CHAPTER 8. Outdoor Recreation

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KEY FINDINGS

- By 2060, the number of southern adults participating in each of 10 different popular outdoor recreation activities is projected to increase. Depending on future demographic, economic, land use, and population changes, the activity demonstrating the least growth in participants is hunting (8–25 percent). The activity projected to demonstrate the most growth is day hiking (70–113 percent).
- For many activities, participation will grow similarly to the population growth rate. However, the number of participants in fishing, hunting, and motorized offroading will grow slower than the regional population, as a smaller proportion of adults are projected to engage in these activities. Conversely, the growth in the number of participants in birding and day-hiking is projected to exceed that of the population.
- By 2060, the number of days that southern adults will participate annually in each of 10 different outdoor recreation activities is projected to increase. The smallest increase in days of participation will be for hunting (8–24 percent), while the largest increase in days of participation will be for day hiking (77–116 percent).
- Days of annual participation for each of the 10 activities are projected to increase at rates similar to the growth in participant numbers.
- Acres of southern forest and rangeland per recreation participant will decline by up to 50 percent across the various activities by 2060. Acres per participant in hiking will shrink the most, while acres per participant for hunting will shrink the least.
- Annual user days per acre of forest and rangeland for recreation activities will increase most by 2060 for horseback riding on trails (up to 151 percent) and hiking (up to 118 percent) and least for motorized off-road use (up to 59 percent) and hunting (up to 34 percent).

- Depending on social and economic factors, southern national forest recreation visits are projected by 2060 to increase across all site types: Wilderness (38–72 percent), day use developed sites (35–70 percent), overnight use developed sites (30–64 percent), and general forest area (22–55 percent).
- Because southern national forest acreage is expected to stay approximately constant to 2060, visits per acre across the various site types will grow at same rate as visits.

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, we address a small component of the question posed by Wear and others (2009) in defining the Southern Forest Futures Project, namely, "How will changing demographics influence associated demand for esthetic settings, recreation, and second homes?" We focus our analysis on projecting natural resource-based outdoor recreation demand at a broad regional scale, as well as at the regional national forest scale. In doing so, we hope to provide relevant information to "[e]valuate how population growth and changing demographics will affect changes in demands for different types of recreation activities, and explore implications for forest land uses" and "[e]xamine the potential for increased congestion and conflict among recreational users of forests as a result of changing supply and demand factors" (Wear and others 2009). Specifically, for the southern region through 2060, we develop and present projections of (a) the number of adult participants in 10 traditional outdoor recreation activities, (b) the number of days of adult participation in the same 10 outdoor recreation activities, and (c) the number of recreation visits to national forests in the southern region by national forest setting.

An individual is said to have participated in an outdoor recreation activity if the individual reported engaging in that activity at least once in the preceding 12 months. Participation is a general indicator of the size of a given market and can also be indicative of relative public interest. For example, if over 80 percent of the population goes day hiking, whereas only 4 percent participate in snowmobiling, public resource management agencies and private land managers may be more concerned with providing hiking trails rather than snowmobiling opportunities. It is important, therefore, for

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land managers and legislators to know how many people participate in a given recreation activity, and how this measure could change over time. Measures of participation, either per capita or absolute numbers of participants, provide the broadest measure of a recreation market.

A second measure of recreation use or demand is consumption. Consumption can be measured in such units as number of times, days, or trips in a given year. The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, has used such consumption measures as recreation visitor days and national forest visits. A consumption measure is important because it adds another dimension to participation. Although resource managers providing recreation opportunities need to know how many people participate, many of their decisions depend even more upon knowing how often and for how long people engage in an activity. Such information can be critical to the allocation of existing resources, such as campsites, and is also useful in planning the development of new venues. Participation and consumption at the regional level together provide the broadest measures of a recreation market. The regional consumption measure used in this study [item (b) above] is the number of days in the previous year that an individual, residing in the South, reported engaging in a specific activity. A day in this case follows the definition given by the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE) definition of an activity day, i.e., any amount of time spent on an activity on a given day, whether less than an hour or for several hours, whether that activity was the primary reason for recreating outdoors or not (USDA Forest Service 2009).

The preceding two metrics are origin based, i.e., resulting from household-level surveying. There is no additional information as to where the respondent engaged in the participation for any activity. Research has shown, however, that the vast majority of outdoor recreation takes place within a few hours' drive of one's residence. Another metric, based on the destination rather than origin, is the on-site visit. In addressing item (c) above, southern national forest recreation visits by each of four different site types, Wilderness, day use developed sites, overnight use developed sites, and general forest area sites are used.

Past outdoor recreation trends, as well as recent ones, are important indicators of what may happen with outdoor recreation in the near future (chapter 7, Hall and others 2009). However, simple descriptive statistics or trends do not formally explore underlying factors and associations which may be driving these trends. Thus a trend may be of limited value if the time horizon is long and factors driving the trend are expected to deviate substantially from their historic levels. Trend analysis can therefore be supplemented by development of projection models which attempt to relate recreation participation directly to factors known to influence this behavior. The projection models can then be used to simulate future participation by combining external projections of relevant factors, including population growth, with estimated model parameters. Such modeling allows changes in recreation participation and consumption behavior over time to be assessed in light of previously unseen changes in factors driving this behavior, e.g., large changes in demographic, economic, and land use factors.

Previous research (Bowker and others 1999, Bowker and others 2006, Cicchetti 1973, Hof and Kaiser 1983b, Leeworthy and others 2005) has established that factors including race, ethnicity, gender, age, income, and supply or proximity to settings affect outdoor recreation participation as well as the participation intensity or consumption. Similarly, these factors along with others, including distance and quality descriptors, have been used to explain visitation to specific sites (Bowker and others 2009, Bowker and others 2007, Englin and Shonkwiler 1995). Reliable information about these factors is often available from external sources, like the U.S. Census or parallel research efforts aimed at modeling and simulating influential variables into the future. Such information can thus be available long before recreation survey results can be obtained.

A two-step approach was used to develop projections for participation and consumption of 10 traditional outdoor recreation activities (see table 8.1). The first step, or model estimation step, focused on the development of statistical models of southern adult per capita participation and days of participation (conditional on being a participant) for each of the activities. The statistical models first represent the probability that one participated in an activity. Then, if one participated, the number of days is modeled. These models can be used to estimate the total number of participants and the total number of days of participation for each activity by regional residents. This information is important as it allows a better understanding of the factors that influence individual recreation choices or behavior. In addition, it allows one to examine how, under the assumption of static tastes and preferences, individual behavior changes over time as underlying factors change. Statistical models were also developed explaining the demand for visits to national forests in the South across the four different types of settings listed above.

The second step, or simulation step, combines the estimated models with external projections of relevant explanatory variables to generate estimated per capita participation probabilities and conditional expected days of participation for each activity at 10-year intervals to 2060. Per capita estimates are in turn combined with population projections to derive regional estimates of adult participants and days of participation for each activity. These estimates are then used to create indices by which 2008 baseline estimates of participants for the various activities, found in table 8.1, Table 8.1—Outdoor recreation activities in the South, 2008, by participation rate, number of participants, and number of days

Participation Rate	Participants (thousands)	Days (millions)
.799	63,157.5	672.2
.071	5,649.2	99.0
.252	20,283.2	462.7
.213	16,907.4	561.6
.353	28,158	412.3
.270	21,268.7	384.2
.154	12,201.6	80.0
.342	26,975.5	2,862.4
.357	28,038.5	572.5
.137	10,785.9	230.3
	Participation Rate	Participation Rate Participants (thousands) Participants (thousands) Participants (thousands) .799 63,157.5 .071 5,649.2 .071 5,649.2 .252 20,283.2 .252 20,283.2 .252 20,283.2 .252 20,283.2 .253 28,158 .270 21,268.7 .154 12,201.6 .342 26,975.5 .357 28,038.5 .137 10,785.9

Source: NSRE 2005-2009 (n=30,394), U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service 2009.

can be scaled. Indices of estimated adult participants for each of the 10 activities and days of annual participation are presented across the three 2010 Resources Planning Act (RPA) Assessment scenarios described below. For discussion, the activities are grouped into the broader categories as follows: land-based activities, water-based activities, and wildlife (see table 8.1).

For southern national forest visits, the simulation step consists of combining estimated visitation models for each site type with relevant projected explanatory variables to derive estimates of conditional expected visits at 10-year intervals to 2060. These estimates are combined with projected population changes to derive indices by which 2008 baseline estimates of visits per site type can be scaled. Indices of estimated visits for each forest site type across each of the RPA Assessment scenarios are presented below.

