



Fish, wildlife and Washington's economy

Spending by fishers, hunters and wildlife watchers generates more than \$4.5 billion annually for Washington state's economy. Many of the dollars they spend support small businesses and rural communities, keeping cash registers ringing in restaurants, motels, gas stations, convenience stores and sporting goods outlets.

Annual economic activity in Washington:

	Annual Economic Activity	Associated Jobs
Hunting	\$313 million	5,595 jobs
Sport Fishing	\$1.1 billion	14,655 jobs
Wildlife Watching	\$1.5 billion	26,000 jobs
Commercial harvest/wholesale	\$1.4 billion	14,000 jobs
Total	\$4.5 billion	60,250 jobs

(Data from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NOAA Fisheries, NOAA Fisheries, Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, American Sportfishers Association)

Some 40 percent of Washingtonians participate in the outdoor economy by fishing, hunting or actively observing wildlife, according to a national survey by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Commercial fisheries, meanwhile, generate an average of \$1.6 billion here annually by the time their catch is processed and distributed through wholesalers.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is the state agency charged with protecting native fish and wildlife, and providing sustainable fishing, hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities for millions of residents and visitors.

Working throughout the state, WDFW's 1,385 employees—field biologists, enforcement officers, land stewards, lab technicians and customer service staff—manage hundreds of species, maintain nearly a million acres of public lands and serve the public.

WDFW activities are funded by a combination of state general tax revenues, recreational license fees and federal and local contracts.

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		WDFW uses State General Fund to:	WDFW uses State Wildlife Account fund to:
Native fish recovery — 226.4 FTEs Total biennial budget — \$47 million			
GFS	\$7.96 M	Support salmon recovery through mass marking, coded wire tags, hatchery reform, meet federal protection requirements.	Monitoring populations and impacts of listed fish (allowing recreational fishing) and setting seasons.
WLS	\$4.56 M		
F	\$15.03 M		
P/L	\$10.35 M		
Other	\$9.16 M		
Fish production — 287 FTEs Total biennial budget — \$57.5 million			
GFS	\$14.24 M	Produce salmon to support commercial and recreational (saltwater) fishing opportunities and meet tribal treaty obligations.	Produce trout and steelhead for recreational fisheries.
WLS	\$6.93 M		
F	\$11.39 M		
P/L	\$20.24 M		
Other	\$4.74 M		
Fisheries management — 197.9 FTEs Total biennial budget — \$33.3 million			
GFS	\$7.27 M	Monitor and manage sustainable fisheries for commercial salmon, shellfish, groundfish. Negotiate tribal and international treaty allocations.	Monitor and manage sustainable fisheries for recreational fishing.
WLS	\$4.29 M		
F	\$11.8 M		
P/L	\$4.76 M		
Other	\$5.19 M		
Wildlife protection — 47 FTEs Total biennial budget — \$10.8 million			
GFS	0		Supports non-game species management including threatened and endangered species recovery and land conservation.
WLS	\$5.54 M		
F	\$2.98 M		
P/L	\$694,336		
Other	\$1.6 M		
Hunting and wildlife viewing — 50.7 FTEs Total biennial budget — \$ 12.9 million			
GFS	0		Monitor wildlife populations and conduct management activities for game species to ensure sustainability and manage hunting recreation. Respond to dangerous wildlife threats. Develop opportunities for fish and wildlife viewing.
WLS	\$8 M		
F	\$3.62 M		
P/L	\$289,598		
Other	\$1 M		
Land management — 108.4 FTEs Total biennial budget — \$ 28.8 million			
GFS	\$2.76 M	Payment-in-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILT) to counties, operation and maintenance on wildlife areas; leases; dike/irrigation district assessments, and real estate administration.	Operation and maintenance on wildlife areas, weed management, grazing monitoring, technical expertise to partner agencies and non-government organizations for habitat enhancement. Provide hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities. Manage and restore habitat to sustain wildlife populations.
WLS	\$7.88 M		
F	\$13.58 M		
P/L	\$760,628		
Other	\$3.87 M		
Enforcement — 158.8 FTEs Total biennial budget — \$ 37.5 million			
GFS	\$13.95 M	Enforcement of commercial fishing regulations; endangered species protection; response to dangerous or problem wildlife; boating safety; shellfish safety; general law enforcement.	Enforce recreational fishing and hunting regulations.
WLS	\$18.5 M		
F	\$3.38 M		
P/L	\$418,887		
Other	\$1.58 M		

