

# Economic Benefits of Outdoor Recreation in Washington

## THE PERFECT INVESTMENT IN PLAIN SIGHT

Washington's outdoor recreation is a driving force for the state's economy, creating jobs and building rural businesses. It also is a way of life in the Pacific Northwest.

### Washingtonians Love to Be Outside

Washingtonians participate in outdoor recreation more than 445 million days each year, or on average, we spend 56 days a year recreating outdoors. Of all the places there are to go, local parks are the most visited.

#### *What do we do?*

The five most popular recreational activities (those with the greatest participation) are 1) walking, 2) running and jogging, 3) wildlife viewing and photography, 4) bicycle riding, and 5) playground use.

#### *Where are we spending the most?*

Each year, Washingtonians and visitors spend \$21.6 billion on outdoor recreation, supporting many different businesses, such as gear and equipment (42 percent), gas and oil (13 percent), grocery stores (9 percent), food and beverage services (10 percent), and lodging (7 percent).

When looking at the amount of money spent by land type, outdoor enthusiasts spend the most when they are recreating on the water, especially when using motorized boats. Ranking second in most expenditures were special events such as sports tournaments and races, which generally involve fees and overnight stays, and occur on all land types. Ranking third was recreation on private lands, which includes more costly recreation activities such as golf, skiing, hunting, and off-road vehicle riding.

When looking at spending by individual types of activities, people spend the most money on wildlife viewing and photography, motorized boating, bicycling, picnicking, and horseback riding.

### Other Benefits of Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor recreation not only creates jobs and builds businesses, it cuts health care costs, brings families closer together, helps kids learn in school, and protects the environment. To quantify some of the non-market values, the report looked at the value of

## \$21.6 Billion

SPENT IN WASHINGTON ON RECREATION TRIPS AND EQUIPMENT ANNUALLY.

## 199,000 Jobs

DIRECT AND INDIRECT JOBS SUPPORTED IN WASHINGTON.

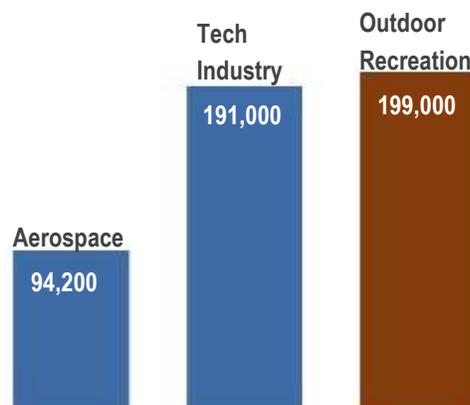
## \$2 Billion

LOCAL AND STATE TAXES COLLECTED.

## \$4.6 Billion

GENERATED BY OUT-OF-STATE VISITORS. FOR EVERY DOLLAR THEY SPEND, \$1.36 IS GENERATED.

## Jobs in Washington



Sources: Washington Aerospace Partnership, 2012; TechAmerica Foundation, 2012; Washington Recreation and Conservation Office, 2015.

For full report, visit [www.rco.wa.gov/documents/ORTF/EconomicAnalysisOutdoorRec.pdf](http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/ORTF/EconomicAnalysisOutdoorRec.pdf)

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ecosystem services provided by the trees, water, and animals found on public recreation lands – clean water, habitat for wildlife, aesthetic beauty, and enhanced recreational experiences. The combined value of these non-market benefits is between \$134 billion and \$248 billion a year.

