



2018

# U.S.D.A. Forest Service Region 1 Social Survey

Administered by: University of Montana  
Bureau of Business and Economic Research  
Sponsored by: U.S.D.A. Forest Service  
Region 1  
1/1/2018

## Purpose

The purpose of this survey is to collect information that will help land managers improve conditions and resource management on federal public lands. Federal public lands include national forests, national parks, national wildlife refuges and Bureau of Land Management lands. These are different from city and state parks and playgrounds. Examples of federal public lands include the Bob Marshall Wilderness, the Dakota Prairie Grasslands, and the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument. This survey hopes to capture input from local stakeholders and therefore asks about **local** federal public lands.

## Important Information

When answering, please think of the federal public lands that are **nearby your home**. *These local federal public lands are those areas not more than an hour's drive away or within approximately 50 miles of your home.*

**Please go to the next page and begin** 

**Q1. Are you the adult age 18 or older in your household who will have the next birthday?**

Mark one button (X)

Yes → Please continue.

No → Please have the adult in your household who will have the next birthday complete the survey.

**Q2. How important do you believe each of the following is as a purpose of your local, federal public lands? Please mark one button (X) for each item.**

|   | Not at all important  | Slightly important    | Moderately important  | Very important        | Extremely important   |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| a. Protecting water quality   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| b. Providing recreation opportunities   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| c. Protecting air quality   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| d. Providing income for the tourist industry  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| e. Providing income for the natural resource extraction industries (oil /gas /coal /minerals) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| f. Providing income for the timber industry   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| g. Protecting rare and endangered species   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| h. Protecting wildlife habitat  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

**Q3. And how important do you believe each of the following is as a purpose of your local, federal public lands? Please mark one button (X) for each item.**

|  | Not at all important  | Slightly important    | Moderately important  | Very important        | Extremely important   |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| a. Preserving unique plant and animal ecosystems and genetic strains | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| b. Preserving natural areas for scientific study                     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

**Q4. And what about these? How important do you believe each of the following is as a purpose of your local, federal public lands?** Please mark one button (X) for each item.

|   | Not at all important | Slightly important | Moderately important | Very important | Extremely important |
|---|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| a. Knowing that in the future I will have the option to visit a primitive or wilderness area of my choice | 0                    | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0                   |
| b. Providing spiritual inspiration  | 0                    | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0                   |
| c. Knowing that future generations will have primitive or wilderness areas                                | 0                    | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0                   |
| d. Just knowing that primitive or wilderness areas exist  | 0                    | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0                   |
| e. Providing scenic beauty  | 0                    | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0                   |
| f. Other (Please specify below)   | 0                    | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0                   |

**Q5. Please rate your level of support or opposition for the following management options for managing local federal public lands.** Please mark one button (X) for each item.

|  | Strongly oppose | Oppose | Oppose somewhat | Neither oppose or support | Support somewhat | Support | Strongly support |
|--|-----------------|--------|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------|---------|------------------|
| a. Closing underused campgrounds                       | 0               | 0      | 0               | 0                         | 0                | 0       | 0                |
| b. Requiring permits to recreate in very popular areas | 0               | 0      | 0               | 0                         | 0                | 0       | 0                |
| c. Introducing parking fees                            | 0               | 0      | 0               | 0                         | 0                | 0       | 0                |
| d. Introducing camping fees                            | 0               | 0      | 0               | 0                         | 0                | 0       | 0                |
| e. Allowing more outfitters and guides                 | 0               | 0      | 0               | 0                         | 0                | 0       | 0                |
| f. Maintaining underused trails less frequently        | 0               | 0      | 0               | 0                         | 0                | 0       | 0                |
| g. Increasing thinning of forests near communities     | 0               | 0      | 0               | 0                         | 0                | 0       | 0                |

**Q6. And what about these? Please rate your level of support or opposition for the following management options for managing local federal public lands.** Please mark one button (X) for each item.

