

# Strengthening Recreation Economies in Gateway Communities



Toby Bloom  
National Program Manager  
Travel, Tourism, and Interpretation  
[tobybloom@fs.fed.us](mailto:tobybloom@fs.fed.us) or (240)330-2260



# Structures and functions of Forest Service and Rural Development Agencies



## USDA Forest Service

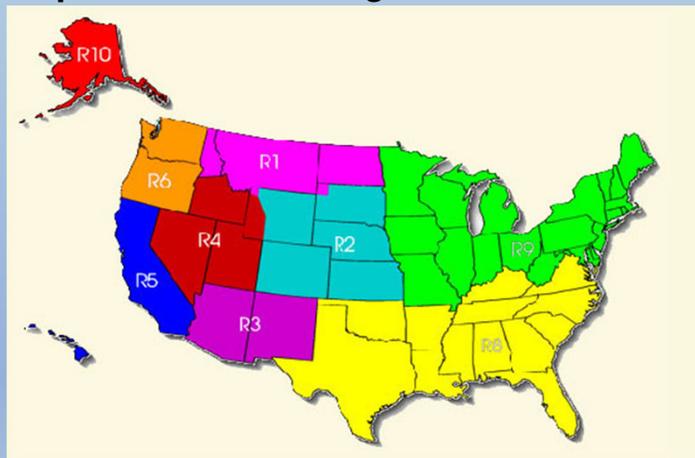
**MISSION:** To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

## USDA Rural Development

**MISSION:** It is Rural Development's mission to increase economic opportunities and improve the quality of life for rural Americans.

Relevant organizational structures:

- Local area offices
- State offices
- Regional Community Economic Development offices- coordinate regional economic development activities; serve as liaisons between state and area offices and national office.



Relevant organizational structures:

- Regional Foresters- Coordinates activities among forests within the region, coordinated regional land use planning
- Forest Supervisors- Provides technical support to districts, Report to regional foresters
- District Rangers- Directs on-the-ground activities (campgrounds, Watershed restoration, trail maintenance, veg and wildlife)

**\*District Rangers often have the closest connection to local communities and on-the-ground activities.**

# Joint FS/RD Initiative: Strengthening Recreation Economies in Gateway Communities



## Recreation Economy Resource Guide

*For USDA Forest Service, Rural Development and National Institute for Food and Agriculture Field Staff*



Photos courtesy Christine Sorensen, USDA Rural Development.

- Kickoff webinar in July 2016
- MOU signed in January 2017
- Playbook released in January 2017

## The Playbook

- Empowers FS and RD field staff to seek out field-level partnerships and connections
- Inform FS staff about funding and TA resources in RD that can support the recreation economy
- Encourage FS and RD staff to collaborate with Cooperative Extension System (Land Grant Universities)

# Some of Our Success Stories



Ely Recreation Meeting  
Ely, NV



City of Caliente  
Recreation Workshops  
Caliente, NV



Baileys Mountain  
Bike Trail System  
Athens, OH



Mon Forest Partnership  
12 Communities around the  
Monongahela National  
Forest  
West Virginia



Town of Mammoth Lakes/Inyo  
National Forest Sustainable  
Recreation Future  
Mammoth Lakes, CA





# Thank You! Questions?

