

Wildlife Enthusiasts Contribute to National Economy

A report by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service shows that expenditures nationwide for wildlife watching equal the revenues generated from all spectator sports, amusement parks and arcades, non-hotel casinos, bowling centers and skiing facilities combined. Using data from the *2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*, the Service's addendum report, *Wildlife Watching in the United States: The Economic Impacts on National and State Economies in 2006*, shows wildlife watching not only contributes significantly to people's enjoyment of the outdoors but is a major factor in state and national economies.

In 2006, nearly 71 million Americans, 16 years and older, spent more than \$45 billion observing, feeding, and photographing wildlife.

In 2006, the direct expenditures of wildlife watchers generated \$122.6 billion in total industrial output. This resulted in 1,063,482 jobs, federal tax revenue of \$9.3 billion, and state and local tax revenues of \$8.9 billion. The report details the economic impacts of wildlife watching expenditures by state. The top five states ranked by economic output are California, Florida, Texas, Georgia and New York. Direct expenditures by wildlife watchers were for items such as cameras, binoculars and bird food, as well as trip-related expenses such as lodging, transportation and food.

Wildlife Watching in the United States: The Economic Impacts on National and State Economies in 2006 is available at http://library.fws.gov/nat_survey2006_economics.pdf

In addition to the *2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation* and its addendum analytical report, individual state reports have also been completed. For more information on fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching in states, visit: <http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/NationalSurvey/reports2006.html>