|  | Strongly oppose | Oppose | Oppose somewhat | Neither oppose or support | Support somewhat | Support | Strongly support |
|--|-----------------|--------|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------|---------|------------------|
| a. Harvesting dead trees following natural wildfire, beetle kill, or other natural disturbance | 0               | 0      | 0               | 0                         | 0                | 0       | 0                |
| b. Using prescribed fires for fire prevention near communities                                 | 0               | 0      | 0               | 0                         | 0                | 0       | 0                |
| c. Using prescribed fires for maintaining forest health in areas farther away from communities | 0               | 0      | 0               | 0                         | 0                | 0       | 0                |
| d. Allowing natural wildfires to burn if they don't threaten people's lives or property        | 0               | 0      | 0               | 0                         | 0                | 0       | 0                |

**Q7. Do you have any safety concerns about visiting local federal public lands?** Please mark one button (X) for each item listed below.

|  | Not at all concerned | Moderately concerned | Very concerned |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| a. Wildlife encounter (e.g. bear, lion, snake, etc.) | 0                    | 0                    | 0              |
| b. Bad weather                                       | 0                    | 0                    | 0              |
| c. May get lost                                      | 0                    | 0                    | 0              |
| d. Poor road conditions                              | 0                    | 0                    | 0              |
| e. Poor trail conditions                             | 0                    | 0                    | 0              |
| f. Run out of gas or supplies in remote area         | 0                    | 0                    | 0              |

**Q8. And what about these? Do you have any of these safety concerns about visiting local federal public lands?** Please mark one button (X) for each item listed below.

|                                  | Not at all concerned | Moderately concerned | Very concerned |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| a. Lack of cell phone coverage   | 0                    | 0                    | 0              |
| b. Needing emergency services    | 0                    | 0                    | 0              |
| c. Forest fire                   | 0                    | 0                    | 0              |
| d. Poor air quality              | 0                    | 0                    | 0              |
| e. Shooting (not at a range)     | 0                    | 0                    | 0              |
| f. Crime                         | 0                    | 0                    | 0              |
| g. Other? (please specify below) | 0                    | 0                    | 0              |

**Q9. These questions ask for your opinion about management of local federal public lands. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.** Please mark one button (X) for each item.

|   | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree or disagree | Agree | Strongly agree | No opinion |
|---|-------------------|----------|---------------------------|-------|----------------|------------|
| a. People in my local community have been involved in decisions about land management | 0                 | 0        | 0                         | 0     | 0              | 0          |
| b. Land management decisions balance the concerns of most people in my community      | 0                 | 0        | 0                         | 0     | 0              | 0          |
| c. Land managers in my area do a good job communicating with the public               | 0                 | 0        | 0                         | 0     | 0              | 0          |

**Q10. This question also asks for your opinion about management of local federal public lands. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement. Please mark one button (X) for each item.**

|  | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree or disagree | Agree    | Strongly agree | No opinion |
|--|-------------------|----------|---------------------------|----------|----------------|------------|
| a. I trust local land managers to make the proper decisions about land management                  | <b>0</b>          | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b>                  | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>   |
| b. Land management decisions balance the concerns of both local communities and national interests | <b>0</b>          | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b>                  | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>   |

**Q11. Have you ever visited your local federal public lands?**

Mark one button (X)

- 0** Yes → Go to Question 12 below.
- 0** No → Skip to Question 24 on page 12.

**Q12. Please tell us how many times you have visited your local federal public lands in the past 12 months? Do not count visits that include commuting through public lands and working in public lands.**

Mark one button

(X)

- 0** 0 times
- 0** 1 time
- 0** 2 to 4 times
- 0** 5 to 10 times
- 0** 11 to 30 times
- 0** More than 30 times

**Q13. In general, what recreational activities do you participate in on local federal public lands?** Please tell us how often you participate on local federal lands by marking one button (X) for each item.

|   | <b>Very often</b><br>= at least<br>once a<br>week | <b>Often</b><br>= at least<br>once a<br>month | <b>Sometimes</b><br>= at least<br>once a year | <b>Rarely</b><br>= at least<br>once in my<br>lifetime | <b>Never</b> |
|---|---|---|---|---|--------------|
| a. Hiking/walking   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0            |
| b. Horseback riding                                       | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0            |
| c. Downhill skiing or snowboarding                        | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0            |
| d. Cross-country skiing or snowshoeing                    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0            |
| e. Snowmobiling   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0            |
| f. Cultural ceremonies                                    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0            |
| g. Fishing  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0            |
| h. Hunting  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0            |
| i. Creative arts (photography /drawing/ painting/writing) | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0            |
| j. Developed camping (at official campground)             | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0            |
| k. Dispersed camping (not at official campground)         | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0            |
| l. Viewing wildlife                                       | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0            |
| m. Relaxing   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0            |
| n. Driving for pleasure                                   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0            |



