



United States Department of Agriculture

# Social and Economic Values of BLM-Managed Forests and Woodlands

**Presented by: Josh Sidon, Regional Economist, Forest Service**  
**Western Forest Economist Meeting**  
**June 3, 2019**

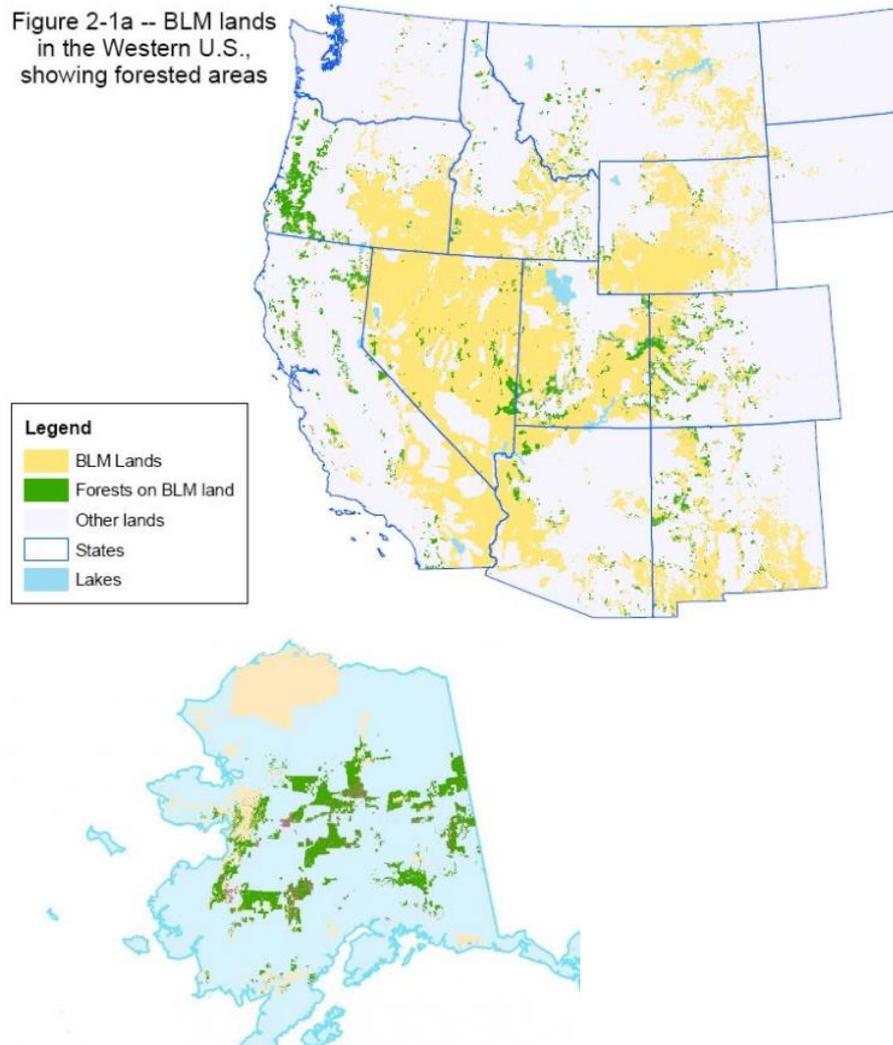


Forest Service

June 2019

# Background - Commercial Timber from BLM

Figure 2-1a -- BLM lands in the Western U.S., showing forested areas

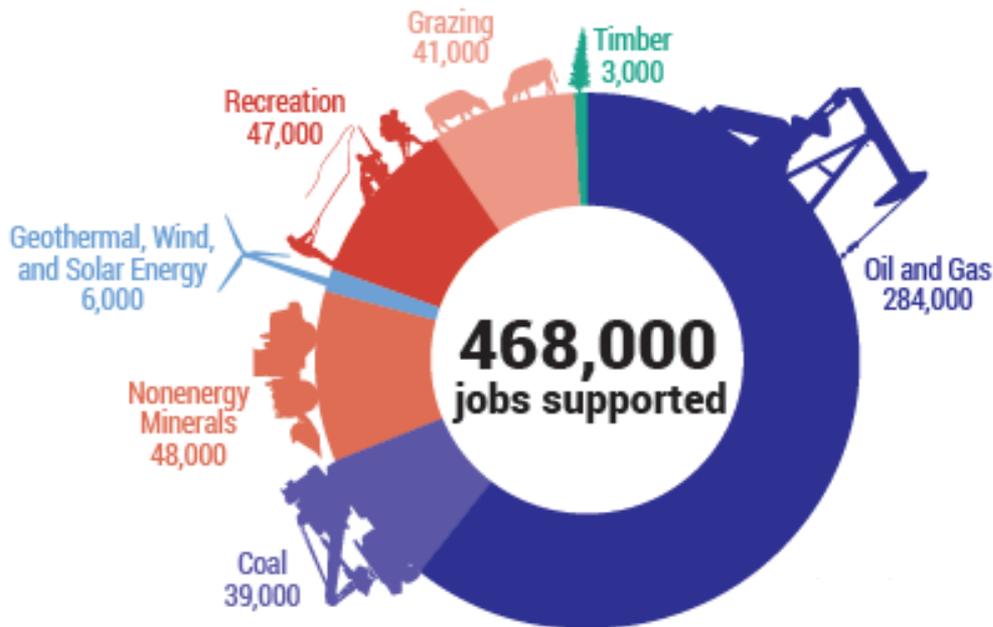


- BLM-managed forests and woodland = ~60 million acres (most in AK)
- Oregon & California (O&C) lands = ~2.5 million acres
- FY2017 commercial timber harvest:
  - ~425,000 CCF
  - ~375,000 CCF sawtimber (almost 90% from O&C)

# Background - Commercial Timber & Economic Activity

## Economic Contributions from BLM-Managed Lands

Fiscal Year 2017



- FY2017 commercial timber contributed:
  - ~675 million in total economic output
  - ~3,000 total jobs
- Represents ~0.6% of the total economic contribution for all the activities analyzed
- Over 80% attributed to O&C

# Background

- Annual feedback from BLM forestry program
  - Part frustration, misinterpretation, illumination
  - Highlighted challenges:
    - Defending program
    - Communicating the importance of forest and woodlands to leadership and the public
- Motivation for a Study
  - Objective: Broaden and more completely characterize the social and economic values associated with BLM's forests and woodlands AND to develop materials that effectively communicate this information
  - Who: Contract with HSG, IEc, and Kevin Preister
  - Deliverables: lit review, interviews, report and case studies



# Framework – “Value”

Based on lit review and interviews, defined 10 “value categories”:

- Timber and Wood Products
- Special Forest Products (SFP)
- Recreational Activity
- Aesthetic Values
- Passive Use Values
- Economic Stability
- Human Health Support
- Risk Mitigation
- Carbon Sequestration and Climate Stability
- Social and Cultural Values

