

Hunting, fishing have significant economic impact

By Staff

WASHINGTON D.C. – Wyoming's 113,000 hunters and anglers spend more than \$676 million a year on hunting and fishing, according to a new report.

The report, *Hunting and Fishing: Bright Stars of the American Economy*-- A force as big as all outdoors, spotlights the impact sportsmen and women have on the national and state economies.

According to the report, spending by hunters and anglers directly supports 9,500 Wyoming jobs, putting \$236 million worth of paychecks into the pockets of working residents around the state. Government also benefits. Spending by sportsmen in pursuit of their outdoor activities generates \$75 million in state and local taxes.

"Because sportsmen enjoy hunting or fishing alone or in small groups, they are overlooked as a constituency and as a substantial economic force," said Jeff Crane, president of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. "When you compare spending by hunters and anglers to other sectors, their impact on the state's economy becomes more tangible."

Examples listed by the report include:

- Sportsmen support nearly twice as many jobs in Wyoming as the University of Wyoming in Laramie (9,500 jobs vs. 5,000)
- Annual spending by Wyoming sportsmen is four times more than the Gross State Product for arts, entertainment and recreation (\$676 million vs. \$172 million).
- Annual spending by Wyoming sportsmen is 89 percent of cash receipts for cattle, the state's most valuable agricultural commodity (\$676 million vs. \$763 million)
- Wyoming sportsmen outnumber the combined populations of Cheyenne and Casper (113,000 vs. 108,000)
- The economic stimulus of hunting and fishing equates to \$1.8 million a day being pumped into the state's economy.

"Spending by sportsmen benefits not only the manufacturers of hunting and fishing related products, but everything from local mom and pop businesses to wildlife conservation," noted Doug Painter, president of National Shooting Sports Foundation. "And because most hunting and fishing takes place in rural areas, much of the spending benefits less affluent parts of the state."

On the national level, 34 million sportsmen age 16 and older spent more than \$76 billion in 2006, supporting 1.6 million jobs. If a single corporation grossed as much as hunters and anglers spend, it would be among America's 20 largest, ahead of Target, Costco and AT&T. And if all hunters and anglers had voted during the last presidential election, they would have equaled 31 percent of all votes cast. If all hunters and anglers living in Wyoming voted, they would have equaled 91 percent of all votes cast in the state.

These statistics are impressive and, if anything, they underestimate the impact of sportsmen since they do not take into account the millions of hunters and anglers under 16 years of age or people who were not able to get out and hunt or fish in 2006. When sportsmen's spending is thought of in business terms and compared to other sectors of the economy, it is quite remarkable. From small rural towns scattered across our country's landscape to the bottom line of Fortune 500 companies located in major cities, if you take away hunting and fishing you take away the equivalent of a multi-billion dollar corporation.

"It is a fairly simple equation – hunters and anglers mean jobs in states and local communities that have made the effort to maintain their hunting and fishing opportunities," said Crane. "The economic impacts that sportsmen have on state economies should be a wake-up call to state governments to welcome and encourage hunting and fishing in their state."

The report, *"Hunting and Fishing: Bright Stars of the American Economy*--A force as big as all outdoors," was produced by the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation with support from the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, National Marine Manufacturers Association, National Shooting Sports Foundation and SCI - First For Hunters. The report uses the results from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation and statistics provided by the American Sportfishing Association and Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

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