



## Fish and Wildlife Commission Presentation Summary Sheet

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**Meeting date:**

9/22/2022

**Agenda item:**

State lands visitor use and economic value impact report

**Presenter(s):**

Matthew Trenda, Lands Data Management Specialist

Cynthia Wilkerson, Lands Division Manager

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**Background summary:**

WDFW partnered with DNR, State Parks, RCO, and Earth Economics to assess total visitation, consumer spending, and economic output associated with outdoor recreation on state-managed public lands. The final report and datasets from this study provide WDFW with distinct management tools to prioritize maintenance, monitor recreation impacts, and direct resources for planning, management, and enforcement.

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Key results are:

- Unique methodology using over 18 billion locational records, first known application of methodology outside of academia
- 7% visitation increase from 2019 to 2020, with an estimated 29 million visitor days
- \$2.5 billion in direct and indirect spending including 15,000 full and part time jobs and \$180 million in state and local tax contributions
- Unique tool for recreation planning and adaptive management of recreation impacts to natural and cultural resources
- Continued demonstration of cross-agency collaboration and tool development

**Staff recommendation:**

Presentation is informational; no decision expected.

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**Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:**

N/A

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**Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:**

N/A

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**Public involvement process used and what you learned:**

N/A

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**Action requested and/or proposed next steps:**

Next steps include: 1) use data tool to analyze visitation information at the site, local, and national levels, 2) improve the visitation data model to improve study with future data, and 3) use data to help plan future work on WDFW-managed lands (staff enhancements, recreation impact monitoring).

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**Draft motion language:**

N/A

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**Post decision communications plan:**

N/A - report is available here: [Outdoor Recreation on State Lands in Washington — Earth Economics](#)

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