

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION REGARDING THE ECONOMIC VALUE
GENERATED BY AGRICULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY IN
SPRING VALLEY, WHITE PINE COUNTY

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Spring Valley is located in eastern White Pine County and extends from the northern border of the County south into Lincoln County. The valley houses ranching activity including both irrigated cropland for alfalfa and livestock production. Recreational use attracts visitors to Spring Valley for hunting and fishing, visits to Great Basin National Park, and recreation on Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service lands.

I. Agriculture:

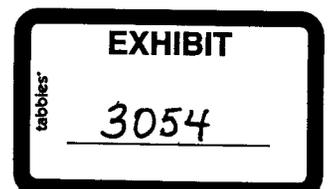
The 2002 Census of Agriculture reported 247,446 acres of agricultural land in White Pine County; 17,000 acres of irrigated cropland producing alfalfa and other hay for 39 percent of the County's total agricultural sales and total sales of \$6,935,200. The Census reported 24,000 head of cattle in White Pine County representing 49 percent of agricultural sales with total sales of \$6,939,264 and 12,000 head of sheep representing 3 percent of agricultural sales with total sales of \$390,240. A review of the White Pine County Assessor's records for Spring Valley indicates that there are a total of 40,406 acres of private land taxed as agricultural property representing 16.33 percent of the total agricultural property in the County.

*Sources: William Riggs, Martin Owens, "Economic Development, 2002 White Pine County Agricultural Statistics", Fact Sheet 03-64,
Robert Bishop, White Pine County Assessor.*

Spring Valley Alfalfa Production:

Total acres of alfalfa production in Spring Valley were identified by contacting the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The NRCS identified 5,250 acres of irrigated cropland producing alfalfa and other hay on the ranches receiving services from their agency. Direct contacts were made to the two Spring Valley ranches not participating in the NRCS programs. They reported an additional 1,200 acres in irrigated cropland producing alfalfa for a total of 6,450 acres. Spring Valley represents 37.94 percent of total hay production in White Pine County. Based on total sales countywide of \$6,935,200, alfalfa production in Spring Valley contributes \$2.6 million in White Pine County's economy annually.

*Sources: Timothy Stack, USDA, Natural Resource Conservation Service
Tyler Seal, USDA, Farm Services Bureau, Ely Office
Melchor Garigerena, El Tejon Ranches
Brandon Humphries, Wahoo Ranches.*



Spring Valley Cattle Farming and Ranching:

Total cattle production in Spring Valley was identified by direct contact with three of the larger ranches in Spring Valley and discussion with the Ely District, Bureau of Land Management to determine the total of other grazing allotments in Spring Valley. The combined reports from the ranches and the BLM identified 5,465 head of cattle in Spring Valley. Compared to 24,000 head of cattle countywide, Spring Valley represents 20 percent of the County's cattle production. Based on the 2002 Agricultural Census, total sales of cattle from Spring Valley contributes \$1.38 million in White Pine County's economy annually.

A study of the economic impact of cattle ranching and farming in White Pine County uses 2001 data from the Census on Agriculture and an input-output model to determine total output, total jobs, and labor income effects. The study shows that countywide, cattle ranching and farming has a total output of \$14,172,000; generates 189 jobs, and has total labor effects of \$3,224,000. Based on the results for White Pine County, cattle ranching and farming in Spring Valley accounts for \$2.8 million in total output, 38 jobs, and \$644,800 in labor income effects.

Sources:

Chris Mayer, Supervisory Range Conservation Specialist, Ely District, Bureau of Land Management;

Melchor Garigerena, El Tejon Ranches,

Brandon Humphries, Wahoo Ranches;

Grant Cooper, L.D.S. Church, Natural Resource Specialist (Cleveland Ranch)

Thomas R. Harris, Joan Wright: "Estimated Economic Impacts of the Cattle Ranching and Farming Sector on the White Pine County Economy." Technical Report, UCED 04/05-15.

Spring Valley Sheep Production:

Total sheep production of 7,239 head of sheep was identified by direct contact with the Bureau of Land Management and El Tejon Ranches. Compared to 12,000 head of sheep countywide, Spring Valley accounts for 60 percent of the sheep production in White Pine County or \$234,144 in total sales annually.

Source:

Chris Mayer, BLM

Melchor Garigerena, El Tejon Ranches,

Summary of the Economic Impact of Agriculture in Spring Valley:

The total annual contribution to White Pine County's economy due to agricultural direct sales in Spring Valley (including \$2.6 million for alfalfa, \$1.38 million for cattle, and \$234,144 for sheep) is \$4.2 million. Based on the Harris study the total output from direct and indirect impact of cattle ranching and farming in Spring Valley is \$2.8 million and the total direct and indirect job generation from cattle ranching and farming in Spring Valley is 38 jobs.

II. Recreation:

Recreational activity in Spring Valley includes visits to the Great Basin National Park, dispersed recreation on federal land (both Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service), and hunting and fishing. Data are reported by the federal agencies managing public lands as visitor days. To determine direct economic impact, the National Park Service uses a figure of \$70 per day and the Nevada Commission on Tourism uses a figure of \$150 per day. Because the recreational use in Spring Valley is outdoor recreation, it is difficult to identify local versus out-of-area visitors, and many of the visitors will camp rather than stay in motels. Accordingly, the analysis is based on the conservative estimate of expenditures of \$70 per day.

