

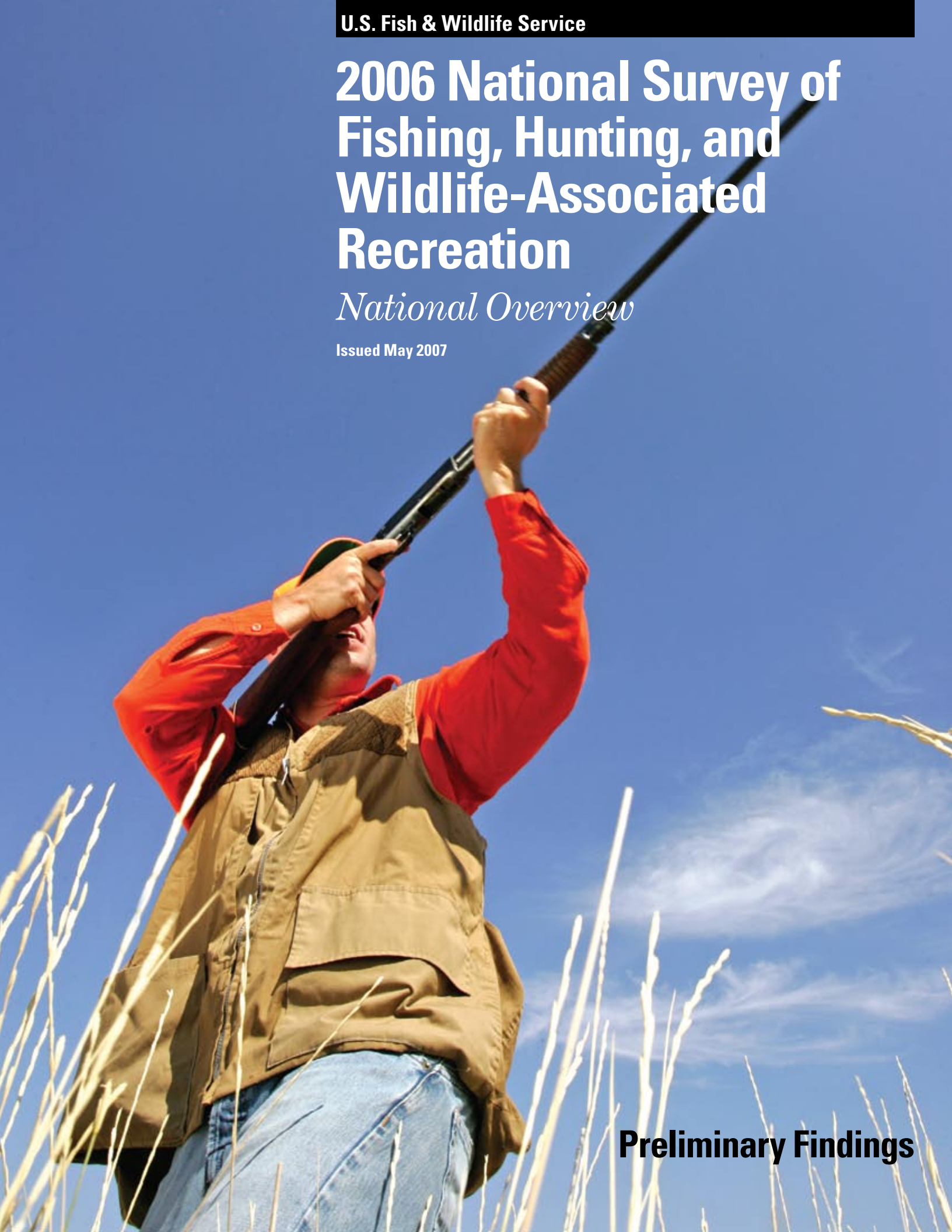
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation

*National Overview*

Issued May 2007

**Preliminary Findings**



# Director's Message

A parent shows a child how to wet a line in a Pennsylvania trout stream. A group of old friends calls in mallards in a Louisiana bayou. A school group watches shorebirds on the Oregon Coast. These outdoor traditions connect people with nature and lie at the heart of our Nation's conservation ethic.

Wildlife-associated recreation not only sustains our spirit and connects us to each other and the natural world, but also provides significant financial support for wildlife conservation in our nation's economy. According to preliminary information from the newest National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, more than 87 million Americans spent more than \$120 billion in 2006 on wildlife-related recreation. This spending supports hundreds of thousands of jobs in industries and businesses connected to fishing, hunting and observing wildlife.

The survey is conducted every five years at the request of State fish and wildlife agencies to measure the importance of wildlife-based recreation to the American people. The 2006 Survey represents the 11th in a series that began in 1955. Developed in collaboration with the States, the National Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and national conservation organizations, the Survey has become one of the most important sources of information on fish and wildlife recreation in the United States.

In the 75-year history of the Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs, excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, archery and angling equipment have generated a cumulative total of more than \$10 billion for wildlife conservation efforts by State and Territorial wildlife agencies for fish and wildlife management.

My thanks go to the men and women who took time to participate in the survey, as well as to the State fish and wildlife agencies for their financial support through the Multistate Conservation Grant Programs. Without that support, the 2006 Survey would not have been possible.

It is gratifying to know that as record numbers of Americans continue to enjoy wildlife, they are also laying the foundation for conservation's future.



H. Dale Hall  
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation

*National Overview*

Issued May 2007

**Preliminary Findings**

# Preface

This report provides preliminary information from the 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation (FHWAR). The final National Report will be available in November 2007.

The Survey collects information on U.S. residents' participation in and expenditures for hunting, fishing, and wildlife-watching activities such as observing, feeding, and photographing wildlife. Natural resource agencies, conservation organizations, researchers, and related industries use this information to estimate demands for wildlife-related recreation, evaluate the impacts of expenditures on state and national economies, and identify trends in wildlife recreation.

The advance release of preliminary survey results is an effort to make the data available as soon as possible. Please note that the data are subject to revision.



Luther Goldman/USFWS

# Foreword

The 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation is the eleventh in a series of surveys that have been conducted every five years since 1955. The purpose of the survey is to collect and report information on the number of people who fished, hunted, and wildlife watched, the activities they engaged in, and the money they spent on their activities in 2006.

The Survey is conducted at the request of State agencies through the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Funding comes from the Multistate Conservation Grant Programs authorized by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000. The Survey was developed with assistance from representatives of State agencies, national conservation organizations, and related industries.

Results are based on data collected by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. The Census Bureau began by interviewing 85,000 households in April 2006. Samples of 31,500 potential anglers and hunters and 24,300 potential wildlife watchers were selected from those households to be interviewed in detail about their participation and expenditures. The Census Bureau conducted detailed interviews in three different waves, which began in April and September of 2006 and January of 2007. Interviews were completed in April 2007.

The survey methodology used in 2006 was similar to that used for the 2001, 1996, and 1991 Surveys, so the estimates are comparable.



