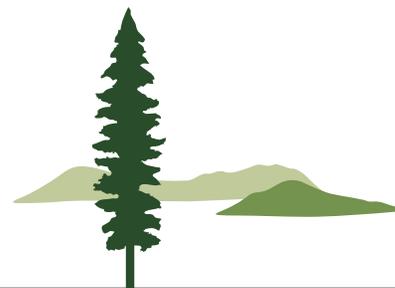


Ecosystem Workforce Program

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LOCAL BENEFITS FROM LAND MANAGEMENT: A STRATEGY FOR MEASURING PERFORMANCE

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The Forest Service faces a long-standing challenge of reporting accomplishments in ways that Congress and the public find compelling. Over the past several years, the Forest Service has made significant improvements to its accountability system. The Forest Service plays an important role in rural economies, especially in the rural West. However, the Forest Service does not track the economic effects that Forest Service work has on local communities. Describing the Forest Service's impact on rural communities could increase understanding and support for the agency's work. The Forest Service can use data that it already collects to track initial measures of the economic effects of its management on local communities. To understand the local economic impacts of land management activities, the Forest Service can measure:

The percent of contract and agreement value from land management service, stewardship, and timber sale contracts and agreements that are awarded to local contractors and organizations.

This measure can be calculated using information the Forest Service collects and stores in the Natural Resource Manager databases.¹

To get a sense of what these data could look like, on the following page we developed a map of average local capture by forest for Region 6. We examined service contracts for land management activities that might be included in an integrated resource and restoration line item. We selected four example national forests, to show trends over time in local capture as well as patterns of contractors' locations. These calculations could have been done equally easily for agreements, stewardship contracts, and timber sales.

In this example, we define "local" to be any county where a national forest is located. For example, Fremont-Winema National Forest is located in Klamath and Lake counties. Any award made by the Fremont-Winema to an entity in those counties was considered local. There are other ways that "local" could be defined, including distance between project location and contractor location or matching the county where the project was located and the contractor location. All of these options are possible using data the Forest Service already collects.

