

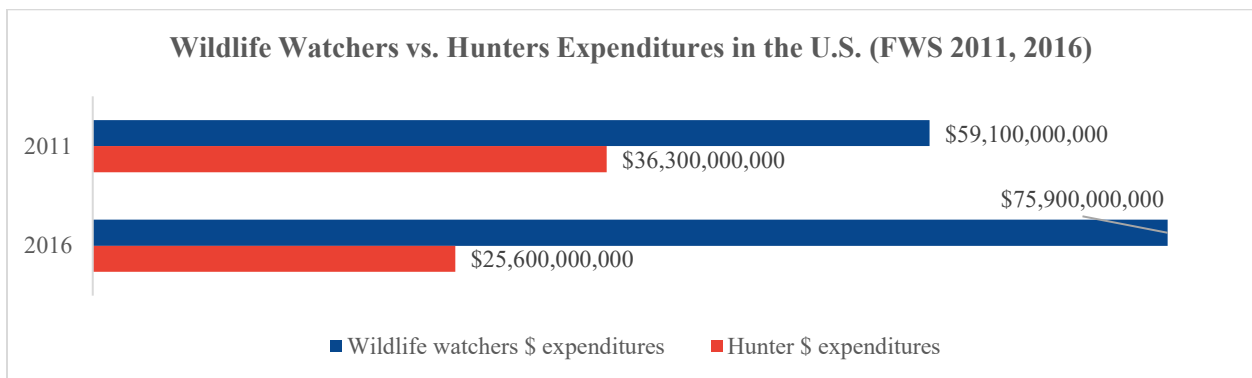
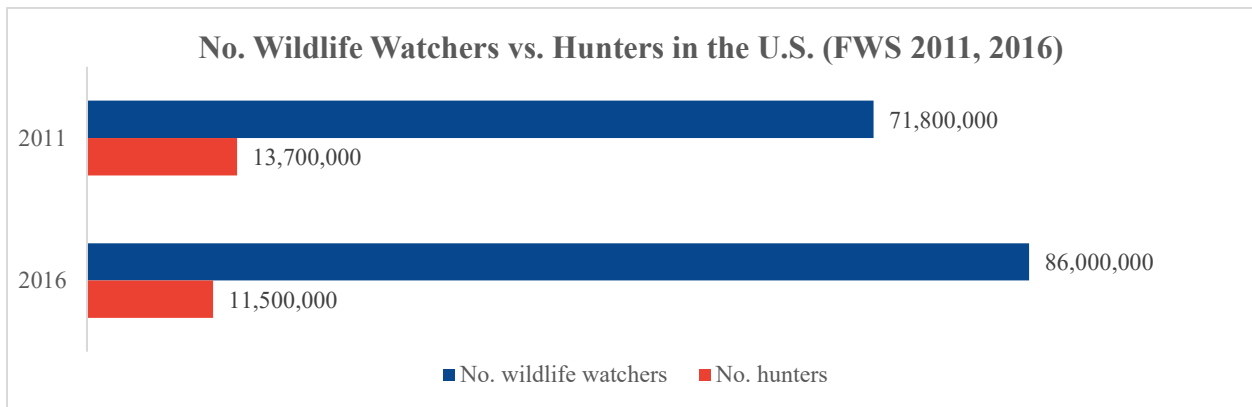
Wildlife Watchers Far Outspend Trophy Hunters in Alaska

The [National Park Service](#), stated that in 2021, “1.0 million park visitors spent an estimated \$627 million in local gateway regions while visiting National Park Service lands in Alaska. These expenditures supported a total of 9,140 jobs, \$352 million in labor income, \$547 million in value added, and \$952 million in economic output in the Alaska economy.”

According to the [Bureau of Economic Analysis](#), in 2020 (the latest data year), of the 1,573,106,000 spent on outdoor recreation in Alaska, **only 0.62% (\$9,760,000)** was spent on hunting and trapping. In contrast, 48.21% (\$758,420,000) was spent on travel and tourism.

Data from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) shows that Alaska attracts 640,000 wildlife watchers versus 125,000 hunters. Those wildlife watchers contributed \$2,058,355,000 (\$2.1 billion) to the economy, while the hunters spent just \$424,803,000 (\$425 million).¹ Another Alaskan study for the year 2011 showed that residents and non-residents spent \$2.8 billion on wildlife-watching tourism compared to \$1.3 billion in hunting.²

On a national scale, [FWS data](#) shows that wildlife watchers clearly outnumber and outspend hunters:



¹ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, Alaska," <https://digitalmedia.fws.gov/digital/collection/document/id/1538/> (2011).

² EcoNorthwest, Natural Resources Economics, and DHM Research, "The Economic Importance of Alaska's Wildlife in 2011, Summary Report," (2014).