



National Institute of Food and Agriculture

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BIOENERGY, CLIMATE, AND ENVIRONMENT
FOOD PRODUCTION AND SUSTAINABILITY
YOUTH, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY
FOOD SAFETY AND NUTRITION
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

NIFA

Recreation Economies and Extension 11/17/22

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Recreation Economies Interagency MOU 2022-2027

- U.S. Forest Service
- USDA Rural Development
- USDA National Institute for Food And Agriculture



Recreation Economies Interagency MOU

1. Collaborate on methods and related guidance pertaining to streamlined technical assistance to regional planning efforts in forest gateway communities.
2. Coordinate streamlined delivery of investment finance.
3. Jointly develop and deliver technical assistance and training opportunities that can support sustainable growth of the recreation economy.
4. Develop an annual action plan and an annual report of MOU accomplishments

The MOU specifically addresses Objective 5.3 [Increase Capacity, Sustainability, and Economic Vitality in Rural and Tribal Communities] of USDA's FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan:

*“Collaborate with other Federal agencies, State and local governments, non-profits, and the private sector on place-based and sector-based strategies (e.g., leveraging Federal funds across agencies, layering technical assistance, and coordinating sectoral development such as food supply chain support and **outdoor recreation**) to more efficiently and effectively foster rural prosperity and economic development.:...*

Partnership began between U.S. Forest Service and Rural Development in 2017

- A Recreation Economy Resource Guide was published in 2017 intended first for ‘internal agency use only’
- Document was modified for public use and re-released in 2021 as **“Recreation Economy at USDA, Economic Development Resources for Rural Communities”**
- Partnerships thus far resulting in collaborative financing and partnering between RD and USFS (e.g. RERC, Mon Forests)
- NIFA joins formally in 2022



Opportunities for Extension

- Research – Defining outdoor recreation, nuanced understanding of impacts, analysis of previously funded programs, identification of gaps in the field
- Community Development expertise - for guiding strategy and praxis
- Holistic Approach to Development - (e.g. social-cultural-economic-environmental factors that intersect outdoor recreation)
- Elevating topics critical to community prosperity - (e.g. broadband access, transportation, behavioral health, environmental conditions, cultural traditions)

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- U.S. Forest Service
- USDA Rural Development
- USDA National Institute for Food And Agriculture
 - Representing Extension's Expertise and Opportunities in Inter-Agency collaboration



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