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Matt Kelley, ClackaCraft, National Sales Representative, Idaho Falls, Idaho

The Value of Public Lands in the Rocky Mountain West

• Counties with a higher percentage of public lands managed for conservation and recreation also reported higher levels of job and population growth than those with higher percentages of lands managed for commodity production.

• From 1999 to 2009, the top 50 countries with the highest percentage of land managed for conservation had higher per capita income growth rates (near 1.20 percent) compared to those 50 countries with higher percentages of land managed for natural resource development (approximately 0.97 percent).

• In 2009, the average per capita income in the top 50 countries where public lands were managed for conservation and recreation was about $38,000. It was approximately $30,000 in the top 50 countries where public lands were intensively managed for natural resource extraction.

• From 1970-2000, the populations of the top 50 countries with lands managed for conservation and recreation grew 122 percent. In contrast, the populations of the top 50 countries with lands managed for natural resource development grew 40 percent.

• The top 50 countries with lands managed for conservation and recreation received a 209 percent increase in employment from 1999 to 2009. The top 50 countries with lands managed for natural resource development saw employment increase 76 percent in the same time period.

• In 2004, the median housing value was $168,004 in the top 50 countries with the highest percentage of land managed for conservation and recreation. The median housing value was $87,885 for the top 50 counties with the highest percentage of land managed for natural resource development.

• Studies show that environmental amenities promote growth, indicating that scenic beauty and recreational opportunities attract tourism, tourism-related employment and generate jobs and revenue for communities, states and schools.

The coalition is led by Sportsmen for Responsible Energy Development, a Proper Balance Between Conservation and Development in the Rocky Mountain West

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The results show that conserving public lands is important to maintaining hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation, sustainable industries that are important to the continued economic vitality of rural Western communities.

The West is defined by its public lands. More than half of the region’s land is managed by the federal and state governments. The West, and particularly the Rocky Mountain region, also has long been defined by the extractive industries seen as its economic backbone – mining, logging and oil and gas drilling. However, hunting, angling, wildlife watching and recreation are also important and have helped sustain rural communities through the ups and downs of energy development.

“Conserving Lands and Prosperity: Seeking a Proper Balance” looks at the relationship between public lands management and economic development with conservation goals for the lands are broad, ranging from wilderness preservation to developing oil, gas and other commodities.

The results show that conserving public lands from production activities could be a major part of the West’s economic, employment, and oil and gas development and other extractive industries, integrated and overlaid with public lands management. In 2006, commodity production – energy development, mining, agriculture and logging – made up slightly more than 4 percent of the region’s total employment.

Projected Federal and State Lands in the Rocky Mountain West

The report’s findings demonstrate that while commodity production from public lands could be important part of the West’s economic, employment, and oil and gas development and other extractive industries, integrated and overlaid with public lands management.

The report analyzes data on the management of public lands in concert with county level economic data dating to 1969. Historic data are examined to identify the long-term trends in employment, income and other economic measures by land type. Definitions of land use were obtained from the Protected Areas Database from the Conservation Biology Institute. Management goals for the lands are based on public lands and natural resource-based jobs.

While the study’s findings underscore the prudence of balancing the use of public lands and owe about 10 percent of its jobs to direct spending and places to get away from crowds, roads and noise. Conservation of the New West’s version of riches – protected areas and scenic landscapes and outdoor recreation.

The hunters bring a lot of money into the state. Hunters buy fuel. They always get a motel… they’re eating dinner.”

Jeff Mead and his family have run Mammo Outfitters for about 25 years. He and his two sons typically hire at least one other person. They lease private, Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service land for this hunting guide business.

Some of his grandchildren have started taking the trips through the real estate in the White River National Forest. Mead hopes his children and their children can carry on the hunting guide business if they want to. For that to happen, Mead said, the public lands so important for fishing, hunting and recreation will have to remain accessible to the public and crucial wildlife habitats will have to be conserved.

