



Willamette Valley Conservation Study

Conserving America's Great Outdoors

Economic Benefits of National Wildlife Refuges



Increased Home Values

Results from a recent study determined that there was an economic benefit to homeowners whose homes are close to national wildlife refuges near urban centers.

On average, homes located within 0.5 miles of a national wildlife refuge and within eight miles of an urban center are valued:

- 4% - 5% higher in the Northeast Region;
- 7% - 9% higher in the Southeast Region; and
- 3% - 6% higher in California/Nevada Region.

The total property value benefit to homeowners surrounding a national wildlife refuge in 2011 dollars:

- \$125 million for 11 national wildlife refuges in the Northeast region;
- \$161 million for 14 national wildlife refuges in the Southeast region; and
- \$110 million for 11 national wildlife refuges in the California/Nevada region.



On average across the national wildlife refuges studied, the total property value benefits of the national wildlife refuges are:

- \$11.4 million per national wildlife refuge in the Northeast region;
- \$11.5 million per national wildlife refuge in the Southeast region; and
- \$10.0 million per national wildlife refuge in the California/Nevada region.

Source: *Amenity Values of Proximity to National Wildlife Refuges* (Taylor et al 2012).



Visitors Benefit Local Communities

A 2006 study of recreational visitors to national wildlife refuges in the lower 48 states found that:

- 34.8 million visitors
- Added \$1.7 billion to local economies
- Creating 27,000 local jobs
- That generated \$542.8 million in employment income
- Which was spent in the local economy and paid taxes

Source: *Banking on Nature 2006: The Economic Benefits to Local Communities of National Wildlife Refuge Visitation* (Carver and Caudill 2007).

Top: Vista on William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge. Photo: ©George Gentry

Center: A family enjoys wildflower discoveries during a walk on the prairie.

Above: Kayaking is one of many recreation opportunities in the Willamette Valley.

Photo: Patrick Stark/USFWS