**Q14. And what about these recreational activities? In general, what recreational activities do you participate in on local federal public lands?** Please tell us how often you participate on local federal lands by marking one button (X) for each item.

|   | <b>Very often</b><br>= at least<br>once a<br>week | <b>Often</b><br>= at least<br>once a<br>month | <b>Sometimes</b><br>= at least<br>once a year | <b>Rarely</b><br>= at least<br>once in my<br>lifetime | <b>Never</b> |
|---|---|---|---|---|--------------|
| a. Road bicycling                       | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0            |
| b. Mountain bicycling                   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0            |
| c. Firewood collecting                  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0            |
| d. Foraging for berries, mushroom, etc. | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0            |
| e. Picnicking                           | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0            |
| f. Other (please specify below)         | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0            |

**Q15. In general, what income generating activities do you participate in on local federal public lands?** Please tell us how often you participate on local federal lands by marking one button (X) for each item.

|                                 | <b>Very often</b><br>= at least<br>once a<br>week | <b>Often</b><br>= at least<br>once a<br>month | <b>Sometimes</b><br>= at least<br>once a year | <b>Rarely</b><br>= at least<br>once in my<br>lifetime | <b>Never</b> |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---|---|--------------|
| a. Harvesting timber            | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0            |
| b. Mining                       | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0            |
| c. Oil/gas extraction           | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0            |
| d. Outfitter/guiding            | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0            |
| e. Other (please specify below) | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0            |

**Q16. Have there been activities that you wanted to do during your visit(s) to local federal public lands that you were not able to?**

Mark one  
button (X)

Yes    **→ Go to Question 17 below.**

No    **→ Skip to Question 19.**

**Q17. What is the activity?** Please describe the activity below.

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**Q18. Why were you unable to participate?** Please tell us below.

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**Q19. We are interested in knowing if there are any specific places or sites on local federal public lands that you used to visit but no longer visit, or have changed the time when you visit, due to too much crowding, noise, commercial activity, fewer fish, etcetera. Write in the place or site and select the reason why you do not visit at certain times or altogether.**

**Site / Place**

**Reason for no longer visiting:**

Example:

Russian River    There is too much crowding during weekends, so I visit during weekdays

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**Q20. We would like to know how you feel about visiting local federal public lands. For each item below please rate how much you think it describes your typical experience. Please mark one button (X) for each item.**

|  | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree or disagree | Agree | Strongly agree | Don't know |
|--|-------------------|----------|---------------------------|-------|----------------|------------|
| a. I have access to areas of cultural/traditional significance | 0                 | 0        | 0                         | 0     | 0              | 0          |
| b. I have pleasant interactions with other visitors            | 0                 | 0        | 0                         | 0     | 0              | 0          |

**Q21. Please think about the local federal public lands that you use. To what extent do you feel the following issues are a problem on local federal public lands? Please mark one button (X) for each item.**

|   | Not a Problem | Small Problem | Moderate Problem | Big Problem | Very Big Problem | Don't know |
|---|---------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|------------|
| a. Too many rangers patrolling the area       | 0             | 0             | 0                | 0           | 0                | 0          |
| b. Not enough rangers patrolling the area     | 0             | 0             | 0                | 0           | 0                | 0          |
| c. Not enough trails for all terrain vehicles | 0             | 0             | 0                | 0           | 0                | 0          |
| d. Too many trails for all terrain vehicles   | 0             | 0             | 0                | 0           | 0                | 0          |
| e. Not enough areas open to snow machines     | 0             | 0             | 0                | 0           | 0                | 0          |
| f. Too many areas open to snow machines       | 0             | 0             | 0                | 0           | 0                | 0          |
| g. Not enough trails for mountain bikers      | 0             | 0             | 0                | 0           | 0                | 0          |
| h. Too many trails for mountain bikers        | 0             | 0             | 0                | 0           | 0                | 0          |