## Supporting Rural Economies

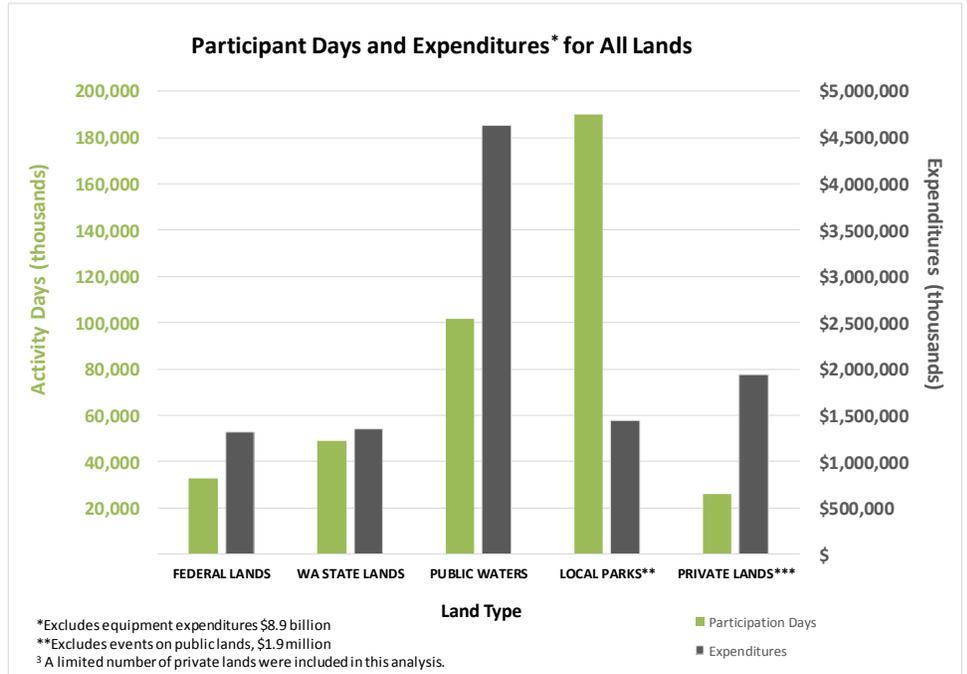
Recreation markets play an important role in connecting urban and rural communities. The recreation market is one of the largest markets in the state for moving income from urban to rural areas and building jobs in more rural areas. The map to the right shows higher outdoor recreation expenditures outside the state's largest cities.

## About this Report

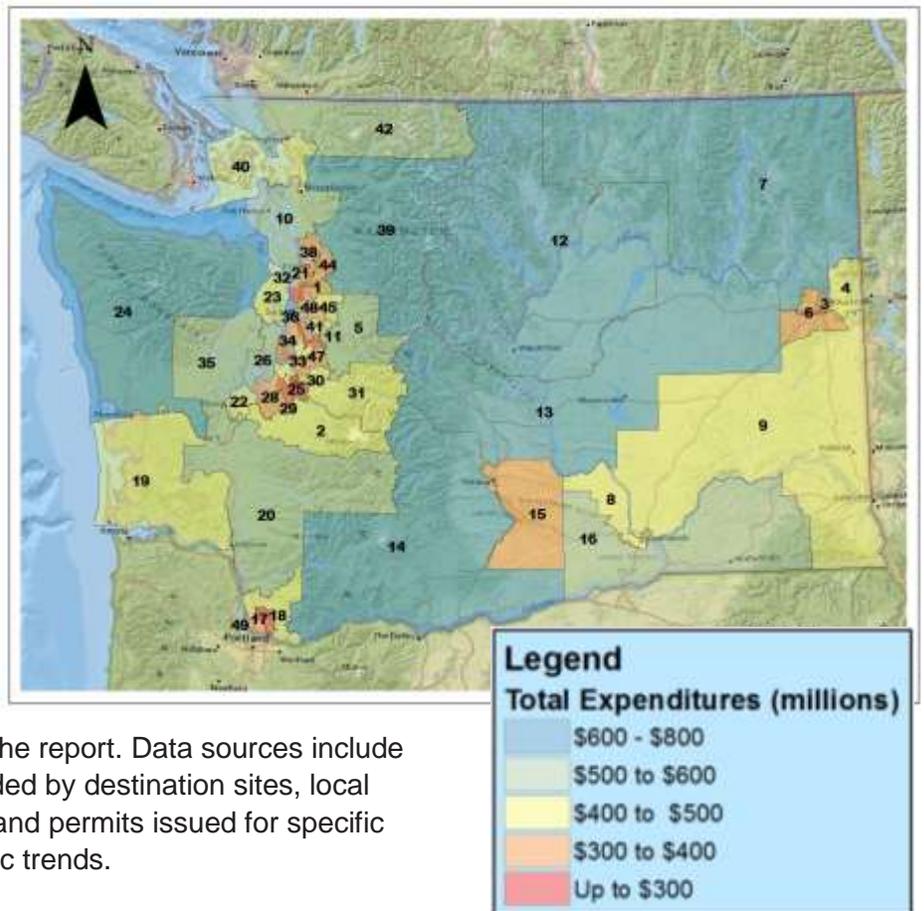
This report is the first comprehensive analysis of the recreation economy in Washington. It offers economic impact data by geography, by county, and by activity.

