Fishing, Hunting, Wildlife Viewing, and Shellfishing in Oregon

2008 State and County Expenditure Estimates

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Summer Lake Wildlife Area
Photo Credit: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Prepared for the

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Travel Oregon
Executive Summary

This study, the result of a comprehensive effort by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and Travel Oregon, describes hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and shellfish harvest participation and related expenditures made throughout Oregon and the state’s travel regions and counties.

Participation and Expenditures in Oregon

In 2008, nearly 2.8 million Oregon residents and nonresidents participated in fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing, and shellfish harvesting in Oregon. Of the total number of participants, 631 thousand fished, 282 thousand hunted, 175 thousand harvested shellfish, and 1.7 million participated in outdoor recreation where wildlife viewing was a planned activity.

In 2008, state residents and nonresidents made three distinct types of fish and wildlife recreation expenditures:

- Travel-Generated
- Local Recreation (less than 50 miles from home)
- Equipment Purchases (includes boats and recreation vehicles)

When all three categories are combined, fish and wildlife recreation resulted in expenditures of $2.5 billion in 2008. Oregon residents and nonresidents who traveled overnight and on day trips of 50 or more miles (one-way) from home made travel-generated expenditures of $862 million. Local recreation expenditures of $147 million were made by Oregon residents while participating in these activities less than 50 miles from home. State residents and nonresidents also spent an additional $1.5 billion on specialty equipment and other activity-related purchases from retail establishments and suppliers based in Oregon.

Dean Runyan Associates
Fish and Wildlife Activities Benefit All Regions of Oregon

During 2008, travel-generated expenditures accounted for over $100 million in four of Oregon's travel regions (North Coast, Central Coast, Central, and Eastern). In all nine travel regions, travel-generated expenditures for wildlife viewing and fishing were particularly notable. While travel-generated expenditures for hunting occurred in each of the nine travel regions of the state, spending made in the Eastern, Southern, and Willamette Valley travel regions accounted for nearly two-thirds of the total.

Local recreation expenditures occurred most notably in travel regions with large urban-centered populations (Willamette Valley, Portland Metro/Columbia, and Southern), with fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing representing the bulk of all local recreation expenditures made throughout the state.