© iStockphoto.com/Birthe Luman

# Preliminary Report

In 2006 over 87 million Americans 16 years old and older, 38% of the U.S. population, enjoyed some recreational activity relating to fish and wildlife. Expenditures by this group pursuant to wildlife-related recreation were \$120.1 billion. This spending equates to about 1% of gross domestic product, which means that one out of every one hundred dollars of all goods and services produced in the U.S. is associated with wildlife recreation.

Almost 34 million people fished and hunted in 2006. They spent \$75.4 billion on their activities, including \$40.3 billion on equipment, nearly \$25 billion on trip expenses, and \$10.6 billion on licenses and fees, magazines, membership dues and contributions, and land leasing and ownership. On average, each sportsperson spent \$2,225 in 2006.

Although the Survey's focus was on collecting information on the number of people 16 years of age and older who participated in wildlife-related recreation in 2006, it does include some information on 6 to 15 year olds. Data available from the survey screen reveals that 1.6 million 6 to 15 year olds hunted, 8.4 million fished, and 11.5 million wildlife watched.

Additionally, since the focus of the Survey is the number of participants in wildlife recreation in 2006 and their expenditures, it is not intended to reflect the total number wildlife-related recreationists in the U.S. since many individuals can be considered anglers and hunters even though they may not have participated in 2006.



© iStockphoto.com/Lawrence Sawyer

Using information on historical participation contained in the survey screen permits estimates of the number of anglers and hunters who were inactive in 2006 but were active in prior years. 44.4 million individuals fished and 18.6 million hunted in the U.S. over the five years from 2002 to 2006. The number of people fishing and hunting over a five year period could be considered a more accurate representation of the number of anglers and hunters in the U.S.

### Fishing

Fishing continues to be a favorite recreational activity in the United States. In 2006, 13% of the U.S. population 16 years old and older; 29.9 million anglers, spent an average of 17 days fishing. Freshwater fishing was the most popular type of fishing with over 25.4 million anglers devoting 434 million angler-days to the sport. Great Lakes and saltwater fishing were also popular with 1.4 million and 7.7 million anglers respectively.

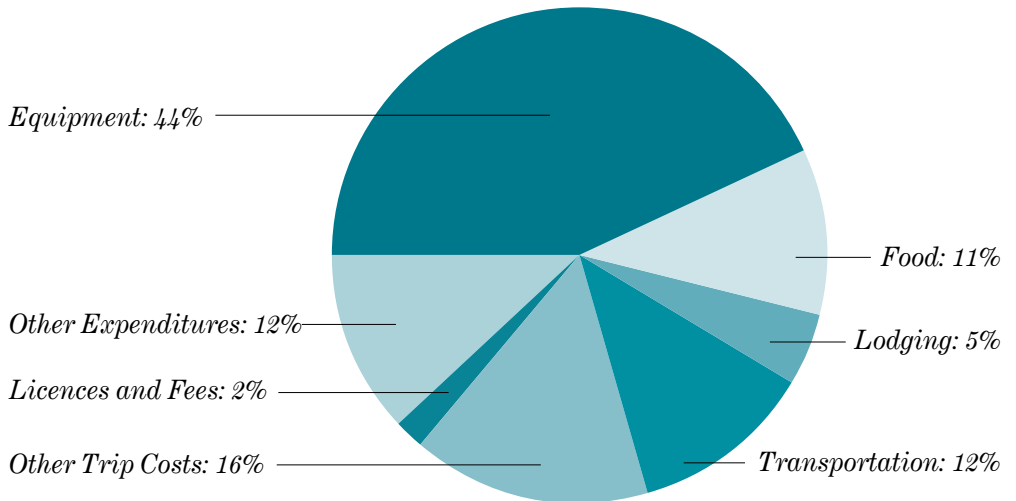
Anglers spent more than \$40 billion on trips, equipment, licenses, and other items to support their fishing activities in 2006. The average expenditure per angler was \$1,357. Total trip related spending on food, lodging, transportation and other trip costs totaled 17.8 billion, which is 44% of all angler spending. Spending on fishing equipment comprised 14% of spending or 5.5 billion. Spending on transportation accounted for 12% at 4.9 billion.

Comparing results from the 2006 FHWAR Survey with those of the 2001 Survey reveals the number of anglers declined about 12% over the period. The decline was sharpest among Great Lakes anglers, which declined 23%. The declines among freshwater other than Great Lakes and saltwater anglers were 10% and 15% respectively.

While overall participation in fishing declined from 2001 to 2006, total fishing-related expenditures were flat. Dollars for expenditure comparisons were adjusted to be in 2006 dollars.

Comparing the 1996 and 2006 Surveys reveals a decline in both the number of anglers and their spending. Total anglers declined 15% over the period, and once again, the greatest decline was among Great Lakes anglers at 30%. Fishing-related spending was down 16% over the period. The category of spending that experienced the greatest decline was auxiliary equipment, which is equipment

**Nearly 30 million anglers spent \$40.6 billion in 2006. Each angler spent an average of \$1,357.**



### Fishing

*Total Anglers: 29.9 million anglers*

*Freshwater, except Great Lakes: 25.0 million anglers*

*Great Lakes: 1.4 million anglers*

*Saltwater: 7.7 million anglers*

that could be used for both hunting and fishing activities such as camping equipment, binoculars, or special clothing.

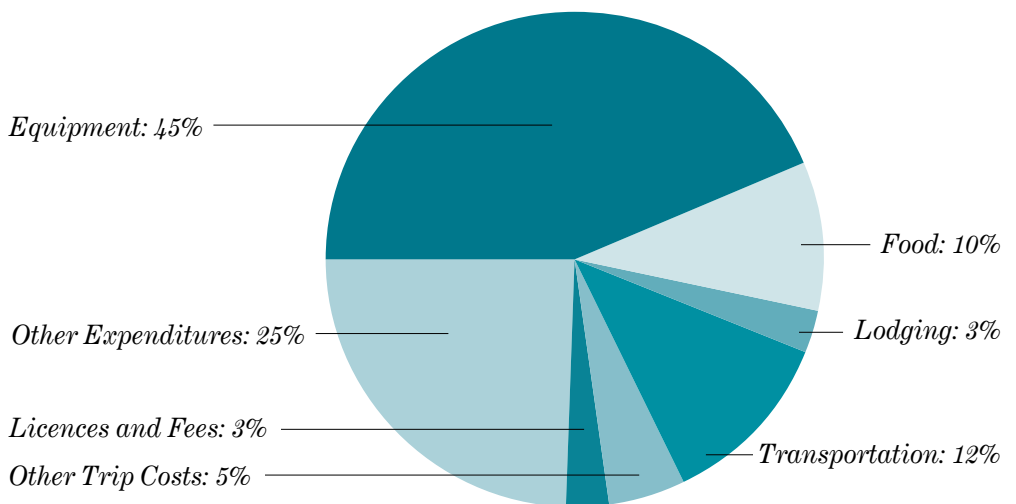
### Hunting

In 2006 over 12.5 million people 16 years old and older enjoyed hunting. They spent an average of 18 days hunting. Big game, such as deer and elk, attracted 10.7 million hunters (85%) who spent 164 million days afield. Nearly 5 million (38%) pursued small game including squirrels, rabbits, quail, and pheasant on 53 million days. Migratory birds—doves, waterfowl, and woodcock—attracted 2.3 million hunters (18%) who spent 20 million days hunting. Hunting of other animals such, as coyote, fox, prairie dogs and raccoons attracted 1.1 million hunters (9%) who spent 15.2 million days afield.

