



Economic Importance of Recreation Funding on Central Oregon's National Forests

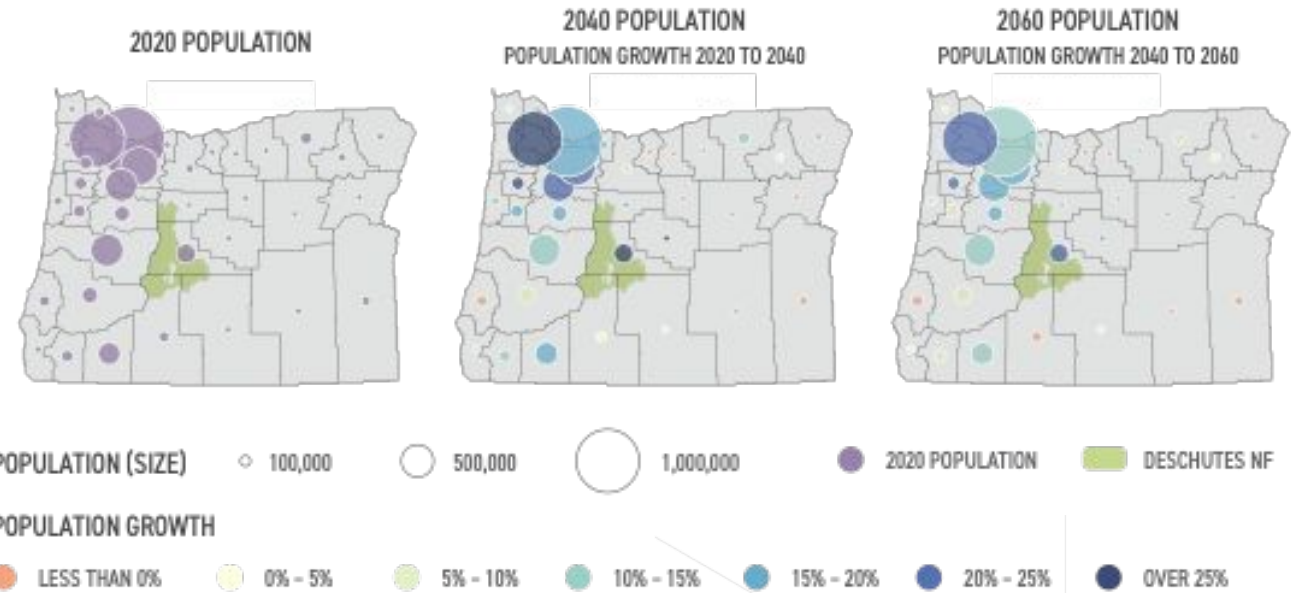
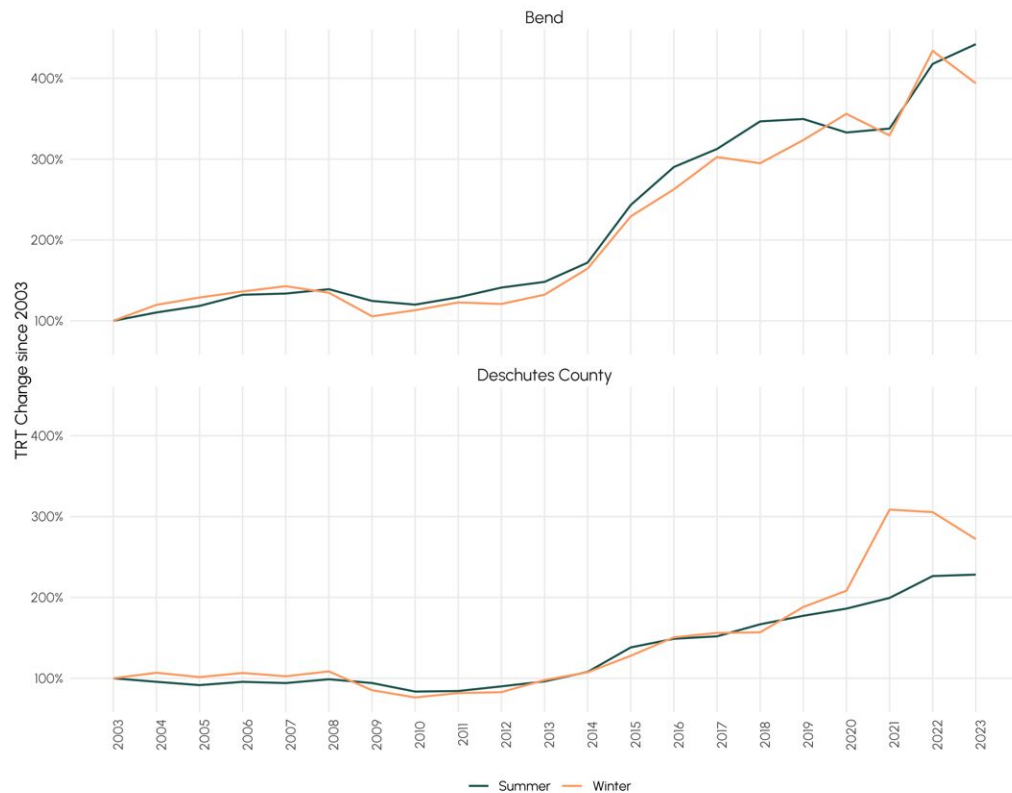
PNREC 2024

Mark Buckley, ECONorthwest

May 22, 2024

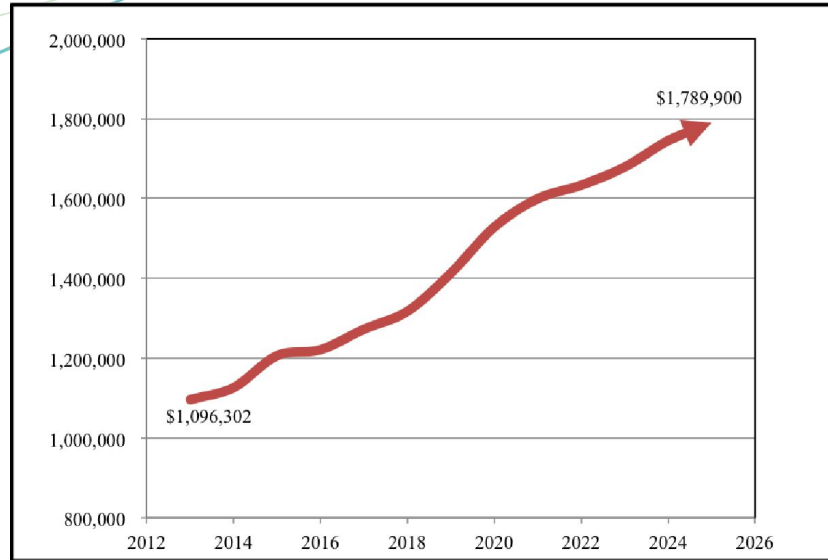
Central Oregon Recreation – Demand is High and Increasing

Populations that visit Central Oregon for recreation are growing



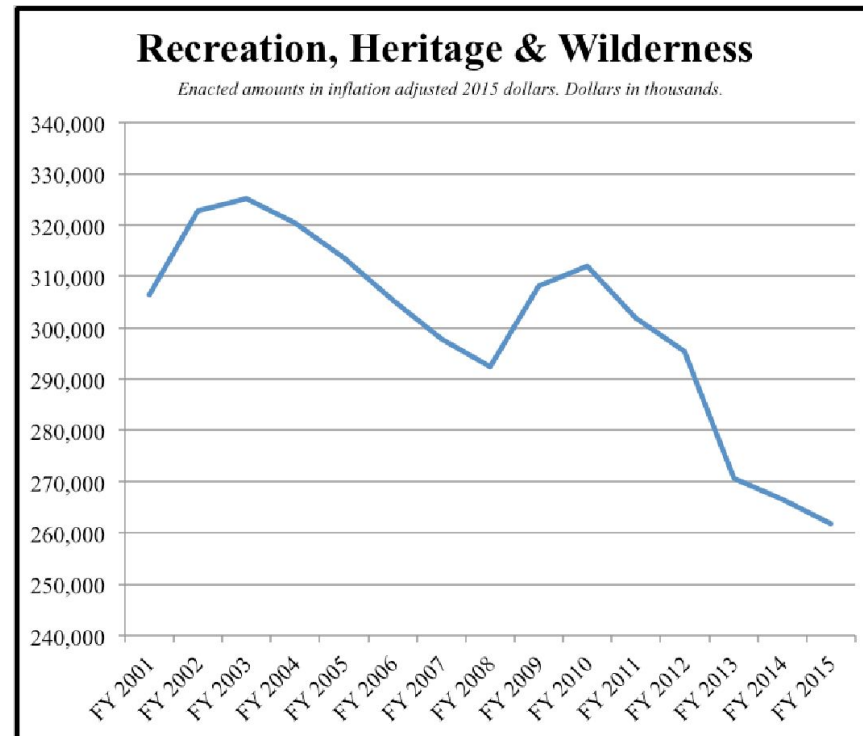
Transient Room Tax dollars from visitors to Central Oregon are increasing

