

**Gila National Forest
Technical Meeting: Local Economy
December 13, 2017**

INTRODUCTION

Adam Mendonca, Forest Supervisor on the Gila National Forest (GNF), welcomed the group, shared his commitment to engaging with the public, and encouraged participants to share their thoughts and opinions. The GNF has identified needs for change from the current Forest Plan, which is over 30 years old. The five panel presentations are intended to generate thoughts and ideas about the intersection of several aspects of the local economy and the GNF. The purpose of the technical meetings is to offer community members the opportunity to engage in deep-dive conversations about topics relevant to the GNF Plan revision. Mr. Mendonca reminded participants to speak to a US Forest Service (USFS) representative with any additional thoughts or questions.

Participants introduced themselves. Participants represented a broad range of interests and organizational entities, including Soil and Water Conservation Districts, New Mexico Department of Agriculture, the Continental Divide Trail Coalition, Upper Gila Watershed Alliance, New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau, Natural Resources Conservation Service, New Mexico Wildlife Federation, New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, New Mexico Department of Health, Gila Hike and Bike, Conservation Lands Foundation, Southwest New Mexico Audubon Society, Grant County Extension Service, Lineberry Policy Center for Natural Resource Management, Recreational Aviation Foundation, and Southwestern County Commissioners Alliance. There were several independent citizens, grazing permittees, and County Commissioners present. Middle School students competing in the National Conservation Foundation Envirothon on topics such as aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and western range land management were also in attendance.

LOCAL ECONOMIC BASE

Nick Ashcroft, Lineberry Policy Center for Natural Resource Management at New Mexico State University, presented an overview of the economic baseline of the counties associated with the GNF.

- The economy can be divided into basic and non-basic industries. In basic industries, economic growth depends on sectors exporting goods and services, which brings in new dollars to the local community. Basic economies generate more than they consume locally, which gives them the comparative advantage. In non-basic economies, there are businesses that have services that remain local. It is helpful to think of the economy like a barrel with water pouring into the top (the exports) and water leaking out of the bottom (imports). The goal is to fill the barrel.
- In New Mexico, the private sector base industries are mining, utilities, agriculture and related services, and accommodation/food services. In Grant County, the base industries are mining, agriculture and accommodation services. Base industries bring money into the local economy.

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- Economists conduct impact analyses through a program called Impact Analysis for Planning (IMPLAN). This program gathers data across resources to look at direct and indirect impacts and quantitatively calculates the multiplier effect to estimate the total impact of a single industry (e.g., agriculture) on an economy.
- In New Mexico, the total output across six counties for agriculture and related industries is \$275.9 million. The agriculture industry creates 3,363 jobs and produces \$160 million in labor income. The agriculture industry then has an indirect effect on other industries. For example, the industry contributes \$12.4 million to the health and social services industry.
- It is important to consider the per capita income and the contribution by source for New Mexico and the Gila region. Comparative data from 1969 and 2015 indicates that New Mexico's per capita income has been historically lower than that of the US as a whole. The biggest growth in per capita income in New Mexico has been retirement. A good portion of income in the six counties surrounding the GNF are now generated by dividends, interest, and rent.

Clarifying Questions

Participants asked clarifying questions related to the baseline economic condition on the GNF and surrounding counties. Questions are indicated in italics with responses below.

The presenter showed a statistic about the income generated from interest and dividends. Is there an overlap between that income and retirement income?

No, the two numbers are separate.

The presenter showed a statistic comparing per capita income in 1969 to per capita income in 2015. Is the 2015 income number adjusted for inflation?

The 1969 income is in 1969 dollars; the 2015 income is in 2015 dollars.

What are examples of direct, indirect, and induced effects, and what are the ripple effects?

As an example, the product that a sawmill generates is the direct effect. The indirect effects are the salaries paid to employees, the equipment purchased, the leases for the land, etc. The money that the employees spend from their paychecks to support their household (groceries, cars, etc.), is the induced effect.

Does IMPLAN have any limitations?

It is difficult to measure the economic impact of the agriculture industry because the industry reports less than other industries. For example, businesses such as grocery stores produce receipts. Agriculture industries do not. Grocery stores and other businesses use the national average for their purchasing coefficients, and agriculture may not match the national average. When conducting impact analysis, economists must make a lot of assumptions about the direct impact.

