

# Summary of Research



**Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks**

## Statewide Estimates of Resident and Nonresident Hunter & Angler Trip Related Expenditures in Montana (2017)

HD Unit Research Summary No. 41

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**Abstract:** *Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) regularly updates its statewide estimates of both hunter and angler expenditures in Montana. In late 2017, it was estimated that hunters and anglers across the state spend approximately 1.3 billion dollars annually in the state on trip related expenditures. Table 1 on the reverse side of this research summary provides more detailed statewide estimates for the most commonly hunted species in the state as well as provides statewide estimates for river/stream and lake/reservoir angling.*

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Hunting and fishing is big business in Montana. Because of the economic stakes, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) regularly provides estimates of hunter and angler trip related expenditures across the state. This information is used by FWP to help address economic impacts associated with management actions, mitigation efforts, and other activities. At the same time, this information is often requested by counties, cities, chambers of commerce and others across the state who are interested in better understanding how hunting and fishing directly and indirectly support Montana's businesses. Last but not least, this type of information is used by state policymakers to examine the impacts of policy changes on state and local economies, businesses, and Montana citizens in general.

Three main pieces of information are used to estimate hunter and angler trip related expenditures in Montana:

1. ***Hunter use estimates (e.g., hunter days) which are provided annually and/or biennially, depending on the species, from FWP's Hunter Harvest Survey. This information is collected at the statewide and hunting district level.***
2. ***Angler use estimates (e.g., angler days) which are provided biennially from FWP's Angler Pressure Use Survey. This information is collected for most all of Montana's lakes, rivers, and streams.***
3. ***Average per day hunting and fishing trip related expenditure data which is derived from economic surveys of hunters and anglers. In 2014, FWP conducted surveys of resident and nonresident hunting and fishing license holders in an effort to update its baseline data in this area.***

Results from FWP's 2014 baseline expenditure surveys were used in combination with hunter and angler use estimates to produce a valuation of total hunter and total angler trip related expenditures in Montana. Of note, the average per day expenditure estimates from FWP's 2014 baseline expenditures surveys were updated using adjustments provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to convert 2014 dollars to 2017 dollars (to account for inflation).

Trip related expenditures include the following:

- Transportation – gas, car rental, airfare, and any other transportation costs.
- Food, beverages and lodging.
- Equipment purchased just for the trip, access and/or guide fees, and all other expenses – NOT including the cost of their license and any durable goods (e.g., rifle/shotgun, fishing rod/reel, boots, pack, waders, boat, truck, etc.).

See Table 1 on the reverse side of this research summary for detailed statewide results.



**Table 1. Statewide estimates of hunter & angler trip related expenditures in Montana (annual estimates).**

The average per day expenditures data provided below are trip related expenditures estimates (in 2017 dollars).

	Hunter/Angler Days <sup>1</sup>			Average Per Day Expenditures		Estimated Total Expenditures (in millions)		
	Residents	Nonresidents	Total	Residents	Nonresidents	Residents	Nonresidents	Total
Deer Hunters	1,003,970	167,003	1,170,973	\$74.30	\$495.71	\$74.6	\$82.8	\$157.4
Elk Hunters	920,740	145,975	1,066,715	\$89.18	\$596.70	\$82.1	\$87.1	\$169.2
Antelope Hunters	51,341	7,338	58,679	\$106.81	\$683.52	\$5.5	\$5.0	\$10.5
Moose Hunters	4,302	62	4,364	\$162.50	\$470.33	\$0.7	\$0.03	\$0.7
Bighorn Sheep Hunters	2,525	306	2,831	\$145.48	\$1,013.20	\$0.4	\$0.3	\$0.7
Mountain Goat Hunters	1,104	131	1,235	\$236.86	\$1,228.60	\$0.3	\$0.2	\$0.4
Pheasant Hunters	90,032	26,604	116,636	\$86.97	\$374.85	\$7.8	\$10.0	\$17.8
Sharp-Tailed Grouse Hunters	36,285	19,805	56,090	\$86.97	\$374.85	\$3.2	\$7.4	\$10.6
Hungarian Partridge Hunters	30,293	17,834	48,127	\$86.97	\$374.85	\$2.6	\$6.7	\$9.3
Duck Hunters	59,982	8,170	68,152	\$71.88	\$481.50	\$4.3	\$3.9	\$8.2
Goose Hunters	32,147	4,177	36,324	\$71.88	\$481.50	\$2.3	\$2.0	\$4.3
River/Stream Anglers	1,158,982	953,941	2,112,923	\$86.24	\$668.20	\$100.0	\$637.4	\$737.4
Lake/Reservoir Anglers	961,975	242,308	1,204,283	\$90.32	\$392.23	\$86.9	\$95.0	\$181.9

1 Estimates of hunters days for deer, elk, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, pheasant, sharp-tailed grouse, and Hungarian partridge hunters were provided from FWP's 2016 Hunter Harvest Survey. Estimates of hunters days for antelope hunters were provided from FWP's 2015 Hunter Harvest Survey. Estimates of hunters days for duck and goose hunting were provided from the US Fish & Wildlife Service 2016 Waterfowl Harvest Inventory Program (HIP). Estimates of angler days for river/stream and lake/reservoir fishing were provided from FWP's 2015 Biennial Angler Pressure Use Survey.

**Fishing Total (in millions)..... \$919.3**

**Hunting Total (in millions)..... \$389.2** The hunting total is biased upwards to some unknown degree because it sums species-specific expenditures whereas a hunter could have hunted multiple species on any given day (e.g., a single day spent hunting elk and deer would count as both an elk hunter day and a deer hunter day in FWP's Hunter Harvest Survey). This upward bias concern is most problematic for deer/elk and upland game bird (pheasants, sharp-tailed grouse, and Hungarian partridge) hunting.

**TOTAL FISHING & HUNTING 1.3 billion dollars**

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