The remainder of the chapter proceeds as follows. First, we present a brief discussion of the statistical methods and previous research upon which our per capita participation, consumption models, and national forest visitation models are based. Next, we describe the data used in the estimation step including projections of covariates for the three assessment scenarios and relevant assumptions. We then present the results of our estimation and simulation steps for regional participation and days projections by activity and assessment scenario to 2060. Similarly, we present

projections for visits by each of the national forest site types and assessment scenarios to 2060. Finally, we discuss some of the key findings within and across categories as well as with respect to demographics.

METHODS AND DATA

Models used to assess recreation demand decisions can be grouped into three basic categories: site-specific user models, site-specific aggregate models, and population-level models (Cicchetti 1973). Population-level modeling is used to address items (a) and (b) above, while site-specific user models are developed to address item (c).

Cicchetti (1973) pioneered the use of cross-sectional population-level models with the household-based 1965 National Survey on Recreation and the Environment to estimate annual participation and use nationally for many outdoor recreation activities. Estimated models and Census Bureau projections of socio-demographic variables and population were then used to forecast participation and use to 2000. The cross-sectional population-level approach has subsequently been used to estimate and project participation and use for recreation activities at national and regional levels (Bowker 2001, Bowker and others 1999, Hof and Kaiser 1983a, 1983b, Leeworthy and others 2005, Walsh and others 1992). Alternative approaches, wherein population data were combined with individual site-level data to project participation or consumption have also been used (Bowker and others 2006, Cordell and Bergstrom 1991, Cordell and others 1990, Englin and Shonkwiler 1995, English and others 1993).

A major drawback of cross-sectional models, imposed by the nature of the data, is that the structure of the estimated models remains constant over the forecast period. For example, the factors that influence participation or use are assumed to have the same effects throughout the projection period. Hence, barring major shifts in demographics, the results are primarily driven by population growth. This assumption can be tenuous. For example, new sports brought about by technological changes or shifts in tastes and preferences, such as mountain biking, jet skiing, snowboarding, flat-water kayaking, and orienteering are unlikely to be correctly represented in the models. Moreover, if data are collected while activities are in a new or rapid growth phase, recent trends can be potentially very misleading. For example, Cordell and others (chapter 7) report a recent increase in kayaking of 154 percent, something unlikely to be sustained into the future. Nevertheless, without appropriate time-series data, researchers are left with the use of cross-sectional models and their inherent limitations, as a second-best alternative to estimate and forecast participation and use. A further drawback of these models is that it is difficult to account for the dampening effects of future congestion, supply limitations, and price changes on growth in participation and use.

Regional cross-sectional population-level logistic models are used to describe the probability of adult participation in each of the 10 activities as:

$$P_{ij} = \overline{\left[1 + \exp\left(-X_{ij}B\right)\right]}$$
(1)

1

where, P_{ij} is the probability that the jth individual participated in the ith recreation activity in the preceding year. The vector X_{ij} contains socio-demographic characteristics unique to activity i for individual j and relevant supply variables for activity i pertaining to individual j's location (table 8.2), and B represents a vector of parameters which are estimated using NLOGIT 3.0 (Greene 2003).

Logistic models for each activity, based on NSRE data from 1999–2008, were combined with 2008 baseline populationweighted sample means for the explanatory variables to create an initial predicted per capita participation rate for each activity. The per capita participation rates were recalculated at 10-year intervals using projected external data. Indices were then created for the participation rates by which the NSRE 2005-09 average population-weighted participation frequencies (baselines) were scaled, leading to indexed per capita participation rates for each of the 10 activities. Indexing the 2005-2009 averages by changes in model-predicted rates was judged to be superior in terms of mitigating potential non-linearity biases associated with complete reliance on logistic predicted values (Souter and Bowker 1996). The indexed participation rate estimates were then combined with projected changes in population, according to each of the three 2010 RPA Assessment scenarios, to yield indexed values for total adult participants across the 10 activities.

Participation intensity or consumption models are similar to the participation models listed above except that an integer metric represents use, e.g., times, days, trips, modeled rather than the binary (yes/no) choice to participate. The general specification for the population-level consumption model is,

$$Y_{ij} = f(X_j, Q_j) + u_j$$
⁽²⁾

where, Y_{ij} represents the annual number of times or days that individual j participates in activity i, X_j is a vector of sociodemographic characteristics associated with individual j, Q_j is a vector of supply relevant variables, and u_j is a random disturbance term. These integer or count data models are often estimated using negative binomial specifications with a link function of semi-logarithmic form (Bowker 2001, Bowker and others 1999, Zawacki and others 2000).

Alternatively, if one thinks that observed zeros for the dependent variable are excessive or not entirely caused by the same data generating process as the positive values, a hurdle model structure can be employed (Cameron and Trivedi 1998, p. 124). The hurdle model combines the probability of participation (threshold) with the estimated number of days for those participating, i.e.,

$$Y_{ij} = P_{ij} * Y_{ij}, _{y>0}$$
(3)

The hurdle model allows different vectors of explanatory variables for the respective probability and conditional days portions of the model, here estimated as a truncated negative binomial, and thus leads to two unique sets of estimated parameters. Model parameters for each of the 10 models for regional activity days were estimated with NLOGIT 3.0 (Greene 2003) using NSRE data for southern households from 1999 to 2008. Similar to the procedure with the participation models and indices, hurdle model parameter estimates are combined with 2008 NSRE baseline participation and days estimates, projected explanatory variables, and projected population changes under each of the RPA Assessment scenarios (A1B, A2, B2) to provide indices of projected growth of annual days of participation for the 10 activities listed in table 8.1.

Site specific user models were developed to describe the demand for recreation visits to southern national forests by each of four forest settings: Wilderness, day use developed sites, overnight use developed sites, and general forest area

Variable	Description
Gender	1=male
American Indian	1=American Indian, non-Hispanic, 0=otherwise
Asian/Pacific Islander	1=Asian/Pac Islander, 0=otherwise
Hispanic	1=Hispanic, 0=otherwise
Black	1=Black, non-Hispanic, 0=otherwise
Bachelor's	1=Bachelor's degree, 0=otherwise
Below High School	1=Less than high school, 0=otherwise
Post Graduate	1=Post-graduate degree, 0=otherwise
Some College	1=Some college or technical school, 0=otherwise
Age	Respondent age in years
Age Squared	Respondent age squared
Income	Respondent household income (2007 dollars)
Population Density	County area divided by population. Base 1997.
Coastal	1=County on coast, 0 otherwise
for_ran_pcap	Sum of forest land acres and rangeland acres divided by population at county level and at 50, 100, 200-mile radii. Base 1997.
water_pcap	Water acres divided by population at county level and at 50, 100, 200-mile radii. Base 1997.
mtns_pcap	Acres in mountainous divided by population. Base 1997.
pct_mtns_pcap	Percentage of county acres in mountains divided by population (x100000). Base 1997.
natpark_pcap	Number of nature parks and similar institutions divided by population (x100000). Base 1997
fed_land_pcap	Sum USFS, NPS, USFWS, BLM, USBR, TVA, and USACE acreage divided by population. Base 1997.
avg_elev	Average elevation in meters at county level and 50, 100, 200-mile radii. Base 1997.

Table 8.2—Socioeconomic and supply variables for participation and days projections for outdoor recreation activities in the South

sites. These settings correspond to the sampling strata used to collect all visitor use information in the national forest system (English and others 2002, USDA Forest Service 2010). The data used for the on-site visitation models were obtained from the Forest Service's National Visitor Use Monitoring Program database for round one and pooled across all national forests in the South.

Pooled, on-site, individual travel cost models are commonly used to examine forest recreation visitation (Bowker and others 2007, Englin and Shonkwiler 1995, Ovaskainen and others 2001). The modeling approach follows Englin and Shonkwiler (1995) wherein a truncated negative binomial specification, adjusted to account for endogenous stratification, is used with a semi-logarithmic link function. For each of the site types, the models can be generally specified as:

$$Ln Y_{ik} = f (TC_{ik}, SE_i, QS_k)$$
(4)

where, Ln Y_{ik} is the natural log of annual visits by the ith group to the kth forest, TC_{ik} is the travel cost for the ith group

to the k^{th} forest, SE_i is a vector of characteristics of the ith group, and QS_k is a vector of characteristics related to the k^{th} forest. For a more complete discussion of the modeling approach and procedures see Sardana (2010).