The Legislature, as part of 2013-2015 Operating Budget, requested the report to quantify the economic contribution to the state economy from the state's public lands and the economic contribution from statewide outdoor recreation to the state's economy.

The Recreation and Conservation Office contracted with Earth Economics of Tacoma to compile the data and write the report. Data sources include existing studies on recreation, data recorded by destination sites, local surveys on recreation behavior, licenses and permits issued for specific activities, and modeling of location-specific trends.



## Outdoor Recreation Expenditures by Legislative District



# Economic Benefits of Outdoor Recreation in Washington

Economic Contribution By County for All Land Types				
County	Expenditures <sup>1</sup>	Economic Contribution	Jobs	State and Local Taxes Collected
Adams	\$49,305,145	\$21,759,562	342	\$2,132,763
Asotin	\$80,375,467	\$41,816,810	622	\$3,365,150
Benton	\$743,771,194	\$451,326,085	7,074	\$32,517,602
Chelan	\$341,810,641	\$298,911,739	3,843	\$22,941,964
Clallam	\$355,840,717	\$245,335,462	3,709	\$19,635,297
Clark	\$1,186,068,465	\$719,140,809	9,229	\$54,096,384
Columbia	\$29,924,983	\$15,048,914	220	\$1,226,860
Cowlitz	\$359,700,802	\$191,956,835	2,625	\$15,682,729
Douglas	\$136,056,771	\$68,267,007	932	\$5,660,473
Ferry	\$82,571,695	\$26,855,004	381	\$2,438,307
Franklin	\$205,464,318	\$81,958,526	1,114	\$5,942,129
Garfield	\$42,112,831	\$19,432,967	427	\$1,632,339
Grant	\$301,299,977	\$161,617,341	2,187	\$13,094,365
Grays Harbor	\$343,266,747	\$218,642,459	2,900	\$16,885,342
Island	\$358,609,615	\$211,909,319	3,321	\$18,186,665
Jefferson	\$317,207,225	\$215,058,787	3,335	\$17,850,000
King	\$5,441,082,743	\$4,552,283,179	50,191	\$310,612,209
Kitsap	\$694,367,089	\$467,113,253	6,461	\$37,532,995
Kittitas	\$185,324,579	\$118,805,075	1,762	\$9,459,051
Klickitat	\$155,499,119	\$74,242,153	1,110	\$5,836,139
Lewis	\$326,660,585	\$205,140,060	2,398	\$25,205,944
Lincoln	\$48,342,573	\$23,397,109	272	\$3,179,303
Mason	\$255,195,765	\$118,927,454	1,614	\$16,271,569
Okanogan	\$222,002,071	\$151,343,122	1,819	\$18,646,032
Pacific	\$176,860,256	\$107,384,566	1,364	\$13,354,092
Pend Oreille	\$68,065,887	\$19,736,001	250	\$2,829,398
Pierce	\$2,252,444,514	\$1,612,371,838	17,243	\$176,352,363
San Juan	\$121,776,141	\$94,362,764	1,134	\$10,557,023
Skagit	\$479,877,336	\$349,972,158	3,805	\$38,280,992
Skamania	\$199,386,016	\$120,784,277	1,481	\$15,873,139
Snohomish	\$2,073,725,625	\$1,225,092,260	14,926	\$150,405,307
Spokane	\$1,308,263,764	\$1,177,345,346	12,460	\$118,765,730
Stevens	\$235,766,295	\$125,811,922	1,719	\$18,132,951
Thurston	\$755,537,017	\$476,049,781	5,616	\$58,735,231
Wahkiakum	\$20,716,703	\$6,710,481	111	\$1,056,530
Walla Walla	\$159,948,569	\$94,593,134	1,133	\$11,504,482
Whatcom	\$705,092,821	\$584,754,452	6,502	\$62,712,242
Whitman	\$146,082,815	\$67,388,637	926	\$9,417,052
Yakima	\$669,931,046	\$433,424,560	5,398	\$55,037,451
Washington <sup>2</sup>	\$21,635,335,924	\$20,520,857,906	198,658	\$2,010,991,807