Mead saw his business drop off a few years ago when a company started drilling for natural gas on land near his hunting grounds. A troubling experience. “When a company starts drilling for natural gas on land near your hunting grounds, it doesn’t take long for it to get on your nerves. And it gets worse if you’re it’s people making a living out of what might be a vacation for many people – fitting houseblood through the backcountry in Colorado’s mountains, tracking deer, elk and bears. Mead and his family run Mammo Outfitters, for about 25 years. He and his two sons typically hire at least one other person. They lease private, Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service land for this hunting guide business.
Nowhere has this been more true than in the Rocky Mountain West—Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona. The public lands in the seven states cover an area of nearly 75 million acres larger than the state of Florida. Public tracts in the region’s 204 non-metropolitan counties are mapped using a geographic information system to provide a public lands overlay for毗邻 communities, states and schools.

Tourists have been the mainstay in the Rocky Mountain West. The names of historic towns spread across the region are testament to the industries which have made their livelihoods from the land—Silvertown, Golden, Manhattan, Consolodated and Colstrip. Even as the old names remain, however, the nature of the region is changing. The open spaces, wildlife, forested mountains and remote canyons are increasingly seen not for their development of commodities, i.e. timber, oil and gas but for their recreation and tourism sustainability.

“Conserving Lands and Prosperity: Seeking a Proper Balance” looks at the relationship between conservation and development in the Rocky Mountain West. It is a new report proposed for Wyoming by Southwick Associates that explores the economic benefits of public lands adjacent to communities in the Rocky Mountain West. The report addresses the need to balance responsible development with conservation to ensure the best, most secure economic prosperity. Public lands in the Rocky Mountain West provide raw materials—oil, gas, coal, timber—that have helped drive economic growth and energy development was strong from 1969 to 1981 but then dropped before a surge in oil and gas jobs starting in 2004. Overall, employment in commodity production has remained flat while the region’s total employment rose 136 percent. Employment in the services sector has grown and runs the gamut from retail to professional services such as medical, legal, accounting and other skilled positions. The expansion of jobs in that sector has helped diversify rural economies in the West.

The report’s findings demonstrate that while commodity production from public lands remains an important part of the Rocky Mountain West’s economy, jobs in mining, oil and gas development and recreation-related industries have contributed on equal footing and have more than 80 percent of the region’s total employment.

The report analyzes data on the management of public lands in concert with county-level economic data stretching back to 1969. Historic data are examined to identify the long-term trends in employment, income and other economic measures by land type. Definitions of land use were obtained from the Protected Areas Dataset from the Conservation Biology Institute. Management goals for the lands are broad, ranging from wilderness preservation to developing oil, gas and other commodities.

The results show that conserving public lands is important to maintaining hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation, sustainable industries that are important to the continued economic vitality of rural Western communities.

The West is defined by its public lands. More than half of the region is managed by the federal and state governments. The West, and particularly the Rocky Mountain region, also has long been defined by the federal government as the nation’s economic breadbasket—mining, logging and oil and gas drilling. However, hunting, angling, wildlife watching and birding are also important and have helped sustain rural communities through the ups and downs of energy development. Cody, Wyo., which is the study area for this case study, is surrounded by public lands and serves as a magnet for retirees, businesses and professionals in search of the recreation and tourism they sustain and as magnets for other industries. Commodity-based jobs have become a smaller part of the overall economy while the service sector has expanded and helped diversify the economy.

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Focusing on seven states—Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona. The public lands in the seven states cover an area of nearly 75 million acres larger than the state of Florida. Public tracts in the region’s 204 non-metropolitan counties are mapped using a geographic information system to provide a public lands overlay for adjoining communities, states and schools.

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“Conserving Lands and Prosperity: Seeking a Proper Balance Between Conservation and Development in the Rocky Mountain West” is a new report prepared for Sportsmen Southwick Associates. The report analyzes data on the management of public lands in seven states in the Rocky Mountain West —Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona. The public lands in the seven states cover an area about 7.5 times larger than the state of Florida. Public tracts in the region’s 204 non-metropolitan counties are mapped using a geographic information system to assess the public lands managed or controlled by federal, state, and local governments.

The report’s findings demonstrate that while commodity production from public lands provides an important part of the Rocky Mountain West’s economy, jobs in mining, oil and gas development and other extractive industries rival forest products and recreation in terms of employment and resource availability. In 2009, commodity production—energy development, mining, agriculture and logging—made up slightly more than 4 percent of the region’s total employment.