Similar to the simulation step in the participation and days projections, model parameter estimates were first combined with projected values for relevant explanatory variables to obtain projections of per-group visits to each of the four site types at 10-year intervals to 2060. These estimates were in turn adjusted for average group size (number in travel party) by setting type to obtain projections of conditional site visits per group. Englin and Shonkwiler (1995) applied such conditional site visit means across a general population to forecast Wilderness visits in the State of Washington. However, this approach is misguided if the unknown population of potential visitors is not identical to the overall State or regional population. To address this problem, and to create appropriate growth indices, we assume that the proportion of the population who would be in the market to visit southern national forests is an unknown constant, K, of some magnitude less than one. Therefore, the total change in visits for a given site type between any two time periods can be represented as:

$$dTV_{t,t+1} = [K_{t+1} * E(Y)_{t+1} * POP_{t+1} - K_t * E(Y)_t * POP_t]$$
(5)

where, d represents the total differential operator, TV_t is the total annual visits in time t, $E(Y)_t$ is mean visits per group from the truncated negative binomial model, and POP_t is the overall population in time t. As the K's in (5) are assumed constant, an index of change can be created dividing the first term by the second term in (5) and using the model parameters along with projections of explanatory variables and population for the given time period. Estimates of southern national forest visits by site type for 2008 derived from the National Visitor Use Monitoring Program database can then be scaled by the estimated growth index to derive projections of visits to 2060.

RESULTS

The results reported in this section combine the models and indexing procedures discussed above with projections of population change, economic growth, and land use change common to three future scenarios from the Forest Service's 2010 RPA Assessment. The goal of the Assessment is to characterize the common demographic, socioeconomic, and technological driving forces underlying changes in resource conditions in order to evaluate the sensitivity of resource trends to a feasible future range of these driving forces. The use of scenarios links underlying assumptions of the individual analyses and frames the future uncertainty in these driving forces within the integrated modeling and analysis framework of the 2010 RPA Assessment.

Three scenarios, considered equally likely, were chosen that are linked to globally consistent and welldocumented scenarios used in the Fourth Assessment by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 2007). The scenarios include a range of future global and U.S. socioeconomic and climate conditions that are likely to have different effects on future U.S. resource conditions and trends (USDA Forest Service 2012). The IPCC scenario "names" have been maintained in both the RPA Assessment and in this chapter of the Southern Forest Futures Project documentation for continuity: A1B, A2, and B2. The IPCC global data were scaled to the U.S. national and sub-national levels, here the South, to facilitate the resource analyses for the 2010 RPA Assessment. U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) and population projections used in IPCC analyses were updated, and the updated U.S. population and disposable personal income data were then downscaled to the southern county level (USDA Forest Service 2010, Zarnoch and others 2010).

As shown in figures 8.1 and 8.2, A1B corresponds to midrange population growth and the highest household income level of the three IPCC scenarios. Under this scenario, the South can expect to see about 164 million people (135 million adults) and an average household income of \$129,000 by 2060. Scenario A2 projects the highest population growth, reaching about 185 million people (152 million adults) by 2060, and the lowest projected household income, around \$91,000. Scenario B2 projects the lowest population growth and mid-level personal income, predicting a population of 145 million people (120 million adults) with average household income about \$96,000.

In accordance with the assessment scenarios A1B, A2, and B2, projected land use changes are incorporated from Wear (2011) to develop supply variables listed in table 8.2. Nationally, Wear's projections indicate an increase in urban area of 1-1.4 million acres per year between 1997 and 2060, with a decline in forest area of 24-37 million acres, and decline in cropland of 19-28 million acres by 2060. Wear also projects that about 90 percent of forecasted forest land losses are found in the Eastern United States with more than half in the South. For the South, Wear (chapter 4) forecasts forest acreage losses of 11-23 million acres or about 7-13 percent for Cornerstones based on scenarios A1B and B2. Based on the forecasts of land use change from Wear (chapter 4) across the three scenarios adopted in this chapter, forest and rangeland per capita across the South between 2008 and 2060 is expected to decline about 45 percent under A1B, 50 percent under A2, and about 37 percent under B2. Federal lands and areas covered by water are assumed static throughout the projection period. Further details regarding explanatory variables can be found in chapter 8-appendix A (retrievable at http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/trends/research/sffpa2010. html).

Participants and Days of Recreation Participation

Estimation results for the participation and days models and related projections for A1B, A2, and B2 are reported in chapter 8-appendix A (retrievable at http://www.srs.fs.usda. gov/trends/research/sffpa2010.html). Reported results include model estimates for each activity, values and definitions for explanatory variables by scenario and year, odds ratios which indicate the odds of participation occurring in one group to the odds of it occurring in another group, and graphics of overall participant growth by activity and assessment scenario. Throughout the remainder of this sub-section, we present the results for per capita and overall changes in participation and days of participation by activity and scenario at 10-year intervals from 2010 to 2060.

Land-based activities—Land-based activities include developed site use, hiking, horseback riding on trails, motorized off-roading, and visiting primitive areas (table



Figure 8.1-Population growth from 2008 to 2060 in the South.



Figure 8.2—National Survey on Recreation and the Environment average real household income growth, 2008 to 2060, in the South.

8.1). Developed site use is the most popular of the land-based outdoor recreation activities, both nationally and in the South. This composite activity includes family gatherings, picnicking, and developed camping. On average, between 2005 and 2009, this activity was practiced by about 80 percent of southern adults, or more than 63 million people, accounting for 672 million days of participation in 2008. Moreover, because our projections only relate to adults and many kids participate in these activities, participation including all age groups should be much higher. As table 8.3 indicates, per capita participation growth in this activity is expected to be static over the next 50 years across each of the assessment scenarios with A1B showing the most change at less than a 3-percent change from 2008. However, as this composite activity is highly popular to begin with, the static participation rate means that overall participants in this activity will grow by the rate at which the population increases for each scenario (see table 8.3). Thus A2, which has the greatest expected population growth, demonstrated an increase in participants of nearly 90 percent to approximately 121 million adults per year. Days per participant in developed site use is projected to remain constant across each of the three scenarios. Hence, total days of developed site use will follow growth in participant numbers and range from 53 to 90 percent over the next 5 decades.

Hiking is perhaps the most popular single land-based backcountry activity. In 2008 about 33 percent of adults nationally participated in hiking. In the South, 25 percent of adults participated in hiking totaling about 20 million participants and 463 million days of hiking annually (table 8.4). Among the three assessment scenarios, hiking participation per capita is expected to increase by 12 to 15 percent by 2060, increasing the most under A1B (table 8.4). As the participation rates are similar across scenarios, A2's higher population growth leads to the greatest increase in hiking participants over the time span, nearly 113 percent, resulting in about 44 million hikers by 2060. Scenarios B2 and A1B led to hiking participant increases from 2008 of about 70 percent and 96 percent, respectively. A notable model result for hiking is that it is the only activity in this chapter for which Hispanic ethnicity is associated with a higher participation rate and higher days per participant than whites (see chapter 8-appendix A retrievable at http://www. srs.fs.usda.gov/trends/research/sffpa2010.html).

Horseback riding on trails, while the least popular of the land-based activities in this chapter, is nevertheless engaged in by seven percent of southern adults annually (table 8.5). Unlike developed use and hiking, per capita participation in horseback riding on trails is projected to decrease by five to nine percent in two of the three scenarios (B2, A2). In scenario A1B, however, per capita participation is expected to increase by about nine percent over the next 50 years. The number of participants in this activity increases under scenarios A1B and A2 from about 5.6 million in 2008 to about 10 million by 2060. Despite A1B's lower population growth, greater income growth under this scenario yields more participants. Annual riding days per participant is static under A2, but increases by 8 to 26 percent under B2 and A1B, respectively. Combined with the participation rate changes and population growth, horseback riding on trails by Southerners is projected to increase from a total of about 100 million days in 2008 to 150-230 million days annually by 2060 (table 8.5).

