

Benefits of the Federal Lands Highway Program

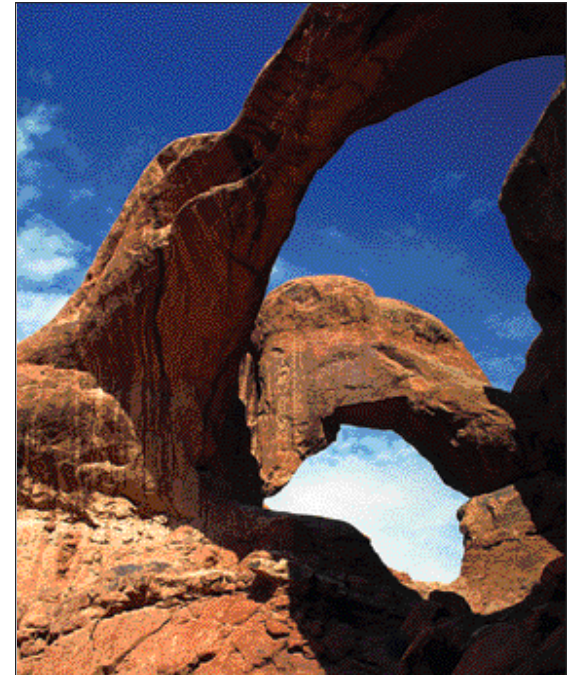
Banking on Nature, a recent study by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, 35 million people visited national wildlife refuges in 2006, supporting almost 27,000 private sector jobs and producing about \$543 million in employment income. In addition, recreational spending on refuges generated nearly \$185.3 million in tax revenue at the local, county, state and federal level. The economic benefit is almost four times the amount appropriated to the Refuge System in Fiscal Year 2006. About 87 percent of refuge visitors travel from outside the local area and the local benefits of visitation are dependent on a robust and well-maintained transportation network.

Moab, Utah, is an area that is very distinctive physically—its unique rock formations and amazing landscape make it an extraordinary location. The National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management share responsibility of managing the popular site that received 781,672 visitors in 2005. Due to its growth, preliminary analyses are underway to evaluate alternative transportation options at Moab's Arches National Park to reduce park congestion. These alternative transportation plans will encourage recreational bicycle use and other forms of transit that will not affect park views.

Visitors to the Moab area spend \$85 million annually. This level of spending maintains over 1,500 direct service, recreation, retail, and recreation jobs within the local community, not including federal employees. Local income and supplier growth create another 300 jobs indirectly. In terms of aggregate sales, the Moab region captures \$88 million in annual direct and indirect sales and over \$28 million in personal income.



Federal Land Management Agencies (FLMAs) receive aid from almost 250,000 volunteers, providing an estimated economic benefit of more than \$90 million per year.



The Federal Lands Highway Program lends critical support to allow for access at places such as Arches National Park. Visitors come to take in breathtaking natural scenery, and their stays result in significant economic benefits to local gateway communities.