The economy of public access hunting
Outdoor Rec by the numbers

$646,000,000,000 in consumer spending

6,100,000 American jobs

$80,000,000,000 in federal, state, local tax revenue

National Parks Economic Impacts

MAY 2017

Explore estimated visits, jobs, and labor income created by visitor spending.

Related Research »

Yosemite National Park

Visits
Total 2016 Park Visits: 5,028,868

Spending
Total 2016 Visitor Spending: $520,629,000

Jobs
Jobs created by 2016 Visitor Spending: 7,883

Income
Income from 2016 Visitor Spending: $238,955,000
Big public access = big money
What if you don’t have big access
Can a diverse and dispersed public landscape add to our economy?
2014-2017 Nebraska Hunter Survey

FishHunt.unl.edu
What we did . . .

Fall: Sept. 1 through January 31
Spring: March 25 through May 31

8 survey areas – 562 public access sites
What we did . . .

In-person car counts
- “Bus route”
- 1 count/site/day

110,199 counts
What we did . . .

In-person car counts
- “Bus route”
- 1 count/site/day

In-person interviews
- Exit interview
- 1 interview/party

110,199 counts
3,433 Interviews
What we did . . .

In-person car counts
- “Bus route”
- 1 count/site/day

In-person interviews
- Exit interview
- 1 interview/party

Remote counts
- Time-lapse photos
- 1 photo/5 minutes

110,199 counts
3,433 Interviews
17,000,000 photos
Where do people go to use public lands?

Crawford

Clay Center

Culbertson

Crab Orchard
A lot of people stop along I-80
Removing the rest stop affect
More use in Eastern Nebraska
Who uses Nebraska’s public access?
66% of public access users are Nebraskan’s
892 unique zip codes from around the United States
Western Nebraska draws more non-residents
People are more likely to overnight in Western Nebraska too.
What are people doing on public lands?

WHATCHA DOIN’ TODAY?

NORTHING.

YOU DID THAT YESTERDAY.

I WASN’T FINISHED.
Hunters are the primary user of public lands
Fall – 79%    Spring – 49%
Whitetail – 35%

Pheasant – 35%
Regions provide unique opportunities

Y-axis = percent of parties interviewed

Dove Duck Pheasant Quail Mule Deer Whitetail Deer Turkey
Who are our public land hunters?

HATS NOT TO WEAR DURING HUNTING SEASON...

Dave Granlund © www.davegranlund.com
Only 10% of hunting parties included a woman.

16% included kids.
Public hunters represent Nebraska
When do they hunt?

SPECIAL FORCES UNIT?! NO... JUST THE START OF DEER HUNTING SEASON...

Dave Granlund © Metrowest Daily News
Public hunting peaks in during rifle deer hunting.
. . . but not everywhere
The economy of public hunting

“And how long were you in hunting/gathering?”
How much do I spend when I take a public hunting trip?
Estimating trip cost

Trip cost ~

\[ \text{Trip cost} \sim \text{Fuel} + \text{Lodging} + \text{Meals} \]

Travel distance (one-way) ÷ US Avg. MPG × US Avg. cost/gal. regular fuel

Lodging type = HOTEL

Party size ÷ 2 × Trip Length × NE federal lodging rate

Party size × Trip Length × NE federal M&IE rate
Estimating trip cost

Trip cost ~ Fuel

\[
\text{Travel distance} \div \text{US Avg. MPG} \times \text{US Avg. cost/gal. regular fuel}
\]
Estimating trip cost

**Trip cost ~ Fuel + Lodging**

- Travel distance $\div$ US Avg. MPG $\times$ US Avg. cost/gal. regular fuel
- Lodging type = HOTEL $\times$ Trip Length (nights) $\times$ NE federal lodging rate
Estimating trip cost

Trip cost \sim Fuel + Lodging + Meals

Travel distance \div US Avg. MPG \times US Avg. cost/gal. regular fuel

Lodging type = HOTEL \times Trip Length (nights) \times NE federal lodging rate

Party size \times Trip Length (days) \times NE federal M&IE rate
Economics of public lands whitetail deer hunting increase going West

Statewide trip average = $275
Economics of public lands turkey hunting also increase going West

Statewide trip average = $242
Economics of public lands pheasant hunting highest in Southwest

Statewide trip average = $188
Economics of public lands quail hunting is split between the Southwest/East.

Statewide trip average = $118
Economics of public lands duck hunting are less clear

Statewide trip average = $57
2017

BIG GAME GUIDE

- Antelope
- Bighorn Sheep
- Deer
- Elk

INFORMATION FOR:

NEBRASKA GAME PARKS

OUTDOORNEBRASKA.ORG

TURKEY GUIDE

- Spring and Fall Seasons
- Youth Hunting
- Permit Application
- Wild Turkey Identification

INFORMATION FOR:

NEBRASKA GAME PARKS

OUTDOORNEBRASKA.ORG
What is the economic impact of hunting to the RWB?
Rainwater Basin = bird hunting

[Bar chart showing the percentage of parties interviewed for different bird species.]

- Dove
- Duck
- Pheasant
- Quail
- Mule Deer
- Whitetail Deer
- Turkey
Rainwater Basin = day trip

- Dove: $48/trip
- Duck: $45/trip
- Pheasant: $48/trip
- Quail
- Mule Deer
- Whitetail Deer
- Turkey
How many hunting trips are there to the Rainwater Basin?
The magic of math!
Predicted daily hunting pressure

Rainwater Basin

- Yearly Average
- Daily

Predicted number of hunters

Date

Predicted daily hunting pressure
Hunting pressure changes by date and year . . .
even species

Predicted hunter trip days

Ducks

Pheasant, Quail

2014  2015  2016
So the economic impact is?
Predicted daily expenditures of public lands hunters in the Rainwater Basin
Average direct economic impact of public hunting in the Rainwater Basin...
Average direct economic impact of public hunting in the Rainwater Basin . . .

$150,000-$275,000/year
Average direct economic impact of public hunting in the Rainwater Basin... $150,000/year
Each section of ground with access
$2,200/year
So how does our economic impact compare?
So how does our economic impact compare?

$520,000,000 Annually

$2,200 Annually

~ 230,000X less
So how does our economic impact compare?

$520,000,000 Annually

$150,000 Annually

~3400X less
So how does our economic impact compare?

$700/Acre Annually

$10/Acre Annually

~ 70X less
So how does our economic impact compare?

$58/Acre/Month

$2/Acre/Month

~ 30X less
Even when small and dispersed, public access has value
Thank You