



# National Visitor Use Monitoring

## Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests

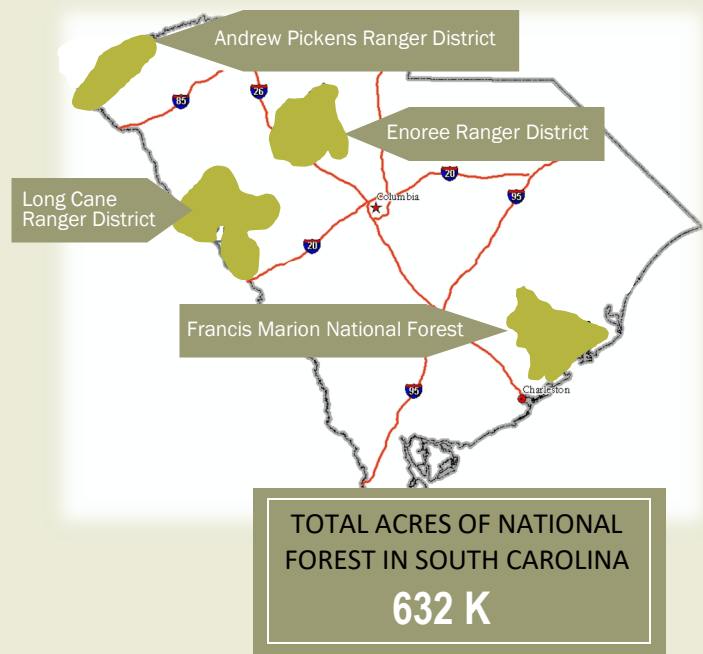
The National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) program provides reliable information about recreation visitors to national forest lands at the national, regional, and forest level. To improve public service, the Forest Service requires measuring trends in user satisfaction and use levels. NVUM information assists Congress, Forest Service leaders, and program managers in making sound decisions that best serve the public and protect valuable natural resources by providing science based, reliable information about the type, quantity, quality and location of recreation use on public lands. The survey is conducted every 5 years.

### KEY FINDINGS

- ◆ The **total estimated site visits**<sup>1</sup> in 2018 for the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests is **1,443,000**. Of the total use, there were:
  - 237,000** Day use site visits<sup>2</sup>
  - 21,000** Overnight site visits<sup>3</sup>
  - 1,178,000** General forest site visits<sup>4</sup>
  - 7,000** Designated wilderness site visits<sup>5</sup>
- ◆ The total estimated **national forest visits**<sup>6</sup> is **1,143,000**.

### AT A GLANCE

The Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests contain 4 ranger districts, 5 wildernesses and a Wild and Scenic River:



- ◆ 82% of the site visits are **dispersed uses** on the forests (uses like fishing, hunting, trails, and other uses on the large land base)
- ◆ 18% of the site visits are **developed uses** (uses at day-use and overnight developed sites)



96 developed recreation sites



166 Miles of Hiking Trail



632,000 Acres in Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Land



5 wilderness areas



80 Miles of Motorized Trail



45 fishing ponds and 14,300 miles of natural streams



1 Wild and Scenic River



126 Miles of Equestrian Trail



1 Scenic Byway

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## MORE FINDINGS

- ◆ Males account for over 80% of the NF visits to the forests.
- ◆ African American visitors are about 2% of the visiting population while Hispanic/Latino visitors are over 3%.
- ◆ Children under the age of 16 are about 14 percent of visits.
- ◆ The forest's recreation market is mostly local. About three-quarters of visits are from people who live within 75 miles.
- ◆ Most visits to the forest are relatively short, half the visits are 3 hours or less. However, the average visit duration is 12 hours; half the visitors have only visited 5 times or less during the year.
- ◆ Fishing (16%), motorized trail activities (15%) and shooting ranges (15%) are among the key primary activities for this forest.
- ◆ Income results show that more than 50% of visits are from households earning between \$25,000 and \$75,000 per year.
- ◆ About 97% of visits indicate they are somewhat satisfied or very satisfied with their overall recreation experience.
- ◆ Total site visits for the forests are up over 36% from 2008, with the biggest increase in general forest area visits, up 32% from 771,000 visits to 1,143,000 visits.

## Definition of Terms and Limitations of Results

**Limitation of results** The information presented here is valid and applicable at the forest, regional, and national level. It is not designed to be accurate at the district or site level.

**<sup>1</sup>Site visit** is the entry of one person onto a national forest site or area to participate in recreation activities for an unspecified period of time.

**<sup>2</sup>Day Use site visits** are entry of one person onto a national forest site or area to participate in recreation activities at a developed sites, such as picnic areas and shooting ranges, for an unspecified period of time.

**<sup>3</sup>Overnight site visits** are entry of one person onto a national forest site or area to participate in camping at a designated campground for an unspecified period of time.

**<sup>4</sup>General Forest site visits** are entry of one person onto a national forest to participate in recreation activities that utilize the large land base, such as hunting, fishing, boating, trails of all types, for an

Visitors on the Francis Marion National Forest enjoy kayaking at the visitor center.



*Employees greet mountain biker users on the Long Cane Ranger District, Edgefield, South Carolina.*

## CONTACT

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## Sources

**Visitor Use Report**, Francis Marion –Sumter NF, USDA Forest Service, Region 8, National Visitor Use Monitoring, Data Collected FY2013

**Visitor Use Report**, Francis Marion –Sumter NF, USDA Forest Service, Region 8, National Visitor Use Monitoring, Data Collected FY2018

## Website for NVUM:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/nvum/>