

Recreation data developed for the 2020 Resources Planning Act (RPA) Assessment^{1,2} and related efforts. Recreation is the primary way that people engage with natural resources such as forest, rangelands, and waterways. Further, nature-based outdoor recreation opportunities are a key benefit of natural resources and a central provision of public lands. The 2020 RPA Assessment considers the demand for, and supply of, outdoor recreation resources and how changes in population size, demographics, land use, and climate may alter both in the future. Understanding patterns and trends in recreation can inform planning efforts and management decisions, as well as investments into public lands. All datasets are available in tabular formats.

DATA DESCRIPTION	UNITS	SPATIAL EXTENT	SPATIAL RESOLUTION	TEMPORAL DOMAIN	POTENTIAL USE*
<u>Current and Recent Past</u>					
Recreation Resources^{†,3}	Acres, Per capita acres, Percent of total area, Mean county percent	Conterminous U.S.	County	2008, 2012 <i>Baseline</i>	National-level to Broad-level applications. Depicts status of natural and developed recreation resources including Federal & State park land, Water, Non-Federal forest, Non-Federal open range and pasture, Ocean & Great Lakes coast, Mountains, Snow cover, Specially designated Federal lands, and Private recreation businesses. Can be used to show resource availability per person.
Recreation Participation^{†,4}	Number of participants, Per-capita adult participation rates	Conterminous U.S.	Nation & RPA Region	1982 – 2012 <i>Multi-year collection periods</i>	National-level applications (primarily), some Broad-level applications possible. Provides overall trends in recreation from the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE) which provides a comparison point for National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) and other local data. Can be used to show participation in activities over the time period.
<u>Future Projections</u>					
Recreation Resources^{†,5}	Acres, Per capita acres, Percent of total area, Mean county percent	Conterminous U.S.	County	2020 – 2070 <i>10-year timestep</i>	National-level to Broad-level applications. Depicts future trends in natural and developed recreation resources including Federal & State park land, Water, Non-Federal forest, Non-Federal open range and pasture, Ocean & Great Lakes coast, Mountains, Snow cover, Specially designated Federal lands, and Private recreation businesses. Can be used to show resource availability per person.

DATA DESCRIPTION	UNITS	SPATIAL EXTENT	SPATIAL RESOLUTION	TEMPORAL DOMAIN	POTENTIAL USE*
Recreation Participation ^{†,6}	Number of participants and days of participation	Conterminous U.S.	Nation & RPA Region	2020 – 2070 <i>10-year timestep</i>	National-level to Broad-level applications. Can help identify which of the 17 outdoor recreation activities are likely to increase or decrease at the broad scale over time.

* A description of FS business applications by spatial scales is available in Table 1-1 of the [Existing Vegetation Classification, Mapping, and Inventory Technical Guide, v2.0](#)

† Denotes corresponding datasets exist in both the *Current and Recent Past* and *Future Projection* sections of the table

References and Footnotes:

- ¹ White, Eric M.; Askew, Ashley E.; Bowker, J.M. 2023. Outdoor Recreation and Wilderness. In: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. 2023. Future of America's Forest and Rangelands: Forest Service 2020 Resources Planning Act Assessment. Gen. Tech. Rep. WO-102. Washington, DC: xxx-xxx. Chapter 11. <https://doi.org/10.2737/WO-GTR-102-Chap11>
- ² The RPA website provides links to current and past RPA Assessments, as well as supporting data, technical reports, and webinars: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/research/inventory/rpaa>
- ³ Cordell, H. Ken; Betz, Carter J.; Zarnoch, Stanley J. 2013. Recreation and protected land resources in the United States: a technical document supporting the Forest Service 2010 RPA Assessment. Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-GTR-169. Asheville, NC: USDA-Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 198 p. <https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/42756>
- ⁴ Chapter 6: Geospatial Patterns of Recreation Resources in Cordell, H. Ken 2012. Outdoor recreation trends and futures: a technical document supporting the Forest Service 2010 RPA Assessment. Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-150. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 167 p. <https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/40453>
- ⁵ Chapter 7: Projections of Future Recreation Resources in Cordell, H. Ken 2012. Outdoor recreation trends and futures: a technical document supporting the Forest Service 2010 RPA Assessment. Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-150. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 167 p. <https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/40453>
- ⁶ Chapter 12 in: USDA Forest Service. 2016. Future of America's Forests and Rangelands: Update to the 2010 Resources Planning Act Assessment. Gen. Tech. Report WO-GTR-94. Washington, DC. 250 p. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/treesearch/pubs/53212>