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Is the multiplier effect factored into the impact analysis?

The multiplier effect states that money spent locally multiplies as it filters through the economy. Typically, 40 cents of every dollar earned goes to taxes, leaving 60 cents. Of that 60 cents, one third is saved and half is spent outside the area, leaving 20 cents. Only 20 cents of each dollar is cycled into the local economy. It is also important to understand the concentric rings; the multiplier is smaller in a county block than a six-county block, which is smaller than the US. The highest multiplier possible is a self-sustaining economy that is exporting goods. To be self-sustaining, economies must keep the dollars circulating by producing everything they need.

How does the economic impact calculation fit into the recreation and tourist industry? Is that a separate economy?

Recreation typically does not produce anything. The sightseeing/outfitter guide and rafting industries all fit into other services such as arts/entertainment. It is also important to consider where the recreation money is being spent. (e.g., did you go to Las Cruces to purchase your four-wheeler?). However, the Bureau of Economic Analysis has been building a spending pattern for recreation, which will be released soon.

Are tourist dollars factored into the impact calculation?

The money spent by visitors is considered an export, because they are bringing dollars into the local economy.

Residents of Grant County often consider tourism to be a base industry, but this presentation does not confirm that. Is the tourist industry part of the accommodations category?

The numbers are calculated nationally, and Grant County has fewer employees in that industry than the national average.

How are industries like alternative energy, that are not exported but that reduce the need to import, calculated?

Alternative energy falls under the utilities category.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS AND BENEFITS OF THE RECREATION ECONOMY

Gabe Vasquez, New Mexico Wildlife Federation, provided an overview of the economic impact of recreation in a national and local context.

- The national impact of the recreation economy is \$887 billion in consumer spending per year and the creation of 7.6 million American jobs. Investment in the recreation economy creates a high return and leads to a healthier community and economy. The money spent on recreation stays in the community.
- According to the Outdoor Industry Association, the recreation economy represents \$65.3 billion in federal tax revenue and \$59 billion in state and local tax revenue. The Outdoor Industry Association estimates that recreation generates \$9.9 billion in consumer spending

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per year in New Mexico and 99,000 local jobs. Outdoor recreation on USFS lands contributes more than \$13 billion annually. The recreation economy benefits small businesses near the forest.

- The GNF is the nation's first wilderness and is known for its remoteness and ruggedness. The GNF is also nationally recognized for the free-flowing Gila River. The GNF is home to a variety of terrain, Gila Trout, the Aldo Leopold legacy, dark skies, and a diverse range of bird species. These are all things that draw recreational users to the area.
- The National Outdoor Industry Association calculated the recreation categories that bring the most revenue:
 - Camping (\$143 billion)
 - Water sports (\$86 billion)
 - Bicycling (\$81 billion)
 - Trail sports (\$81 billion)
 - Off-roading (\$66 billion)
 - Snow sports (\$53 billion)
 - Motorcycling (\$43 billion)
 - Fishing (\$35 billion)
 - Wildlife viewing (\$33 billion)
 - Hunting (\$23 billion)
- It is important to find the right balance between enjoying revenue from these activities and the need for protection. During the planning process, consider the following questions:
 - Which outdoor activities bring the most revenue?
 - Which are the most popular?
 - How does the health of the forest impact outdoor recreation sustainability and growth?
 - What do the local communities engage in the most?
 - How does wilderness generate more recreation and economic opportunity?
- It is also important to consider the protection of native species and the importance of the local economy and to understand the economic landscape around the forest. It is critical to balance traditional use with the creation of new opportunities and pursue climate change management strategies that protect natural resources.

Clarifying Questions

Participants asked clarifying questions related to the economic impact of the recreation industry. Questions are indicated in italics with responses below.

Pinecone, rock, and firewood collection is a pretty popular activity in some areas on the Gila, such as Bear Mountain. Are these considered recreational activities?

There are some distinctions between people who collect with the intent to sell versus those who collect for personal or traditional purposes. The GNF planners should figure out how to protect cultural traditions, especially if people collect firewood as their sole source of heat.

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The presenter showed a statistic about the total recreational dollars spent in New Mexico. Are there estimates about how much of the New Mexico recreational dollars are spent in the GNF area?

The presenter could not find an accurate and recent source of data for the GNF area. There was a market assessment done in the 1990s, and it is important to know whether recreation activities have changed or remained the same. Lodgers tax can be a good indicator about recreational visitation in an area.