<sup>1</sup> Includes equipment expenditures

<sup>2</sup> Counties totals do not add up to Washington total because of money going to businesses outside county borders.

# Economic Benefits of Outdoor Recreation in Washington

## Participation and Expenditures by Activity

	Total Economic Contribution	Equipment Contribution	Activity Contribution	Number of Participants	Participation Days
<b>Sightseeing and Nature Activities</b>					
Sightseeing	\$1,673,209,290	\$360,006,918	\$1,673,209,290	2,453,300	37,290,156
Visiting nature interpretive center	\$491,919,470	\$220,381,593	\$491,919,470	1,501,810	10,963,215
Wildlife viewing, photographing, and watching	\$7,412,499,661	\$445,291,575	\$6,181,532,609	3,034,480	137,765,380
Gathering things in nature setting	\$847,404,903	\$205,286,963	\$847,404,903	1,398,947	18,885,779
Subtotal	\$10,425,033,323	\$1,230,967,051	\$9,194,066,272	8,388,536	204,904,530
<b>Fishing and Shellfishing</b>					
	\$1,547,453,670	\$460,695,126	\$1,086,758,545	1,753,826	26,307,396
<b>Water-Related Activities</b>					
Swimming in natural waters	\$575,252,008	\$48,102,701	\$527,149,306	1,836,117	26,623,702
Swimming in outdoor pools	\$315,368,876	\$48,102,701	\$267,266,175	930,917	13,498,292
Surfboarding	\$277,226,834	\$216,013,812	\$61,213,022	108,007	658,842
Windsurfing	\$171,674,611	\$102,863,720	\$68,810,891	51,432	740,619
Inner tubing or floating	\$573,410,901	\$13,192,272	\$560,218,629	879,485	12,752,530
Scuba diving	\$172,913,543	\$8,644,543	\$164,268,999	82,291	1,094,470
Subtotal	\$2,085,846,773	\$436,919,750	\$1,648,927,023	3,888,249	55,368,455
<b>Boating</b>					
Motorized	\$3,835,473,371	\$2,186,800,000	\$1,648,673,371	1,275,510	19,260,203
Non-motorized	\$588,428,495	\$9,759,968	\$578,668,526	766,855	7,668,547
Rafting	\$52,083,246	\$9,759,968	\$42,323,278	66,861	334,307
Subtotal	\$4,475,985,112	\$2,206,319,937	\$2,269,665,175	2,109,226	27,263,057
<b>Snow and Ice Activities</b>					
Snowshoeing	\$62,244,625	\$396,990	\$61,847,635	344,593	1,378,374
Snowboarding	\$641,911,727	\$5,524,072	\$636,387,655	494,970	4,207,244
Skiing	\$840,706,347	\$7,233,601	\$833,472,746	725,026	5,510,199
Cross-country skiing	\$110,327,122	\$8,993,114	\$101,334,008	231,443	1,967,269
All-terrain vehicle riding on snow and ice	\$71,539,346	\$11,084,536	\$60,454,810	123,436	1,394,832
Subtotal	\$1,726,729,167	\$33,232,313	\$1,693,496,854	1,919,469	14,457,917
<b>Camping, Hiking, Climbing, and Mountaineering</b>					
Hiking	\$2,164,952,296	\$38,459,600	\$2,127,027,847	2,772,177	47,404,231
Climbing and mountaineering	\$250,237,224	\$7,135,361	\$212,312,775	514,319	4,731,731
Camping	\$1,564,537,925	\$30,253,934	\$1,564,537,925	2,180,711	27,476,957
Subtotal	\$3,979,727,445	\$75,848,897	\$3,903,878,547	5,467,207	79,612,919
<b>Bicycle Riding</b>					
	\$3,136,644,285	\$113,494,490	\$3,023,149,796	1,897,836	67,373,165
<b>Horseback Riding</b>					
	\$2,292,986,614	\$1,534,994,148	\$757,992,466	396,025	12,633,208
<b>Off-Roading for Recreation</b>					
	\$2,292,961,301	\$1,416,433,424	\$876,527,876	786,907	20,223,522
<b>Hunting and Shooting</b>					
	\$1,883,052,842	\$860,690,884	\$1,022,361,958	1,100,642	17,500,205