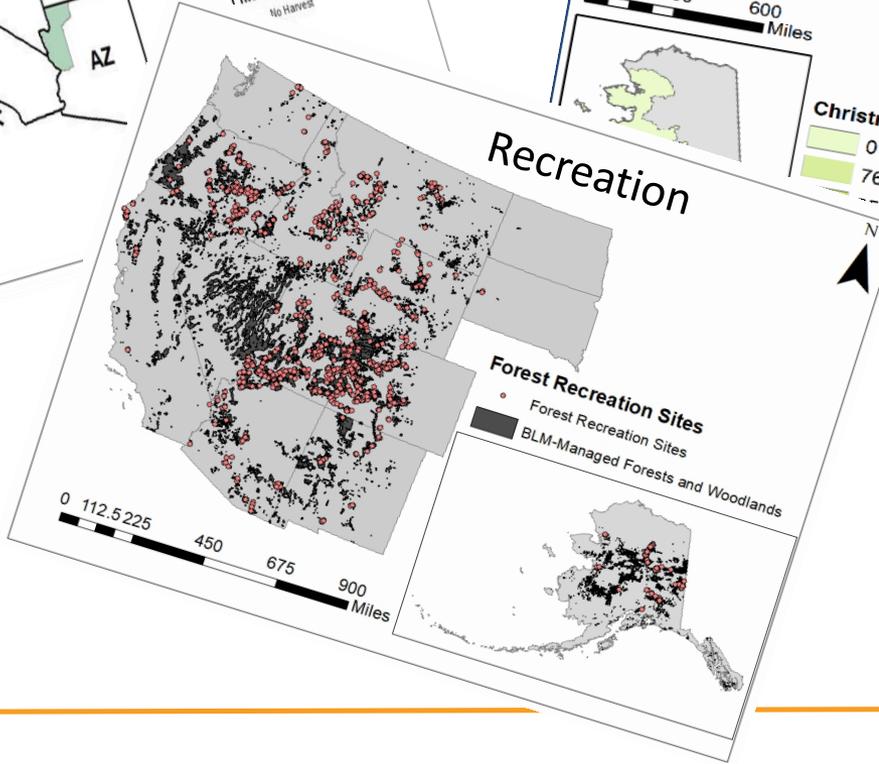
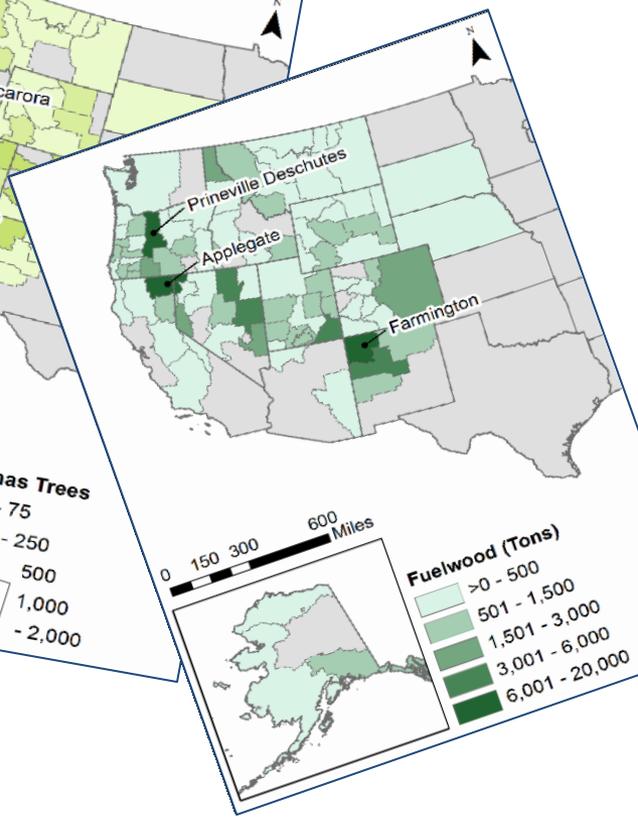