Federal funding for recreation is challenged



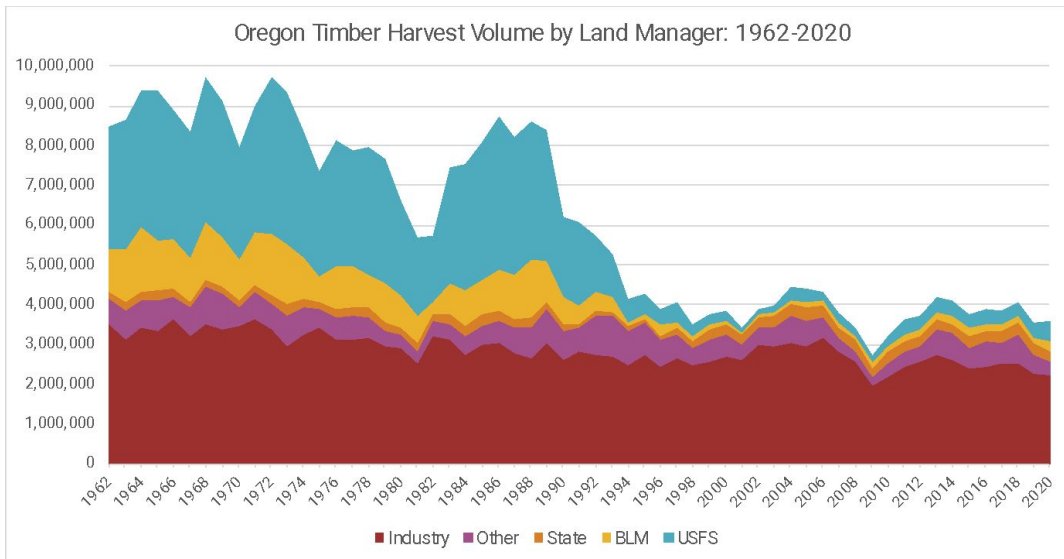
Essential non-recreation expenses for the USFS are increasing, such as fire suppression (\$000s)

So USFS recreation funding is forced to decline.

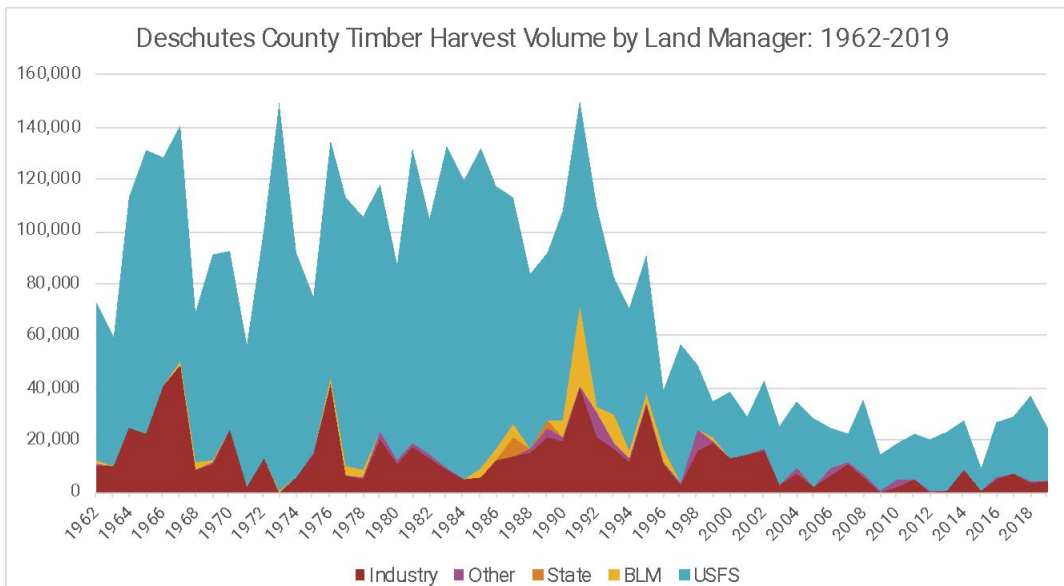


The Rising Cost of Wildfire Operations: Effects on the Forest Services's Non-Fire Work. USFS. 2015

National forest revenue is in decline, while expenses increase



Timber harvests (and revenue) across Oregon, including Deschutes County, have steadily declined.



New dedicated funding sources are needed



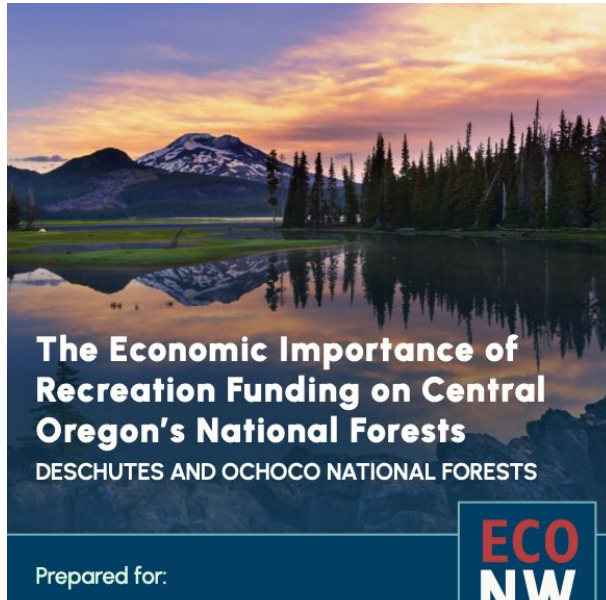
U.S. Endowment
for Forestry and Communities

INNOVATIVE FINANCE FOR NATIONAL FORESTS GRANT PROGRAM



Deschutes Trails Coalition

THE ECONOMIC & SOCIAL IMPORTANCE OF
DESCHUTES
NATIONAL FOREST TRAILS
Contributions & Future Needs



The Economic Importance of Recreation Funding on Central Oregon's National Forests

DESCHUTES AND OCHOCO NATIONAL FORESTS

**ECO
NW**

Prepared for:

