



# TWRA NEWS



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**---For Immediate Release:**

## **\$2.9 BILLION IMPACT BY STATE'S SPORTSMEN AMONG REASONS TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY**

NASHVILLE --- In advance of National Hunting and Fishing Day on Saturday (Sept. 28), the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is highlighting results from a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Census Bureau survey to show the importance of sportsmen to Tennessee's economy.

Wildlife-related recreation generates billions of dollars for the nation's economy each year. According to the 211 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation Report, \$2.9 billion was spent on wildlife-related recreation in Tennessee.

"Our agency is well aware of the tremendous economic impact of the hunters and anglers of Tennessee," said Ed Carter, TWRA Executive Director. "It's satisfying to see the details of the report and to give credit where it is due to those who contribute so much to wildlife conservation and the quality of life in our state."

The NHFD is an event celebrated in all 50 states annually on the fourth Saturday in September. It was established by the U.S. Congress in May 1972 passing a specific day to celebrate the conservation contributions of the nation's hunters and anglers. By the late summer of the same year, all 50 governors and more than 600 mayors across the country had joined proclaiming state and local versions of National Hunting and Fishing Day.

"This is a 'must read' for anyone who hunts, fishes or watches wildlife, as well as news reporters, economists and elected officials," said Cindy Dohner, the Service's Southeast Regional Director. "It is filled with valuable facts that show the economic

impact of hunting and fishing and wildlife viewing.”

The Tennessee state report, part of the 2011 survey, measures public participation in hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing and other wildlife dependent recreation, as well as how much money is spent pursuing these activities.

- A total of 826,000 people, 16 years and older spent a combined total of 17 million days fishing in Tennessee in 2011. In total, residents and non-residents combined to spend an estimated \$1.1 billion.
- An estimated 375,000 sportsmen combined for 9.8 million hunting days. More than \$494 million was spent on hunting-related activities.
- Two million people, 16 or older watched wildlife during the year in away-from-home activities or around-the-home activities. In total, an estimated \$943 million was spent on wildlife watching in the state.

The complete Tennessee report is available online at <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/tennessee/economicimpact-tn.html>.

Nationally, here are some highlights:

- More than 90 million U.S. residents 16 years old and older participated in some form of wildlife-related recreation in 2011, up 3 percent from five years earlier. The increase was primarily among those who fished and hunted.
- Wildlife recreationists spent \$144.7 billion in 2011 on their activities, which equated to one percent of the Gross Domestic Product. Of the total amount spent, \$49.5 billion was trip-related, \$70.4 billion was spent on equipment, and \$25.1 billion was spent on other items such as licenses and land leasing and ownership.
- The number of people who hunted or fished or both rose from 33.9 million in 2006 to 37.4 million in 2011.
- 71.8 million U.S. residents observed, fed, and/or photographed wildlife in 2011. Almost 68.6 million people wildlife watched around their homes, and 22.5 million people took trips of at least one mile from home primarily to watch wildlife.
- Of the 46.7 million people who observed wild birds, 88 percent did so around their homes and 38 percent on trips a mile or more from home.
- People spent \$54.9 billion on their wildlife-watching trips, equipment, and other items in 2011. This amounted to \$981 on average per spender for the year.

Complete survey results are available at:

<http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/NationalSurvey/NatSurveyIndex.htm>.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov/southeast](http://www.fws.gov/southeast). Connect with us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/usfwssoutheast](http://www.facebook.com/usfwssoutheast), follow our tweets at [www.twitter.com/usfwssoutheast](http://www.twitter.com/usfwssoutheast), watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws>, and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwssoutheast>.

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