



## IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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### ECONOMIC VALUE OF IOWA'S NATURAL RESOURCES

**Outdoor nature-based recreation is one of the largest industries in Iowa. The following information is gleaned from recent studies, representing different ways to look at the industry. Any way you slice it, Iowa's natural areas are vital to the state's economy.**

- **\$1.54 Billion per Year:** Hunters, anglers and wildlife viewers represent a total economic benefit to the state of Iowa of \$1.54 billion\* per year. This includes \$974 million in local retail sales in Iowa, creating and supporting more than 17,800 jobs. (\$4.2M per day spread over a year)
- **\$2.63 Billion per Year:** Visits to Iowa state parks, county parks, lakes and trails are estimated at 50 million visits per year, representing \$2.63 billion\*\* in spending levels. (\$7.2M per day spread over a year)
- **\$824 Million per Year:** The overall economic impact from river recreation along 73 Iowa river and stream segments supports more than 6,350 jobs with \$824 million\*\*\* in sales and \$130 million of personal income. (\$2.2M per day spread over a year)
- **\$35.9 Million per Year:** The most visited river segment in the study, the Mississippi River from Clinton to Muscatine, had 1.1 million total trips for fishing, trails, relaxation and wildlife viewing, resulting in more than \$35.9 million \*\*\* in total spending in 2009. (\$98K per day spread over a year)
- **\$3.9 Billion per Year:** Iowa's wood products industries generate over 3.9 billion dollars annually (\$10.7M per day spread over a year), employ almost 18,000 people and have an annual payroll of \$916,000,000. Iowa's woodlands support a significant portion of Iowa's recreation, tourism and hunting which is tied to activities such as camping, fall foliage tours, hiking, woodland bird watching and hunting of woodland wildlife species. Rural and community forests in Iowa significantly contribute to water quality, air quality, carbon sequestration and quality of life.
- **Keep Young People in Iowa:** Improvements to quality of life generated by recreation opportunities and natural resources are important to retaining and attracting skilled workers in the state.

*\*2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, US Fish and Wildlife Service*

*\*\*The Economic Value of Iowa's Natural Resources, Iowa State University Dept. of Economics, Center for Agricultural and Rural Development*

*\*\*\*Economic Impacts of River Trail Recreation in Iowa, Iowa State University Department of Economics, Center for Agricultural and Rural Development*

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