Multiple Use

The 2012 Planning Rule (36 CFR 219.8(b) and 219.10(a)) directs that plans must contribute and provide for ecosystem services and multiple uses identified in the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act. Together with other lands, these multiple uses and ecosystem services of National Forest System lands provide benefits to people either directly or indirectly.

Multiple-use management contributes a range of benefits and services under the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 and the National Forest Management Act of 1976.

These multiple uses shown to the right are identified in the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act and are contributions of the plan area to social and economic sustainability in the area of influence. These uses and other resources contribute to maintaining social cultures and long-standing traditions, connecting people to the land, and providing jobs, income, and quality of life for many Americans and their communities.


Outdoor Recreation


Scenery (Aesthetics)


Range


Timber


Watershed


Fish and Wildlife


Energy and Minerals

The 2012 Planning Rule defines ecosystem services as “the benefits people obtain from ecosystems”. Healthy forest ecosystems are life-supporting systems that provide a full suite of goods and services (ecosystem services) that are vital to human health and livelihood.

The multiple uses identified above fall under the broader umbrella of ecosystem services, but the concept of ecosystem services extends the classification of “multiple uses” to include a broader array of services or values; such as regulating services (the benefits people obtain due to the regulation of natural processes such as water purification, erosion control, flood protection, etc.), cultural services (the intangible benefits people receive from ecosystems, including nonmaterial spiritual, religious, inspirational, and educational experiences), and supporting services (services necessary for the production of all other ecosystem services, such as soil production, nutrient cycling, primary production, regulation of habitat diversity, abundance, and distribution), all of which are critical to human health and well-being.