



Big Tent Outdoor Coalition

The Big Tent Outdoor Coalition is an umbrella organization formed to highlight the importance of our state's outdoor recreation sector to enhancing Washington's economy and its reputation for healthy and active living.

We are a group of more than two dozen organizations representing wildlife recreation, boating, sport fishing, outdoor recreation businesses, parks and recreation, trail users and hikers, public ports, environmental groups, public land trusts and conservancies, bicyclists, off-road vehicle and motorcycle enthusiasts, horsemen, mountain climbers, rafters, scuba divers, snowmobilers, skiers, and more. Together, we generate billions of dollars for the economy and significant license and registration fees and tax revenue for State government budgets, and help reduce health care costs by promoting active and healthy living choices for the citizens of Washington.

Nationally, 140 million Americans make outdoor recreation a priority. In 2011, outdoor enthusiasts spent \$64.6 billion on their outdoor related activities, creating an estimated 6.1 million jobs in the United States. Outdoor recreation is an overlooked economic giant, with nearly double the sales of pharmaceuticals and motor vehicle parts and with economic activity that rivals the insurance industry (\$780 billion) and out-patient healthcare (\$76.7 billion).

In Western states, spending on outdoor recreation is a vital part of the economy as well. It means jobs and incomes and can be the lifeblood of many rural communities. In 2011, outdoor recreation created 2.3 million jobs in the West and \$110.3 billion in salaries, wages and business income, profit and dividends. Direct jobs include: product designers; marketers; outdoor gear/equipment manufacturers; retailers; hotel & restaurant employees; and others.

Additionally, spending on outdoor recreation generates significant tax revenues for local and state governments. In Western states in 2011, it generated an estimated \$15.41 billion in Federal tax receipts and \$15.38 billion in state and local tax receipts. Outdoor recreation spending in Western states equaled \$255.6 billion – nearly 40% of the national total. This includes purchases of outdoor gear and vehicles as well as travel expenditures when enjoying the great Western outdoors.

Closer to home, data from Washington State Parks and the National Park Service indicates that Washington's outdoor recreation industry contributes \$11.7 billion to Washington's economy while supporting 115,000 jobs and generating \$650 million in annual sales tax revenue and provides \$8.5 billion annually in retail sales and related services. According to the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, some 40 percent of all Washingtonians participate in the outdoor economy by fishing, hunting or wildlife viewing.

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The economics of outdoor recreation touches every community in Washington State – and the state spending and dedicated capital accounts that assist outdoor recreation play a key role in enhancing and building upon our rich outdoors heritage. Our great outdoors is a vital part of our green economy, and a primary reason people choose to live here, and millions choose to visit here.

Sources: A Snapshot of the Economic Impact of Outdoor Recreation – June 2012, Western Governors' "Get Out West" initiative; The Economics Associated with Outdoor Recreation – Oct. 10, 2011, for the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation; The Economic Benefits of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) – The Trust for Public Land, December 2010.

ABOUT THE BIG TENT OUTDOOR COALITION

Participating Organizations: American Whitewater • Back Country Horsemen of Washington • Bicycle Alliance of Washington • Citizens for Parks & Recreation • Coastal Conservation Association • Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance • Fish Northwest • The Mountaineers • Northwest Marine Trade Association • Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association • Northwest Yacht Brokers Association • Puget Sound Anglers • Recreational Boating Association of Washington • REI • Ski Washington • The Nature Conservancy • The Wilderness Society • The Trust for Public Land • Washington Motorcycle Association • Washington Scuba Alliance • Washington State Motorsports Dealers Association • Washington State Parks Foundation • Washington State Snowmobile Association • Washington Trails Association • Washington Environmental Council • Washington Off-Highway Vehicle Alliance • Washington Public Ports Association • Washington Recreation & Parks Association • Washington Wildlife & Recreation Coalition •

Participating State Agencies: Washington State Parks • Washington State Recreation & Conservation Office • Washington State Department of Natural Resources •