

# Your Lands, Your Wildlife

## Outdoor Recreation

### Economic Benefits of Healthy Public Lands

National forests and BLM lands provide unparalleled opportunities for your adventures – camping, backcountry hiking, kayaking, rafting and canoeing, hunting, angling and wildlife viewing. These opportunities are shared by the millions of people every year who travel to enjoy our public land legacy.

#### Did You Know?

- § The Forest Service's outdoor recreation program is estimated to contribute \$11.2 billion the country's GDP.
- § Hunters spend \$11.8 billion a year on chasing after big game like deer, antelope, and elk.
- § Hunting generates more than \$1.3 billion annually in personal wages and salaries in 11 of our Western states.
- § 30 million U.S. residents went fishing in 2006, and spent nearly \$42.2 billion on equipment, licenses, and travel-related costs.
- § Anglers spend an average of \$1.1 billion per year on bait alone, which is twice as much as Americans spend annually on ski equipment.
- § Almost a third of the U.S. population, nearly 71 million people, actively set out to watch wildlife in 2006.
- § In 2006, wildlife watching's contribution to the U.S. economy was an astounding \$45.7 billion.
- § Nearly 28 million visit national forests every year primarily for downhill skiing.
- § More than 56 million people visit a wilderness or primitive area every year.
- § Wilderness and primitive recreation is projected to increase 25% by 2050 57 million people visited BLM lands for outdoor recreation in 2007.



National forests support nearly 205 million visits each year. Check out the country's top ten most visited national forests.

#### Top 10 Most Visited National Forests

National Forest	Annual Visits
White River National Forest, CO	9,472,000
Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest, CO	6,432,000
Tonto National Forest, AZ	5,847,000
Mt. Hood National Forest, OR	4,418,000
Wasatch-Cache National Forest, UT	4,378,000
Inyo National Forest, CA	4,229,000
Tahoe National Forest, CA	3,932,000
Pike-San Isabel National Forest, CO	3,923,000
George Washington National Forest, VA	3,838,000
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, WA	3,660,000

Source: U.S. Forest Service. National Visitor Use Monitoring Program Revised Visitation Estimates 2006. Excluded are forests whose visitation count was combined with other forests.