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## Participation and Expenditures by Activity

	Total Economic Contribution	Equipment Contribution	Activity Contribution	Number of Participants	Participation Days
<b>Ball Sports</b>					
Volleyball outdoor	\$66,146,479	\$11,938,533	\$54,207,946	298,305	4,176,267
Basketball outdoor	\$103,873,194	\$18,822,796	\$85,050,398	468,030	6,552,419
Tennis outdoors	\$123,263,495	\$19,380,509	\$103,882,986	468,030	8,003,312
Field Sports	\$114,746,706	\$11,938,533	\$102,808,174	565,750	7,920,506
Soccer outdoors	\$130,728,704	\$11,938,533	\$118,790,171	318,878	9,151,785
Baseball	\$54,385,306	\$3,915,839	\$50,469,467	277,732	3,888,249
Softball	\$78,535,329	\$5,634,987	\$72,900,341	401,169	5,616,359
Football	\$75,626,194	\$11,938,533	\$63,687,661	272,589	4,906,599
Frisbee	\$168,954,652	\$11,938,533	\$157,016,120	864,055	12,096,773
Subtotal	\$1,024,511,198	\$107,446,795	\$808,813,264	3,934,537	62,312,270
<b>Golf</b>	\$800,317,993	\$77,103,750	\$723,214,243	797,194	10,044,642
<b>Other Recreation</b>					
Playground Use	\$343,433,351	\$38,830,731	\$304,602,619	1,897,836	60,920,524
Running/Jogging/Trail running	\$817,789,972	\$60,023,806	\$757,766,166	1,861,833	151,553,233
Picnicking, barbecuing, Cooking out	\$2,735,782,704	\$52,146,117	\$2,683,636,587	2,396,725	49,132,856
Skateboarding	\$108,251,139	\$81,147,166	\$27,103,973	149,152	2,088,134
Walking	\$1,897,762,956	\$112,100,208	\$1,785,662,747	3,651,662	357,132,549
Subtotal	\$5,903,020,121	\$344,248,028	\$5,558,772,093	9,957,208	620,827,296
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$41,574,269,845</b>	<b>\$8,898,394,594</b>	<b>\$34,132,162,037</b>	<b>44,577,574</b>	<b>1,218,828,582</b>