

The Economic Contributions of Recreational Visitation at Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge

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This paper establishes the economic contribution baseline for recreational visitation at Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). The paper addresses the levels of Refuge recreational activities and the economic effects of Refuge recreational activities. The analysis is followed by a glossary of terms. For more information regarding the methodology, please refer to “Banking on Nature – The Economic Contributions to Local Communities of National Wildlife Refuge Visitation” at <https://www.fws.gov/economics/divisionpublications/divisionpublications.asp>.

From an economic perspective, Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge provides a variety of environmental and natural resource goods and services used by people either directly or indirectly. The use of these goods and services may result in economic effects to both local and state economies. The various services the Refuge provides can be grouped into five broad categories: (1) maintenance and conservation of environmental resources, services and ecological processes; (2) protection of natural resources such as fish, wildlife, and plants; (3) protection of cultural and historical sites and objects; (4) provision of educational and research opportunities; and (5) outdoor and wildlife-related recreation. A comprehensive economic profile of the Refuge would address all applicable economic effects associated with the use of refuge-produced goods and services. However, some of the major contributions of the Refuge to the natural environment, such as watershed protection, maintenance and stabilization of ecological processes, and the enhancement of biodiversity are beyond the scope of this paper. Therefore, this paper focuses on economic effects associated with recreational visitation. As a result, benefits represent conservative estimates and do not represent the Refuge’s total social impacts.

Refuge Description

Located near the confluence of the Willamette and Santiam Rivers, Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1965 as part of the Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The area was previously known as "Ankeny Bottoms" and provides important migratory and overwintering habitat for the dusky Canada goose and other migratory waterfowl and birds.

Today, the Refuge’s extensive croplands are managed to provide winter forage for the geese, which reduces depredation of surrounding private fields and promotes a healthy wildlife-landowner relationship as well as providing for the geese. The Oregon chub was listed as endangered in 1993 but has now been delisted, the first fish ever! Ankeny Refuge was a big part of this recovery success story.

Just off of Interstate 5, the Refuge offers convenient access to miles of boardwalk and dirt trails as well as handicap and stroller accessible viewing platforms. There are 2 boardwalk trails with active sign of beaver along both sides. Stop at the viewing blinds and scan for woodducks!

Nature photographers also enjoy the use of these observation blinds and trails, and we provide access to a refuge photography blind which overlooks Frog Pond. The photography blind is available for reservation during the winter sanctuary season. Refuge boardwalks and kiosks are open year-round, but all other trails are closed from October 1 through March 31 to provide sanctuary for wintering dusky Canada geese and other waterfowl.

Activity Levels

Table 1 shows the recreation visits for the Refuge. The Refuge had about 84,000 recreational visits in 2017 which contributed to the economic effect of the Refuge. Non-consumptive recreation accounted for all visits with residents comprising 62 percent of Refuge visitation. With the Ankeny Hill Nature Center opening, visitation is projected to increase in the future.

Table 1. Ankeny NWR: 2017 Recreation Visits

Activity	Residents	Non-Residents	Total
Non-Consumptive:			
Pedestrian	10,920	5,880	16,800
Auto Tour	36,600	24,400	61,000
Boat Trail/Launch	-	-	-
Bicycle	1,600	400	2,000
Photography	2,310	990	3,300
Interpretation	315	135	450
Other Recreation	-	-	-
Visitor Center	-	-	-
Hunting:			
Big Game	-	-	-
Small Game	-	-	-
Migratory Birds	-	-	-
Fishing:	-	-	-
Total Visitation	51,745	31,805	83,550

Source: Refuge Annual Performance Plan 2017 and Refuge Staff

Regional Economic Analysis

The economic area for the Refuge is Marion County, Oregon. It is assumed that visitor expenditures occur primarily within this county. Visitor recreation expenditures for 2017 are shown in Table 2. Total expenditures were \$1.7 million with non-residents accounting for \$1.4 million or 79 percent of total expenditures.

Spending in the local area generates and supports economic activity within Marion County (Table 3). The contribution of recreational spending in local communities was associated with about 21 jobs, \$764,000 in employment income, \$125,000 in total tax revenue, and \$2.3 million in economic output.

Table 2. Ankeny NWR: Visitor Recreation Expenditures (2017 \$,000)

Activity	Residents	Non-Residents	Total
Non-Consumptive	\$368.9	\$1,376.8	\$1,745.7
Hunting	-	-	-
Fishing	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$368.9	\$1,376.8	\$1,745.7

Table 3. Ankeny NWR: Local Economic Contributions Associated with Recreation Visits (2017 \$,000)

	Residents	Non-Residents	Total
Economic Output	\$447.8	\$1,862.6	\$2,310.3
Jobs	5	17	21
Job Income	\$164.2	\$599.9	\$764.1
State and Local Tax Revenue	\$22.6	\$102.8	\$125.4

Glossary

Economic Contribution: The economic activity generated in a region by residents and non-resident recreation spending.

Expenditures: The spending by recreational visitors when visiting refuges. Expenditure categories include food, lodging, transportation, and other. Expenditure information is based on the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation (NSFHWR).

Economic Output: The total spending by final consumers on all goods. The amount reported in this study is the change in spending by final consumers in the region attributable to refuge visitation. Economic output includes spending by people who earn income from refuge visitors' activities as well as spending by refuge visitors themselves.

Impact: The new economic activity generated in a region as a refuge attracts non-residents to the area. This figure represents economic activity that would be lost if the refuge were not there.

IMPLAN: An economic modeling software package that applies input-output analysis techniques to regional economies.

Jobs: Full and part time jobs.

Job Income: Income to households from labor including wages and salaries.

Resident/Non-Resident: People living more than 50 miles from the refuges are considered non-residents for this study.

Tax Revenue: Local, county and state taxes: sales tax, property tax, and income tax

Visitors: A visitor is someone who comes to the refuge and participates in one or more of the activities available at the refuge.

Visits (visitation): A visit is not the same as a visitor. One visitor could be responsible for several visits on a refuge. For example, if a family of four went fishing in the morning and hiked a short nature trail in the afternoon, they would have contributed 8 activity visits to the refuge; yet, they are only four visitors.

References

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