Is it possible for a local region or economy to conduct their own study of the local recreation economy?

It is easier for small economies to track their recreational economy because there are fewer participants. Some land management agencies collect visitor information at trailheads or developed campsites. New Mexico State University has also been commissioned to collect data on trail use then translate their findings into a bigger picture economic analysis. The GNF does monitor visitor use; they have collected comprehensive data three times, five years apart. Someone goes out to monitor use for a six-hour window at a random time during the year to collect a snapshot of use on the GNF. However, there are funding limitations that make this type of research difficult to expand. The website www.outdoorindustry.org is a good source for national statistics. They produced a recreational economic impact report in 2017 that has a state-by-state snapshot.

Is there any data on the percentage of recreational revenue generated by the local economy versus visitors?

No, there is a lack of data on this. There is often a reliance on anecdotal evidence. Local businesses can track how many people they bring in during high-traffic times such as the Tour of the Gila, but it is difficult to track during the off-season. The website www.headwaterseconomics.com is a good source of information.

Does the National Wildlife Federation keep track of the trends related to the economic impact of recreational activities that negatively influence wildlife?

The National Wildlife Federation uses data from specialized research organizations. They have independent affiliates in every state that may have different practices. The New Mexico Wildlife Federation focuses on protecting the ecosystem services that keep wildlife healthy. This often involves close partnerships with organizations such as New Mexico Game and Fish.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS AND BENEFITS OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

Henry Provencio, Four Forest Restoration Initiative of the USFS, provided an overview of the economic impact of the timber industry.

- Timber value across the region is low. There are several factors contributing to low timber values, including small diameters, low per-acre volume, longer distances to mills, a lack of competition, low value of finished products, high removal costs, and the ability to create an assurance of supply to industry. The value of the timber is so low that mills produce cants, which are the lowest value timber product, partially sawn on at least three sides.

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- It is important to consider the principles of stewardship contracting, which is the USFS method of exchange of goods for services. The low value of timber means that only a small amount of stewardship work can be accomplished, unless it is heavily subsidized. Typically, the value of the wood does not pay for the necessary service work needed to accomplish the overall restoration objectives (such as road improvements or maintenance).
- One example of a stewardship contract in a low-value timber economy shows that the cost of cutting and skidding timber, hauling the timber, relocating roads, temporary road construction, and road maintenance is far higher than the value of the timber that is harvested. One stewardship contract shows that one timber project's net value was *negative* \$704,106.70. This means that the USFS would need to pay \$704,106.70 for the project.
- There are several questions to consider during the Forest Plan revision process:
 - What has been the GNF's historic utilization and where?
 - Are there targets being driven by timber or fuelwood volume or both?
 - How will the Plan impact the GNF's land use designations?
 - Does timber removal or habitat restoration drive the GNF's analysis?
- Forest plans are intended to provide a broad strategic plan for achieving resource objectives. The Forest Plan revision requires high-level, broad-scale data. There are several available data sources, including traditional USFS databases, supplemented with modern technology such as Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR), LANDFIRE, and the Integrated Landscape Assessment Project (ILAP).
- During the Plan revision process, it is also important to focus on broad desired outcomes and build in flexibility so future site-specific analysis can determine how to achieve the desired conditions. Remember not to limit the tools in the toolbox and to be conscious of restrictions that could limit future treatment types designed to achieve the desired conditions. Commit to collaboration by focusing on areas of agreement, and acknowledge disagreements.

Clarifying questions

Participants asked clarifying questions related to the economic impact of the timber industry. Questions are indicated in italics with responses below.

Is low-value timber the new forest economy?

There is no forest economy now. Biomass could potentially be the new economy. In USFS Region 3, a lot of timber does not pay its way out of the forest.

Are there efforts to harvest timber in burn areas, or would that create additional watershed damage and monetary challenges?

When timber dies, it can be graded as structural timber. But when trees are standing dead, they start to mold and cannot be graded as structural timber but can be used as pellets. The issue is the scale. For example, the Wallow Fire burned 538,000 acres and maybe 70,000 acres are available for harvest. No one has the capacity to harvest 70,000 acres.

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Do assessment tools provide information about tree density or just tree species?

The tools provide both density and species data. However, some tools do have a high margin error because they take known data and apply it to different areas.