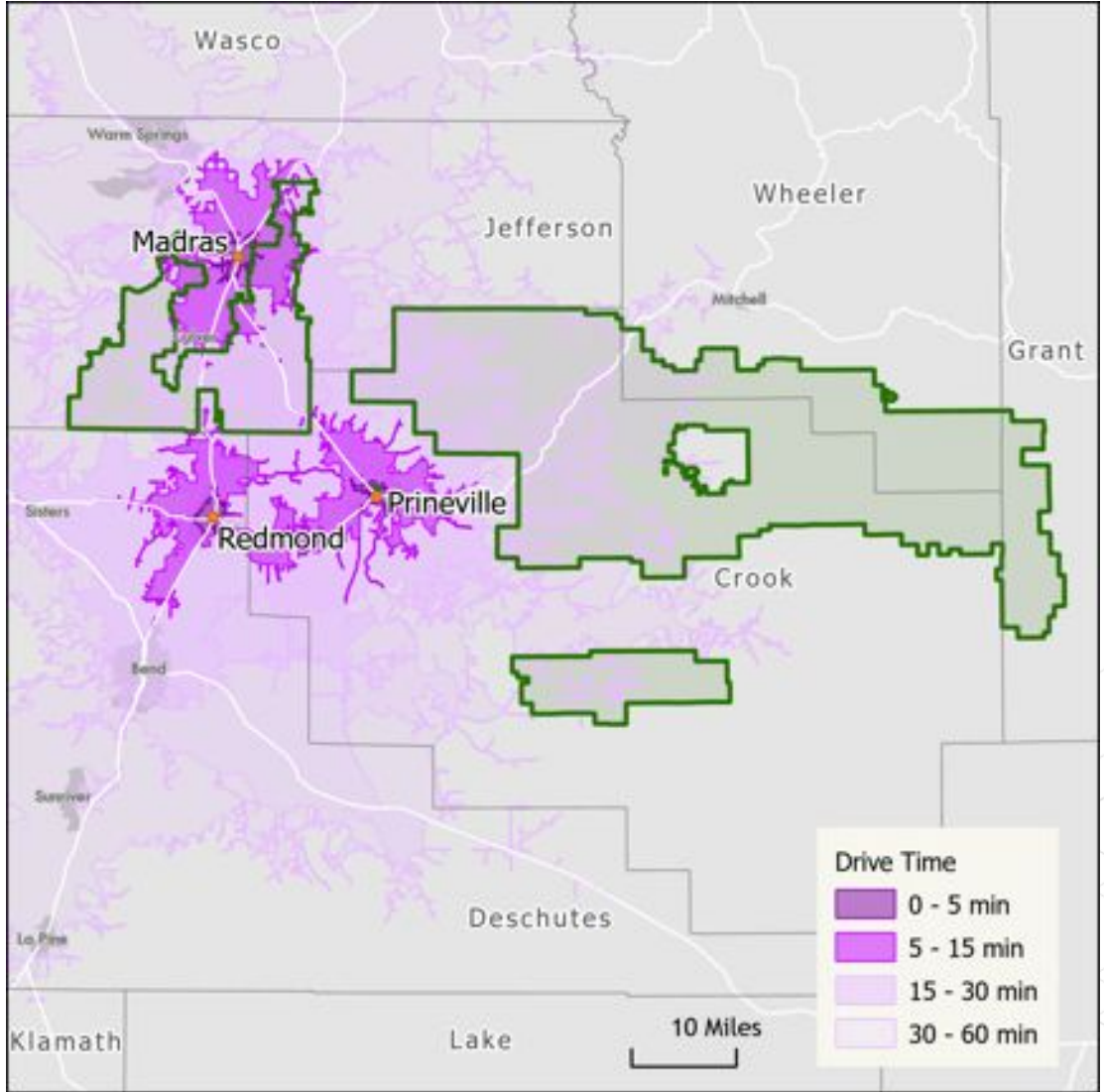
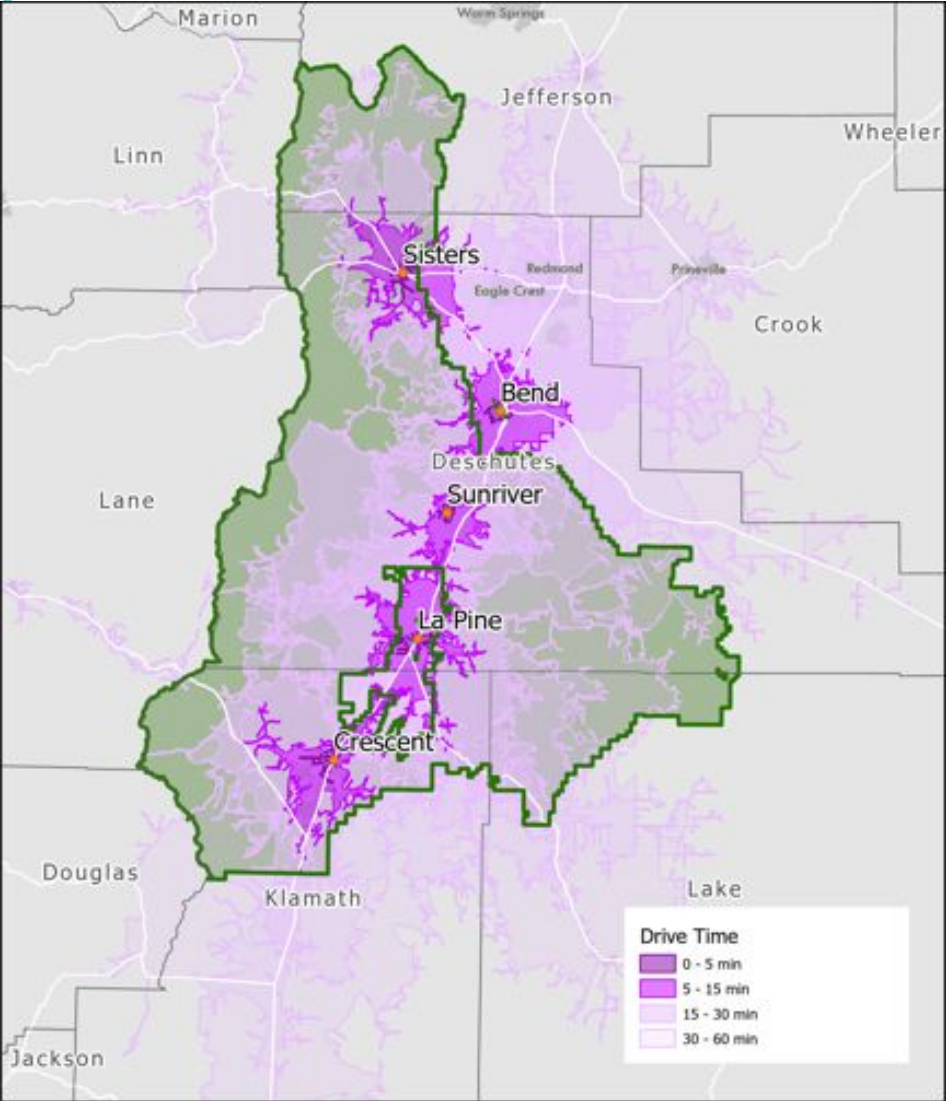
United States Endowment for
Forestry and Communities,
National Forest Foundation, and
United States Forest Service
under the Innovative Financing for
National Forests Grant Program

The USFS is funding the IFNF program to help design and implement new, generally local, funding and stewardship programs for national forests

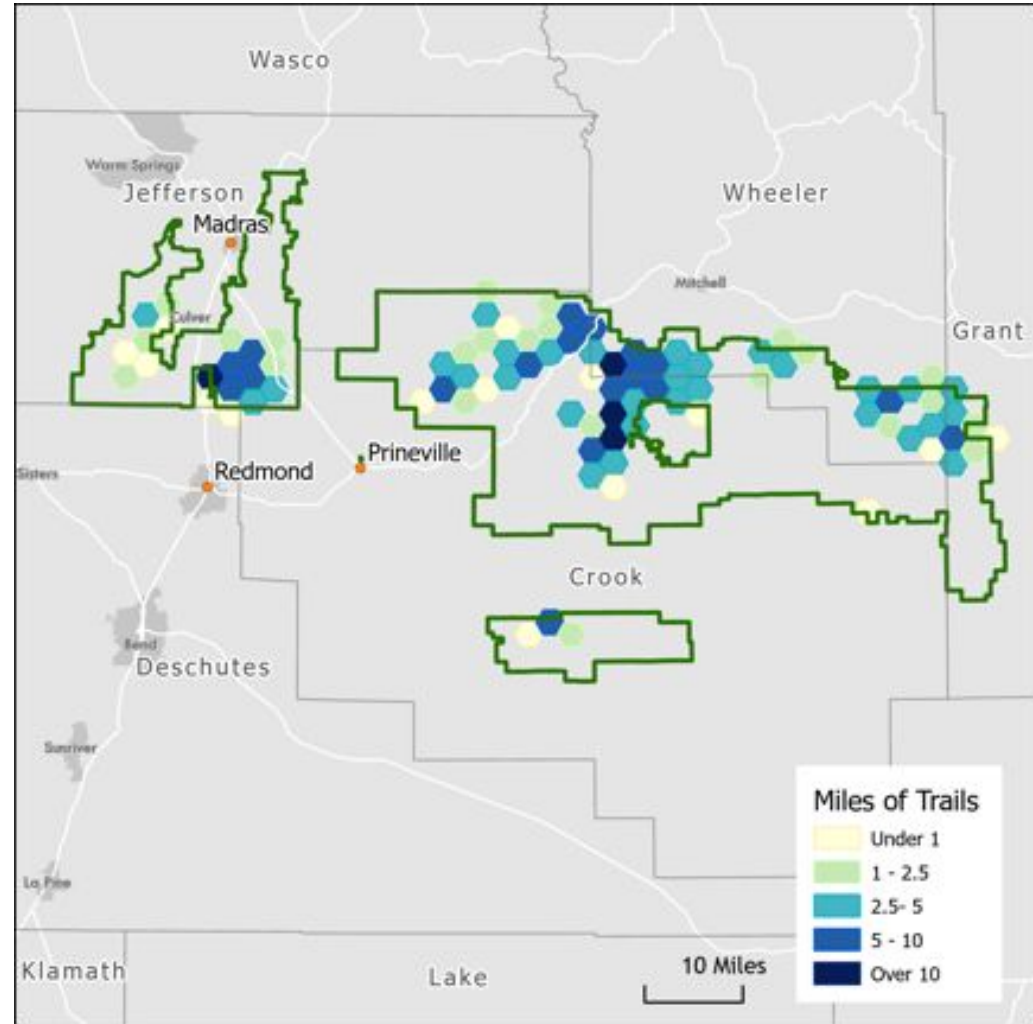
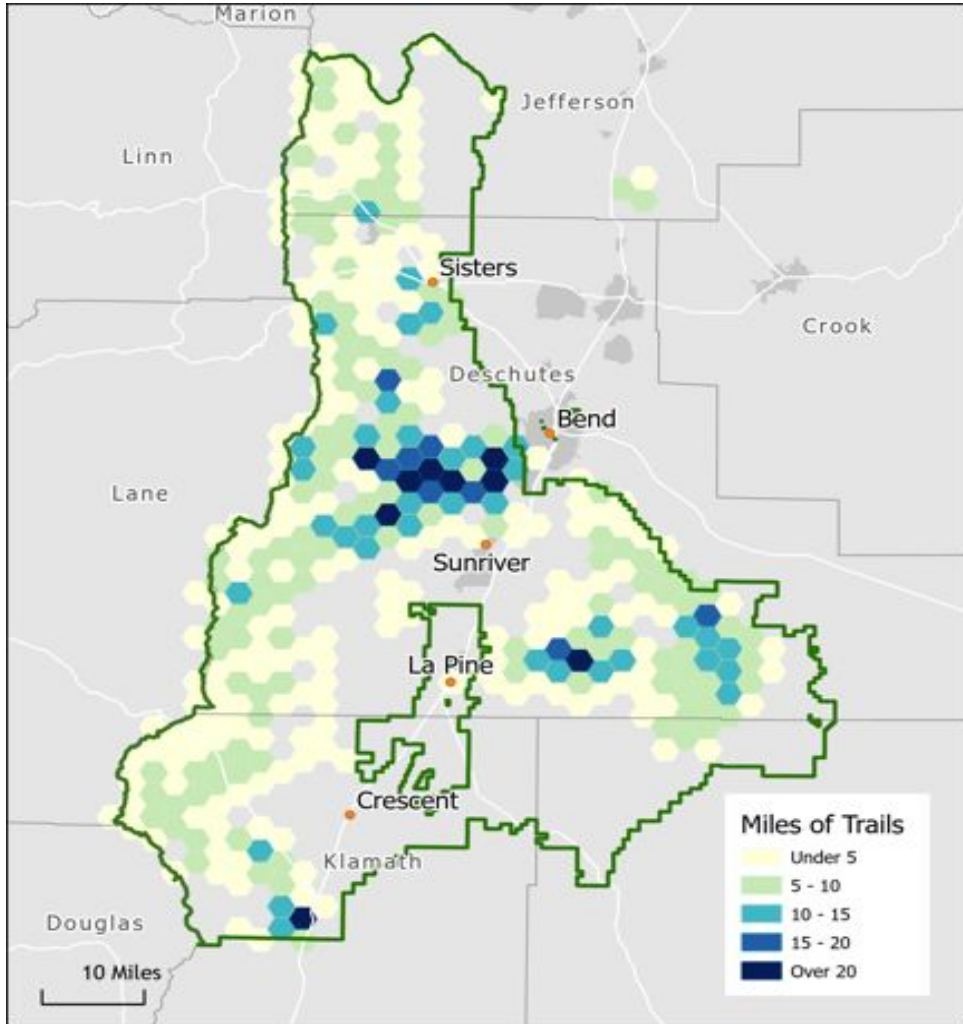
- What are the recreation benefits and who are the beneficiaries for Central Oregon's national forests?
- What are the funding needs to support these uses?
- What are the available funding sources?
- Who should pay, and how?



