



THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF WILDLIFE

Our Wildlife-Related Economy

The wildlife recreation industry is an integral part of the Arkansas economy. Overall, it contributes \$1.8 billion to the state economy annually.



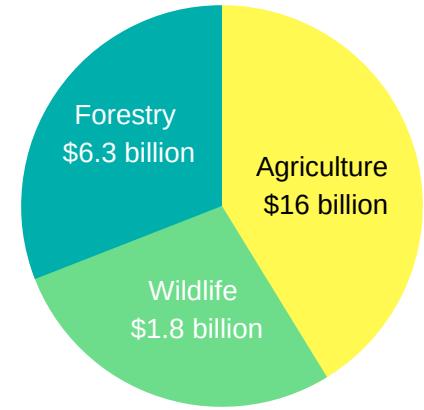
At least \$1 billion is spent in the state of Arkansas on hunting related activities annually.



\$496 million was spent on fishing activities in the state of Arkansas.



\$216 million was spent on wildlife watching activities in the state of Arkansas.



Source: Arkansas Parks and Tourism 2017

Source: Arkansas Parks and Tourism; Farm Bureau of Arkansas; Arkansas Forestry Association

What is "Wildlife Watching?"

There are many ways to watch wildlife, from observing backyard birds to sightings while hiking, canoeing, or fishing. Learning to identify local wildlife and their habitat can strengthen our connection to land while offering endless outdoor recreation opportunities for people of all ages.



Tourism and Wildlife

Tourism ranks as one of the top economic industries in our state, and Northwest Arkansas is an increasingly popular destination. Many visitors look forward to encountering wildlife while vacationing in the Ozarks. Protecting important habitats, forests, and other green spaces for wildlife migration and seasonal movements not only promotes healthy populations, but also provides clean water and outdoor recreation opportunities.



KEEP NORTHWEST ARKANSAS WILD!

Conserving green space is essential to the overall health of our communities and children. Natural areas act as filters to provide cleaner drinking water and air to breathe, and habitat for native plants, pollinators and other wildlife. Globally it is estimated that nature's services are worth \$125 trillion/year.* In Northwest Arkansas, natural areas are shrinking faster than ever.

*Source: (Costanza et al., 2014)

Economic Benefits of Protected Land

Healthcare

Urban trail systems can save U.S residents \$21 million in annual healthcare costs.

Source: Land Trust Alliance

Property Values

Living near green spaces can improve general quality of life and increase property value by 3-9%.

Source: The Trust for Public Land; Center for Environmental and Resources Economic Policy

Farming

Farmers Markets in Arkansas and five other states made \$45.6 billion in sales in 2015.

Source: US Department of Agriculture

Recreation

In Arkansas, outdoor recreation generates \$9.7 billion in spending annually.

Source: Outdoor Industry Association

Benefits of Land Conservation

Water

Beaver Lake is the largest supplier of drinking water in the region, supporting an average of 500,000 people.

Source: Ozarks Water Watch