



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yellowstone National Park PO Box 168
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190

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Morgan Warthin or Amy Bartlett 307 344-2015
YELL_Public_Affairs@nps.gov

Yellowstone National Park News Release

Tourism to Yellowstone National Park creates \$638.6 Million in Economic Benefits *Report shows visitor spending supports 7,737 jobs in local economy*

A new National Park Service (NPS) report shows that 4.1 million visits to Yellowstone National Park in 2015 totaled \$493.6 million in spending in communities near the park. That spending supported 7,737 jobs in the local area and had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of \$638.6 million.

The peer-reviewed visitor spending analysis was conducted by economists Catherine Cullinane Thomas of the U.S. Geological Survey and Lynne Koontz of the National Park Service. The report shows \$16.9 billion of direct spending by 307.2 million park visitors in communities within 60 miles of a national park. This spending supported 295,000 jobs nationally; 252,000 of those jobs are found in gateway communities. The cumulative benefit to the U.S. economy was \$32 billion.

According to the 2015 report, most park visitor spending was for lodging (31.1 percent) followed by food and beverages (20.2 percent), gas and oil (11.8 percent), admissions and fees (10.2 percent) and souvenirs and other expenses (9.8 percent).

Report authors this year produced an interactive tool. Users can explore current year visitor spending, jobs, labor income, value added, and output effects by sector for national, state, and local economies. Users can also view year-by-year trend data. The interactive tool and report are available at the NPS Social Science Program webpage: go.nps.gov/vse.

The report includes information for visitor spending at individual parks and by state.

To learn more about national parks in Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho and how the National Park Service works with communities in these states to help preserve local history, conserve the environment, and provide outdoor recreation, go to www.nps.gov/Wyoming, www.nps.gov/Montana, or www.nps.gov/Idaho.

- www.nps.gov/yell -

About the National Park Service: More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 411 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov.

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