

Hanford Reach National Monument

A Summary of Economic Performance in the Surrounding Communities



Hanford Reach National Monument
Photo: USFWS

BACKGROUND

The 195,000 acre Hanford Reach National Monument was designated in 2000 to protect the area's sweeping vistas, stark beauty, and abundant wildlife. Located in Benton, Franklin, and Grant counties, Washington the monument is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

PUBLIC ACCESS AND USE OF THE MONUMENT

The monument protects hunting, fishing, rights-of-way, and access to inholdings. Wildlife viewing and hunting are two of the major activities at Hanford Reach, and each year the national monument attracts thousands of visitors to this unique area.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Travel and tourism are important to communities in the Hanford Reach Region, representing about 16% of total private wage and salary employment, or 15,794 jobs, in 2015. In Washington, the Outdoor Industry Association reports that recreation contributes more than \$22.5 billion annually to the state's economy.⁶

SUMMARY FINDINGS

Research shows that conserving public lands like the Hanford Reach National Monument helps to safeguard and highlight amenities that draw new residents, tourists, and businesses to surrounding communities.¹

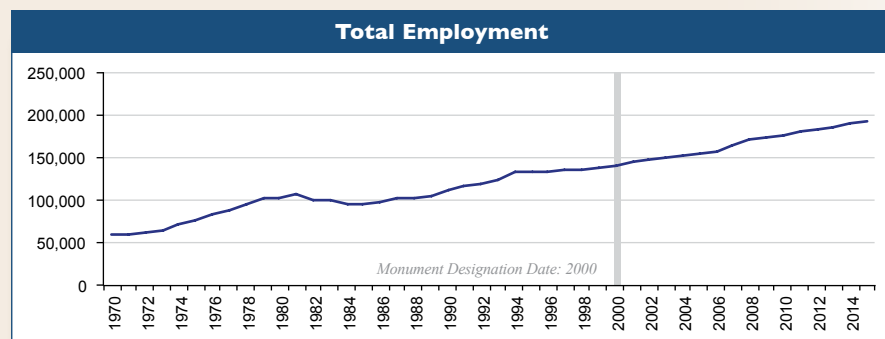
Western counties with protected public lands, like national monuments, have been more successful at attracting fast-growing economic sectors and as a result grow more quickly, on average, than counties without protected public lands.² In addition, protected natural amenities—such as the pristine scenery found at Hanford Reach—also help sustain property values and attract new investment.³

ECONOMY GROWS AFTER DESIGNATION

The communities in Benton, Franklin, and Grant counties, Washington neighboring the Hanford Reach National Monument (the Hanford Reach Region) experienced strong growth after its designation, continuing previous growth trends.

From 2001 to 2015, in the Hanford Reach Region:⁴

- Population grew by 37%
- Real personal income grew by 59%
- Jobs grew by 33%
- Real per capita income grew by 17%

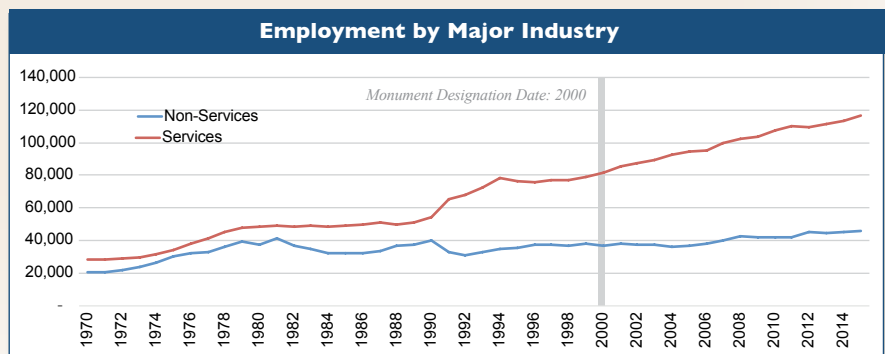


SERVICES JOBS INCREASING ACROSS THE BOARD

Services jobs—such as doctors, engineers, and teachers—account for the majority of employment in the Hanford Reach Region in recent decades. These jobs are increasingly mobile, and many entrepreneurs locate their businesses in areas with a high quality of life.

From 2001 to 2015, in the Hanford Reach Region:⁵

- Services grew from 85,186 to 116,707 jobs, a 37% increase
- Non-Services grew from 38,011 to 45,891 jobs, a 21% increase





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THE COMMUNITIES IN THE HANFORD REACH REGION NEIGHBORING THE NATIONAL MONUMENT EXPERIENCED STRONG GROWTH SINCE ITS DESIGNATION IN 2000.

THE INCREASES IN POPULATION, JOBS, PERSONAL INCOME, AND PER CAPITA INCOME ALSO MIRROR OTHER WESTERN COUNTIES WITH NATIONAL MONUMENTS OR OTHER PROTECTED LANDS.