Motorized off-road driving increased in popularity among Southerners by 42 percent from 1999 to 2009 (chapter 7, table 8.6). In 2008, approximately 21 percent or 17 million adults took part in off-road driving, accounting for more than 560 million days region-wide. This total makes motorized off-roading second only to visiting developed sites for days of use among the land-based activities. However, participation rates are projected to decline by about eight percent across scenarios A1B, A2, and B2 over the next five decades resulting in participant numbers growing less than the population growth rate (table 8.6). By 2060, the number of participants in motorized off-roading is projected to increase 26-50 percent, depending on the scenario. Annual days per participant is expected to decline by up to three percent; therefore the total number of days for this activity will grow slightly less than participant numbers, or from 24 to 48 percent during the same time frame, which is less than population growth.

Visiting primitive areas is the final land-based activity examined in this chapter. It is an aggregate, which consists of participating in NSRE activities such as backpacking, primitive camping, and visiting a wilderness, either designated or undesignated. This composite accounted for 28 million participants in 2008, or about 35 percent of all adults in the South (table 8.1). These participants visited primitive areas on 412 million days in 2008. Annual per capita participation in this category is expected to decline by up to 7 percent over the next 50 years (table 8.7). Increased population density and declines in forest and rangeland per capita appear to be factors influencing the participation rate decline (see chapter 8-appendix A retrievable at http:// www.srs.fs.usda.gov/trends/research/sffpa2010.html). However, overall participation is expected to increase by 43 to 76 percent across the three scenarios by 2060 because population growth offsets the small decline in participation rates. Annual days of visiting primitive areas per participant is projected to remain nearly constant throughout the simulation period, therefore the growth in total days per year will closely follow adult population growth and range from 44 to 79 percent across the three future alternatives used in this chapter.

Table 8.3—Developed site use (family gatherings, picnicking, or developed camping) as part of outdoor recreation activities in the South for 2010 and projected to 2060 by participation rate, number of participants, and days per participant for Resources Planning Act (RPA) scenarios. (RPA scenario A1B corresponds to Cornerstone Futures A, B, and E. RPA scenario B2 corresponds to Cornerstone Futures C, D, and F.)

Participation rate		Per capita participation index					
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
0.799	A1B	1.00128	1.004375	1.006045	1.0103	1.016267	1.02331
0.799	A2	0.99992	1.000946	1.000462	1.001864	1.004499	1.007731
0.799	B2	1.00276	1.003951	1.002652	1.004684	1.008491	1.010542
Adult participants (thousands)		Participants index					
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
63157.5	A1B	1.02711	1.172944	1.33204	1.474788	1.607101	1.738229
64252.81	A2	1.02846	1.184915	1.359355	1.525197	1.70001	1.900895
62992.86	B2	1.02821	1.169015	1.292198	1.374478	1.452541	1.528463
Days per participant				Per capita	days index		
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
10.61488	A1B	1.00016	1.000722	1.001326	1.001467	1.001553	1.001659
10.61488	A2	1.00016	1.000699	1.001287	1.001411	1.001479	1.001569
10.61488	B2	1.00017	1.000712	1.00131	1.001452	1.001525	1.00159
Total days (millions)				Total day	ys index		
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
672.2	A1B	1.02728	1.173791	1.333806	1.476952	1.609596	1.741113
683.8577	A2	1.02863	1.185743	1.361105	1.527348	1.702524	1.903877
670.4477	B2	1.02838	1.169847	1.293891	1.376473	1.454756	1.530894

Source: http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/trends/research/sffpa2010.html

Table 8.4—Hiking as part of outdoor recreation activities in the South for 2010 and projected to 2060 by participation rate, number of participants, and days per participant for Resources Planning Act (RPA) scenarios. (RPA scenario A1B corresponds to Cornerstone Futures A, B, and E. RPA scenario B2 corresponds to Cornerstone Futures C, D, and F.)

Participation rate			Pei	r capita parti	cipation ind	ex	
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
0.252	A1B	1.00605	1.031514	1.055053	1.084983	1.119007	1.15579
0.252	A2	1.00371	1.025849	1.046013	1.071215	1.099834	1.130571
0.252	B2	1.00879	1.030516	1.046885	1.069836	1.097007	1.120834
Adult participants (thousands)				Participa	nts index		
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
20283.2	A1B	1.03201	1.204638	1.396929	1.583806	1.769571	1.963266
20634.96	A2	1.03236	1.214396	1.421246	1.630774	1.861355	2.13261
20230.33	B2	1.03439	1.199947	1.349204	1.463611	1.580032	1.695281
Days per participant				Per capita	days index		
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
22.93241	A1B	1.00131	1.005806	1.011284	1.016951	1.023362	1.030894
22.93241	A2	1.00104	1.004255	1.008036	1.011268	1.013613	1.014911
22.93241	B2	1.00135	1.006119	1.014205	1.024453	1.034866	1.045992
Total days (millions)				Total day	/s index		
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
462.7	A1B	1.03336	1.211632	1.412692	1.610654	1.810911	2.023918
470.7244	A2	1.03344	1.219563	1.432668	1.649149	1.886693	2.16441
461.4938	B2	1.03579	1.20729	1.368369	1.4994	1.635121	1.77325

Source: http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/trends/research/sffpa2010.html

Table 8.5—Horseback riding on trails as part of outdoor recreation activities in the South for 2010 and projected to 2060 by participation rate, number of participants, and days per participant for Resources Planning Act (RPA) scenarios. (RPA scenario A1B corresponds to Cornerstone Futures A, B, and E. RPA scenario B2 corresponds to Cornerstone Futures C, D, and F.)

Participation rate			Pe	r capita parti	cipation ind	ex	
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
0.071	A1B	1.00612	1.003754	0.985406	0.999309	1.035266	1.087135
0.071	A2	0.99265	0.969614	0.931027	0.915953	0.914336	0.918211
0.071	B2	1.02113	0.999758	0.953196	0.945632	0.957732	0.952997
Adult participants (thousands)			Participants index				
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
5649.2	A1B	1.03208	1.172219	1.304713	1.458744	1.637146	1.846645
5747.172	A2	1.02099	1.147825	1.265012	1.39441	1.547419	1.732034
5634.474	B2	1.02113	0.999758	0.953196	0.945632	0.957732	0.952997
Days per participant				Per capita	days index		
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
17.67102	A1B	1.01537	1.051192	1.075871	1.114747	1.175211	1.264171
17.67102	A2	0.99742	1.002701	0.99473	0.987054	0.984611	0.987825
17.67102	B2	1.03525	1.046258	1.034731	1.048706	1.079023	1.085742
Total days (millions)				Total day	/s index		
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
99	A1B	1.04795	1.232227	1.403703	1.626131	1.923993	2.334475
100.7169	A2	1.01835	1.150925	1.258345	1.376358	1.523606	1.710946
98.74192	B2	1.08396	1.217983	1.271125	1.356701	1.48844	1.565016

Source: http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/trends/research/sffpa2010.html

Table 8.6—Motorized off-road driving as part of outdoor recreation activities in the South for 2010 and projected to 2060 by participation rate, number of participants, and days per participant for Resources Planning Act (RPA) scenarios. (RPA scenario A1B corresponds to Cornerstone Futures A, B, and E. RPA scenario B2 corresponds to Cornerstone Futures C, D, and F.)

Participation rate			Pe	r capita parti	icipation ind	ex	
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
0.213	A1B	0.99766	0.957862	0.906493	0.884038	0.879865	0.886648
0.213	A2	0.98756	0.930879	0.863019	0.818057	0.784222	0.75284
0.213	B2	1.0082	0.955955	0.891692	0.865497	0.855411	0.835686
Adult participants (thousands)			Participants index				
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
16907.4	A1B	1.0234	1.118624	1.20023	1.290476	1.391398	1.506091
17200.62	A2	1.01575	1.10197	1.172607	1.245377	1.327214	1.420091
16863.33	B2	1.03379	1.113128	1.149195	1.18406	1.232058	1.26399
Days per participant				Per capita	days index		
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
33.29748	A1B	0.99909	0.994347	0.987165	0.983684	0.981891	0.980326
33.29748	A2	0.99905	0.993779	0.985774	0.980973	0.976998	0.971912
33.29748	B2	0.99912	0.99424	0.987199	0.984712	0.984311	0.984114
Total days (millions)				Total day	ys index		
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
561.6	A1B	1.02247	1.1123	1.184825	1.269421	1.366202	1.47646
571.3396	A2	1.01478	1.095115	1.155925	1.221681	1.296686	1.380204
560.136	B2	1.03287	1.106717	1.134484	1.165959	1.212728	1.24391

Source: http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/trends/research/sffpa2010.html

Table 8.7—Primitive activities (visiting a wilderness, primitive camping, backpacking) as part of outdoor recreation activities in the South for 2010 and projected to 2060 by participation rate, number of participants, and days per participant for Resources Planning Act (RPA) scenarios. (RPA scenario A1B corresponds to Cornerstone Futures A, B, and E. RPA scenario B2 corresponds to Cornerstone Futures C, D, and F.)

