



# Hunters and Anglers: Fueling Our Nation's Economy and Paying for Conservation

Each year, 47 million Americans head into the field to hunt or fish. **These are not simply traditions or hobbies – they are fundamental components of our nation's economy.** The money sportsmen spend in pursuit of their passion supports everything from major manufacturing industries to small businesses in communities across the country. The economic benefits of hunting and angling are especially pronounced in rural areas, where money brought in during the hunting season can be enough to keep small businesses operational for the whole year. Sportsmen also generate hundreds of millions of dollars each year, through fees and excise taxes, for wildlife management, habitat conservation, and public access.

These economic and conservation benefits - plus over a million American jobs - all depend on clean water and productive wetlands. However, the foundational safeguards for clean water have been at risk for over a decade because a pair of Supreme Court cases cast doubt on where those safeguards apply. At long last, the administration has begun a public process that can restore some of these lost protections.

**Now is the time for sportsmen to stand up and say why clean water is important to you.**

## Hunters and Anglers Drive Economic Growth, Support Jobs

Photo: Shutterstock



Hunters and anglers spend tens of billions of dollars annually on gear, food, lodging and a variety of other goods and services. Their spending supports our economy at every level – from coffee shops and gas stations in small communities to major companies that manufacture firearms, boats, and fishing tackle. These expenditures directly support jobs in every corner of the country and ripple through the economy to the tune of \$200 billion per year.

### Hunting and Angling By the Numbers

	Economic Impact	Jobs Supported	State and Local Tax Revenue Generated	Federal Tax Revenue Generated
Hunting <sup>1</sup>	\$86.9 billion	680,937	\$5.4 billion	\$6.4 billion
Angling <sup>2</sup>	\$114.5 billion	828,000	\$6.7 billion	\$8.2 billion
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$201.4 billion</b>	<b>1,508,937</b>	<b>\$12.1 billion</b>	<b>\$14.6 billion</b>

<sup>1</sup>[Hunting in America: An Economic Force for Conservation](#) (National Shooting Sports Foundation)

<sup>2</sup>[Sportfishing in America: An Economic Force for Conservation](#) (American Sportfishing Association)

## Hunters and Anglers Fund Conservation Nationwide

America's hunters and anglers provide a significant proportion of the funding for wildlife management, habitat conservation, and recreational access. Sportsmen agreed decades ago to pay federal excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, fishing rods and tackle, archery equipment, and motorboat fuel to fund wildlife and fisheries restoration. These taxes, along with license and other fees paid by sportsmen, account for the majority of state fish and wildlife agency budgets. Although these payments directly support hunting and angling, they also provide invaluable benefits to millions of other Americans who recreate outdoors, visit public lands, and watch wildlife – activities that do not directly fund conservation.



Photo: Izaak Walton League of America

- In 2011, states received nearly \$749 million in hunter/angler excise taxes – \$364 million for conserving and restoring fisheries, \$384 million for wildlife.
- Over the past 70 years, hunters have paid more than \$6.4 billion in taxes that directly support wildlife restoration, habitat conservation, and hunter education.
- Since the 1950s, anglers have paid more than \$6.5 billion in taxes that directly support fisheries restoration and public access to rivers, lakes, and other waters.

## Streams and Wetlands at Risk

This thriving sportsmen's economy and conservation benefits – not to mention healthy populations of fish and wildlife – depend on clean water and abundant wetlands. Yet **wetlands and headwater streams are at increasing risk** of pollution and destruction because of a pair of Supreme Court decisions that have brought into question whether the Clean Water Act protects the water bodies most important to sportsmen. **Twenty million acres of wetlands have already lost Clean Water Act protections**, especially in the critical Prairie Pothole region, which is also known as North America's duck factory. **Nearly 60 percent of streams nationwide are also at risk** – particularly small streams with the cleanest, coolest water.

If fewer people fish because small streams are polluted or hunt ducks because wetlands are drained, the economic activity associated with every aspect of hunting and angling will diminish, and revenue for state fish and wildlife management and habitat conservation will decrease.



Photo: Ducks Unlimited

To protect our sporting heritage and maintain a thriving outdoor economy, **support a strong Clean Water Act rule** that restores protections to those waters sportsmen care about the most.

### For more information, please contact:

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