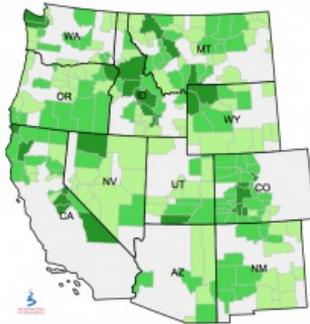


PROTECTING THE WATER, WILDLIFE AND OUTDOOR HERITAGE OF THE CROWN OF THE CONTINENT.



Headwaters Economics has released a new study that demonstrates the relationship between protected public lands and per capita income.



The Interactive Map
The *Headwaters Economics* report includes an interactive map that allows you to click on many counties in 11 western states. The map produces a summary of the per capita income associated with protected public lands in each county. Counties with less protected public lands derive less economic benefit. (Click on map to go to interactive map. Source: Headwaters Economics)



Protected Public Lands
The report defines protected public lands as national parks, wilderness areas, and lands "set aside for conservation and recreation rather than commodity production." The classic "Got Roads?" map (above) produced by the [Montana Wilderness Association](#) is the best map available that shows protected AND

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New Study Relates Your Economic Well-Being to Protected Public Lands

Study Shows County-by-County Results

February 1, 2013

Dear Friend:

A new [study](#) by [Headwaters Economics](#) (not related to *Headwaters Montana*) sheds light on the relationship between *protected* public lands and personal per capita income (PCI).

For example, in Flathead County, "\$8,600 of per capita income... (24% of PCI) can be explained by the presence of protected public lands."

There are 1,318,275 acres of protected public lands in Flathead County where per capita income is \$35,546.

The study defines protected public lands as national parks, wilderness areas, and lands "set aside for conservation and recreation rather than commodity production."

The study covers 11 western states, including Montana, and provides a very easy to use [interactive map](#) that shows the economic benefits of protected public lands on a county-by-county basis.

By contrast, per capita income in Lincoln County, that has only 53,380 acres of protected public land, receives \$612 in per capita income benefits.

Headwaters Montana is working to **increase** the amount of protected public land in both Lincoln and Flathead counties, in part because protection benefits the economic bottom line of the people living there.

The authors of the study state,

"This analysis provides county-level details on how protected federal lands are benefiting westerners and specifically per capita income. Our earlier research found that, on average, western non-metro counties have a per capita income that is \$436 higher for every 10,000 acres of protected federal lands within their boundaries. Today's analysis gives businesses, local officials, and community leaders a better understanding of one way that protected federal lands provide their county with a competitive and economic advantage."

The [Headwaters Economics](#) study builds on insights it gathered from [earlier studies](#) that "found a meaningful relationship between the amount of protected public land and higher per capita income levels in 2010."

Other economic studies closer to Flathead County include:

- [Gateway to Glacier](#) and [Pathways to Prosperity](#) both by the [National Parks Conservation Association](#).

The full citation for the *Headwaters Economics* [study](#) is:

Rasker, R., P.H. Gude, M. Delorey. In Review. The effect of protected federal lands on economic prosperity in the non-metropolitan West. Journal of Regional Analysis and Policy.

roadless public lands in western Montana. Montana "has the most unprotected public lands in the Lower 48."



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Thank you for your help in protecting your backyard!

~ We thought you'd like to know!

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