Nature Tourism Data
Agrilife Extension – Recreation, Park & Tourism Sciences
http://naturetourism.tamu.edu

2006 survey by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service documents the economic value of nature tourism, and in effect, points out the importance of recognizing and promoting best practices in the industry.

TEXAS: In 2006, some 6 million people participated in some form of fish and wildlife-related recreation in Texas. In addition an unknown number of people participated in nature based recreation when wildlife was a secondary rather than primary activity. Examples are mountain or forest hiking, paddling, beach and lakeside activities etc.

Anglers, hunters and wildlife viewers spent $8.91 billion in retail sales ($8.24 billion by residents and $671 million by non-residents), creating $4.67 billion in salaries and wages, and supporting 139,404 jobs.

The total economic effect from fish and wildlife-related recreation for 2006 was estimated at $15.8 billion.

Texas NT Inventory An ongoing project by Texas Agrilife Extension to inventory the number of nature tourism businesses in Texas indicates the significance of this sector as the inventory now includes more than 10,000 nature tourism operations in Texas.

National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation 2006 Preliminary Results (South Texas Agrilife Extension - Nature Tourism Program)

The Recreation Economy: According to a study from the Outdoor Industry Association, nature-based tourism has a large national economic footprint (please note that the numbers below reflect national totals): For more statistics and studies, click here.
• Contributes $730 billion annually to the U.S. economy
• Supports nearly 6.5 million jobs across the U.S.
• Generates $88 billion in annual state and national tax revenue
• Provides sustainable growth in rural communities
• Generates $289 billion annually in retail sales and services across the U.S.
• Touches over 8 percent of America’s personal consumption expenditures—more than 1 in every 12 dollars circulating in the economy

eRTR Review of Tourism Research