Hunters spent nearly \$23 billion on trips, equipment, licenses, and other items to support their hunting activities in 2006. The average expenditure per hunter was \$1,814. Total trip-related expenditures comprised 30% of all spending at \$6.7 billion. Other Expenditures totaled \$5.6 billion or 25% of all spending. Other Expenditures includes spending on land leases and land ownership, spending on licenses, tags, and permits, and spending on memberships dues and contributions. Spending on hunting equipment comprised 24% of spending or \$5.4 billion.

Overall hunting participation dropped 4% from 2001 to 2006. The number of big game hunters was relatively stable falling only 2%, but the number of migratory bird hunters declined 22%. The decline among small game hunters was between these two extremes at 12%. Lastly, the hunters seeking other animals increased by 8%.

**12.5 million hunters spent \$22.7 billion in 2006. Each hunter spent an average of \$1,814.**



### Hunting

*Total Hunters: 12.5 million hunters*

*Big Game: 10.7 million hunters*

*Small Game: 4.8 million hunters*

*Migratory Birds: 2.3 million hunters*

*Other Animals: 1.1 million hunters*



Total hunting-related spending was similar between 2001 and 2006. It declined only 3% over the period. The category with the greatest decline was special equipment at 30%. A few categories did increase such as spending on hunting equipment like guns, ammunition, bows and arrows, which increased by 3%. Trip related spending was up 13% over the period.

The 10-year comparison of the 1996 and 2006 Surveys shows a decline in both the total number of hunters and the total amount spent by hunters. Overall participation was down 10% over the period. However, big game hunting remained relatively consistent with a decline of 5%. The declines for small game, migratory birds, and other animals were all noticeably greater at 31%, 25%, and 26% respectively.

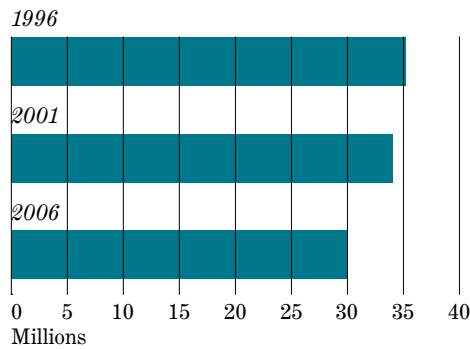
### Wildlife Watching

Wildlife watching is a popular outdoor recreation activity. More than 71 million people 16 years old and older (31% of all Americans) fed, photographed, and observed wildlife in 2006 and spent nearly \$45 billion on their activities. The Survey uses a strict definition of wildlife watching. Participants must either take a “special interest” in wildlife around their homes or take a trip for the “primary purpose” of wildlife watching. Secondary wildlife-watching activities such as incidentally observing wildlife while pleasure driving are not included.

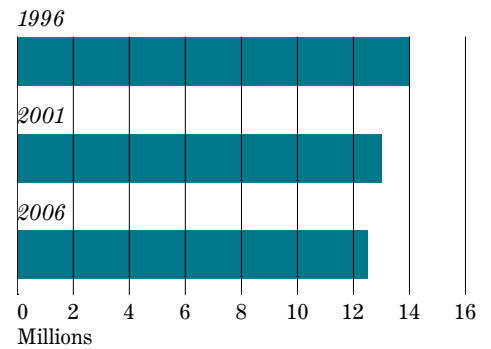
Of the 71 million people who enjoyed wildlife watching in 2006, almost 23 million (32%) participated in taking trips away from home and nearly 68 million (95%) participated around their home. Away-from-home participants are defined as those who travel more than a mile from home to engage in wildlife watching, and around-the-home participants are those who engage in wildlife watching within a mile of home.

Nearly all 71 million who participated in wildlife watching participated around-the-home. Among the 67.8 million around-the-home participants, feeding wildlife was the most popular activity. It was enjoyed by nearly 56 million individuals, 78% of all wildlife watchers. Nearly 45 million people (63%) enjoyed observing wildlife, while 18.8 million (26%) enjoyed photographing wildlife. Another 13.3 million (19%) visited public parks or natural areas to enjoy wildlife, and 14.5 million recreationists (20%) maintained plantings or natural areas for the benefit of wildlife.