Communities near Deschutes NF and Ochoco NF

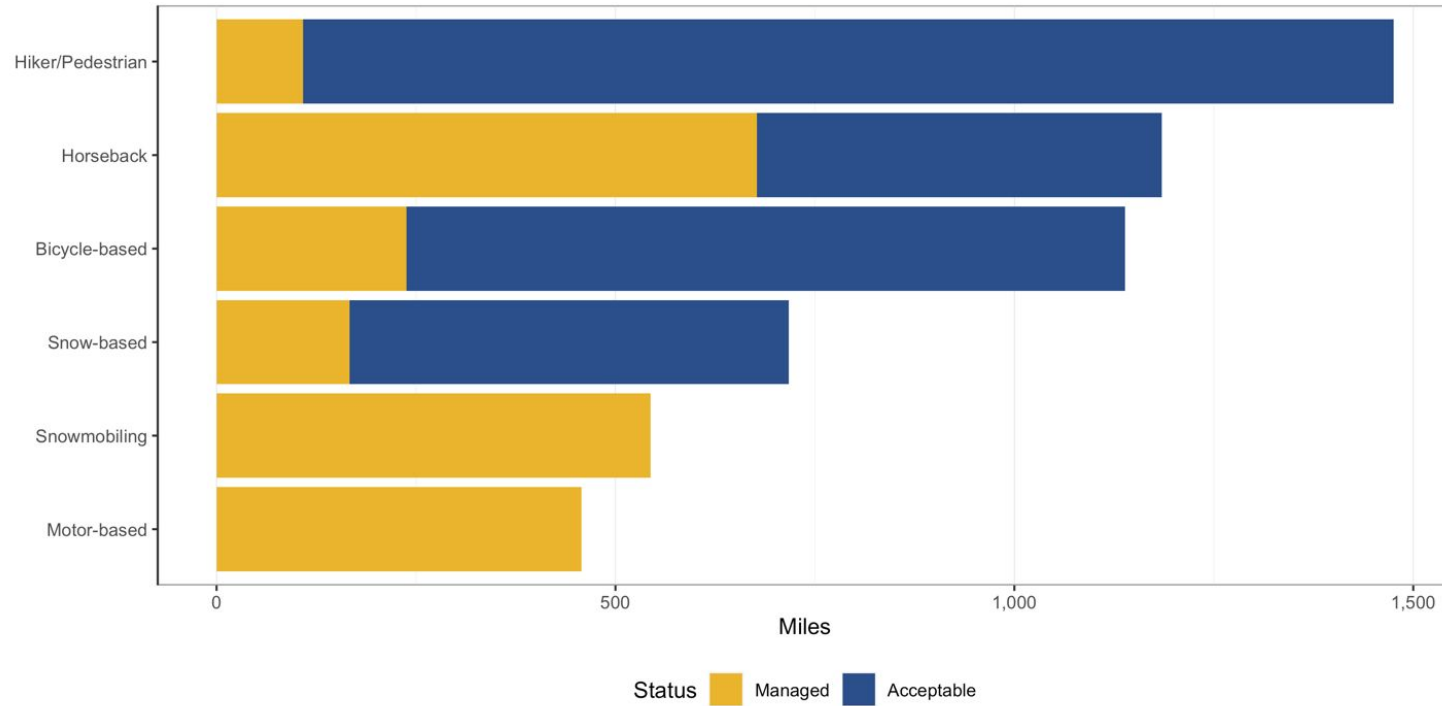


Deschutes NF and Ochoco NF Trail Density

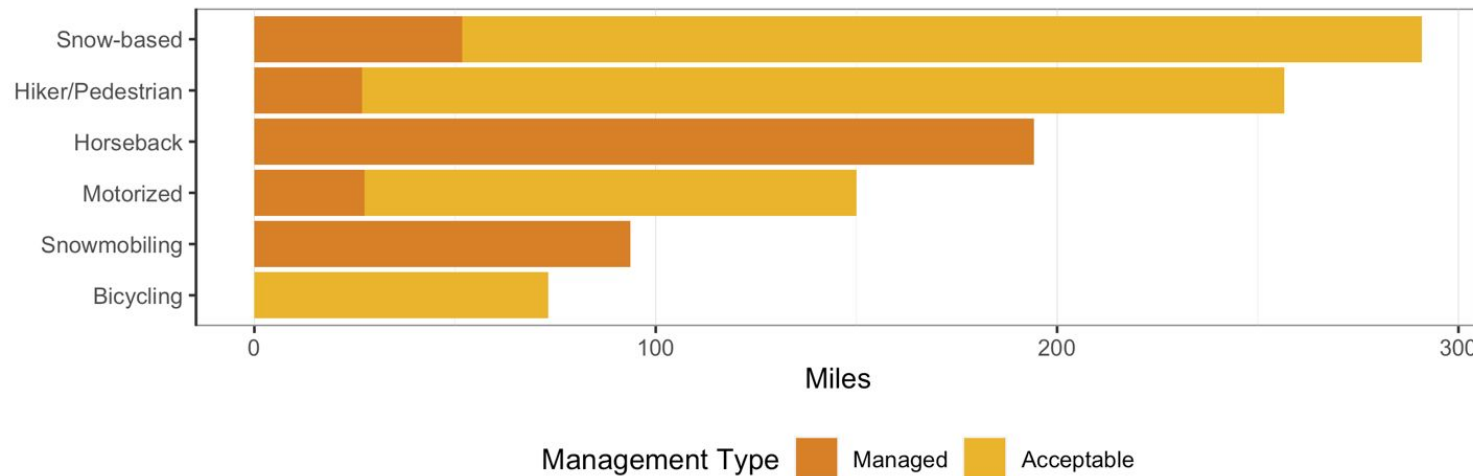


Trail miles by activity type

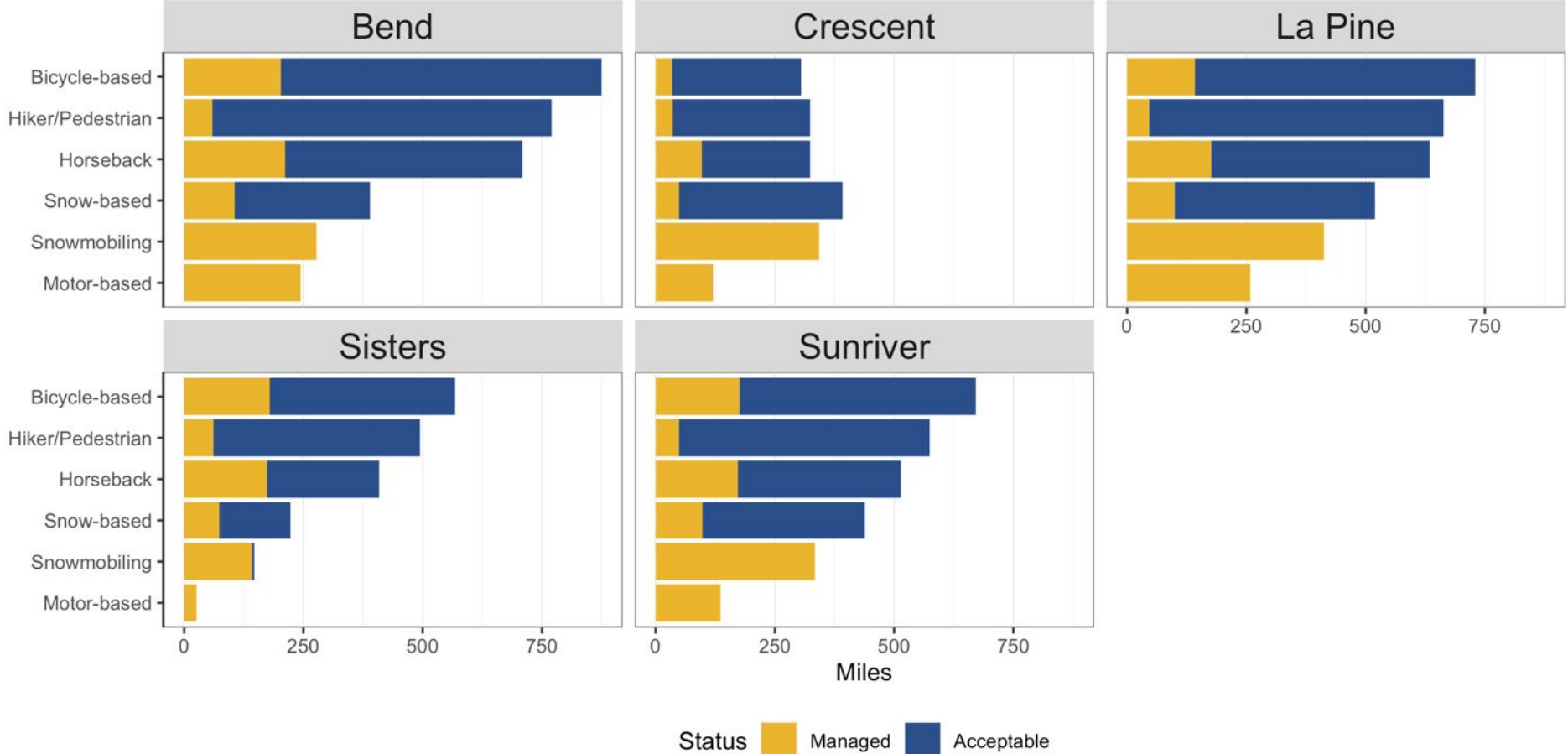
Deschutes NF



