

Indicator 63. Capacity To Conduct and Apply Research and Development Aimed at Improving Forest Management and Delivery of Forest Goods and Services Including Development of Scientific Understanding of Forest Ecosystem Characteristics and Functions

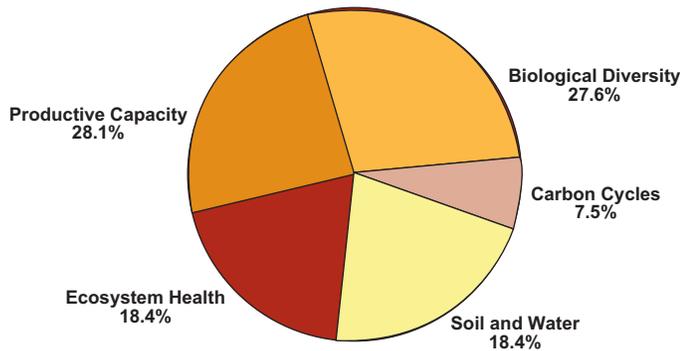


Figure 63-1. Total research and development capacity by criterion

What Is the Indicator and Why Is It Important?

This indicator is a measure of the capacity to understand the workings of forest ecosystems. This understanding is essential to the conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems.

What Does the Indicator Show?

Data in the review of capacity to conduct and apply research and development contained in the Data Report was used to estimate the capacity for development of scientific understanding of ecosystems. Of the 1,628 full-time equivalents reported to be working in teaching, research, and extension for criteria 1 through 5, more than one-half of capacity was in the area of biological diversity and productive capacity. Work on carbon cycles accounted for 7.5 percent of the total. The data includes estimates for the USDA Forest Service, forestry schools, and forest industry, and thus are not inclusive of all teaching, research, and extension efforts.

Until goals or other direction on desired distribution of capacity are in place, little basis will exist for judging the adequacy of the current distribution of effort. Until consistent trend-line information is available over time, little basis will exist for judging what has been happening to the allocation of teaching, research, and extension effort over time.