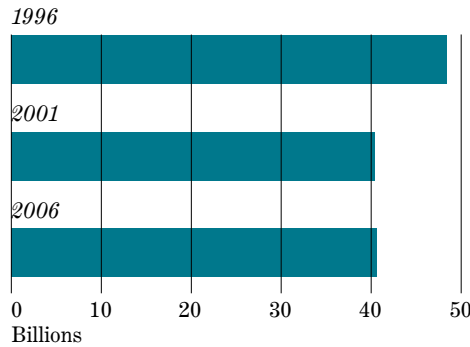
### Anglers 1996–2006



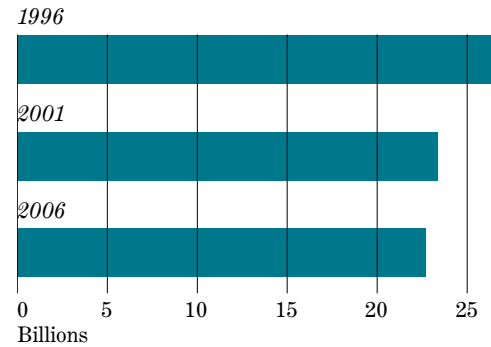
### Hunters 1996–2006



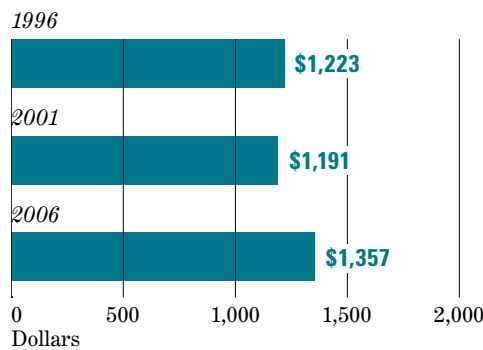
### Fishing Expenditures 1996–2006



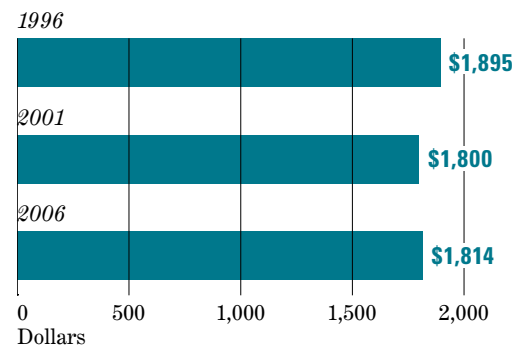
### Hunting Expenditures 1996–2006



### Average Angler Expenditures



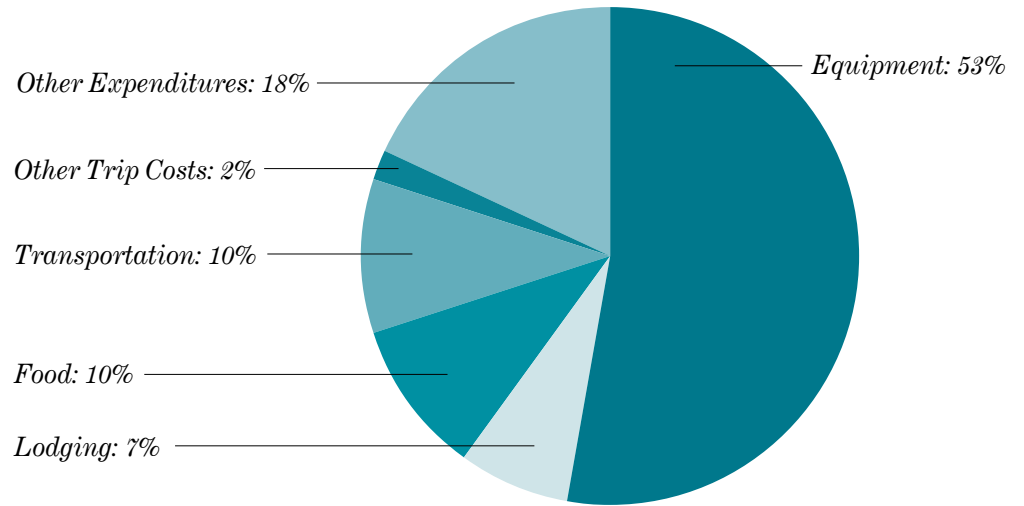
### Average Hunter Expenditures



About a third of all wildlife watchers took trips more than a mile from home to observe, photograph, or feed wildlife. Observing wildlife was the most popular activity at 21.5 million participants, which is 30 percent of all wildlife watchers. 11.7 million people (16%) enjoyed photographing wildlife, while 7.1 million (10%) enjoyed feeding wildlife.

Comparing the 2006 Survey with the two previous surveys shows an 8% increase from 2001 to 2006 and a 13% increase from 1996 to 2006 in overall wildlife watching. From 2001 to 2006 the increase in both around-the-home and away-from-home wildlife watching were comparable at 8% and 5% respectively. However, from 1996 to 2006 there was a downturn in away-from-home wildlife watching of 3%.

**Over 71 million people spent nearly \$45 billion observing, feeding and photographing wildlife in 2006.**



### Wildlife-Watching Participants

*Total Wildlife-Watching Participants: 77.1 million*



*Total Away-from-home Participants: 22.9 million*



*Observe Wildlife: 21.5 million*



*Photograph Wildlife: 11.7 million*



*Feed Birds or Other Wildlife: 7.1 million*



*Total Around-the-home Participants: 67.8 million*



*Observe Wildlife: 44.5 million*



*Photograph Wildlife: 18.8 million*



*Feed Birds or Other Wildlife: 5.5 million*



*Visit Public Parks or Areas: 13.3 million*



*Maintain Plantings or Natural Areas: 14.5 million*



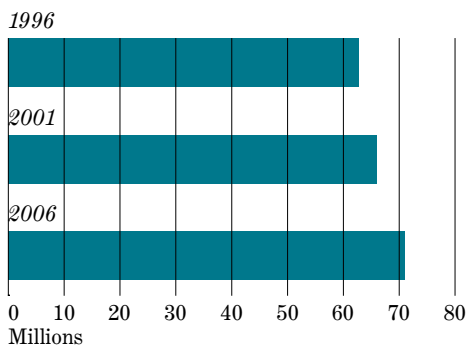
## Bird Observers in the U.S.

Total Bird Observers: 47.8 million

Around-the-home Observers: 41.9 million

Away-from-home Observers: 19.8 million

## Wildlife Watchers 1996–2006

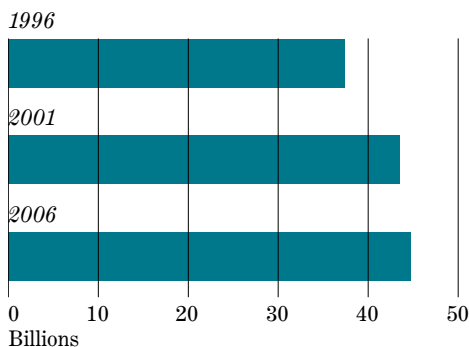


Overall expenditures pursuant to wildlife watching increased 2% from 2001 to 2006 and increased 19% from 1996 to 2006. Trip-related expenditures were up 40% from 2001 to 2006, but were similar in 1996 and 2006. From 2001 to 2006 spending for wildlife-watching equipment and auxiliary equipment were up 20% and 34% respectively, while that for special equipment was down 29%.

### In Summary

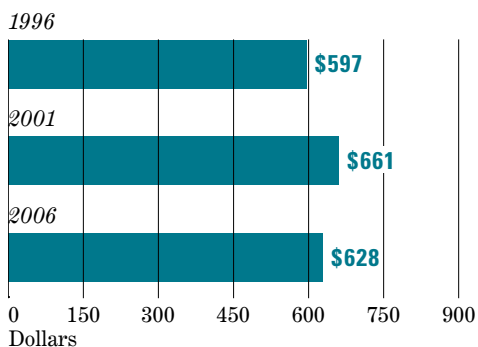
With more than 87 million people 16 years of age and older participating in 2006, wildlife-related recreation is clearly an important leisure activity in the U.S. This equates to an average of nearly four out of every 10 people you meet at work, at school, in a restaurant, or while strolling down a sidewalk will participate in some type of wildlife recreation. To put the 87 million people who participate in wildlife recreation into context, consider that the Census Bureau's estimate of the number of mothers in the U.S is 82.5 million. To get a good understanding of how many wildlife recreationists there are, just ask yourself, how many mothers do I know?

## Wildlife-Watching Expenditures 1996–2006



Wildlife recreation is not only important as a leisure activity but also as a catalyst of economic growth. Hunters, anglers, and wildlife-watchers spent \$120.1 billion on wildlife recreation spending in 2006. This spending contributed to local economies throughout the country, which undoubtedly improved employment, raised economic output, and generated tax revenue.

