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, like 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 Wyoming alone, there were 1.9 million visits to the state’s 18.4 million acres of BLM lands in 2014 for nonmotorized outdoor activities.

Rock Springs, Wyoming

The Rock Springs BLM field office oversees some 3.6 million acres of public land, which includes a vast passageway for thousands of mule-deer (one of the longest terrestrial wildlife migrations in North America). In 2015, more than 483,000 visitors used these landscapes for nonmotorized recreational activities, contributing $22 million to the local economy.

$21.9 million
in total economic output—the value of goods and services produced, the broadest measure of economic activity.

$27.2 million
in total direct spending on quiet recreation visits within 50 miles of recreation sites.

$12.4 million
generated in personal income to people specifically tied to quiet recreation on BLM lands, including wages, salaries, and benefits.

285 jobs
supported locally as a result of quiet recreation visits to BLM land.

Source: ECONorthwest
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Public Lands Managed by the Rock Springs Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management

For further information, please visit:
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Contact: Susannah Cernojevich, officer, communications
Email: scernojevich@pewtrusts.org
Project website: pewtrusts.org

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