Ochoco NF

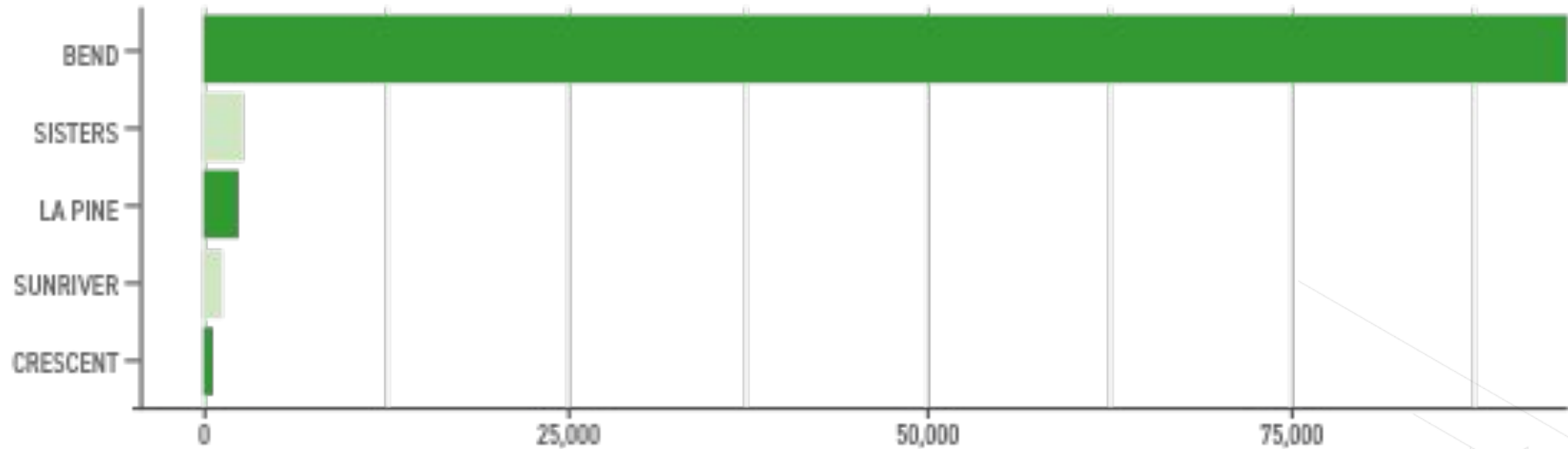


Deschutes NF trail miles within 60 minutes of communities



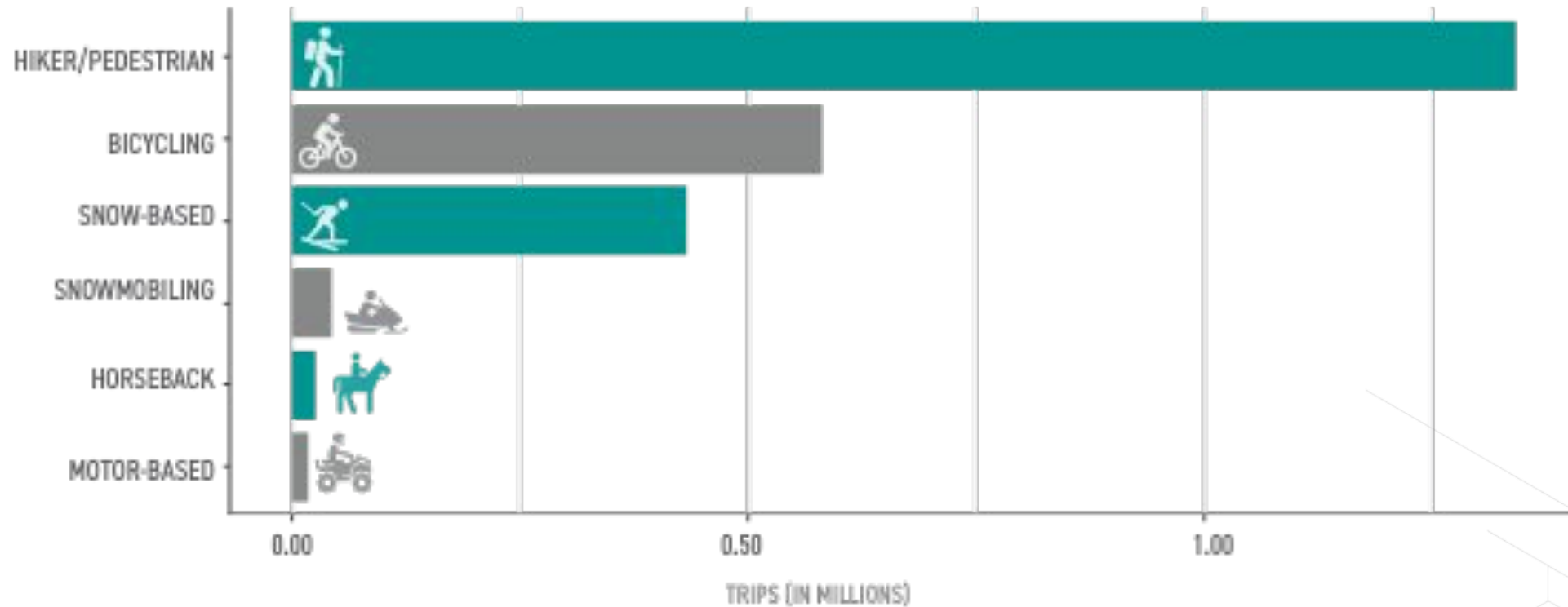
Trail miles are relatively consistently accessible from DNF communities

Populations of DNF communities (2020)