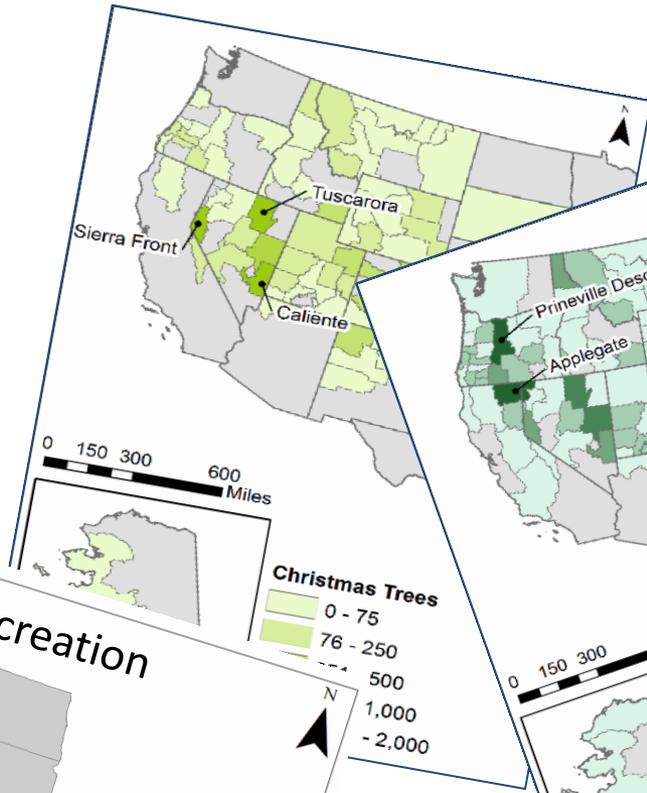
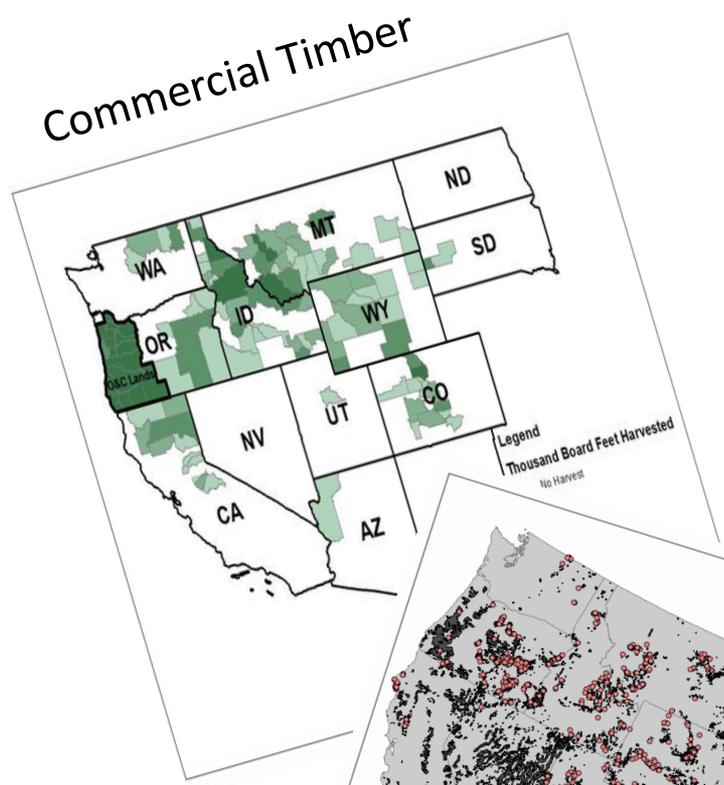