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Participation rate			Per	r capita parti	icipation ind	ex	
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
0.353	A1B	1.00011	0.990617	0.975478	0.972364	0.97673	0.985278
0.353	A2	0.99614	0.980348	0.95872	0.9467	0.939954	0.934888
0.353	B2	1.00443	0.989538	0.966515	0.957866	0.956245	0.949698
Adult participants (thousands)			Participants index				
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
28158.1	A1B	1.02592	1.156877	1.291568	1.41941	1.544578	1.673628
28646.43	A2	1.02458	1.160532	1.302639	1.441217	1.590774	1.763491
28084.7	B2	1.02992	1.152233	1.245625	1.310427	1.37729	1.436435
Days per participant				Per capita	days index		
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
14.5468	A1B	1.00011	1.001487	1.00081	1.003275	1.006743	1.009793
14.5468	A2	1.00025	1.002073	1.001824	1.004803	1.009072	1.013173
14.5468	B2	1.00009	1.001351	0.999549	1.000399	1.002826	1.005186
Total days (millions)				Total day	ys index		
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
412.3	A1B	1.02603	1.158598	1.292615	1.424059	1.554994	1.690018
419.4503	A2	1.02483	1.162938	1.305015	1.448139	1.605205	1.786722
411.2252	B2	1.03001	1.153789	1.245064	1.310951	1.381182	1.443884

Source: http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/trends/research/sffpa2010.html

Water-based activities—Two water-based activity aggregates are examined in this chapter, motorized and non-motorized (table 8.1). Motorized water use includes motor boating, waterskiing, and personal watercraft use. Twenty-seven percent of southern adults, or about 21 million participants, accounted for approximately 384 million days of motorized water use in 2008. Taken separately, these activities all experienced relatively strong growth in participants from 1999 to 2009 (chapter 7). The participation rate for motorized water use is projected to increase by 10 percent to 2060 under scenario A1B, while decreasing by up to five percent under scenarios A2 and B2 (table 8.8). The difference can be attributed to A1B's higher growth rate for household income which is an important driver of this activity (see chapter 8- appendix A retrievable at http://www. fs.usda.gov/trends/research/sffpa2010.html). Combining the participation rate change with population growth yields projected increases in total participants by 2060 of 48 to 87 percent. Annual days per participant is expected to be stable at 18 days per year under A1B, but decline slightly under A2 and B2. Total days of motorized water use will therefore grow faster than adult population under A1B, but somewhat less than the population under scenarios A2 and B2. By 2060, annual days of motorized water use are expected to

grow from 2008 levels by 38 to 86 percent, totaling 528-714 million days annually.

Non-motorized water use is an aggregate which includes canoeing, kayaking, and rafting. In 2008 approximately 15 percent or 12 million adults in the South participated in this activity resulting in 80 million days of use (table 8.1). Although rafting grew by just 5 percent between 1999 and 2009, canoeing (39 percent) and kayaking (154 percent) grew dramatically during the same period (chapter 7, table 8.7). Despite rapid growth over the past decade, per capita adult participation in non-motorized water activities is projected to be stable out to 2060, resulting in participant numbers growing at the same rate as the population, or 5-81 percent (table 8.9). This activity is less affected by income than its motorized counterpart. Hence, A2 with greater population growth yields the biggest increase in participants. Days per participant is expected to remain about constant over time at about seven, meaning that the current 80 million days for this activity will increase to 115-141 million days by 2060.

Wildlife-based activities—Three wildlife activities are assessed in this chapter: birding, fishing, and hunting. Birding, a non-consumptive activity, consists of viewing Table 8.8—Motorized water activities (motor boating, waterskiing, or using personal watercraft) as part of outdoor recreation activities in the South for 2010 and projected to 2060 by participation rate, number of participants, and days per participant for Resources Planning Act (RPA) scenarios. (RPA scenario A1B corresponds to Cornerstone Futures A, B, and E. RPA scenario B2 corresponds to Cornerstone Futures C, D, and F.)

Participation rate		Per capita participation index					
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
0.27	A1B	1.00734	1.014868	1.010267	1.026023	1.057717	1.102462
0.27	A2	0.99533	0.984415	0.960997	0.950488	0.949452	0.953869
0.27	B2	1.0207	1.011029	0.979127	0.973127	0.982065	0.975312
Adult participants (thousands)		Participants index					
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
21268.7	A1B	1.03333	1.185198	1.337631	1.497739	1.672649	1.87268
21637.55	A2	1.02374	1.165345	1.305732	1.446985	1.606848	1.799296
21213.26	B2	1.0466	1.177257	1.26188	1.331306	1.41448	1.475177
Days per participant				Per capita	days index		
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
18.20546	A1B	1.00211	0.995464	0.983224	0.979496	0.983172	0.993332
18.20546	A2	0.99588	0.979454	0.957283	0.939857	0.926315	0.914961
18.20546	B2	1.009	0.993569	0.968414	0.955711	0.950136	0.937173
Total days (millions)				Total day	/s index		
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
384.2	A1B	1.03551	1.179822	1.31519	1.467029	1.644502	1.860192
390.863	A2	1.01952	1.141402	1.249956	1.359958	1.488447	1.646286
383.1985	B2	1.05602	1.169686	1.222022	1.272343	1.343948	1.382495

Source: http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/trends/research/sffpa2010.html

Table 8.9—Participation in whitewater activities (canoeing, kayaking, or rafting) as part of outdoor recreation activities in the South for 2010 and projected to 2060 by participation rate, number of participants, and days per participant for Resources Planning Act (RPA) scenarios. (RPA scenario A1B corresponds to Cornerstone Futures A, B, and E. RPA scenario B2 corresponds to Cornerstone Futures C, D, and F.)

Participation rate			Pe	r capita parti	icipation ind	ex	
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
0.154	A1B	1.00312	0.999375	0.982134	0.993721	1.022044	1.0596
0.154	A2	0.99461	0.978312	0.948653	0.942407	0.948409	0.958434
0.154	B2	1.01282	0.996408	0.958152	0.951875	0.961969	0.960829
Adult participants (thousands)			Participants index				
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
12201.6	A1B	1.029	1.167105	1.300382	1.450587	1.616236	1.799874
12413.21	A2	1.02301	1.158121	1.28896	1.434682	1.605084	1.807906
12169.79	B2	1.03853	1.160231	1.234847	1.302232	1.385535	1.453271
Days per participant				Per capita	days index		
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
6.576664	A1B	0.99965	0.996812	0.994198	0.989302	0.983887	0.978904
6.576664	A2	0.99956	0.996113	0.992653	0.986506	0.979073	0.970976
6.576664	B2	0.99968	0.996803	0.994834	0.991485	0.987636	0.984023
Total days (millions)				Total day	/s index		
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
80	A1B	1.02865	1.163385	1.292836	1.435069	1.590194	1.761904
81.38741	A2	1.02256	1.15362	1.27949	1.415322	1.571494	1.755434
79.79145	B2	1.0382	1.156522	1.228468	1.291143	1.368404	1.430052

Source: http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/trends/research/sffpa2010.html

or photographing birds. This activity is very popular in the South, involving 34 percent of the adult population or 27 million people. Among all the activities in this chapter, birding, at 106, has the highest annual days per participant (table 8.1) accounting for about 2,900 million days annually. This extremely high value is likely reflective of the many levels or intensities of birding, from watching feeders to pursuing sightings in remote forests or along the coast. Cordell and others (chapter 7) report that birding participation increased by nearly 30 percent from 1999 to 2009. Per capita participation in birding is projected to increase 7 to 10 percent over the next five decades meaning that birders will increase faster than the adult population at large across each of the future scenarios used herein (table 8.10). By 2060 birding participants are projected to number 44-56 million in the South. Days per participant are expected to decline by 9-13 percent over the same time period. This decline will mean that the total number of days per year of birding by Southerners will increase marginally less than the population, or 47-75 percent by 2060.