Has there been an attempt to develop a pellet fuel industry, since it lends itself to small-diameter wood?

Yes, the White Mountain Stewardship Program has set up a pellet fuel effort, but they require clean chips and cannot use smaller biomass such as limbs and tops. The return on investment is usually not high enough.

When conducting the macro benefit-cost analysis, are the returns to the ecosystem services factored in?

There is an effort to put a value on ecosystem services. When considering the economics, ecosystem services such as clean air and clean water are calculated into the temporary construction costs.

Considering the net loss of most timber projects, why are there still stewardship contracts?

The goal is landscape-scale forest restoration. Organizations like The Nature Conservancy must make an economic calculation about investing in low-value timber for the purpose of ecological restoration.

What is the purpose and budget of the Four Forest Restoration Initiative?

The Four Forest Restoration Initiative began 10 years ago in Region 3 with the objective of landscape-scale forest restoration. The total annual budget (including the preparation work and surveys, timber sale packages, and implementation) is \$30 million. It is three times the annual budget of the GNF budget. The money comes from the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP), the Washington Office, Region 3, and regular USFS appropriations.

What are the biggest practices for creating an assurance of supply for the industry?

Most companies cannot get financing for large-scale projects. It costs close to \$1 million to build a mill, and it is often years before implementation can begin.

There was a vibrant timber industry in the 1980s, and some believe that the spotted owl was a contributing factor to the fall of the industry. Has that been considered as an inhibiting factor?

There are currently nearly 600,000 acres that have undergone the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and are ready to go for forest treatment. The Endangered Species Act has allowed the USFS to actively thin forests in 70 different breeding sites for the spotted owl. While the spotted owl does present a challenge, it does not prevent the work. The timber industry fell in large part because it was successful in removing the big trees; the remaining trees are not economically viable.

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Who sets the timber goals and how do they fit into restoration plans?

The 1976 National Forest Management Act required each forest to determine annual timber production and use targets. In the Forest Plan revision, the GNF will have to determine areas that are suitable for timber production and those that are not.

Do environmental groups pose challenges to reaching the Four Forest Restoration Initiative's timber targets?

They pose an opportunity for collaboration. For example, The Nature Conservancy harvests timber, and the Center for Biological Diversity is typically in full support of the projects.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS AND BENEFITS OF THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY

Dusty Hunt, grazing permittee and representative of the Grant Soil and Water Conservation District, provided an overview of the economic impact of the agriculture industry.

- In 1987, the USFS was authorized by Congress to manage livestock grazing on forest lands. Every permit on the forest is part of a larger agricultural operation. Cattle grazing operations are a combination of farms, private grazing lands, state grazing lands, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) allotments. Often, the economic viability of the grazing depends on the forest allotment.
- With a few exceptions, every allotment on the GNF involves a rest-rotation management system. Cattle are put in a pasture for a number of months then moved to private land or to another forest pasture to rest the pasture, usually for a year or a growing season.
- There are 121 permittees on the GNF. The related allotment permits authorize the grazing of 21,783 cows and 284 horses. Livestock that were run on the GNF this past year totaled to 157,799 animal unit months (AUMs) for cattle and 2,533 AUMs for horses. Therefore, there are 13,150 cows and 211 horses on the GNF this past year. However, this number is deceptive because some of the animals were not on the GNF for a full year. An animal unit month can roughly be defined as the amount of food required by one animal for one month; this is based on the needs of one cow weighing 1000 pounds with a calf less than 6 months old.
- The current USFS price per AUM is \$1.87. Grazing permittees paid approximately \$24,985 on the GNF in fees last year.
- In most cases, permittees are local people who have a vested interest in local government, the quality of local schools, and the condition the roads. Permittees' livestock, equipment, and properties are taxed, and cattle are taxed (approximately \$9.00 per head) to support Grant County government.
- The livelihood of grazing permittees depends on the sustainable management of forest allotments. Permittees are always looking for opportunities to improve their allotments. For example, Hunt banded with neighboring permittees to write a grant to the 319 section of the Clean Water Act. The project received \$975,000 and became known as the Mangas Water Quality Project. The project teamed with the USFS, the Grant Soil and Water

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Conservation District, and the New Mexico Environment Department to conduct prescribed burns on over 55,000 acres in the Burro mountains, mostly on USFS lands, and construct 250 erosion control structures. In the prescribed burn areas, overstory has been significantly reduced, which increases the availability of light, soil nutrients, and water to the herbaceous plants.