Ecosystem restoration — 28.4 FTEs | Total biennial budget — \$ 5.6 million

GFS	\$2.6 M	Provide biological and engineering assistance to fix fish passage barriers and fish screens. Provide nearshore and freshwater habitat restoration guidance in support of the Puget Sound Partnership's Action Agenda.	Operate the Sunset and Granite Falls fishways in the Snohomish River to increase fish production. Help water diverters install fish screens to prevent fish entering irrigation facilities.
WLS	\$337,030		
F	\$2.23 M		
P/L	\$417,275		
Other	\$1,296		

Hydraulic project approvals — 52.7 FTEs | Total biennial budget — \$ 9.8 million

GFS	\$6.45 M	Administer RCW 77.55 (HPA Program) including: Permit issuance, appeals, legislative support and policy development, statewide training, HPA compliance, effectiveness monitoring, adaptive management, and SEPA compliance for all qualifying department decisions.	Regional HPA application review and processing including forest practices, Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plans and fish restoration projects, as well as water typing review.
WLS	\$1.55 M		
F	\$1.74 M		
P/L	\$93,164		
Other	\$3,026		

Habitat conservation technical assistance — 39.1 FTEs | Total biennial budget — \$ 8 million

GFS	\$4.2 M	Provide assistance for land use planning to protect critical habitat and species and mitigate impacts of energy development. Conduct reviews and mitigation planning for habitat affected by energy projects.	Project review and mitigation coordination for hydroelectric projects, specifically to increase fish production and fishing and hunting-related recreational opportunities.
WLS	\$234,932		
F	\$2.3 M		
P/L	\$194,489		
Other	\$1.13 M		

Aquatic invasive species monitoring /control — 10.2 FTEs | Total biennial budget — \$ 1.5 million

GFS	\$672,746	Prevent and control aquatic invasive species.	
WLS	0		
F	\$157,150		
Other	\$717,635		

Funding also supports: Commercial and recreational licensing; asset management; regional operations; information technology; fiscal and budget management, public information, human resources, safety, revolving accounts; Fish and Wildlife Commission activities; policy and executive management.

Abbreviations	
State General Fund — GFS	Federal Funding — F
State Wildlife Account — WLS	Private/Local funding — P/L
	Other funding sources — Other

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife—by the numbers

- 1 million+** The number of people who purchase Washington State fishing licenses, hunting licenses or vehicle-use permits for access to WDFW lands each year.
- 175 million** Salmon, steelhead smolt, trout, and warm water fish such as bass, perch, and walleye reared at WDFW hatcheries for release into Washington waters each year.
- 95 million** Hatchery-produced coho and chinook salmon and steelhead marked each year so fishers can distinguish them from protected wild fish, and fishing can continue in the era of endangered species listings.
- 348** Selective salmon fisheries provided through mass marking efforts by WDFW in 2008.
- 2.9 million** Hunter days of recreation provided through WDFW's management of 55 game species, including elk, deer, bear, cougar, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, moose, waterfowl, upland game birds and small game.
- 185,313** Endorsements purchased by sportfishers to fish for Dungeness crab in Puget Sound in 2008.
- 300,000** Public contacts made by WDFW's enforcement officers in 2008 to educate citizens and ensure compliance with natural-resource laws. Those contacts included 450 citizen complaints about cougars and 669 complaints about black bears.
- 63,235** Razor-clam licenses purchased during the 2008 season.
- 840,000** Acres of state lands managed by WDFW to provide habitat for fish and wildlife and recreational opportunities for citizens.
- 686** Water and land access sites operated by WDFW to provide hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing and other recreational activities.
- 1 million** Approximate number of annual visits to WDFW lands each year.
- 1.4 million** Acres of land made available for hunting through WDFW agreements with private landowners per year.
- 60,000** Pheasants released annually by WDFW game managers.
- 13,000** People completing WDFW's Hunter Education course each year.

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Razor clam digs draw up to 30,000 people to Washington's beaches in a single day.