Fishing, as defined here, is a composite including various types of saltwater and freshwater pursuits. Fishing has the second highest participation rate (36 percent) for Southerners among the activities examined in this chapter. In 2008, approximately 28 million anglers accounted for 572 million days of participation (table 8.1). Fishing participants increased in the South by over 20 percent in the past decade (chapter 7, table 8.7). Across each of the futures scenarios used in this chapter, the fishing participation rate is projected to decline by 10 to 18 percent over the next five decades (table 8.11). Thus, the number of Southern anglers will grow slower than the regional population. Projected growth rates for participants of 32-54 are expected. Days per participant will remain at about 20 per year across A1B, A2, and B2. Therefore, the number of days of fishing is expected to grow considerably slower than the population, or 30-51 percent. Nevertheless, fishing will remain among the top recreation activities in the South accounting for 742-859 million days in 2060.

Hunting is the final activity examined in this section. Here, hunting consists of an aggregate including all types of legal hunting, including big game, small game, waterfowl, and varmint. Approximately 10 to 11 million adults in the South, or over 13 percent, reported hunting in 2008 on a total of 230 million days (table 8.1). Cordell and others (chapter 7) report that small game hunting participants increased by 16 percent, and big game hunters increased by 25 percent from 1999 to 2009. Findings from our models, suggest that per capita participation by southerners in hunting has peaked and will decline by 26-42 percent over the next five decades (table 8.12). A number of factors appear to be driving the participation rate decline including: increasing population density, growth in Asian and Hispanic population

proportions, increasing levels of education, and declining forest and rangeland per capita (chapter 8-appendix A retrievable at http://www.fs.usda.gov/trends/research/ sffpa2010.html). Despite the declining participation rate, the number of southern hunters is expected to increase out to 2060 by 8 to 25 percent for scenarios B2 and A1B, respectively (table 8.12). Days of participation per hunter, currently around 22, is projected to remain relatively constant regardless of the selected future scenario. Total days of hunting are forecast to grow at about the same rate as hunter numbers, by 8-24 percent. By 2060 the southern adults will account for 248-286 million days of hunting annually.

Visits to Southern National Forests

Estimation results for visits to southern national forests and related projections for A1B, A2, and B2 are reported in appendix B (retrievable at http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/ trends/research/sffpb2010.html). Reported results include on-site visitation model estimates for each of the four site types, values for explanatory variables by scenario and year, population projections and site visit indexes. Beginning with over 30 million site visits annually in 2008 (table 8.13), we present the results for annual visits per group and overall changes in total Southern national forest visitation by site type and scenario at 10-year intervals, from 2010 to 2060.

Developed use day sites—Visitation to developed use day sites is the second most popular of site types encountered in Southern national forests accounting for 6.5 million recreation visits in 2008. Depending on the specific national forest, these sites include some combination of built structures including picnic areas, playgrounds, shelters, boat ramps, toilets, parking lots, and the like. Groups visiting developed use day sites averaged more than 12 person-trips per year (e.g., a family of four traveling to the site 3 times per year). Annual visits per group are projected to decline 5-8 percent by 2060 across the three scenarios used in this chapter (table 8.14). However, as population is forecast to increase with each scenario, visits to developed use day sites are projected to rise by 35 percent under the lower population growth of B2, 47 percent under mid-population growth A1B, and by approximately 70 percent under scenario A2 wherein population is expected to increase by 77 percent.

Overnight use developed sites—As the name implies, overnight use developed sites have facilities which accommodate overnight stays such as cottages, recreation vehicle hook-ups, camp sites, electricity, and running water. Southern national forests experienced about 2.3 million visits to these sites in 2008 (table 8.13). Annual visits per group averaged around 10, and are projected to decline by 7 percent under A2 and by 14 percent under scenario A1B. However, because of forecasted population growth, an increase of Table 8.10—Participation in birding (viewing or photographing birds) as part of outdoor recreation activities in the South for 2010 and projected to 2060 by participation rate, number of participants, and days per participant for Resources Planning Act (RPA) scenarios. (RPA scenario A1B corresponds to Cornerstone Futures A, B, and E. RPA scenario B2 corresponds to Cornerstone Futures C, D, and F.)

Participation rate			Pe	r capita parti	cipation ind	ex	
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
0.342	A1B	1.00618	1.032559	1.061017	1.076363	1.087937	1.101538
0.342	A2	1.00422	1.02759	1.052804	1.063612	1.069752	1.076769
0.342	B2	1.00846	1.031673	1.054197	1.06431	1.071119	1.075097
Adult participants (thousands)			Participants index				
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
26974.5	A1B	1.03214	1.205858	1.404826	1.571223	1.720438	1.871112
27442.31	A2	1.03289	1.216456	1.430473	1.6192	1.810444	2.031123
26904.18	B2	1.03406	1.201295	1.358629	1.45605	1.542745	1.626103
Days per participant				Per capita	days index		
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
106.6459	A1B	0.9974	0.981444	0.968683	0.942633	0.913481	0.886459
106.6459	A2	0.99705	0.979323	0.964218	0.934968	0.900713	0.866154
106.6459	B2	0.99745	0.981866	0.972521	0.952338	0.92803	0.905072
Total days (millions)				Total day	/s index		
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
2862.4	A1B	1.02946	1.183483	1.36083	1.481086	1.571588	1.658663
2862.4	A2	1.02984	1.191303	1.379288	1.5139	1.63069	1.759266
2854.938	B2	1.02708	1.174842	1.319549	1.385743	1.429886	1.47403

Source: http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/trends/research/sffpa2010.html

Table 8.11—Fishing (cold water, warm water, Saltwater, or anadromous fishing) as part of outdoor recreation activities in the South for 2010 and projected to 2060 by participation rate, number of participants, and days per participant for Resources Planning Act (RPA) scenarios. (RPA scenario A1B corresponds to Cornerstone Futures A, B, and E. RPA scenario B2 corresponds to Cornerstone Futures C, D, and F.)

Participation rate			Pe	r capita part	icipation inc	lex	
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
0.357	A1B	0.99853	0.973791	0.942967	0.921708	0.90907	0.903249
0.357	A2	0.99265	0.957615	0.915961	0.88001	0.848306	0.818184
0.357	B2	1.00464	0.972593	0.933503	0.909384	0.892704	0.86999
Adult participants (thousands)			Participants index				
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
28038.5	A1B	1.0243	1.137227	1.248522	1.345465	1.437583	1.53429
28524.76	A2	1.02099	1.13362	1.24454	1.339691	1.43567	1.543351
27965.41	B2	1.03013	1.132501	1.203081	1.2441	1.285772	1.315875
Days per participant				Per capita	days index		
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
20.58497	A1B	0.99983	0.996436	0.99389	0.989476	0.98509	0.981589
20.58497	A2	0.9996	0.99517	0.991378	0.985243	0.978098	0.970506
20.58497	B2	0.99988	0.996576	0.995829	0.994575	0.992771	0.991327
Total days (millions)				Total da	ys index		
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
572.5	A1B	1.02412	1.133173	1.240893	1.331306	1.416148	1.506043
582.4286	A2	1.02057	1.128145	1.23381	1.319922	1.404226	1.497831
571.0076	B2	1.03001	1.128624	1.198063	1.237351	1.276477	1.304462

Source: http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/trends/research/sffpa2010.html

Table 8.12—Hunting as part of outdoor recreation activities in the South for 2010 and projected to 2060 by participation rate, number of participants, and days per participant for Resources Planning Act (RPA) scenarios. (RPA scenario A1B corresponds to Cornerstone Futures A, B, and E. RPA scenario B2 corresponds to Cornerstone Futures C, D, and F.)

Participation rate			Pe	r capita part	icipation inc	lex	
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
0.137	A1B	0.99305	0.922444	0.843038	0.790214	0.757181	0.737596
0.137	A2	0.98094	0.88952	0.790927	0.713447	0.648339	0.588152
0.137	B2	1.00519	0.921013	0.832986	0.785025	0.753318	0.714254
Adult participants (thousands)	1	Participants index					
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
10785.9	A1B	1.01867	1.077262	1.116213	1.153516	1.197389	1.252906
10972.96	A2	1.00894	1.053009	1.074654	1.086123	1.097246	1.109438
10757.78	B2	1.0307	1.07244	1.073536	1.073968	1.085012	1.080322
Days per participant				Per capita	days index		
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
21.68489	A1B	0.99986	0.998123	0.996155	0.994609	0.993631	0.993092
21.68489	A2	0.99973	0.997374	0.994599	0.9919	0.989004	0.985531
21.68489	B2	0.99988	0.998275	0.997554	0.998172	0.999059	1.000172
Total days (millions)				Total da	ys index		
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
230.3	A1B	1.01853	1.07524	1.111921	1.147297	1.189763	1.24425
234.294	A2	1.00867	1.050244	1.068849	1.077326	1.085181	1.093386
229.6996	B2	1.03057	1.07059	1.07091	1.072005	1.083992	1.080508

Source: http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/trends/research/sffpa2010.html

Table 8.13—National forest visits in the South by site type as counted in 2008 and as projected for 2060 (averages per Resources Planning Act scenarios A1B, A2, and B2).