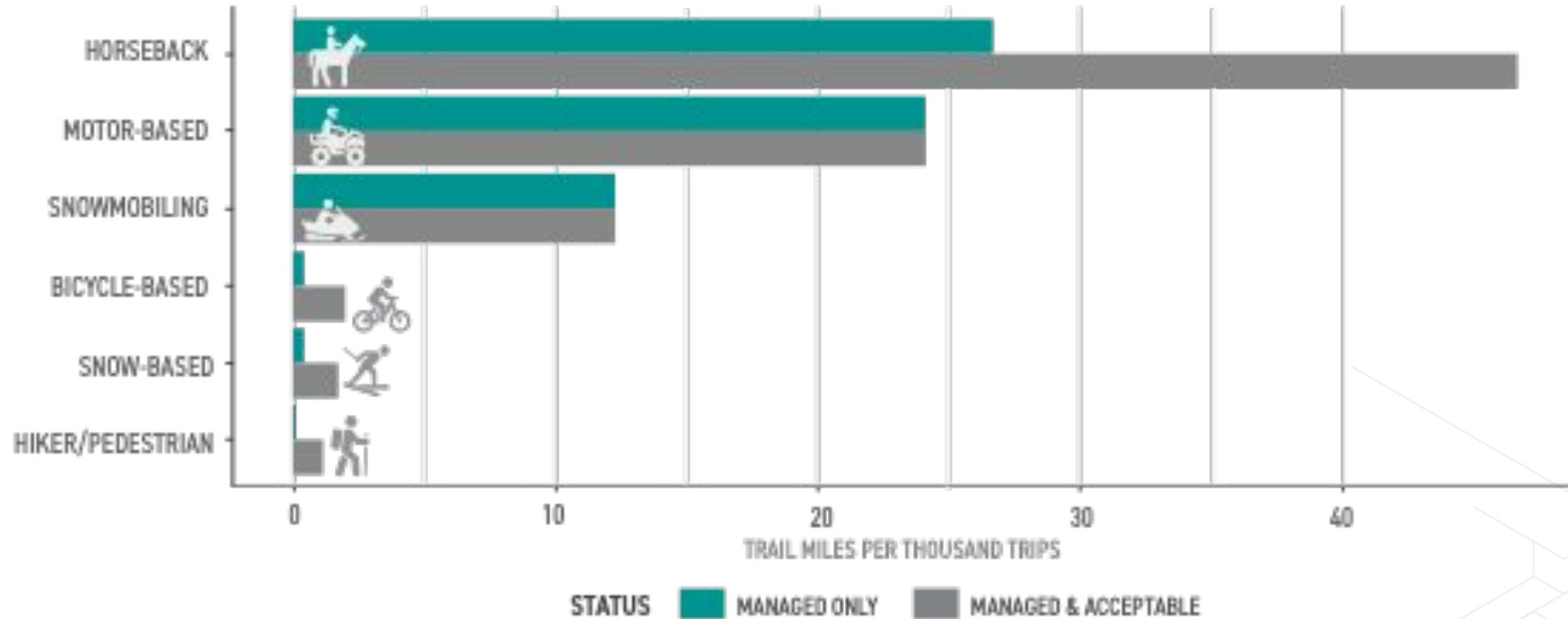
But DNF communities vary dramatically in size

DNF Trips by Activity Type (2021)



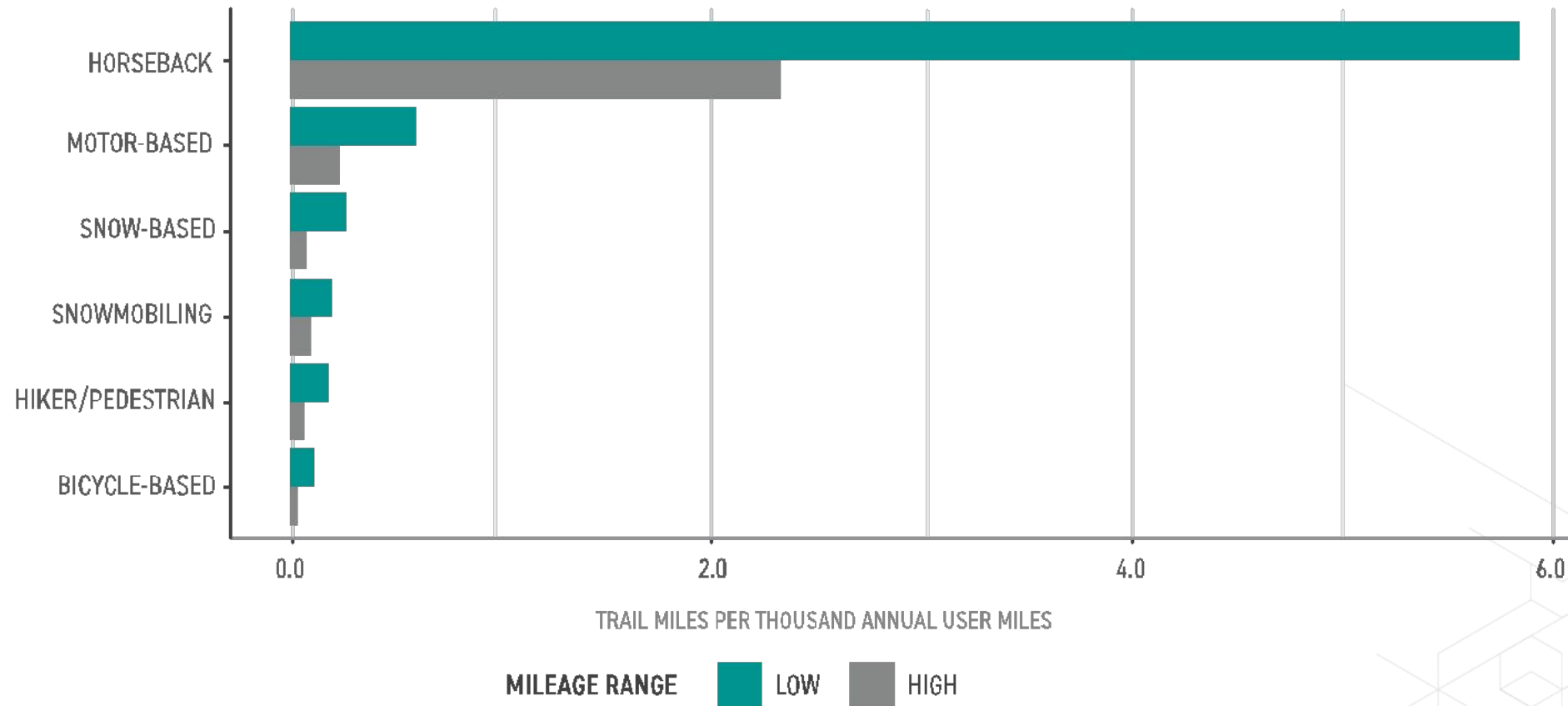
Hiking and biking are the most common trail activities on DNF