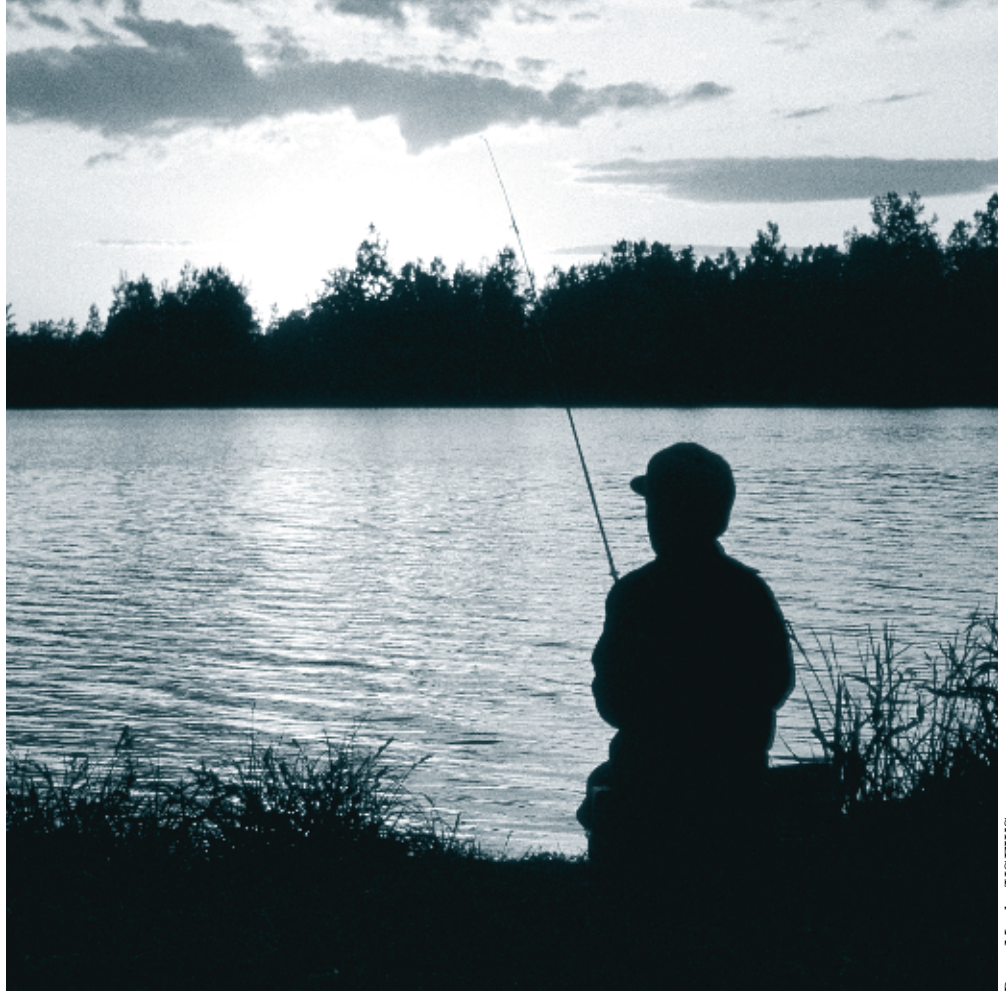
## Average Wildlife-Watching Expenditures



The next report of preliminary findings will contain State data and will be available by July 2007. This and future survey reports also will be available on our web page at the following address: <http://federalasst.fws.gov/surveys/surveys.html>

# List of Tables

1. Anglers and Hunters 16 Years Old and Older, Days of Participation and Trips, by Type of Fishing and Hunting in the U.S.: 2006
2. Summary of Expenditures in the U.S. for Fishing and Hunting: 2006
3. Expenditures in the U.S. for Fishing: 2006
4. Expenditures in the U.S. for Hunting: 2006
5. Wildlife-Watching Participants 16 Years Old and Older, by Primary Activity: 2006
6. Away-from-Home Participants by Wildlife Observed, Photographed, or Fed and Place in the U.S.: 2006
7. Wild Bird Observers and Days of Observation: 2006
8. Expenditures in the U.S. for Wildlife-Watching Participation: 2006
9. Comparison of Wildlife-Related Recreation Participation: 2001 and 2006
10. Comparison of Wildlife-Related Recreation Participation: 1996 and 2006
11. Comparison of Wildlife-Related Recreation Expenditures: 2001 and 2006
12. Comparison of Wildlife-Related Recreation Expenditures: 1996 and 2006



Dave Menke/USFWS

**Table 1. Anglers and Hunters 16 Years Old and Older, Days of Participation and Trips, by Type of Fishing and Hunting in the U.S.: 2006**  
(U.S. population 16 years old and older. Numbers in thousands.)

	<i>Participation</i>		<i>Days of Participation</i>		<i>Trips</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<b>Total Sportspersons</b>	<b>33,916</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>736,707</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>588,891</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Fishing</b>						
<b>Total, All Fishing</b>	<b>29,952</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>516,781</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>403,492</b>	<b>100</b>
Total, all freshwater	25,431	85	433,820	84	336,528	83
Freshwater, except Great Lakes	25,035	84	420,705	81	323,265	80
Great Lakes	1,420	5	18,060	3	13,264	3
Saltwater	7,717	26	85,895	17	66,963	17
<b>Hunting</b>						
<b>Total, All Hunting</b>	<b>12,510</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>219,925</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>185,399</b>	<b>100</b>
Big game	10,682	85	164,372	75	115,255	62
Small game	4,797	38	52,539	24	40,856	22
Migratory bird	2,293	18	19,807	9	16,390	9
Other animals	1,128	9	15,219	7	12,898	7

Note: Detail for participants does not add to total because of multiple responses and nonresponse.

**Table 2. Summary of Expenditures in the U.S. for Fishing and Hunting: 2006**

(U.S. population 16 years old and older.)

<i>Expenditure Item</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Spenders</i>		
	<i>Amount (Thousands of Dollars)</i>	<i>Average per Sportsperson (Dollars)</i>	<i>Number (Thousands)</i>	<i>Percent of Sportsperson</i>	<i>Average per Spender (Dollars)</i>
<b>Total, All Items</b>	<b>75,448,793</b>	<b>2,225</b>	<b>32,524</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>2,320</b>
<b>Trip-Related Expenditures</b>					
Total trip-related	24,569,863	724	30,201	89	814
Food and lodging, total	9,134,526	269	26,381	78	346
Food	6,526,699	192	26,242	77	249
Lodging	2,607,827	77	6,465	19	403
Transportation, total	7,662,775	226	26,611	78	288
Public	736,471	22	1,509	4	488
Private	6,926,304	204	26,239	77	264
Other trip costs (1)	7,772,563	229	23,416	69	332
<b>Equipment Expenditures</b>					
Fishing equipment	5,556,477	164	19,337	57	287
Hunting equipment	5,715,631	169	10,107	30	566
Auxiliary equipment (2)	2,875,376	85	9,750	29	295
Special equipment (3)	26,113,947	770	3,205	9	8,148
<b>Other Expenditures</b>					
Books, magazines	313,638	9	6,759	20	46
Membership dues and contributions	631,672	19	4,481	13	141
Land leasing and ownership	8,459,253	249	2,226	7	3,801
Licenses, stamps tags, and permits	1,212,935	36	22,010	65	55

Note: Detail does not add to total because of multiple responses. Detail in Tables 3 and 4 may not add to total shown here because of nonresponse to individual questions.