- Permittees have an urgent, immediate need to improve the watershed quality on their allotments.

Clarifying Questions

Participants asked clarifying questions related to the economic impact of the agriculture industry. Questions are indicated in italics with responses below.

Does watershed improvement lead to less disease in the cattle?

In New Mexico's arid climate, there is not a huge problem with parasitic disease. Black leg is the biggest problem here.

Where do permittees take their cattle to market?

Some permittees sell their cattle to the same person every year. Some are sold as yearlings and bought by people who bring them to auction. Many cattle end up in the panhandle of Texas. If a broker comes to pick up the cattle, they absorb the shipping costs, and if the permittee pays for a truck to pick up the cattle to take them to auction, the permittee absorbs shipping costs.

What are the limiting factors of the grazing permittee operation?

Water availability/distribution is the biggest challenge.

How are livestock used for forest restoration purposes?

Following the Mangas Water Quality Project, cattle walk on the burned areas, and the standing seed heads of grass recover much faster. Every one of the footprints from the cattle is a micro environment.

Has the animal unit price changed over time?

The cost is set by something known as the Public Rangeland Improvement Act (PRIA) fee formula, which accounts for the value of the cow, the value of the property, and the cost of production (e.g., fuel, grain, etc.). Sometimes, variable costs increase or decrease, but the amount has not changed significantly over time. The permittees are responsible for maintaining their allotments on USFS land. They pay for the fences, feeders, etc.

How does the cost for grazing on USFS land compare to other public lands?

The costs are comparable. Often, grazing permittees pay a little more on State-owned land, and the BLM charges a flat \$2.00, but if you are not grazing in that allotment, you do not pay. State land is \$4.75 per AUM. The state uses a formula that is based on the Consumer Price Index to calculate the

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cost. On State land, all improvements that are installed by permittees are then owned by the permittee, which is not the case on USFS land.

What is the economic trend of the cattle ranching industry? Is the industry likely to face a predicament similar to logging?

There were times during the Clinton administration when many ranchers were nervous about riparian areas getting fenced off due to heavy enforcement of the Endangered Species Act. The cost for permittees is low largely because there are so many factors out of their control.

There are feral and trespass cattle on certain areas of the GNF. How can residents be helpful stewards of the forest to ensure there are no problems along riparian areas?

There are areas on the GNF that do not have permittees on them, and there may be unmanaged cattle. There is a separate process to address that issue.

In the long term, how should cattle grazers on the GNF respond to issues associated with climate change, such as a dry climate/lack of water?

There are many factors beyond a permittee's control, but they can start by developing additional water sources that have not been exploited in the past.

Are cattle ranchers worried about large investment agencies and big ranches coming into the community?

There is some resentment in the ranching community about large dollars that are not derived from cattle coming into the industry. The best approach is to run the most responsible business possible.

ECONOMIC IMPACT AND BENEFIT OF WILDERNESS

Donna Stevens, Upper Gila Watershed Alliance, provided an overview of the economic impact of wilderness and environmental protection.