Trail miles per 1000 trips by activity, DNF



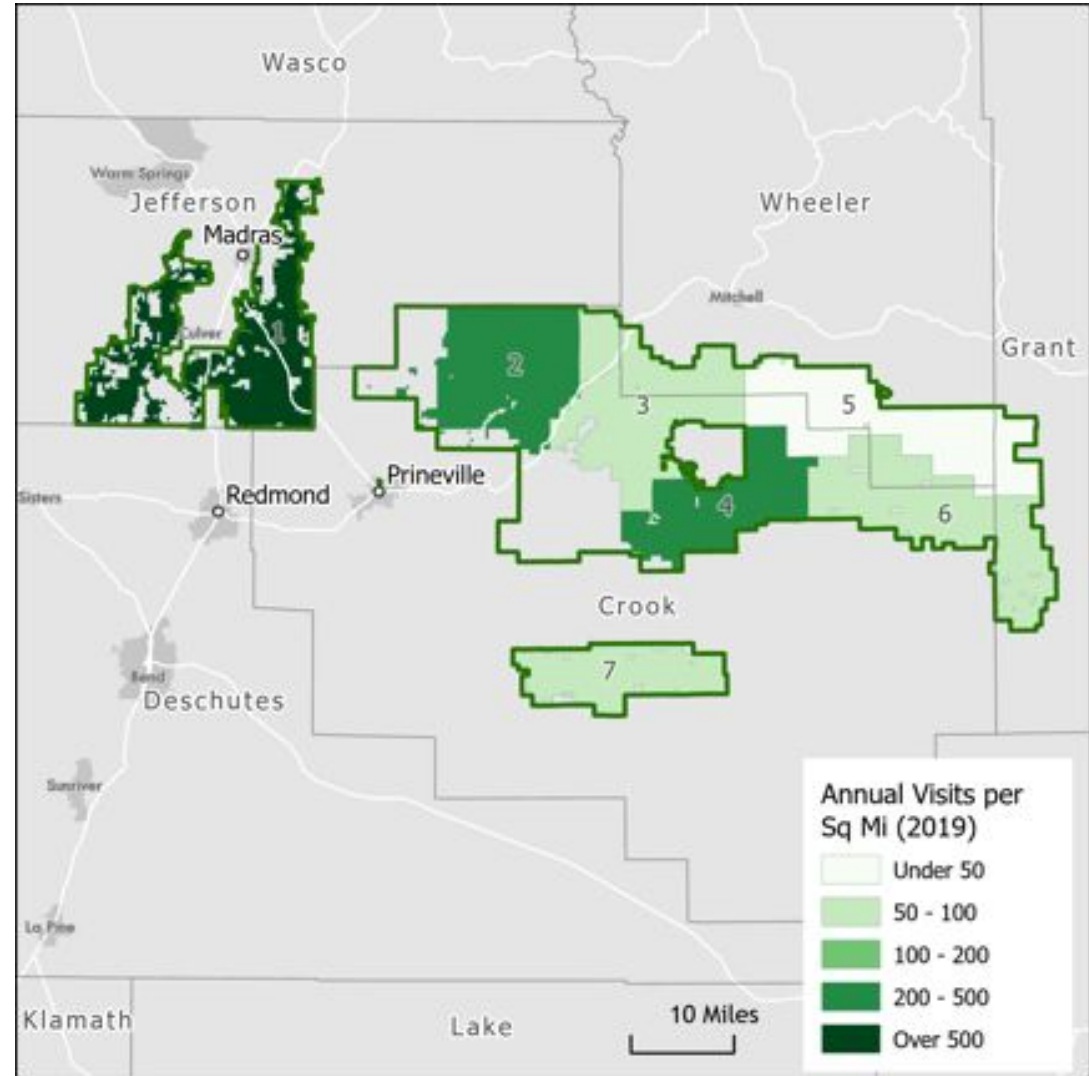
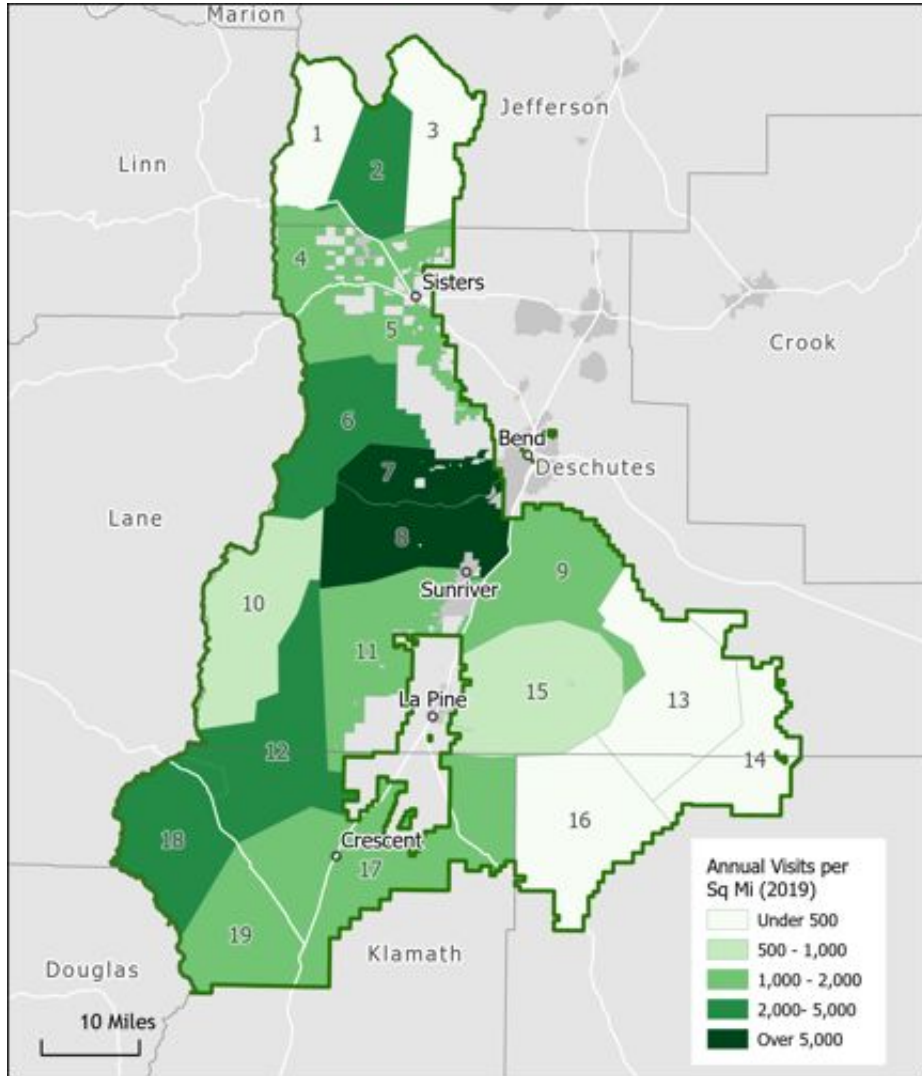
Hiking trails are the most scarce type per trip

Trail miles per user miles, DNF



Biking trails are the most scarce per mile

Location data reveal visits concentrated near communities



Scarcity of trails near population centers

- Hiking and biking trails near population centers (Bend) are the most abundant trail type
- Trail trips and inventory suggest hiking and biking trails near population centers are the most scarce relative to demand.

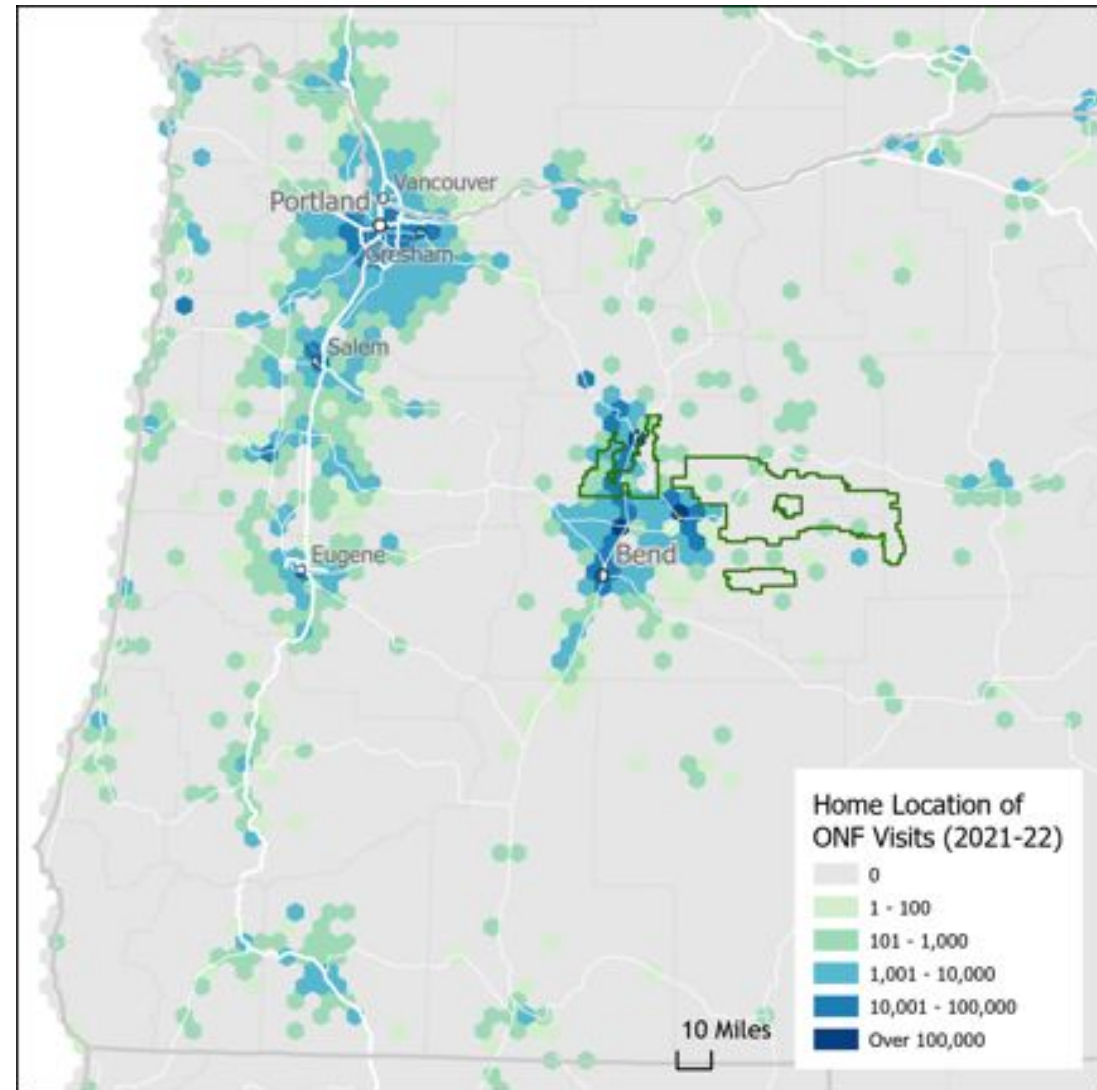
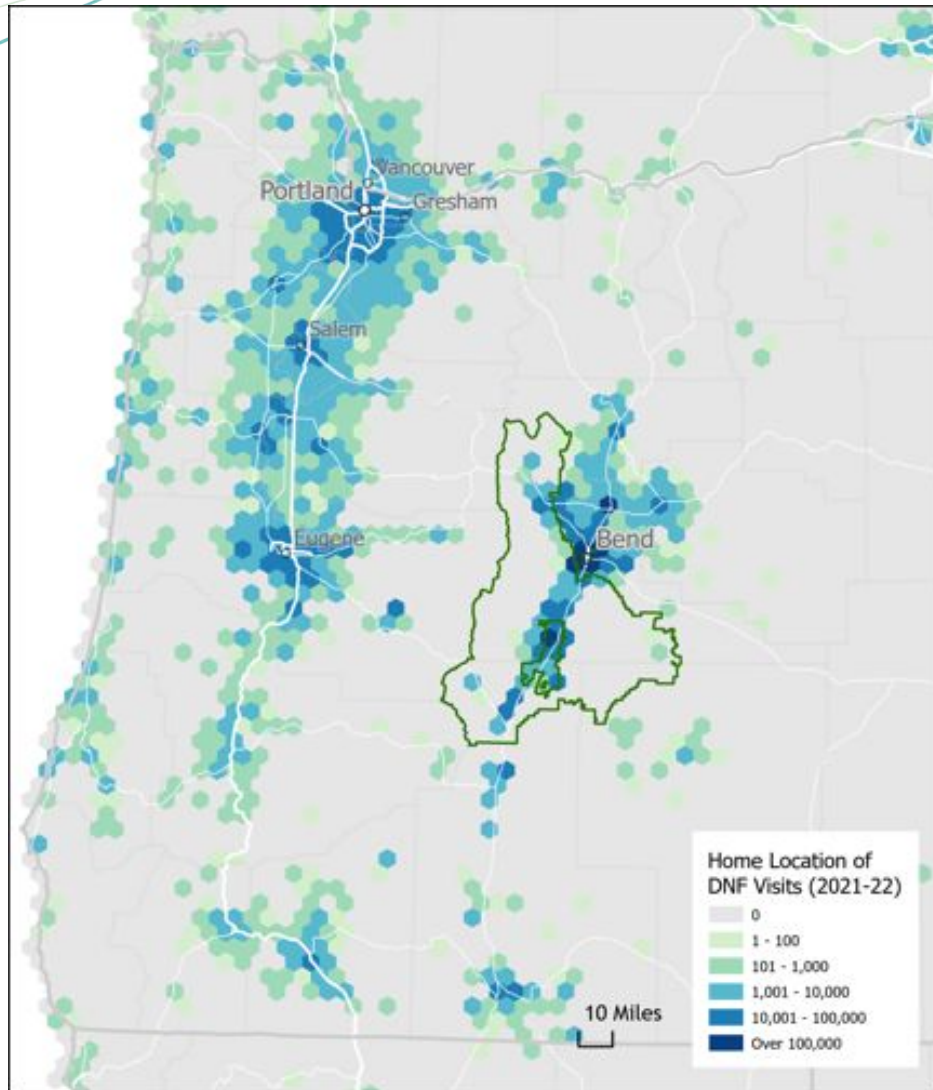