(1) Other trip costs include guide fees, pack trip or package fees, public and private land use fees, equipment rental, boating costs (which include launching, mooring, storage, maintenance, insurance, pumpout fee, and fuel), bait, ice, and heating and cooking fuel.

(2) Auxiliary equipment includes camping equipment, binoculars, special fishing and hunting clothing, etc.

(3) Special equipment includes boats, campers, cabins, trail bikes, etc.

**Table 3. Expenditures in the U.S. for Fishing: 2006**

(U.S. population 16 years old and older.)

<i>Expenditure Item</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Spenders</i>		
	<i>Amount (Thousands of Dollars)</i>	<i>Average per Angler (Dollars)</i>	<i>Number (Thousands)</i>	<i>Percent of Anglers</i>	<i>Average per Spender (Dollars)</i>
<b>Total, All Items</b>	<b>40,640,921</b>	<b>1,357</b>	<b>28,401</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>1,431</b>
<b>Trip-Related Expenditures</b>					
Total Trip-Related	17,838,484	596	26,318	88	678
Food and Lodging, Total	6,349,615	212	22,572	75	281
Food	4,344,341	145	22,415	75	194
Lodging	2,005,274	67	5,304	18	378
Transportation, Total	4,906,807	164	22,361	75	219
Public	509,258	17	1,163	4	438
Private	4,397,549	147	21,979	73	200
Other Trip Costs, Total	6,582,062	220	22,275	74	295
Guide fees, pack trip or package fees	886,571	30	2,307	8	384
Public land use fees	174,843	6	3,339	11	52
Private land use fees	144,696	5	1,041	3	139
Equipment rental	353,655	12	1,645	5	215
Boating costs (1)	3,351,260	112	7,405	25	453
Bait	1,179,018	39	18,224	61	65
Ice	378,763	13	11,168	37	34
Heating and cooking fuel	113,257	4	3,195	11	35
<b>Equipment Expenditures</b>					
Fishing equipment, total	5,525,187	184	19,082	64	290
Rods, reels, poles, and rodmaking components	2,356,874	79	10,666	36	221
Lines and leaders	540,827	18	11,886	40	46
Artificial lures, flies, baits, and dressing for flies or lines	905,152	30	13,624	45	66
Hooks, sinkers, swivels,	399,525	13	13,885	46	29
Tackle boxes	129,775	4	3,819	13	34
Creels, stringers, fish bags, landing nets, and gaff hooks	108,094	4	3,154	11	34
Minnow traps, seines, and bait containers	64,800	2	2,481	8	26
Depth finders, fish finders	502,172	17	1,140	4	440
Ice fishing equipment	104,229	3	663	2	157
Other fishing equipment	413,740	14	3,073	10	135
Auxiliary Equipment, Total	702,745	23	3,837	13	183
Camping equipment	318,280	11	1,756	6	181
Binoculars, field glasses, telescopes, etc.	39,950	1	414	1	97
Special fishing clothing, rubber boots, waders	236,231	8	1,971	7	120
Processing and taxidermy costs	42,183	1	188	1	225
Other	66,102	2	392	1	168
Special Equipment (2)	11,698,360	391	1,818	6	6,436
<b>Other Expenditures</b>					
Magazines, books	130,395	4	2,944	10	44
Membership dues and contributions	184,385	6	1,423	5	130
Land leasing and ownership	3,916,433	131	768	3	5,098
Licenses, stamps, tags, and permits, total	644,931	22	17,995	60	36
Licenses	602,408	20	17,660	59	34
Stamps, tags, and permits	42,524	1	3,011	10	14

Note: Detail does not add to total because of multiple responses and nonresponse.

(1) Boating costs include launching, mooring, storage, maintenance, insurance, pumpout fees, and fuel.

(2) Special equipment includes boats, campers, cabins, trail bikes, etc.

**Table 4. Expenditures in the U.S. for Hunting: 2006**

(U.S. population 16 years old and older.)

	<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Spenders</i>		
	<i>Amount (Thousands of Dollars)</i>	<i>Average per Hunter (Dollars)</i>	<i>Number (Thousands)</i>	<i>Percent of Hunters</i>	<i>Average per Spender (Dollars)</i>
<b>Total, All Items</b>	<b>22,691,144</b>	<b>1,814</b>	<b>12,153</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>1,867</b>
<b>Trip-Related Expenditures</b>					
Total Trip-Related	6,731,379	538	10,828	87	622
Food and Lodging, Total	2,784,911	223	9,567	76	291
Food	2,182,358	174	9,533	76	229
Lodging	602,553	48	1,599	13	377
Transportation, Total	2,755,967	220	10,064	80	274
Public	227,213	18	401	3	567
Private	2,528,755	202	9,982	80	253
Other Trip Costs, Total	1,190,500	95	3,416	27	348
Guide fees, pack trip, or package fees	409,858	33	557	4	736
Public land use fees	46,716	4	564	5	83
Private land use fees	415,976	33	711	6	585
Equipment rental	78,157	6	313	2	250
Boating costs (1)	93,756	7	459	4	204
Heating and cooking fuel	146,038	12	2,132	17	68
<b>Equipment Expenditures</b>					
Hunting Equipment, Total	5,355,861	428	9,287	74	577
Guns and rifles	2,463,152	197	2,992	24	823
Rifles	1,139,053	91	1,625	13	701
Shotguns	759,500	61	1,320	11	575
Muzzleloaders, primitive firearms	181,955	15	531	4	343
Pistols, handguns	382,643	31	636	5	602
Bows, arrows, archery equipment	668,875	53	1,940	16	345
Telescopic sights	393,149	31	1,471	12	267
Decoys and game calls	165,904	13	2,074	17	80
Ammunition	692,811	55	7,995	64	87
Hand loading equipment	160,229	13	929	7	172
Hunting dogs and associated costs	488,948	39	780	6	627
Other	322,793	26	2,312	18	140
Auxiliary Equipment, Total	1,298,309	104	4,196	34	309
Camping equipment	131,228	10	538	4	244
Binoculars, field glasses, telescopes, etc.	207,630	17	968	8	214
Special hunting clothing, rubber boots, waders	464,802	37	2,743	22	169
Processing and taxidermy costs	452,377	36	1,496	12	302
Other	42,272	3	291	2	145
Special Equipment (2)	3,656,981	292	505	4	7,244
<b>Other Expenditures</b>					
Magazines, books	81,261	6	1,767	14	46
Membership dues and contributions	280,867	22	1,707	14	165
Land leasing and ownership	4,542,820	363	1,606	13	2,829
Licenses, stamps, tags, and permits, total	743,665	59	9,862	79	75
Licenses	617,833	49	9,506	76	65
Federal duck stamps	22,934	2	1,529	12	15
Other stamps, tags, and permits	102,898	8	2,689	21	38

Note: Detail does not add to total because of multiple responses and nonresponse.

