

## **Interior Department Supported \$358 Billion in Economic Activity, 2 Million Jobs in 2014**

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell released a report showing that the various activities of the Department of the Interior contributed \$358 billion to the U.S. economy in 2014, supporting more than two million jobs across the country.

“This report demonstrates once again that the Department of the Interior is a powerful economic engine,” Jewell said. “Our parks and public lands support outdoor recreation, promote renewable energy and allow us to harness other domestic energy resources, create jobs and promote economic development in communities across all 50 states.”

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Economic Report for Fiscal Year 2014 found that national parks, national wildlife refuges, national monuments and other public lands managed by Interior hosted an estimated 423 million recreational visits in 2014 – up from 407 million in 2013 – and that these visits alone supported \$42 billion in economic output and about 375,000 jobs nationwide. This year's report is paired with a web-based data visualization tool that lets the user customize the contribution analysis by bureau, activity or state.

Jewell has stressed the importance of continuing the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which is set to expire on September 30, 2015, unless Congress acts to reauthorize the fund. The LWCF provides money for federal, state and local government purchases of land, water and wetlands, from federal oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf. President Obama has called for fully funding the LWCF at \$900 million beginning in 2016.

Prepared by the Department's Office of Policy Analysis, the report is the sixth in a series of annual economic reports published since 2009. The estimated \$358 billion in economic output is related to a variety of Interior's activities including: tourism and outdoor recreation at parks, monuments and refuges, water management, energy and mineral development on public lands, wildlife conservation, hunting and fishing, support for American Indian tribal communities and U.S. island territories, as well as scientific research and innovation endeavors.

“While this report quantifies some of the economic benefits of public lands, the full value of our lands and historic sites cannot be expressed in dollars,” said Jewell. “Many of these are simply priceless treasures that belong to all Americans and define our cultural, historic and natural heritage for present and future generations. They provide us with clean water, clean air and habitat for a rich diversity of plant and animal species that depend on healthy public lands and waters, in addition to breathing space for our growing population.”

To see the full report:

[https://my.usgs.gov/doidv/files/FY2014%20Econ%20Report%20\\_06\\_23\\_2015.pdf](https://my.usgs.gov/doidv/files/FY2014%20Econ%20Report%20_06_23_2015.pdf)