

FOREST SOCIOECONOMIC STUDIES: FOREST RECREATION USER SATISFACTION

INDICATOR: Satisfaction levels of Minnesota state forest recreation users

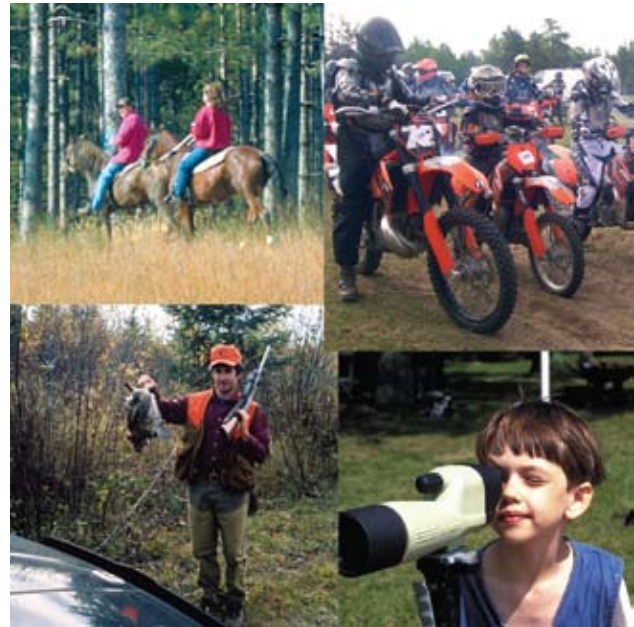
WHY IS THIS INDICATOR IMPORTANT?

Minnesota state forests provide multiple benefits for a variety of forest users. Recreation users visit state forests to pursue a diversity of activities including hunting, snowmobiling, off-highway vehicle riding, nature observation, horseback riding, hiking, mountain biking, fishing, camping, and cross country skiing. Users participate in these activities for reasons such as escaping a hectic lifestyle, experiencing adventure, and being with family and friends. Satisfaction levels of recreation enthusiasts is an important indicator of state forest management.

WHAT IS DNR DOING?

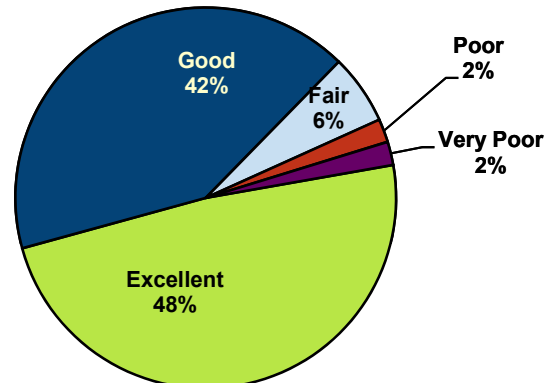
DNR uses surveys and other social science methods to better understand people's use and enjoyment of natural resources and how this varies based on such factors as age, race, and income. This information helps DNR improve users' experiences while protecting natural resources. DNR has completed three forest-area studies, The Foot Hills area in 2004, and the Finland and Land O'Lakes areas in 2007-2008. These studies are important for better understanding and engaging our longstanding forest recreational users, as well as increasing participation among those who have not traditionally used state forests or participated in outdoor recreation activities.

TARGET: Target to be defined in 2011. Before DNR can set and measure progress towards user satisfaction targets, more recreation use studies must be completed in state forests. Progress needs to be evaluated carefully because some recreation users may exhibit higher or lower satisfaction levels based on activity or whether they are tourist or local visitors. Average satisfaction levels reported in this indicator may mask these differences. DNR analyzes more detailed measures from its studies to understand these relationships.



People enjoy Minnesota state forests through a variety of recreational activities.

Quality of Experience Rating in Foot Hills, 2004; Land O'Lakes and Finland, 2007-08 State Forests



■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Fair ■ Poor ■ Very Poor

Quality of experience rating for users that entered the Foothills, Finland, and Land O' Lakes State Forests through a public entry.

LEARN MORE ABOUT:

- Forest recreation studies and other DNR surveys at: www.mndnr.gov/aboutdnr/reports/