

Benefits of the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge

Banking on Nature 2013: Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge visitors have significant economic impact on local economy (Carver and Caudill 2013)

- Over 400,000 visitors to CRNWR annually
 - Total recreation (non-consumptive and fishing) expenditures \$24.2 million
 - 278 jobs
 - \$11.5 million employment income
 - \$4.6 million tax revenue

2012 Visitor Satisfaction Study: Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge visitor perception and experience (Dietsch et al 2013)

- 90% of CRNWR visitors feel that refuges, compared to other public lands, provide a unique recreation experience.
- 40% of CRNWR visitors surveyed had been to the refuge multiple times (avg. of 7 times) within 12 months, 60% only once.
- 58% learned of refuge through friends and relatives, 14% from local community.
- 27% live within 50 miles of the refuge; 73% nonlocal visitors.
- 92% U.S. citizens
- 71% of local visitors sole purpose of the trip was visiting the refuge
- 50% of nonlocal visitors primary purpose for their trip was to visit the refuge.
- Most popular activities:
 - Wildlife observation 69%
 - Non-motorized boating 44%
 - Photography 40%
 - Bird watching 26%
- Primary reason for most recent visit related to
 - Manatee viewing 30%
 - Non-motorized boating 24%
 - Wildlife observation 18%
 - Motorized boating 11%
 - Swimming 5%
- Visitor Satisfaction
 - 90% satisfied with recreational activities and opportunities
 - 86% satisfied with information and education about the refuge and its resources
 - 87% satisfied with services provided by employees or volunteers
 - 92% satisfied with refuge's job of conserving fish wildlife and their habitats.

Amenity Values of Proximity to National Wildlife Refuges (Taylor, Liu and Hamilton 2012)

- Owning a home near a national wildlife refuge in urban areas increases the value of homes 7 to 9% and helps support the surrounding community's tax base. Refuges boost property values because refuges protect against future development while preserving scenic vistas and other "natural amenity benefits associated with open spaces."

References

- Carver, Erin and James Caudill. 2013. "Banking on Nature 2006: The Economic Benefits to Local Communities of National Wildlife Refuge Visitation," USFWS Division of Economics. Washington, DC.
<https://www.fws.gov/refuges/about/refugereports/pdfs/BankingOnNature2013.pdf>
- Dietsch, A.M., N.R. Sexton, L.M. Koontz, and S.J. Conk. 2013. National wildlife refuge visitor survey 2012— Individual refuge results. U.S. Geological Survey Data Series 75. <https://pubs.usgs.gov/ds/754/>.
- Taylor, L.O., X. Liu and T. Hamilton. 2012. "Amenity Values of Proximity to National Wildlife Refuges," Research Work Order Number G09AC00299. U.S. Geological Survey.
<https://www.fws.gov/refuges/about/refugereports/homeValuesHigherNWR.html>