**Q22. And what about these issues? To what extent do you feel the following issues are a problem on local federal public lands?** Please mark one button (X) for each item.

|   | Not a Problem | Small Problem | Moderate Problem | Big Problem | Very Big Problem | Don't know |
|---|---------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|------------|
| a. Not enough accessible (e.g., for wheelchairs) sites                | 0             | 0             | 0                | 0           | 0                | 0          |
| b. Availability of bathrooms  | 0             | 0             | 0                | 0           | 0                | 0          |
| c. Not enough travel information on forest websites to plan for trips | 0             | 0             | 0                | 0           | 0                | 0          |
| d. Conflict between motorized and non-motorized users                 | 0             | 0             | 0                | 0           | 0                | 0          |
| e. Too much designated wilderness (preserved wildlands)               | 0             | 0             | 0                | 0           | 0                | 0          |
| f. Not enough designated wilderness (preserved wildlands)             | 0             | 0             | 0                | 0           | 0                | 0          |
| g. Wildfire suppression i.e. management to put out wildfires          | 0             | 0             | 0                | 0           | 0                | 0          |
| h. Wildfire mitigation i.e. management to prevent wildfires           | 0             | 0             | 0                | 0           | 0                | 0          |
| i. Other (please specify below)                                       | 0             | 0             | 0                | 0           | 0                | 0          |

\_\_\_\_\_

**Q23. For any issues that you feel are “big problems” on local federal public lands, please provide more information below about the problem (for example, where did you encounter the problem?)**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Q24. What is your gender?** Please mark one button (X) below.

Mark one button

(X)

**0**

Male

**0**

Female

**0**

Other

**Q25. In what year were you born?** Please print the year in the box below.

Year

**Q26. Are you Hispanic or Latino?** Please mark one button (X) below.

Mark one button

(X)

**0**

Yes

**0**

No

**Q27. What is your race?** Please mark one or more boxes (X) below.

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- White

**Q28. Would you or any member of your household prefer to receive information about public lands, services, etc. in languages other than English?**

Mark one  
button (X)

- Yes     →    Go to Question 29
- No     →    Skip to Question 30

**Q29. Which language?** Please print the language name below.

Language

**Q30. Please indicate the highest level of education you have completed?** Please mark one button (X) below.

Mark one button  
(X)

- Less than high school
- High school graduate/ GED
- Some college
- Vocational or Technical School certificate
- Associates degree
- Some college
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree
- Graduate degree or professional degree (MA, MS, PhD, JD, MBA etc.)

**Q31. Including yourself, how many people live in your household?** Please print the number in the box below.

People in household

**Q32. Are you a permanent or seasonal resident of [state]?** Please mark one button (X) below.

Mark one button

(X)

**0**

Permanent

**0**

Seasonal

**Q33. On average, how far is it from your home to the places where you usually recreate?** Please print the number of miles in the box below.

Miles

**Q34. How long have you lived in the community where you now live?** Please print the number of years in the box below.

Years

**Q35. Which of the following categories applies to you?** Please mark one or more boxes (X) below.

- Employed full-time
- Employed part-time
- Unemployed
- Retired
- Student
- Homemaker/caregiver
- Self-employed/consultant
- Small business owner
- Permanently disabled

**Q36. Which category best represents your annual household income (before taxes) last year? Please mark one button (X) below.**

Mark one button

(X)

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | Less than \$24,999   |
| <input type="radio"/> | \$25,000-\$34,999    |
| <input type="radio"/> | \$35,000-\$49,999    |
| <input type="radio"/> | \$50,000-\$74,999    |
| <input type="radio"/> | \$75,000-\$99,999    |
| <input type="radio"/> | \$100,000-\$149,999  |
| <input type="radio"/> | \$150,000-\$199,999  |
| <input type="radio"/> | \$200,000 or more    |
| <input type="radio"/> | Choose not to answer |

**Thank you for your help with this important research!**



**BUREAU OF BUSINESS AND  
ECONOMIC RESEARCH**

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

**U.S.D.A. Forest Service Region 1 Social Survey**

Use envelope provided or mail to:  
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