- The GNF is 3.3 million acres. It is the headwaters of the Gila River. Only 2% of New Mexico's total land base is protected as federally designated wilderness, the smallest amount among the eleven western states. The GNF has almost 800,000 acres of existing wilderness, and was the first designated wilderness in the world. It has one million acres of wilderness-quality lands and 733,000 acres of inventoried roadless areas.
- There are many economic values of protecting the environment and wilderness areas. Some factors to consider are recreation, community, passive use, biodiversity, education, and ecological services.
- It is difficult to attach dollar figures to certain intangibles like clean air and water. However, economists have calculated "willingness to pay" to determine what visitors would pay if there were a market for access to wilderness for recreation. They arrived at an estimate of \$84 per day. The federal land agencies that manage wilderness and collect visitor use data used the \$84 per day figure to arrive at \$850 million as the total annual value of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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- In the west, there are 1.9 million direct jobs in outdoor recreation. 95% of western voters visited federal lands in 2015, and federal lands recreation was responsible for at least \$51 billion spent annually on outdoor recreation.
- Surveys indicate that in counties with wilderness, 45% of current residents and 60% of recent migrants see wilderness as an important reason to live in that area. Retirees and businesses often relocate to areas close to wilderness, and wilderness designations have been shown to increase nearby private property values.
- The population of Grant, Catron, and Sierra Counties in New Mexico, and Greenlee County in Arizona is aging. The median age in 2000 was 41, up from 36 in 1990.
- Biodiversity is another important economic value of protected lands. Biodiversity includes issues such as threatened and endangered species, connectivity and corridors, climate change adaptation, and ecosystem representation.
- Ecosystem services represent an economic benefit of protected land. Processes of ecosystem services include pollination, seed dispersal, clean air, soil formation and stabilization, and water filtration and purification.
- Public health (both physical and mental) is also an economic value of protected lands. There are multiple studies documenting the benefits of nature on human health. Studies show that walking in urban areas does not have the same benefits as walking in nature, where people experience lower blood pressure, greater attention span on cognitive tests, and reduced feelings of aggression. According to a 2012 Colorado College study, 87% of New Mexico voters agreed that children do not spend enough time outdoors.
- 45% of the personal income in the rural west was derived from “non-labor” (retirement, investments, etc.). In 2015. 20% of income in the west was derived from dividends, interest, and rent. This trend toward non-labor income is also seen in Catron, Grant, and Sierra Counties. In Grant County, approximately \$2,432 of per capita income can be explained by protected lands. The numbers are a little lower for Catron and Sierra Counties. For each 100,000 acres of wilderness, National Park, or National Monument in a county, the per capita income increases by \$4,260.
- Typically, metro areas and areas with airports have higher job growth than rural and isolated communities, which have the lowest wages, the most volatility, the fewest high-wage services, and a less educated population. The biggest economic challenge to the GNF area is its remoteness. In spite of amenities provided by national forests and designated wilderness areas, the ability to attract and retain a diversity of businesses is limited by the lack of access to major population centers.

Clarifying questions

Participants asked clarifying questions related to the economic impact of wilderness and environmental protection. Questions are indicated in italics with responses below.

Did the study that showed more retirees moving to protected lands provide reason for their migration?
Retirees mostly moved to those areas because of the proximity to the protected areas. Easy access to camping and hiking is important to a lot of retirees.

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GROUP DISCUSSION

Participants responded to and discussed several discussion questions. The themes from their discussion are captured below.

How can the USFS collaborate and partner with the community to achieve the social, cultural, and economic values on the GNF?

- More community dialogue with the USFS is critical, especially if community members are trying to start a joint effort to develop markets such as a biomass industry.
- It would be helpful to have open houses during the evening so that more people can attend.
- The USFS should meet with county managers, city representatives, and local business owners of communities embedded in the GNF to discuss their ideas for how to boost the local economy. The GNF should send an invitation to county managers.
- The USFS should partner with local research organizations to conduct surveys about relevant topics like the reasons for retirees choosing to move to the GNF area. The Continental Divide Trail Coalition is doing a study about use of the Continental Divide Trail that may be of interest to the USFS.
- There should be a more proactive focus on trails. There are many user-generated trails and a lack of maintenance. The Forest Plan should focus on identifying how people use the trails. Gila Hike and Bike could be helpful in providing numbers for bike sales and rentals in the area.
- Wilderness areas are not monitored, so wilderness users are underrepresented.

What challenges do you see or anticipate for achieving contributions for local economies related to the Forest Plan revision (in five words or less)?

- New stove technologies use low-value biomass
- Opportunity for local collaboration
- Vacant livestock allotments: what can we do?
- Challenge of overregulation
- The lack of future pensions
- Availability of amenities or access
- Money and manpower for trail development
- Getting past our differences
- Speeding up the NEPA process
- Increasing the size of USFS budget
- Developing new markets for low-value biomass
- Job growth
- Lack of public interest and involvement
- Youth involvement
- Focus our economy on what our land does best
- Managing our timber opportunities

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What opportunities do you see or anticipate for achieving contributions for local economies related to the Forest Plan revision (in five words or less)?

- Opportunities for aerial assessments
- We have healthy recreation
- Group camp-outs at local attractions
- Increasing firewood production
- Excitement around collaborative development
- Solving current issues in new ways
- Increasing management flexibility
- Leveraging youth involvement
- 3.3 million acres of beautiful Gila forest
- Federal wages/jobs for low-income youth
- Increase accessibility to archeological sites