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# News Release



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## U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RELEASES PRELIMINARY STATE DATA FROM 2006 NATIONAL SURVEY OF FISHING, HUNTING AND WILDLIFE-ASSOCIATED RECREATION SURVEY

According to preliminary state data from the new 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, Montanans were most likely to hunt, Alaskans and Minnesotans were most likely to fish and Mainers were most likely to observe, photograph or feed wildlife. In terms of numbers of people participating in these activities, Texas led the nation in 2006 with 1.1 million Texans going hunting at some point during the year, while Florida led the nation in total fishing participation with 2.8 million anglers and California saw 6.2 million of its residents observe wildlife.

Participation and total expenditures by sportspersons in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service' Pacific Region states of Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon and Washington are as follows:

State	Fishing	Hunting	Wildlife Watching	Total Expenditures
<b>Hawaii</b>	158,000	18,000	301,000	\$ 402,254,000
<b>Idaho</b>	361,000	186,000	893,000	\$ 840,267,000
<b>Oregon</b>	573,000	236,000	1,129,000	\$1,629,680,000
<b>Washington</b>	745,000	189,000	2,836,000	\$2,656,736,000

“This region is rich with natural resources. According to the national survey results, hunting and fishing remain favorite past-times for many people who live or visit this part of the country. However, compared to the 2001 national survey, wildlife watching is growing in popularity,” said Ren Lohofener, Director of the Service's Pacific Region.

“The National Survey is an important tool that measures in economic and participatory terms the value that wildlife has in Americans' hearts and to the nation's economy. Wildlife related recreation rejuvenates our spirit, connects us with nature and gets us outside pursuing healthy activities,” said Fish and Wildlife Service Director H. Dale Hall.

In 2006, more than 87 million Americans, or 38 percent of the United States' population age 16 and older hunted, fished or watched wildlife. They spent \$120 billion that year pursuing those activities. Further broken down by category, 30 million or 13 percent fished and spent a total of \$41 billion on their activities, 12.5 million or 5 percent hunted and spent a total of \$23 billion, and 71 million or 31 percent observed wildlife and spent a total of \$45 billion.

Some notable highlights of the 2006 survey include:

<b>Most Participants In-State (age 16 and older)</b>	<b>Highest Participation Rates (age 16 and older)</b>
<i>In-State Hunters</i>	<i>Hunting</i>
Texas – 1,115,000 Pennsylvania – 1,027,000 Michigan – 756,000 Wisconsin – 698,000 Missouri – 613,000	Montana – 19% North Dakota – 17% South Dakota, Wisconsin – 15% Arkansas, Maine, West Virginia – 14% Minnesota, Missouri, Wyoming – 13%
<i>In-State Anglers</i>	<i>Fishing</i>
Florida – 2,755,000 Texas – 2,500,000 California – 1,740,000 Minnesota – 1,435,000 Michigan – 1,408,000	Alaska, Minnesota – 28% Montana, Wyoming – 24% Wisconsin – 23% Arkansas, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota, West Virginia – 21% Idaho – 20%
<i>In-State Wildlife Watchers</i>	<i>Wildlife Watching</i>
California – 6,233,000 Florida – 4,177,000 Texas – 4,174,000 Pennsylvania – 3,965,000 New York – 3,762,000	Maine – 57% Montana, Vermont – 55% Iowa, Minnesota, Wyoming – 48% New Hampshire – 46% Missouri – 45%

The National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation has been conducted every 5 years since 1955 and is one of the nation's most important wildlife recreation databases. It is considered to be the definitive source of information concerning participation and expenditures associated with hunting, fishing and other forms of wildlife-related recreation nationwide.

The Survey is conducted at the request of State fish and wildlife agencies and is funded by grants from the Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Acts' Multistate Conservation Grant Program. A wide range of individuals and groups depend on the Survey to analyze participation rates, economic impacts of expenditures, demographic characteristics, and trends in participation and activities.

It is important to note that the National Survey counts only participants who actually went hunting, fishing or observed wildlife in 2006 and does not represent the total number of anglers, hunters, and wildlife watchers in the U.S. Many people who consider themselves hunters, anglers or wildlife watchers do not participate every year. For example, examination of survey data shows that over the five year period from 2002 to 2006, a cumulative total of 44.4 million people fished and 18.6 million hunted.

This *2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation State Overview* report, as well as previous surveys and reports, can be found at <http://federalaid.fws.gov/surveys/surveys.html>. The Service expects to publish the final National Report in November 2007.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 97-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 548 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.