Focus
The report analyses data on the management of public lands in concert with county-level economic data dating to 1969. Historic data are examined to identify the long-term trends in employment, income and other economic measures by land type. Definitions of land use were obtained from the Protected Areas Database from the Conservation Biology Institute. Management goals for the lands are based, ranging from wilderness preservation to developing oil, gas and other commodities.

Conclusions
Public lands in the Rocky Mountain West provide raw materials—oil, gas, gold, coal, timber—that have helped drive the economy, and the region’s residents and businesses are critically dependent on its vast and diverse ecosystem. Commodities-based employment has been critical and sustained more severe downturns than other industries. Commodities-based jobs have become a smaller part of the region’s economy and wildlife, for example, have benefited from the availability of suitable habitat. Public lands have been and continue to be valuable for their economic benefits provided by the region’s fish, wildlife, forests, recreation and mining.

The report highlights in a case study, is surrounded by public lands between responsible development and conservation. The report’s findings underscore the prudence of balancing the use of public lands to provide natural resources and economic benefits provided by the region’s fish, wildlife, forests, recreation and mining.

Residents and tourists also want the quality of life and generate jobs, an improving economy, Mead said. Most of his clients have hunted elk, deer, and moose. “The hunters bring a lot of money into the state. Hunters buy fuel. They always get a motel...they’re eating dinners.”

Jeff Mead and his family have run Mamm Peaks Outfitting for about 25 years. He and his two sons typically hire at least one other person. They provide guided elk and deer hunts, and hunting and recreation will have to remain accessible to the public and crucial wildlife habitat will have to be conserved.
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- Countries with a higher percentage of public lands managed for conservation recorded a 269 percent increase in population growth and a 40 percent growth in natural resource development.
- From 1969 to 2009, the top 50 counties with the highest percentage of land managed for conservation had higher per capita income growth rates (near 1100 percent) compared to those 50 counties with higher percentages of land managed for commodity production.
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- In 2009, the average per capita income in the top 50 countries where public lands were managed for conservation and recreation was about $38,000. It was approximately $29,000 in the top 50 counties where public lands were intensively managed for natural resource extraction.
- In 1999-2000, the population of the top 50 countries with lands managed for conservation and recreation grew 120 percent compared to those 50 counties with less than 50 percent of their lands used for natural resource development. The population of the top 50 countries with land managed for natural resource development grew 40 percent.
- The top 50 counties with lands managed for conservation and recreation recorded a 230 percent growth in jobs from 1999 to 2009. The top 50 countries with lands managed for natural resource development saw employment increase 76 percent in the same time period.
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- Studies show that environmental amenities promote growth, indicating that scenic beauty and recreational opportunities attract new residents and also have been prized for hunting and fishing opportunities and are increasingly seen as a magnet for tourists, retirees, businesses and professionals in search of a high quality of life.

Sportmen for Responsible Energy Development

- The Value of Public Lands in the Rocky Mountain West
- A coalition of more than 500 businesses, organizations and individuals dedicated to conserving irreplaceable habitats so future generations can hunt and fish on public lands.

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• Studies show that environmental amenities promote growth, indicating that scenic beauty and recreational opportunities attract natural resource and business owners to the West. Natural amenities also support employment by attracting people with a variety of skills in such fields as science, technology, health care, the arts and entertainment.

Conservation is not only important for our heritage. It’s important for our bottom line.

David Birken, Sitka Gear, Marketing, Bozeman, Montana

RESOURCES:

The Rocky Mountain West, with its vast tracts of public lands, has long been valued for the natural resources that provide fuel, building materials and other commodities and generate jobs and revenue for communities, states and schools. Public lands also have been prized for hunting and fishing opportunities and are increasingly seen as a magnet for tourists, retirees, businesses and professionals in search of a high quality of life. “Conserving Lands and Prosperity: Seeking a Proper Balance Between Conservation and Development in the Rocky Mountain West” is a new report prepared for Sportsmen for Responsible Energy Development by Southwick Associates that explores the economic benefits of public lands adjacent to rural communities. The report addresses the need to balance responsible development with conservation to ensure the best, most secure economic future for the region.

Lew Carpenter