2008 visits	2060 visits (avg. A1B, A2, B2)
6,522,780	9,828,167
2,297,810	3,305,599
826,883	1,217,358
22,858,446	30,390,127
	2008 visits 6,522,780 2,297,810 826,883 22,858,446

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service 2010.

Table 8.14—Developed day use site visits to national forests in the South in 2008 and 2010 and projected to 2060 for Resources Planning Act (RPA) scenarios. (RPA scenario A1B corresponds to Cornerstone Futures A, B, and E. RPA scenario B2 corresponds to Cornerstone Futures C, D, and F.)

Annual pe	erson visits per group	Person visit index						
	2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
	12.87	A1B	0.99	0.98	0.96	0.95	0.94	0.92
	12.87	A2	1.00	0.99	0.98	0.98	0.97	0.96
	12.87	B2	0.99	0.98	0.97	0.96	0.95	0.95
Annual sit	te visits (thousands)				Total site	visit index		
	2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
	6,523	A1B	1.01	1.11	1.21	1.31	1.39	1.47
	6,523	A2	1.02	1.14	1.27	1.40	1.54	1.70
	6,523	B2	1.01	1.11	1.19	1.24	1.29	1.35

Table 8.15—Overnight use developed site visits to national forests in the South in 2008 and 2010 and projected to 2060 for Resources Planning Act (RPA) scenarios. (RPA scenario A1B corresponds to Cornerstone Futures A, B, and E. RPA scenario B2 corresponds to Cornerstone Futures C, D, and F.)

Annual person visits per group	Person visit index						
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
10.28	A1B	0.99	0.96	0.94	0.91	0.89	0.86
10.28	A2	1.00	0.98	0.97	0.96	0.94	0.93
10.28	B2	0.97	0.96	0.95	0.94	0.92	0.91
Annual site visits (thousands)		Total site visit index					
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
2,298	A1B	1.01	1.09	1.18	1.26	1.32	1.37
2,298	A2	1.02	1.13	1.25	1.37	1.50	1.64
2,298	B2	1.00	1.09	1.16	1.21	1.25	1.30

Table 8.16—Wilderness site visits to national forests in the South in 2008 and 2010 and projected to 2060 for Resources Planning Act (RPA) scenarios. (RPA scenario A1B corresponds to Cornerstone Futures A, B, and E. RPA scenario B2 corresponds to Cornerstone Futures C, D, and F.)

Annual person visits per group	Person visit index						
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
14.52	A1B	0.99	0.98	0.98	0.97	0.96	0.95
14.52	A2	1.00	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.98	0.97
14.52	B2	0.99	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.97	0.97
Annual site visits (thousands)				Total site	visit index		
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
827	A1B	1.02	1.12	1.23	1.33	1.42	1.51
827	A2	1.02	1.15	1.27	1.41	1.56	1.72
827	B2	1.01	1.12	1.20	1.26	1.31	1.38

30 percent (B2) to 64 percent (A2) in visitors to these sites is projected (table 8.15).

Wilderness—Recreation visits to designated Wilderness sites in southern national forests totaled 826,883 in 2008 (table 8.13). Annual visits per group averages over 14 and is expected to decline slightly 3 to 5 percent over the next five decades (table 8.16). This relatively stable per group annual visitation rate, when combined with population growth, suggests that Wilderness visits to southern national forests will grow the most among the four site types, between 38 percent (B2) and 72 percent (A2). Despite faster relative growth in visits, Wilderness visits will remain the smallest in absolute terms, totaling 1.1-1.4 million visits annually by 2060.

General forest areas—Visits to general forest areas in southern national forests, at almost 23 million in 2008, greatly exceed recreation visits to the other three site types combined. General forest areas are probably the most like private forest lands in that while they often have trails and forest roads, they generally lack maintained facilities of any type. Like Wilderness, the average annual visits per group to general forest areas is approximately 14. Unlike Wilderness, though, this average per group is projected to decline by 12-24 percent by 2060 (table 8.17). The biggest decline comes with scenario A1B and this is primarily driven by the effect of increased household income. Like the other national forest settings, the increase in population over the next five decades offsets the drop in average visits per group yielding increases in annual visits by 2060 of 22 percent for A1B and B2, and 55 percent for A2. By scenario, the relative increases are less than for each of the other site types. However, in total, the average visits across the various site types in 2060 is still substantially more than the combination of the other three (table 8.13, figure 8.3).

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

This chapter developed models to explain outdoor recreation participation and days of participation for residents of the Southern United States. Models were also developed to examine visits to national forests in the South. These models, combined with population, socioeconomic, and land use projections from alternative futures were employed to project the number of outdoor recreation participants and days of participation regionally to 2060, and to project the number of southern national forest recreation visits by site type to 2060. The objectives were to first, evaluate how population growth and changing demographics will affect changes in demand for different types of recreation activities, and second, to examine the potential for increased congestion and conflict among recreational users of forests as a result of changing supply and demand factors. Regarding the first objective, the preceding results section indicates that in general, despite continued losses in forest and rangeland across the region and changing demographics, outdoor recreation activity will continue to grow in both numbers of participants and days of participation. Generally, speaking, the number of projected participants and days of participation will increase at a rate near or somewhat below the rate of growth of the regional population.

For a few activities, such as developed site use, hiking, and birding, participant numbers as well as days of participation are projected to grow faster than the rate at which the regional population grows. Other activities typically associated with higher income, like horseback riding on trails, motorized water use, and non-motorized water use, will grow faster than the population if the higher income conditions of scenario A1B eventuate. Otherwise, they will grow at rates slightly less than the population.

A few activities, such as fishing, hunting, and motorized off-road use are projected to experience substantial declines in participation rates and thus, while increasing, will grow much slower than the growth rate of the regional population. Hunting and motorized off-road use, being relatively land intensive, are adversely affected by the expected decline in available forest and rangeland. Moreover, these activities are essentially counter-cultural to the growing numbers of ethnic minorities in the region.

Annual visits per group to southern national forests will decline across all site type and scenario combinations. For day use developed sites, overnight use developed sites, and Wilderness sites, these declines are virtually all less than 10 percent. Thus, when visits per group are combined with an increasing number of groups due to population growth, overall national forest visits will grow, slightly lagging regional population growth. However, visits to general forest areas, which comprise about 70 percent of all national forest visits in the South will grow noticeably slower than the regional population, albeit still increasing by 22-55 percent.

The second objective was to examine the potential for increased congestion and conflict among recreational users of forests as a result of changing supply and demand factors. While modeling use for specific activity and site combinations was beyond the scope of this chapter, tables 8.18 and 8.19 can be used to broadly assess the potential for congestion and conflict facing forest recreationists as demand and supply factors change over the next five decades. Two measures of density and change are reported in table 8.18—forest and range acres per participant, and days of participation per forest and range acres. With the exception of hunting, forest and range acres per participant are projected to decline over the next decade by 33-50 percent. For hunting Table 8.17—General forest area site visits to national forests in the South in 2008 and 2010 and projected to 2060 for Resources Planning Act (RPA) scenarios. (RPA scenario A1B corresponds to Cornerstone Futures A, B, and E. RPA scenario B2 corresponds to Cornerstone Futures C, D, and F.)

Annual person visits per group				Person	isit index		
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
14.23	A1B	0.98	0.93	0.90	0.86	0.81	0.76
14.23	A2	1.00	0.97	0.95	0.93	0.90	0.88
14.23	B2	0.96	0.93	0.92	0.90	0.87	0.86
Annual site visits (thousands)				Total site	visit index		
2008	Scenario	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
22,858	A1B	1.00	1.06	1.13	1.18	1.21	1.22
22,858	A2	1.02	1.12	1.22	1.33	1.44	1.55
22,858	B2	0.98	1.05	1.12	1.16	1.18	1,22



Figure 8.3-Southern national forest visits (thousands) by site-type, 2008 to 2060.