# Framework – “Value”

| Categories                           | Definitions   | How People Benefit   |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Timber and Wood Products</b>      | Commercial harvest of timber products, including house logs and saw timber  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Timber industry productivity</li> <li>▪ Economic stability and local employment opportunities</li> <li>▪ Historical and cultural importance</li> <li>▪ Ecological improvements</li> <li>▪ Community and social services funded through BLM timber contract revenues (e.g., Oregon O&amp;C lands)</li> </ul>             |
| <b>Special Forest Products (SFP)</b> | Harvest for commercial resale, personal use, or subsistence of a broad variety of forest resources, including wood products (e.g., posts, poles, firewood) and plant materials (e.g., Christmas trees, seeds, berries, florals, ornamentals, medicinal plants, mushrooms) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recreational opportunities</li> <li>▪ Historical and cultural importance</li> <li>▪ Source of primary or supplemental income</li> <li>▪ Subsistence food and fuel</li> <li>▪ Support traditional ways-of-life</li> <li>▪ Community cohesion</li> <li>▪ Energy generation (biofuels)</li> <li>▪ Medicinal use</li> </ul> |
| <b>Risk Mitigation</b>               | Improved ecosystem resilience; reduced likelihood of wildfire or damages from natural disasters   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Avoided infrastructure damage</li> <li>▪ Improved health and safety</li> <li>▪ Protection of timber and SFP resources and associated values</li> <li>▪ Public Health and social welfare benefits</li> <li>▪ Protection of wildlife and associated values</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Social and Cultural Values</b>    | Activities of everyday life and the meanings attributed to such activities, including sense of place, stewardship, and participation  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Greater sense of well-being</li> <li>▪ Spiritual significance</li> <li>▪ Maintaining lifestyle and heritage</li> <li>▪ Community cohesion</li> <li>▪ Social and community services</li> </ul>   |

