

Wildlife Tourism and the Gulf Coast Economy

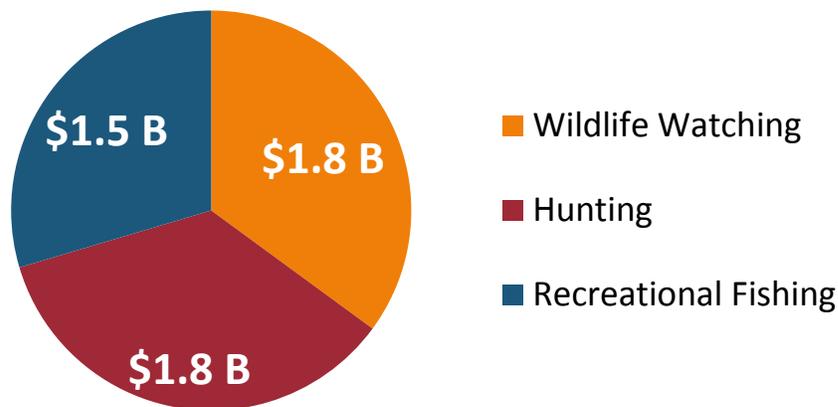
Based on a recent [Economic Study](#) by [Datu Research](#) | 2013



Wildlife tourism is a vital component of the Texas economy

Millions of tourists come to Texas every year to experience the natural wonders of our state. The tourism industry in general—which includes hotels, restaurants, retail and tour guides—provides more than **72,000 jobs** in Texas. *Wildlife* tourism (focused on wildlife watching, hunting and fishing) generates over **\$5 billion** in spending every year.

Wildlife Tourism Expenditures (\$billions), by Sector



Tourism depends on a healthy environment

Wildlife tourism relies on the natural beauty of Texas, which in turn relies on thriving ecosystems. Repairing the damage to these ecosystems caused by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill and the channelization of the Mississippi River is critical to maintaining and growing this critical sector of the Texas economy.

Wildlife tourism matters to Texas

- The states' 14 coastal counties host nearly **3,800 wildlife tourism-related businesses**.
- Texas state and local governments generate nearly **\$800 million in tax revenue** from wildlife tourism, a sum that could buy more than 7,600 school buses.
- Over **7.8 million wildlife tourists** visit Texas every year.



Restoring Our Environment Restores Our Economy

The RESTORE Act dedicates fines paid by parties responsible for the oil spill to restoration in Texas and the other Gulf states. This is an unprecedented opportunity to bolster our state's natural resources and the industries that depend on them.