

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS – BEACHES

For a photo gallery and descriptions, please visit: <http://www.doi.gov/news/photos/Photos-Americas-Great-Outdoors-Beaches.cfm>

Coastal and marine national parklands contributed an estimated \$3.5 billion to local economies in 2010. For more information on the economic contributions of all national parks, see the entire National Park Service report which includes information on visitor spending by park and by state, is online at <http://nature.nps.gov/socialscience/products.cfm#MGM>

National Park Service:

Below are a few highlights of the 85 marine and coastal units administered by the National Park Service:

Golden Gate National Recreation Area in the San Francisco Bay area of California had 14.3 million visitors in 2010 who contributed almost \$110 million and supported an estimated 1451 jobs to the Bay area. The many beaches to enjoy and explore in Golden Gate include Stinson Beach, Muir Beach, Tennessee Valley Beach, Rodeo Beach, Baker Beach, and Ocean Beach.

Gateway National Recreation Area in New York and New Jersey had 8.8 million visitors who contributed \$35.7 million and supported 750 jobs to the local area. Visitors to Gateway's 26,000 acres can bike, fish, kayak, go to the beach, or camp overnight under a starry sky. This national recreation area includes sites on Staten Island, at Jamaica Bay in Brooklyn and Queens and at Sandy Hook, New Jersey

Cape Cod National Seashore in Massachusetts, with 4.6 million visits in 2010, is the most popular of 10 “national seashores.” It contributed about \$171 million for local economies, and supported more than 2300 jobs. The great Outer Beach described by Henry David Thoreau in the 19th century is protected within the national seashore, which features 40 miles of pristine sandy beach, marshes and uplands supporting diverse wildlife, lighthouses, and more.

Gulf Islands National Seashore in Florida and Mississippi attracted 4.3 visitors in 2010. Visitors spent more than \$68 million in boosting local economies in 2010 while visiting its famous white beaches and aquamarine waters.

Cape Hatteras National Seashore in North Carolina offers outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational opportunities on the Outer Banks—including swimming, crabbing, surf fishing, surfing, and bird and wildlife watching. In 2010 its 2.2 million visitors contributed \$108 million and supported an estimated 1600 jobs in the local economy.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in Indiana hugs 15 miles of the southern shore of Lake Michigan. In addition to the sandy beach, the national lakeshore offers 45 miles of trails over rugged dunes, mysterious wetlands, sunny prairies, meandering rivers, and peaceful forests. 2.1 million visitors spent \$44 million in 2010 and supported 658 jobs in the local economy.

Assateague Island National Seashore in Maryland and Virginia is a place to explore sandy beaches, salt marshes, maritime forests and coastal bays, bike on woodland trails, or horseback ride on the beach. In 2010, 2.1 million visitors supported more than 2,000 jobs and \$142 million to local economies.

Point Reyes National Seashore in California offers approximately 80 miles of national seashore shoreline. In 2010, 2 million visitors contributed \$84 million and supported almost a thousand jobs in the local economy.

Acadia National Park in Maine attracts summer vacationers with its rugged shoreline, cooler temperatures, and great views of the sun rise. One of the most popular national parks, Acadia attracted 2.5 million visitors in 2010; the tourists contributed \$186 million and supported 3,147 jobs to the local economy.

Olympic National Park in Washington contains a million acres and three major ecosystems, including a wild, rugged beach, colorful ocean tide pools, mountain vistas and remnants of ancient forests. In 2010, Olympic welcomed 2.8 million visitors who contributed more than \$100 million and supported almost 1,400 jobs to local economies in Washington State.

Biscayne National Park in Florida is one of the largest marine parks in the National Park System. A favorite of snorkelers, the park protects the northernmost Florida Keys and a portion of the world's third largest coral reef as well as mangrove forests and clear bay waters. It had 467,000 visitors in 2010 who brought in \$30 million and supported 407 jobs.

Virgin Islands National Park, consisting of 7,000 acres on the island of St. John, is known as an "American Paradise." It provides a major source of income for the U.S. Virgin Islands: in 2010, visitors spent \$61 million in surrounding areas and the impact of non-local visitor spending created more than a thousand jobs. In April 2012, the Park Service and Trust for Public Land jointly announced that 58 acres has been added to the park to preserve the Maho Bay beach.

Pu'uhoonua O Honaunau National Historical Park in Hawaii is a sanctuary protecting ancient temples and beaches where sea turtles climb ashore. It had more than 419,000 visitors in 2010 and contributed \$19.4 million to local economies.

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

Below are a few highlights of the 180 marine and coastal refuges administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Economic figures are derived from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service data. Altogether, FWS estimates that coastal wildlife refuges contributed at least \$900 million to local economies in 2010.

Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge complex in Oregon has the highest visitation of any coastal refuge at 3.8 million people. It includes more than 1,400 coastal islands, rocks, and reefs scattered along the 320 miles of the state's coast. From FWS scoping stations along the shore, visitors can view some of the million-plus seabirds that breed in the refuge's islands. Visitors to coastal refuges in Oregon spent an estimated \$172.5 million. The refuge includes Haystack

Rock, one of the most well-known and frequently photographed natural landmarks along any U.S. coast.

Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge in North Carolina adjoins Cape Hatteras National Seashore and has 1.6 million visitors per year. Considered a “Birder’s Paradise” the refuge’s bird list boasts 365 species including greater snow geese, and other migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, raptors, and neotropical migrants.

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge on the Virginia end of Assateague Island includes more than 14,000 acres of beach, dunes, marsh, and maritime forest. Chincoteague Refuge received 1.36 million visitors in 2010. Visitors to this and other Virginia coastal refuges contributed an estimated \$60 million to local economies in 2010. Visitors who travel to Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge each year enjoy numerous beach activities, wildlife observation, and the annual “wild pony” swim.

Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge on the Hawaiian island of Kaua’i is home to a historic lighthouse and thousands of seabirds that nest in the steep cliffs. The refuge is an ideal location to view the hundreds of humpback whales that visit the coastal waters each winter to give birth. It had 388,000 visitors in 2010. Together with other coastal and marine national wildlife refuges in Hawaii, it is estimated to have contributed \$38 million to the economy.

Bureau of Land Management:

California Coastal National Monument. Located off the 1,100 miles of California coastline, the California Coastal National Monument comprises more than 20,000 small islands, rocks, exposed reefs, and pinnacles between Mexico and Oregon. The scenic qualities and critical habitat of this public resource are protected as part of the BLM’s **National Landscape Conservation System**. Establishing and supporting a series of 12 “CCNM Gateways”-- sections of the California coast that serve as focal points and visitor contact locations for the national monument-- has proven to be a very effective way of involving California’s coastal communities in the management and protection of local coastal resources and strengthening the local economy.