

## **WILD BUFFALO, PUBLIC LANDS, MATTER TO MONTANA**

Seventy percent of Montanans favor restoration of wild bison in Montana according to a February 2011 poll by Moore Information.

Three in four Americans polled in 2008 believe that the wild American bison is an “*extremely important living symbol of the American West.*” (Science Daily 2008)

A cost-benefit study from acquiring winter range for bison outside Yellowstone National Park found “conservatively calculated” net “measurable benefits” of \$4.43 million. (Yellowstone National Park 2000)

*“... between 1969 and 1989, more than 96% of all new jobs in the Greater Yellowstone Area came from sectors other than timber, mining, and agriculture.”* (Yellowstone National Park 2000)

According to the Montana Office of Tourism, “*Tourism is one of Montana’s leading and fastest growing industries.*”

- 10 million people traveled to Montana in 2008 and spent \$3 billion supporting \$897 million dollars in worker salaries.
- Tourism and recreation businesses account for 42,200 Montana jobs.

Over 3,640,000 people visited Yellowstone National Park in 2010. (Yellowstone National Park 2011)

Over 2 million people visited Glacier National Park in 2009. (Thackeray 2010)

According to a study by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research (2010), a record 2 million people visited Montana state parks in 2010 with nonresidents spending over \$122 million dollars that produced 1,600 jobs in Montana.

*“The fundamental conclusion of this study is that Montana State Parks represent an invaluable resource for the economy of Montana’s regions, as well as the state as a whole.”*

Over 755,000 people engaged in Wildlife-Watching in Montana in 2006 - generating \$375 million dollars in retail sales, creating 9,772 jobs, and bringing in nearly \$100 million dollars in revenues. (Leonard USFWS 2008)

Hunter and angler expenditures in Montana topped half a billion dollars in 2008: fishing \$239,917,978 and hunting \$292,367,289. (Brooks and King MT FWP 2009)

## SOURCES

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