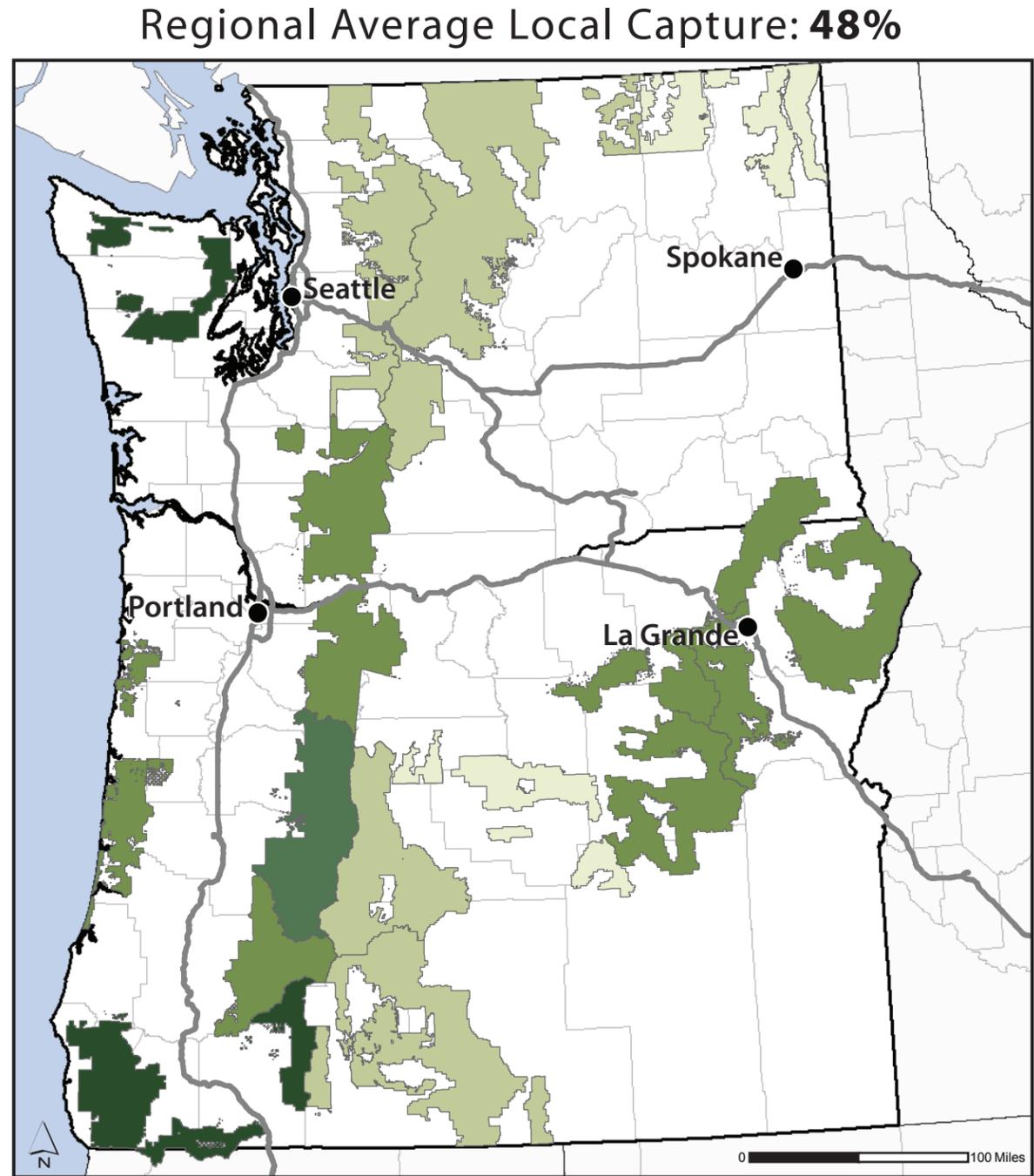
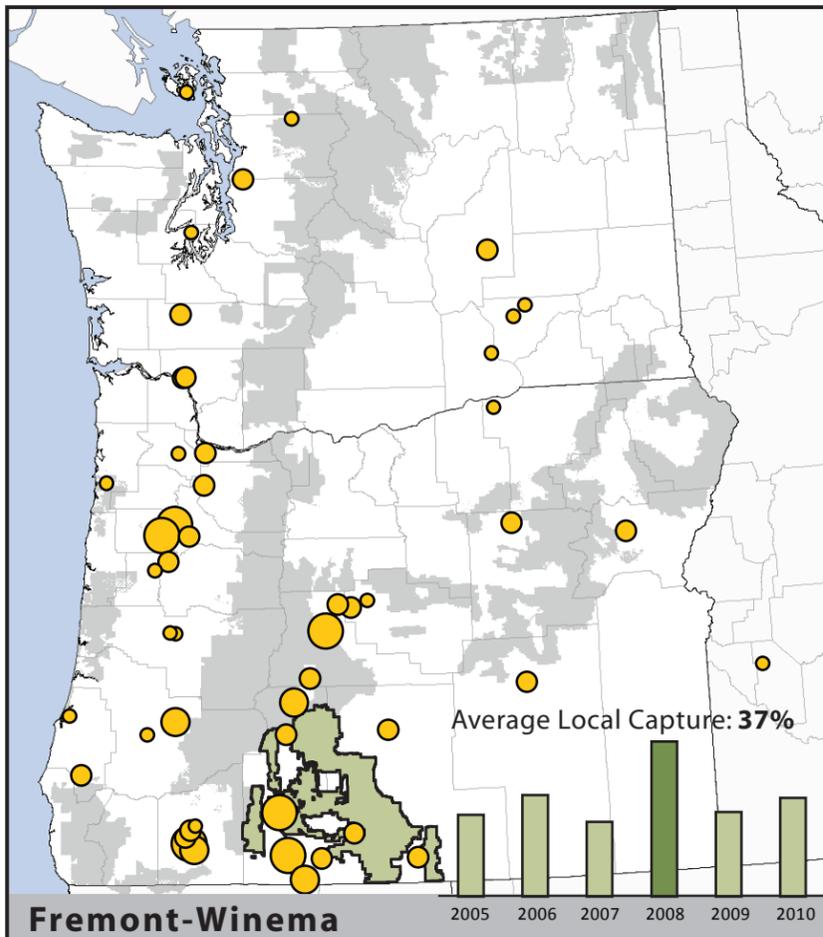
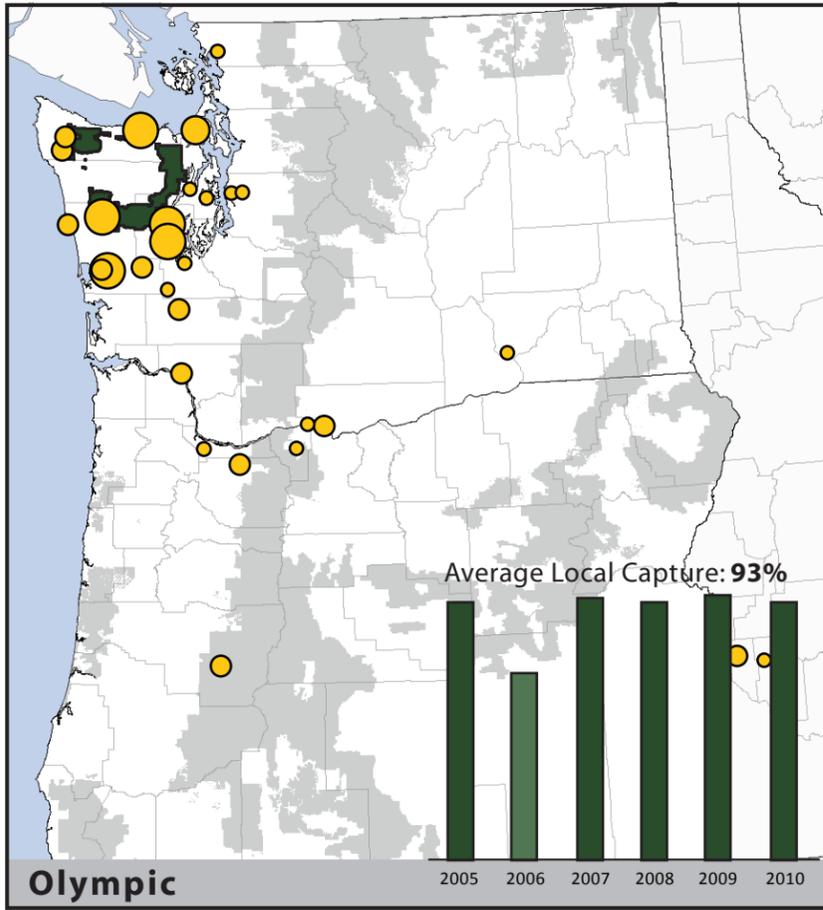
¹Except for timber sales data, the necessary data are also available to the public through USAspending.gov.



