The Economic Value of Quiet Recreation on BLM Lands

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) oversees 246 million acres of public land across 11 western states and Alaska. In 2014, there were more than 60 million visits to these lands, nearly two-thirds of which were by people enjoying quiet (nonmotorized) recreational activities such as camping, hunting, hiking, and fishing. These visitors spent some $1.8 billion in communities within 50 miles of recreation areas, supported nearly 25,000 jobs, and generated $2.8 billion for the overall U.S. economy. In Utah alone, there were 4.4 million visits to the state’s 29.9 million acres of BLM lands in 2014 for nonmotorized outdoor activities.

Cedar City, Utah

The Cedar City area is home to the Wah Wah and San Francisco mountains, which support aspen groves and bubbling streams not far from sagebrush and grassland desert plains. In 2015, more than 364,000 visitors used these landscapes for nonmotorized activities, contributing $17.4 million to the local economy.

- **$12.3 million** in total economic output—the value of goods and services produced, the broadest measure of economic activity.
- **$17.4 million** in total direct spending on quiet recreation visits within 50 miles of recreation sites.
- **$6.1 million** generated in personal income to people specifically tied to quiet recreation on BLM lands, including wages, salaries, and benefits.
- **204 jobs** supported locally as a result of quiet recreation visits to BLM land.

Source: ECONorthwest

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For further information, please visit:
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