(1) Boating costs include launching, mooring, storage, maintenance, insurance, pumpout fees, and fuel.

(2) Special equipment includes boats, campers, cabins, trail bikes, etc.



**Table 5. Wildlife-Watching Participants 16 Years Old and Older, by Primary Activity: 2006**

(U.S. population 16 years old and older. Numbers in thousands.)

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<b>Total Participants</b>	<b>71,132</b>	<b>100</b>
Away-from-Home	22,977	32
Observe wildlife	21,546	30
Photograph wildlife	11,708	16
Feed wildlife	7,084	10
Around-the-Home	67,756	95
Observe wildlife	44,467	63
Photograph wildlife	18,763	26
Feed wildlife	55,512	78
Visit public parks or areas (1)	13,271	19
Maintain plantings or natural areas	14,508	20

Note: Detail does not add to total because of multiple responses and nonresponse.

(1) Includes visits only to parks or publicly held areas within one mile of home.

**Table 6. Away-from-Home Participants by Wildlife Observed, Photographed, or Fed and Place in the U.S.: 2006**

(U.S. population 16 years old and older. Numbers in thousands.)

	<i>Participation by Place</i>							
	<i>Total participants</i>		<i>Total in U.S.</i>		<i>In state of residence</i>		<i>In other states</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<b>Total, All Wildlife</b>	<b>22,903</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>22,903</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>19,101</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>7,367</b>	<b>32</b>
Total Birds	19,995	87	19,995	100	17,106	86	6,777	34
Songbirds (cardinals, robins, etc.)	13,591	59	13,591	100	11,783	87	4,372	32
Birds of prey (hawks, eagles, etc.)	14,043	61	14,043	100	11,603	83	5,047	36
Waterfowl (ducks, geese, etc.)	15,338	67	15,338	100	13,149	86	4,962	32
Other water birds (shorebirds, herons, etc.)	11,448	50	11,448	100	9,055	79	4,137	36
Other birds (pheasants, turkeys, etc.)	8,853	39	8,853	100	7,398	84	2,599	29
Total Land Mammals	16,225	71	16,225	100	13,698	84	5,486	34
Large land mammals (deer, bear, etc.)	12,776	56	12,776	100	10,522	82	4,258	33
Small land mammals (squirrel, rabbit, etc.)	13,435	59	13,435	100	11,319	84	4,551	34
Fish (salmon, shark, etc.)	6,577	29	6,577	100	5,118	78	2,281	35
Marine mammals (whales, seals, etc.)	3,320	14	3,320	100	2,142	64	1,377	41
Other wildlife (turtles, butterflies, etc.)	10,313	45	10,313	100	8,644	84	3,333	32

Note: Detail does not add to total because of multiple responses. Columns showing percent of total participants are based on the "Total, All Wildlife" row. Participation by place percent columns are based on the total number of participants in the U.S. for each type of wildlife.

**Table 7. Wild Bird Observers and Days of Observation: 2006**

(U.S. population 16 years old and older. Numbers in thousands.)

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<b>Observers</b>		
Total Bird Observers	47,788	100
Around-the-Home observers	41,913	88
Away-from-Home observers	19,849	42
<b>Days</b>		
Total Days Observing Birds	5,407,925	100
Around-the-Home	5,141,756	95
Away-from-Home	266,169	5

Note: Detail does not add to total because of multiple responses and nonresponse.

**Table 8. Expenditures in the U.S. for Wildlife-Watching Participation: 2006**

(U.S. population 16 years old and older. Numbers in thousands.)

	<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Spenders</i>	
	<i>Expenditures (Thousands of Dollars)</i>	<i>Number (Thousands)</i>	<i>Percent of Wildlife-Watching Participants (1)</i>	<i>Average Per Spender (Dollars)</i>
<b>Total, All Items (2)</b>	<b>44,694,768</b>	<b>55,979</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>798</b>
<b>Trip-Related Expenditures</b>				
Total Trip-Related	12,971,087	19,443	85	667
Food and Lodging, Total	7,645,827	16,415	71	466
Food	4,355,923	16,261	71	268
Lodging	3,289,903	6,624	29	497
Transportation, Total	4,472,020	18,329	80	244
Public	1,531,052	2,902	13	528
Private	2,940,968	17,447	76	169
Other Trip Costs, Total	853,240	7,681	33	111
Guide fees, pack trip or package fees	208,744	1,570	7	133
Public land use fees	140,289	4,331	19	32
Private land use fees	68,135	1,173	5	58
Equipment rental	140,547	1,274	6	110
Boating costs (3)	224,152	1,474	6	152
Heating and cooking fuel	71,373	1,885	8	38
<b>Equipment and Other Expenses</b>				
Total Equipment and Others	31,723,681	52,178	73	608
Wildlife-Watching Equipment, Total	10,076,100	49,040	69	205
Binoculars, spotting scopes	704,036	5,269	7	134
Cameras, video cameras, special lenses, and other equip.	3,165,862	6,832	10	463
Film and developing	788,835	9,842	14	80
Bird food, total	3,451,785	39,944	56	86
Commercially prepared and packaged wild bird food	2,785,742	37,332	52	75
Other bulk foods used to feed wild birds	666,043	11,448	16	58
Feed for other wildlife	650,491	10,341	15	63
Nest boxes, bird houses, feeders, baths	800,979	16,481	23	49
Day packs, carrying cases, and special clothing	403,433	3,388	5	119
Other wildlife-watching equip (such as field guides & maps)	110,680	3,755	5	29
Auxiliary Equipment, Total	1,096,409	4,848	7	226
Tents, tarps	242,507	2,336	3	104
Frame packs and backpacking equipment	155,188	1,138	2	136
Other camping equipment	358,126	2,298	3	156
Other auxiliary equipment (such as blinds)	340,589	801	1	425
Special Equipment, Total	12,421,217	1,914	3	6,490
<b>Other Expenditures</b>				
Magazines, books	371,164	9,490	13	39
Land leasing and ownership	5,145,834	871	1	5,910
Membership dues and contributions	977,395	7,932	11	123
Plantings	1,635,561	6,543	9	250

Note: Detail does not add to total because of multiple responses and nonresponse.