Millions of annual trips on DNF

Activity	Trips (thousands)		
	2021	2040	2021-40 sum
Camping	79	103	1,817
Downhill Skiing	397	560	9,486
Hunting, Fishing, and Gathering Forest Products	162	200	3,613
Motorized Non-trail	38	48	868
Nature Study	255	325	5,784
No Activity Reported	36	47	836
Non-motorized Water	132	177	3,072
Other	88	114	2,017
Outdoor Leisure / Sporting	159	207	3,644
Trail-based	833	1,129	19,471
Local	1,278	1,810	30,600
Nonlocal	904	1,103	20,011
Grand Total	2,183	2,914	50,612

120,000 trips on ONF in 2021

Visitors are primarily local and Willamette Valley

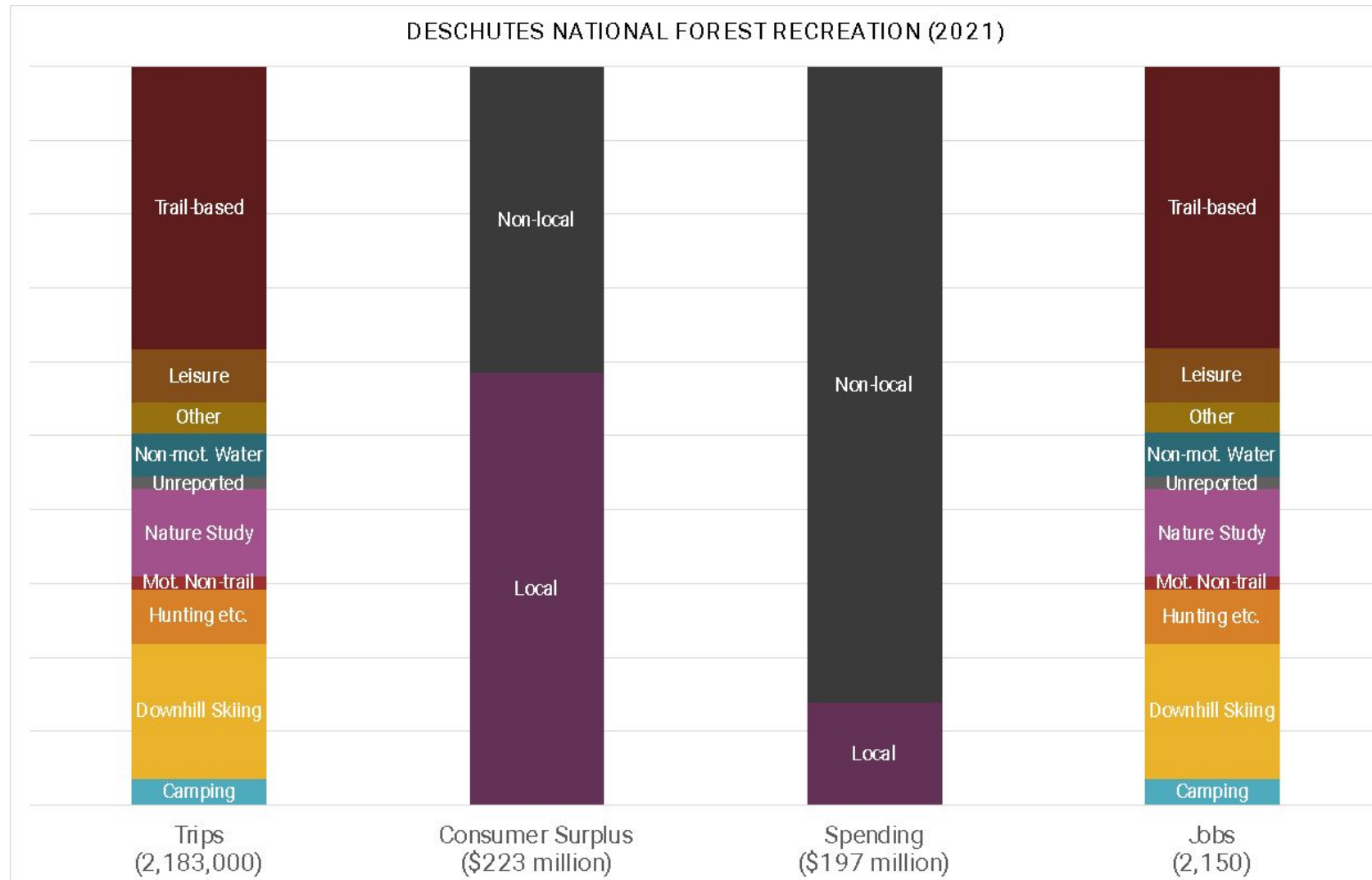


\$100s of millions of user value annually on DNF

Activity	Consumer Surplus (thousand \$)		
	2021	2040	2021-40 sum
Trail-based	83,900	113,520	1,959,230
Downhill Skiing	40,570	57,240	968,810
Non-motorized Water	21,120	28,340	491,140
Nature Study	20,790	26,490	470,510
Hunting, Fishing, and Gathering Forest Products	17,440	21,450	387,490
Outdoor Leisure / Sporting	16,580	21,520	378,920
Camping	9,300	12,030	212,170
Other	7,130	9,240	162,840
Motorized Non-trail	3,290	4,160	74,160
No Activity Reported	2,680	3,480	61,380
Local	130,520	184,880	3,123,840
Nonlocal	92,310	112,630	2,042,850
Grand Total	222,840	297,510	5,166,700
Discounted Total	N/A	169,670	3,900,100

\$12.4 million annual on ONF

Extensive economic contribution of DNF recreation



\$ millions needed annually for DNF recreation

Cost Item	Current Estimated Annual Budget	Estimated Budget to Reach 100 Percent Maintenance	Estimated Immediate Funding Gap	Estimated Annual Funding Need by 2040
Trail Maintenance	\$350,000	\$583,000	\$233,000	\$731,000
Trailhead Facilities Maintenance	\$281,000	\$468,000	\$187,000	\$587,000
Other Recreation Facilities Maintenance	\$463,000	\$772,000	\$309,000	\$967,000
Staffing	\$750,000	\$1,250,000	\$500,000	\$1,566,000
Total Budget	\$1,844,000	\$3,073,000	\$1,229,000	\$3,851,000
Volunteer Hours	57,000	94,000	38,000	118,000
Value of Volunteer Hours*	\$1,697,000	\$2,828,000	\$1,131,000	\$3,544,000
Total Costs Including Volunteer Hours	\$3,541,000	\$5,901,000	\$2,360,000	\$7,395,000

- Tourist tax revenue is contributing \$ millions annually for tourist-related infrastructure, including trails
- Local communities see burdens from public lands with houseless camps, wildfire risk, visitor impacts on infrastructure
- Gaps in stewardship, governance, public services, infrastructure funding

- Annual benefits and impacts \$100s of millions, costs \$ millions
- Locals in population centers capture much of the benefit.
- Resources near population centers are scarce.
- Visitors are contributing to funding.
- Local contributions will likely need to expand. Local volunteers do provide substantial support.