



Buffalo National River
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Buffalo National River News Release

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Buffalo National River contributes \$54.9 million to local economy in 2018

Buffalo National River, Harrison, Ark. – The 2018 National Park Service Visitor Spending Effects Report estimates that 1.2 million visitors spent \$54.9 million in the region while visiting Buffalo National River last year.

The annual report measures the economic impact of National Park Service sites on surrounding communities where park visitors find additional amenities and attractions like shopping, dining and lodging. The annual estimates are calculated using visitor surveys and spending patterns, visitation data and regional economic multipliers.

According to the report, hotels and restaurants were the greatest affected sectors in our area, sharing roughly half of the revenue derived from Buffalo National River visitation. Gas and groceries shared another thirty percent of the total revenue.

“The outstanding recreational opportunities available at Buffalo National River are only a part of the experience that visitors are seeking. Getting out into the park, combined with time in nearby communities, is a one-of-a-kind experience,” Superintendent Mark Foust said. “This report shows that park visitors are investing time and money in our communities, which supports local jobs and income.”

At 135 miles long, Buffalo National River flows through Newton, Searcy, Marion and

Baxter Counties. The park's gateway communities are located in all of these counties, including Boone County.

The 2018 National Park Service Visitor Spending Effects Report can be viewed online at <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/socialscience/vse.htm>.

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About the National Park Service: More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 419 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities.