



FACTS

Application Overview

Natural Resource Manager's (NRM) Forest Service Activity Tracking System (FACTS) links tabular data with geospatial maps displaying where specific forest resource activities occur nationwide. It standardizes the data collection processes for diverse forest resource activities, such as fuels reduction, reforestation, and rangeland vegetation improvements.

NRM FACTS is used by more than 2,600 Forest Service employees and offers various outputs and maps for analysis, project planning, and required yearly reporting to meet national, regional, forest, and district needs.

Key Features

- Produces Agency and public-use maps which provide details about activity types, locations, and occurrences for forests nationwide
- Tracks invasive species treatments, silviculture activities, Range vegetation improvement activities, fire/fuels activities, and KV & BD Fund Plan activities for timber sales
- Receives updates from Planning, Appeals, and Litigation System (PALS) application and links National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) decisions with activities
- Works in conjunction with TIM (Timber Information Manager) Contracts and Permits modules and interfaces with the National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System (NFPORS)

Agency Benefits

- Communicates on-the-ground information that better informs budgetary priorities for completing forest treatment activities
- Records inter-agency collaboration for invasive species treatments sharing comprehensive data for better Agency decision-making
- Increases accuracy and efficiency of reports that meet expectations from Congress and adhere to Forest Service Strategic Goals



Case Study

NRM FACTS covers thousands of project types, one of which is the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP), a 10-year program that began in 2009.

As of 2017, the program has treated 2.4 million acres to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire. Over two million acres were improved for wildlife habitats and 137 thousand acres were treated for noxious weeds and invasive plants. Many CFLRP activities support restoration and generate revenue through establishing forest vegetation, decommissioning and improving roads, controlling invasive plant and weed control, making available green tons for bioenergy production, and selling timber.

Tracking CFLRP initiative accomplishments through FACTS helps the program meet its legislatively mandated reporting requirements to Congress, provides key information for assessing and communicating progress towards proposed goals with partners, and helps identify areas for additional focus moving forward.

"FACTS is essentially a historical documentation of landscape changes that the Forest Service is making. When you want to know how a forest area got to its current condition, you can look in the FACTS database to find the factors that had a big influence."

Brian Barns
GIS Specialist
Ozark-St. Francis National Forest