METHODOLOGY

This fact sheet is part of a series that assesses the economic performance of local communities that are adjacent to national monuments. The series examines national monuments in the eleven western continental states that are larger than 10,000 acres and were created in 1982 or later.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Ray Rasker, Ph.D.

Headwaters Economics

ray@headwaterseconomics.org

406-570-7044

Series: [The Economic Importance of National Monuments to Local Communities](#)

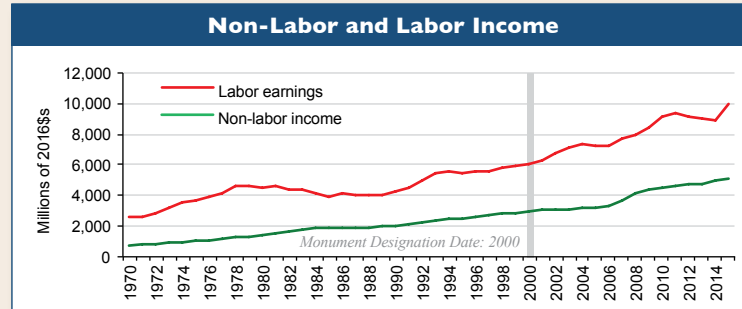
NON-LABOR INCOME GROWS FASTEST

One of the largest and fastest growing sources of new personal income in the Hanford Reach Region is non-labor income, which is made up of investment income such as dividends, interest and rent, and government transfer payments such as Social Security and Medicare.

For people with investment income and many retirees, protected public lands and recreation provide important aspects of a high quality of life. Non-labor income already represents more than a third of all personal income in the West—and will grow as the Baby Boomer generation retires.⁷

From 2001 to 2015, in the Hanford Reach Region:

- Non-Labor income grew from \$3.1 billion to \$5.1 billion, a 64% increase
- As a result, in 2015 non-labor income made up 34% of total personal income



TRADITIONAL JOBS HOLD STEADY

Long before the monument's creation, commodity industries (agriculture, mining, timber) were becoming a smaller share of the overall economy in the Hanford Reach Region. These industries remain part of the region's economy today.

In 2015, in the Hanford Reach Region:

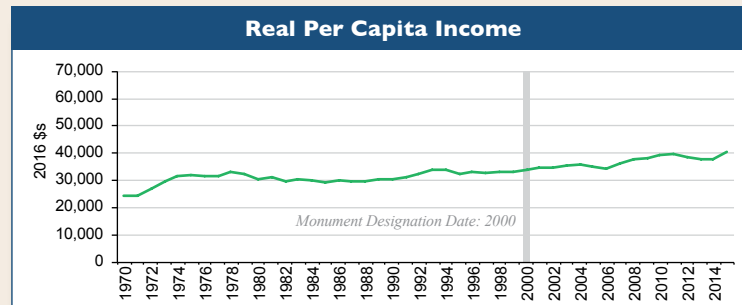
- Agriculture accounted for 8% of total employment
- Mining accounted for 0.1% of total private employment
- Timber accounted for 0.2% of total private employment

PROSPERITY ON THE RISE

As the economy has grown since designation of the Hanford Reach National Monument, per capita income has risen as well. This indicates growing prosperity in the region.

From 2001 to 2015, in the Hanford Reach Region:

- Real per capita income grew from \$34,611 to \$40,388, a 17% increase



1 Headwaters Economics. [The Value of Public Lands](#); Lorah, P. and R. Southwick. 2003. Environmental Protection, Population Change, and Economic Development in the Rural Western United States. *Population and Environment* 24(3): 255-272; McGranahan, D.A. 1999. Natural Amenities Drive Rural Population Change. ERS, Agric. Econ. Rep. No. 781. USDA: Washington, DC; Haas, W.H. and W.J. Serow. 2002. The Baby Boom, Amenity Retirement Migration, and Retirement Communities: Will the Golden Age of Retirement Continue? *Research on Aging* 24(1): 150-164.

2 Rasker, R., P.H. Gude, and M. Delorey. 2013. The Effect of Protected Federal Lands on Economic Prosperity in the Non-Metropolitan West. *Journal of Regional Analysis and Policy* 43(2): 110-122.

3 Deller, S.C., T.H. Tsai, D.W. Macrouiller, and D.B.K. English. 2001. The Role of Amenities and Quality of Life in Rural Economic Growth. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 83(2): 352-365.

4 All economic data come from U.S. Department of Commerce. 2016. Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Regional Economic Accounts*, Washington, DC; U.S. Department of Commerce. 2017. Census Bureau, *County Business Patterns*, Washington, DC.

5 The U.S. Department of Commerce changed the way it classifies industries between 2000 and 2001. To show a continuous timeline for services and non-services employment, we subtracted non-services jobs from total private employment to derive services jobs.

6 Outdoor Industry Association. 2012. [The Outdoor Recreation Economy](#).

7 Headwaters Economics, [Non-Labor Income: Large and Growing in Importance Across the West](#); Frey, W.H. 2006. America's Regional Demographics in the '00s Decade: The Role of Seniors, Boomers, and New Minorities. Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution.