



GOAL 8:

PROMOTE RURAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES.





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Discussion:

“Rural development” is the management of human, natural, technical, and financial resources needed to improve living conditions, provide employment opportunities, enrich the cultural life, and enhance the environment of rural America. In the Forest Service, rural development will be accomplished through partnerships.

Rural communities are rising to the challenge of diversifying their economies. In the process, they are finding that total community development involves more than economic issues by themselves. It involves such things as

encouraging discussions on a variety of local issues, such as education in all of its forms, and enhancing cultural and historical experiences. A local collaborative planning process can encourage communities to reflect about where they have been, where they might want to go in the future, and how they will get there. The Forest Service can provide information and forecasts on future trends and events for local planning efforts.

The Rural Development Program provides an opportunity for eligible communities to focus on the collaborative planning process in efforts to meet the challenge of creating a more diverse and stable economy.

Objectives:

801. Through the Forest Service’s “Strategic Plan for the 90s”¹, provide leadership in working with rural people and communities to develop natural resource-based opportunities and enterprises that contribute to the economic and social vitality of rural communities.

802. Promote sustainable development in cooperation with local, county, state and American Indian partners.

803. Recognize the nature and extent of local economic dependencies on National Forest activities. Give special attention to resource programs that help diversify rural economies.

¹USDA Forest Service. June, 1990. A Strategic Plan for the 90s: Working Together for Rural America.



Goals and Objectives

804. Coordinate with local communities to recognize local goals to maintain desired life styles and social values to participate with and provide appropriate assistance to development groups, and to be a reliable partner in giving sufficient advance notice about potential changes that may affect local economies.

805. Utilize human resource programs to achieve employment opportunities while meeting natural resource objectives. Provide human resource programs for 208 enrollee-years each year (including the Job Corps and the Senior Community Service Employment Program.)