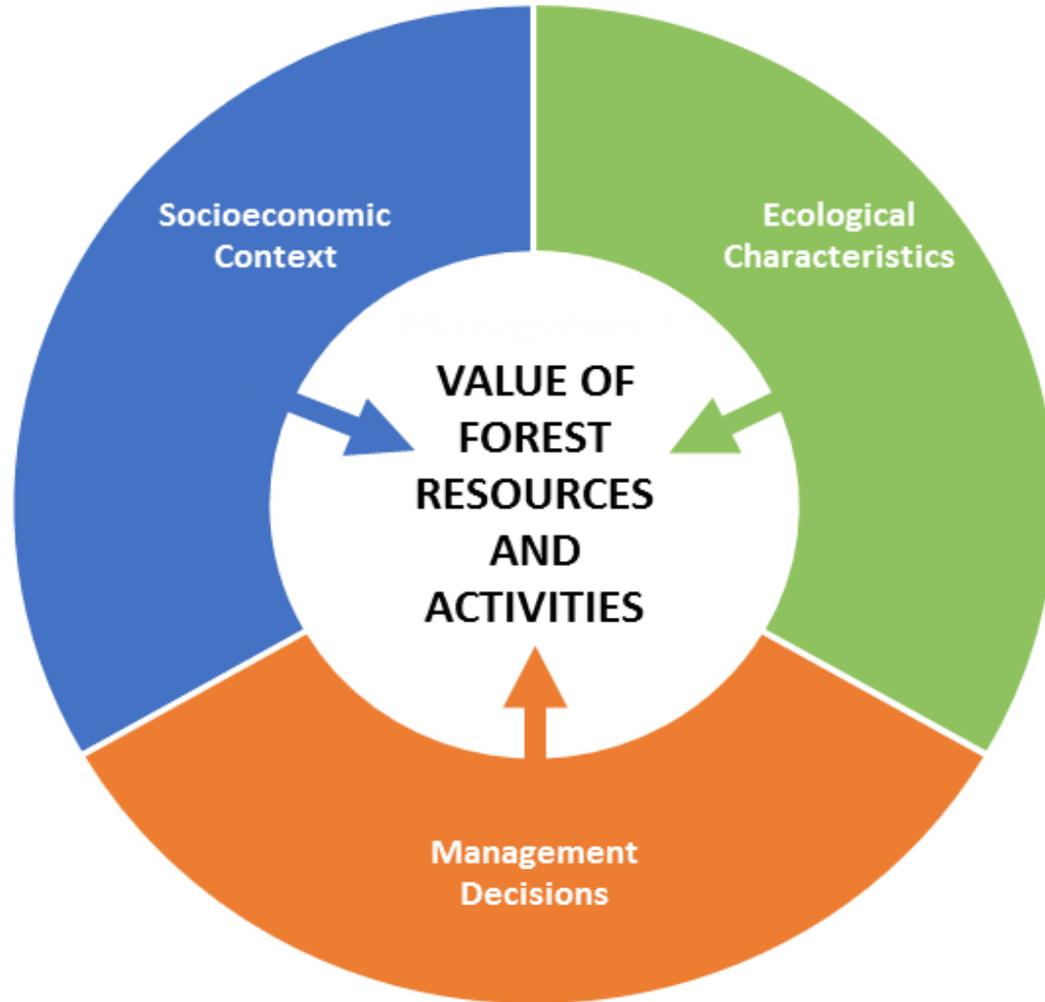


# General Characterization of Values



# Fleshing out presence and magnitude of values:

FIGURE 1. Forest Value Drivers



# Case Studies

VALUES OF BLM-MANAGED FORESTS AND WOODLANDS:  
A CASE STUDY OF COMMERCIAL TIMBER IN MONTANA

SPECIAL FOREST PRODUCTS:  
A CASE STUDY OF FIREWOOD IN NEW MEXICO

VALUES OF BLM-MANAGED FORESTS AND WOODLANDS:  
A CASE STUDY OF SUBSISTENCE IN ALASKA

SPECIAL FOREST PRODUCTS:  
A CASE STUDY OF PINE NUTS IN NEVADA

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL VALUES OF BLM-MANAGED  
FORESTS AND WOODLANDS: A CASE STUDY IN NORTHERN  
CALIFORNIA



# Concluding Thoughts

- Multiple goals and objectives of public land management
- Economic contributions → desired messaging by leadership (regardless of administration)
- For the BLM (most of USFS) → at large scale, the numbers are underwhelming
- This study attempts to communicate benefits to people of BLM management of forests and woodlands → ???