Table 8.18—Forest-based recreation use densities in the South in 2008 and projected for 2060 for Resources Planning Act (RPA) scenarios. (RPA scenario A1B corresponds to Cornerstone Futures A, B, and E. RPA scenario B2 corresponds to Cornerstone Futures C, D, and F.)

		Forest and range acres per participant			Days per forest/range acre		
Activity	Scenario	2008	2060	Percent change	2008	2060	Percent change
	A1B	10.5	5.2	-50	10.1	18.0	79
Birding	A2	10.4	4.8	-54	10.3	19.2	87
	B2	10.5	6.2	-41	10.1	15.5	54
	A1B	4.5	2.4	-47	2.4	4.4	88
Developed site use	A2	4.4	2.2	-51	2.4	4.9	102
	B2	4.5	2.8	-37	2.4	3.8	60
	A1B	14.0	6.6	-53	1.6	3.6	118
Hiking	A2	13.8	6.1	-51	1.7	3.8	130
	B2	14.0	7.9	-43	1.6	3.0	85
	A1B	50.2	25.2	-50	0.3	0.9	151
Horseback on trails	A2	49.4	26.8	-46	0.4	0.6	82
	B2	50.2	33.4	-33	0.3	0.6	63
	A1B	26.3	19.5	-26	0.8	1.1	34
Hunting	A2	25.9	21.9	-15	0.8	1.0	16
	B2	26.3	23.3	-11	0.8	0.9	13
	A1B	16.8	10.3	-38	2.0	3.1	59
Motorized off-road	A2	16.5	10.9	-34	2.0	3.0	47
	B2	16.8	12.7	-24	2.0	2.6	30
	A1B	10.1	5.6	-45	1.5	2.6	82
Primitive area use	A2	9.9	5.3	-47	1.5	2.8	90
	B2	10.1	6.7	-33	1.5	2.2	51

		Visits per national forest acre				
Site type	Scenario	2008	2060	Percent change		
	A1B	0.49	0.72	47		
Developed day use	A2	0.49	0.88	70		
	B2	0.49	0.66	35		
	A1B	0.17	0.24	37		
Overnight developed use	A2	0.17	0.28	64		
	B2	0.17	0.22	30		
	A1B	1.72	2.10	22		
General forest area	A2	1.72	2.66	55		
	B2	1.72	2.10	22		
		Visits per nat	ional forest w	ilderness acre		
Site type	Scenario	2008	2060	Percent change		
	A1B	1.26	1.91	51		
Wilderness	A2	1.26	2.17	72		
	B2	1.26	1.74	38		

Table 8.19—National forest site type use densities in the South in 2008 and projected for 2060 for Resources Planning Act (RPA) scenarios. (RPA scenario A1B corresponds to Cornerstone Futures A, B, and E. RPA scenario B2 corresponds to Cornerstone Futures C, D, and F.)

the decline will be from 11 to 26 percent. For developed site use and hiking, this could begin to strain existing infrastructure necessary for such activities. For birding and hiking, as defined in the NSRE, these may or may not require expansive areas for quality experiences. The activities currently taking place on the largest amount of space, e.g., horseback riding on trails, hunting, and motorized off-road use, while experiencing somewhat smaller changes in acres per participant, may actually "feel" more congested given the nature of the activity, particularly hunting. It should also be noted that across the three futures scenarios (A1B, A2, and B2), A1B which has the highest income growth, middle land conversion, and middle population growth led to the most "congestion" by the loss in forest and range land per participant measure.

An alternative measure of congestion or land impact annual days of use per forest and range land acre—is also presented in table 8.18. This measure is perhaps better to assess the impact of activities on nature as it combines participant number and participant intensity per unit of land area. Congestion per unit of land is will rise most over the next five decades for horseback riding on trails (151 percent) and hiking (118 percent). Hunting will see the smallest increase (13-34 percent). These measures are not intended to be comparable across activities, and some may actually have a social component, and thus increase user utility with increased congestion—up to a point. Nevertheless, for those activities which may be near biological carrying capacity or infrastructure carrying capacity, the large increases in use per acre could be a concern, both for the land and for the user.

A final measure of congestion—visits per acre to southern national forests by site type—is reported in table 8.19. Wilderness visits per acre appear to be facing the biggest increases in potential congestion with visits per acre increasing from 38 to 72 percent. Increases across the various scenarios suggest that the density of Wilderness visits in 2060 will exceed that of general forest area visits today. This increase could present difficult challenges to Wilderness and protected area land managers. For example, it is generally understood that an important motivation for visiting Wilderness is to "get away from civilization" or experience nature "untrammeled by man." Having this type of experience will be challenging if Wilderness visitor density continues to increase. In order to accommodate visitor satisfaction, and to comply with Wilderness legislation, managers may be faced with the potentially unappealing prospect of regulating access in the future.

General forest area use density is expected to rise by 22 percent (A1B, B2) to 55 percent (A2) as national forests likely become even more of a substitute destination as private forest and range land is reduced by further development. Because general forest area recreation use including hunting, motorized off-road use, and horseback riding on trails generally require more space between users for high-quality (and safe) experiences, this increase in use density should also be of concern to national forest managers. For example, conflicts due to congestion may increase not just within activities (e.g., motorized off-road users running into each other figuratively and literally), but across activities (e.g., motorized off-road users scaring away game sought by hunters and spooking horses). As in the case of Wilderness, managers could be faced with choosing among potentially unpopular access regulation schemes to mitigate congestion conflicts. Managers may also need to consider sectioning general forest areas into special use areas for specific activities such as motorized off-road use, horseback riding on trails and hunting in order to reduce cross-activity congestion conflicts. Regardless, the increased congestion can only increase the impacts of recreation on the forest environment.

Across all activities and venues, private and public, this chapter provides strong evidence to suggest that the number of southern outdoor recreation participants and their annual days of use will continue to grow over the next five decades putting increasing pressure on existing infrastructure, both built and natural, thus stressing the recreation carrying capacity of the forest and range land resources. In some cases, it may be possible to relieve congestion problems by investing in and building more infrastructure, e.g., constructing more hiking trails on public lands. Private land owners may also help to meet increased demand by increasing built recreation infrastructure on private lands. In the South, there has historically been a fairly large market for consumptive recreational activities (e.g., hunting) provided on private lands. In the future, owners of remaining private land may also be able to "cash in" on increased demand for non-consumptive recreational activities by investing in recreation infrastructure traditionally provided by public lands (e.g., hiking trails, bird-watching facilities).

Because of increasing visitors per acre resulting from increasing population and decreasing private forest and range land, remaining private land will likely become more valuable for other recreation uses including overnight developed site use and developed site day use. A portion of private land in the South is already devoted to private developed campgrounds which have sprung up over the past several decades in response to increased demand for camping opportunities and limited public campgrounds, particularly public campgrounds with RV hook-ups. Increasing congestion on public lands in the future may provide increased demand for private campgrounds and incentives for private land owners to invest in private, overnight developed site infrastructure.

NSRE data suggest that some ethnic minority populations in the South participate in activities occurring at public day use developed sites such as family gatherings and picnicking in greater proportions than traditional visitors. Thus, as the ethnic minority populations in the South increase to 2060, public day use developed sites and hiking venues are likely to become even more congested leading to visitor competition and conflict over limited facilities (e.g., limited picnic pavilions). Public land management budgets to day use developed sites. Because increasing scarcity of public day use developed sites, private land owners may have incentives in the future to invest in day use developed site infrastructure such as picnic area pavilions to rent out for profit.

KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION GAPS

It is impossible to see exactly how changes in income, socioeconomic factors, and economic development will affect the supply and demand for forest-based outdoor recreation. The models, results, and conclusions presented in this chapter are predicated on a number of assumptions and relationships that are likely to change with time. People's preferences change over time. New technology will bring changes to how people enjoy the outdoors-and how they avoid the outdoors. Activities like snowboarding, mountain biking, flat water kayaking, and orienteering did not appear on the radar when Cicchetti's seminal forecasting work on national recreation use was published in 1973, nor did activities like video gaming and DVD renting. Despite differences in outdoor recreation and consumption across ethnic lines today, acculturation factors may mask such differences over the course of the next five decades. Regardless, as the population grows, it is likely that outdoor recreation pressure on the natural environment will become more prevalent and management will need to find ways of creatively mitigating this pressure.

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