

News Release



Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Boosts Local Economy Refuge Visits Stimulate Area Sales, Jobs, Taxes

Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon generated \$1.6 million in economic benefit for the Portland Metropolitan Area including Clackamas, Marion, Multnomah, Washington and Yamhill Counties in Fiscal Year 2011, according to a new economic analysis. The benefit – which includes retail sales, taxes and job income – came from visitor spending tied to recreation activities on the refuge.

The refuge returned \$3.87 for every \$1 appropriated, calculated in 2011 dollars. Recreation activities at Tualatin River Refuge include wildlife observation, wildlife photography, educational and interpretive programs, nature trails, and a Wildlife Center with exhibits and information.

The figures come from a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service study, called Banking on Nature, which used 92 of the more than 550 national wildlife refuges for its economic sampling.

Wildlife refuges pumped \$2.4 billion into the economy and supported more than 35,000 private-sector jobs in Fiscal Year 2011. Refuges contributed an average \$4.87 in total economic output for every \$1 appropriated and produced nearly \$793 million in job income for local communities. The refuges are part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, managed by the Service.

“Our National Wildlife Refuge System is the world’s greatest network of lands dedicated to wildlife conservation but is also an important contributor to our economy, attracting more than 46 million visitors from around the world who support local restaurants, hotels, and other businesses,” said Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell. “Every dollar we invest in our Refuge System and other public lands generates huge dividends for our country.”

Researchers examined visitor spending in four areas – food, lodging, transportation and other expenses (such as guide fees, land-use fees and equipment rental). Local economies were defined as those within 50 miles of each of the 92 refuges studied.

Learn more about the study here: <http://1.usa.gov/185tp06>

Learn more about visitor opportunities at Tualatin River Refuge here: www.fws.gov/tualatinriver

Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System and is among a handful of urban refuges in the country. Situated within the floodplain of the Tualatin River, the refuge provides habitat for some of the most diverse and abundant wildlife in the river valley.

Since its establishment in 1992, refuge managers have been acquiring and restoring lands and waters for the benefit of native fish and wildlife. Native habitats include rivers and streams, seasonal and permanent wetlands, riparian areas, grasslands and savanna areas, and forested uplands. The refuge is now home to nearly 200 species of birds, over 50 species of mammals, 25 species of reptiles and amphibians, and a wide variety of insects, fish and plants.

The refuge also provides a variety of recreational and educational activities focused on fish and wildlife and their habitats. Visitor facilities include the Wildlife Center, environmental education shelter, trails, overlooks, observation deck, photography blind, environmental education study sites and exhibit panels. Current visitation is approximately 130,000 people per year.

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. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov. Connect with our [Facebook page](#), follow our [tweets](#), watch our [YouTube Channel](#), and download photos from our [Flickr page](#).