(1) Percent of wildlife-watching participants is based on away-from-home participants for trip-related expenditures. For equipment and other expenditures the percent of wildlife-watching participants is based on total participants.

(2) Information on trip-related expenditures was collected for away-from-home participants only. Equipment and other expenditures are based on information collected from both away-from-home and around-the-home participants.

(3) Boating costs include launching, mooring, storage, maintenance, insurance, pumpout fees, and fuel.

**Table 9. Comparison of Wildlife-Related Recreation Participation: 2001 and 2006**

(U.S. population 16 years old and older. Numbers in thousands.)

Type of Participation	2001		2006		2001–2006 % Change*
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
<b>Total Sportspersons</b>	<b>37,805</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>33,916</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>–10%</b>
<b>Anglers, Total</b>	<b>34,067</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>29,952</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>–12%</b>
All freshwater	28,439	83	25,431	85	–11%
Freshwater, except GL	27,913	82	25,035	84	–10%
Great Lakes	1,847	5	1,420	5	–23%
Saltwater	9,051	26	7,717	26	–15%
<b>Hunters, Total</b>	<b>13,034</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>12,510</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>–4%</b>
Big game	10,911	84	10,682	85	–2%
Small game	5,434	42	4,797	38	–12%
Migratory bird	2,956	23	2,293	18	–22%
Other animal	1,047	8	1,128	9	8%
<b>Wildlife-Watching Participants, Total</b>	<b>66,105</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>71,132</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8%</b>
Around-the-Home	62,928	95	67,756	95	8%
Away-from-Home	21,823	33	22,977	32	5%

Note: Detail does not add to total because of multiple responses and nonresponse.

\*Not tested for significance level. Standard errors were not available at the time of printing.

**Table 10. Comparison of Wildlife-Related Recreation Participation: 1996 and 2006**

(U.S. population 16 years old and older. Numbers in thousands.)

Type of Participation	1996		2006		1996–2006 % Change*
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
<b>Total Sportspersons</b>	<b>39,694</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>33,916</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>–15%</b>
<b>Anglers, Total</b>	<b>35,246</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>29,952</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>–15%</b>
All freshwater	29,734	87	25,431	85	–14%
Freshwater, except GL	28,921	85	25,035	84	–13%
Great Lakes	2,039	7	1,420	5	–30%
Saltwater	9,438	25	7,717	26	–18%
<b>Hunters, Total</b>	<b>13,975</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>12,510</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>–10%</b>
Big game	11,288	76	10,682	85	–5%
Small game	6,945	54	4,797	38	–31%
Migratory bird	3,073	21	2,293	18	–25%
Other animal	1,521	10	1,128	9	–26%
<b>Wildlife-Watching Participants, Total</b>	<b>62,868</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>71,132</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13%</b>
Around-the-Home	60,751	97	67,756	95	12%
Away-from-Home	23,652	39	22,977	32	–3%

\*Not tested for significance level. Standard errors were not available at the time of printing.

**Table 11. Comparison of Wildlife-Related Recreation Expenditures: 2001 and 2006**

(U.S. population 16 years old and older. 2006 dollars in thousands.)

Activity and Type of Expenditure	2001		2006		2001-2006 % Change*
	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent	
<b>Total Sportsperson</b>	<b>79,654,056</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>75,448,793</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-5%</b>
<b>Fishing, Total</b>	<b>40,560,198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>40,640,921</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>(Z)</b>
Trip-Related	16,682,925	41	17,838,484	44	7%
Equipment	19,309,578	48	17,926,292	44	-7%
Fishing equipment	5,256,228	13	5,525,187	14	5%
Auxiliary equipment	820,770	2	702,745	2	-14%
Special equipment	13,232,580	33	11,698,360	29	-12%
Other	4,567,694	11	4,876,144	12	7%
<b>Hunting, Total</b>	<b>23,461,530</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>22,691,144</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-3%</b>
Trip-Related	5,978,797	25	6,731,379	30	13%
Equipment	11,794,490	50	10,311,151	45	-13%
Hunting equipment	5,192,593	22	5,355,861	24	3%
Auxiliary equipment	1,369,198	6	1,298,309	6	-5%
Special equipment	5,232,699	22	3,656,981	16	-30%
Other	5,688,242	24	5,648,613	25	-1%
<b>Wildlife-Watching, Total</b>	<b>43,727,212</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>44,694,768</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2%</b>
Trip-Related	9,291,304	21	12,971,087	29	40%
Equipment	26,795,119	61	23,593,726	53	-12%
Wildlife-Watching equipment	8,371,032	19	10,076,100	23	20%
Auxiliary equipment	816,047	2	1,096,409	2	34%
Special equipment	17,608,039	40	12,421,217	28	-29%
Other	7,640,790	17	8,129,954	18	6%

(Z) Less than 0.5 percent

\*Not tested for significance level. Standard errors were not available at the time of printing.

**Table 12. Comparison of Wildlife-Related Recreation Expenditures: 1996 and 2006**

(U.S. population 16 years old and older. 2006 dollars in thousands.)

<i>Activity and Type of Expenditure</i>	<i>1996</i>		<i>2006</i>		<i>1996–2006 % Change*</i>
	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Percent</i>	
<b>Total Sportsperson</b>	<b>92,428,308</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>75,448,793</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>–18%</b>
<b>Fishing, Total</b>	<b>48,565,444</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>40,640,921</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>–16%</b>
Trip-Related	19,763,326	41	17,838,484	44	–10%
Equipment	24,636,355	51	17,926,292	44	–27%
Fishing equipment	6,821,115	14	5,525,187	14	–19%
Auxiliary equipment	1,332,134	3	702,745	2	–47%
Special equipment	16,483,106	34	11,698,360	29	–29%
Other	4,165,763	9	4,876,144	12	17%
<b>Hunting, Total</b>	<b>26,486,173</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>22,691,144</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>–14%</b>
Trip-Related	6,624,069	25	6,731,379	30	2%
Equipment	14,484,381	55	10,311,151	45	–29%
Hunting equipment	7,091,539	27	5,355,861	24	–24%
Auxiliary equipment	1,584,433	6	1,298,309	6	–18%
Special equipment	5,808,408	22	3,656,981	16	–37%
Other	5,377,723	20	5,648,613	25	5%
<b>Wildlife-Watching, Total</b>	<b>37,554,913</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>44,694,768</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>19%</b>
Trip-Related	12,134,349	32	12,971,087	29	7%
Equipment	21,396,888	57	23,593,726	53	10%
Wildlife-Watching equipment	10,574,388	28	10,076,100	23	–5%
Auxiliary equipment	1,102,891	3	1,096,409	2	–1%
Special equipment	9,719,609	26	12,421,217	28	28%
Other	4,023,676	11	8,129,954	18	102%

\*Not tested for significance level. Standard errors were not available at the time of printing.





U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
<http://federalasst.fws.gov/surveys/surveys.html>

