in communities around National Forests in Washington.

$310 million in labor income

7,450 year-long jobs supported by recreation

MOST POPULAR RECREATION ACTIVITIES
VISITORS REPORT CHOOSING ACTIVITIES THAT IMPROVE THEIR PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND/OR SPIRITUAL WELLBEING.

HIKING/WALKING 63%
VIEWING NATURE 52%
RELAXING 40%
VIEWING WILDLIFE 33%
SCENIC DRIVING 25%
SKIING/SNOWBOARDING 13%

National Forests
NATURE’S BENEFITS

National Forests and grasslands are treasured for their recreation settings and opportunities. People are visiting them in record numbers to hike, camp, canoe, ski, and much more. Outdoor recreation provides countless health and social benefits as residents and visitors connect with nature and each other.

National Forest recreation also strongly contributes to the economic vitality of rural, gateway communities. The Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region (Oregon and Washington) contributes nearly 7 million directly and indirectly annually to the economy, benefiting local businesses in neighboring communities and society as a whole.

The growing, changing population and steadily increasing levels of recreation pose many challenges. In order to sustain and expand quality recreation opportunities, we are working with communities, other agencies, and public and private groups to find creative ways to address these challenges. Together we deliver recreation experiences that engage and connect present and future generations to the natural world and inspire responsibility to care for it.

SOURCES:
Facilities: Infrastructure (INFRA) Database (2019)
Permits, Concessions, Special Uses: Special Uses Database (SUDS) (2019)
Economic Values: FY 2019 Economic Contributions from National Forests and Grasslands Methodology and Summary Report
Outdoor recreation is the largest single use of National Forest lands and has become an essential part of our American culture. The Forest Service manages 9 million acres of National Forest lands in Washington and over 2,000 world-class outdoor recreation areas, facilities, and programs across the state. There is something for everyone in your National Forest!