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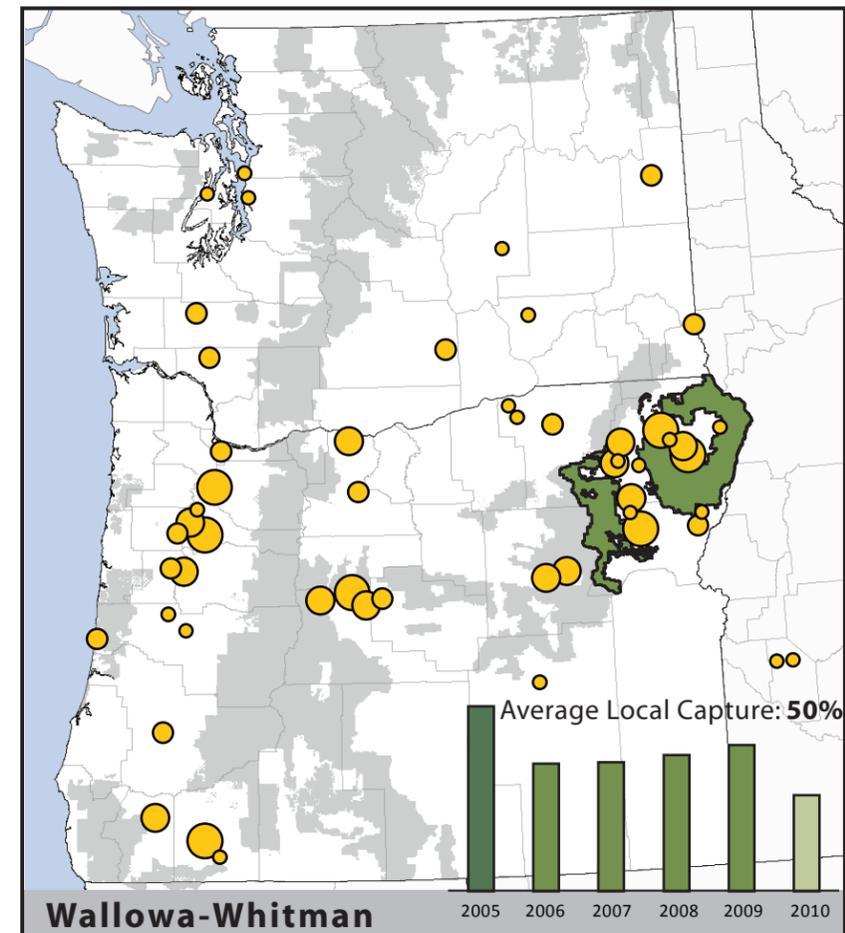
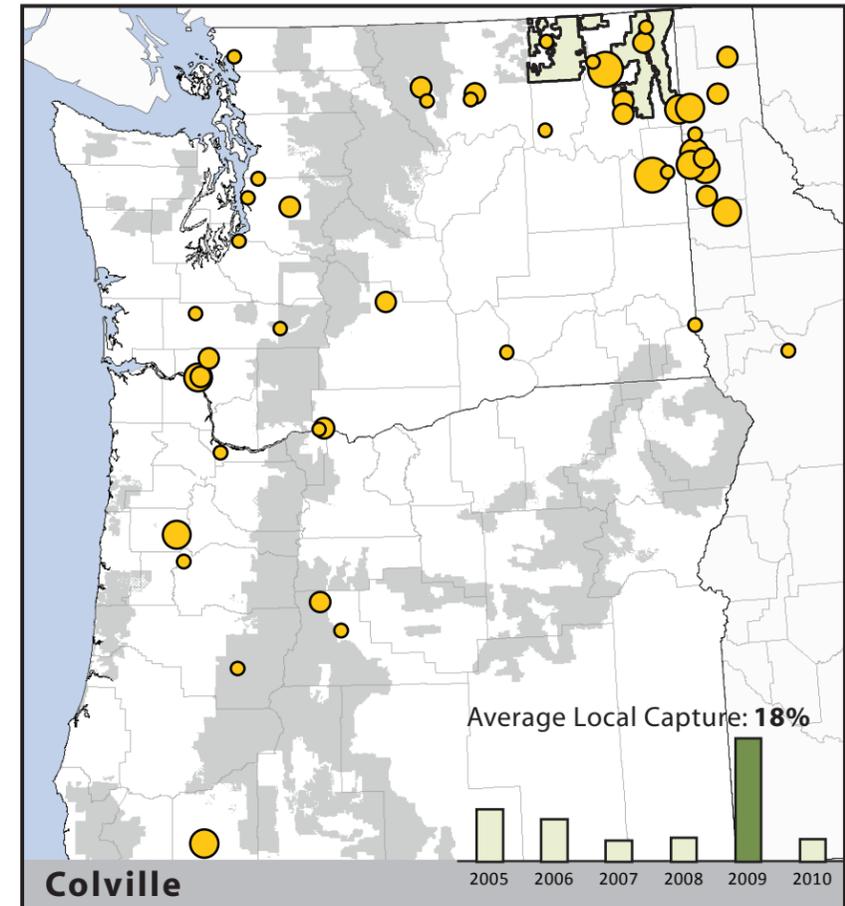
Local Capture of National Forest System Service Contracts, 2005-2010



LOCAL CAPTURE
the percent of contract value awarded by a national forest to contractors located in counties that contain that forest

Total Value of Forest Service Contracts

- \$1 - 50,000
- \$50,001 - 250,000
- \$250,001 - 1,000,000
- > \$1,000,000



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