Source:

National Park Service, www.nps.gov

Ed Spear, Tourism Director, White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board

Great Basin National Park:

Great Basin National Park is located on Mt. Wheeler in the Snake Range with the eastern slope in Snake Valley and the western slope in Spring Valley. The National Park Service uses a “MGM2” model to determine economic impacts of National Park visitation. (The full explanation of the MGM2 model is on the National Park Service website, www.nps.gov). Based on their records, the park had 87,020 visitors in 2003, and that equates to 54,475 party visitor days. With average spending of \$70 per party visitor day, the park generated total spending of \$3.83 million for the year. Using the MGM2 model, Great Basin National Park represents \$4.12 million in direct and indirect economic benefit in White Pine County and supports 104 jobs. According to the staff at Great Basin National Park, there are no traffic counters on the west side of the park and the majority of the attractions and use is on the eastern side. Using an estimate of 75 percent of the use in Snake Valley and 25 percent in Spring Valley, park visitation in Spring Valley represented approximately \$957,500 in total spending and \$1,030,000 in direct and indirect total economic benefit to White Pine County in 2003.

Sources:

National Park Service, www.nps.gov

Betsey Duncan Clark, Interpretive Specialist, Great Basin National Park

Recreation on Public Lands:

Spring Valley is bordered by the Schell Creek Range on the West and the Snake Range on the East. The mountains, foothills, and creeks provide opportunities for year round outdoor recreation including camping, hiking, backpacking, cross country skiing, pine nut gathering, sight seeing and photography, and rock hounding. There are few developed sites within the Valley and much of the recreational use is not documented. The Bureau of Land Management maintains a campground at Cleve Creek and the U.S. Forest Service maintains a trail register at Mt. Moriah Wilderness Area. The Bureau of Land Management reports 65,900 visitors between October 1, 2004 and September 30, 2005. The U.S. Forest Service reports that they have 100 people register at the Big Canyon Trailhead in the Mt. Moriah Wilderness Area each year. They estimate that the total

number is at least double that amount because many visitors, especially those on horseback do not sign the register. Using the Cleve Creek and Mt. Moriah Wilderness Area visitation as a basis for visitors to Spring Valley and the National Park Service value of visitor spending per day, outdoor recreation in Spring Valley represents approximately \$2.8 million in direct economic benefit for White Pine County each year.

Sources:

Bruce Winslow, Ely District, Bureau of Land Management

Dan Morris, Recreation Specialist, Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest, Ely Ranger District

Hunting and Fishing:

Hunting activity in Spring Valley includes big game hunting for elk, deer, and antelope, which attract hunters from out of state as well as throughout Nevada and small game, upland game birds, and waterfowl hunting.

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) maintains and reports detailed information including hunter days by hunting unit for big game hunting and hunter days by species and hunter county-of-origin for small game, upland game birds, and waterfowl. There are no lakes or reservoirs in Spring Valley for sport fishing, but Nevada Department of Wildlife lists twenty fishable streams in the valley and during 2004 reported fishing activity in Cleve and Kalamazoo Creeks.

Big Game Hunting:

All big game hunting in Nevada requires both a license and a tag for the specific hunt and hunt area. The tags are distributed through a random draw. All hunters must return a report card on their hunting activity to be eligible for a tag the following year, ensuring a high response rate. Data from the report cards are compiled in the NDOW, 2005 Big Game Hunt Statistics available on their website, www.ndow.org. The report does not distinguish White Pine County hunters from out-of-area hunters. According to the NDOW Record of License Sales (also available on their website), licenses sold in White Pine County represent 2.6 percent of the total hunting licenses sold in the state. Because White Pine County residents are most likely to apply for tags in White Pine County, they probably represent a higher percentage of the total hunting activity than is indicated by the percent of license sales. It is unlikely that big game hunters living in the surrounding counties stay home and commute on a daily basis to hunt in White Pine County. Other than Garrison, Utah, there are no communities located in Elko, Eureka, or Nye Counties or Utah where people could easily drive to hunting areas within White Pine. Hunters from outside the area will either camp or stay in motels during their hunting trips to White Pine. With the exception of lodging, local hunters will spend about the same amount as out-of-area hunters including gas, groceries, and supplies.

Spring Valley is in NDOW's "Area 11". Based on their hunt area map and talking with the Game Biologist at the Ely Field Office, approximately half of units 111, 113, 114, and 115, and none of unit 112, is in Spring Valley.

Elk: Hunting activity is reported for units 111-115, 221 and 222 together and shows 11,395 hunter days for elk hunting in those units for 2005. Based on the fact that none of Units 112, 221, and 222 are in Spring Valley and half of units 111, 113, 114, and 115 are in Spring Valley, it is estimated that Spring Valley represents approximately 30 percent of the hunter activity reported, 3,418 hunter days.

Mule Deer: Hunting activity is reported for units 111-113 with a total of 4,545 hunter days and 114-115 with a total of 1,806 hunter days. Based on the assumption that half of the units 111 and 113 and none of 112 are in Spring Valley, it was estimated that Spring Valley represents one-third of the hunter days reported for units 111-113 or 1,515 hunter days. Because approximately half of units 114 and 115 are in Spring Valley, it is estimated that half of the hunter activity reported for units 114-115 or 903 hunter days took place in Spring Valley for a total of 2,418 hunter days for mule deer in Spring Valley in 2005.

Antelope: Hunting activity for antelope is reported for units 111-114 as one group with 311 hunter days and units 115, 231 and 242 as another group with 83 hunter days. Based on the estimate that half of units 111, 113, and 114 and none of unit 112 are in Spring Valley, it was estimated that Spring Valley represents approximately 40 percent of the reported antelope hunting activity for the first group, or 124 hunter days. Because half of unit 115 and none of units 231 and 242 are in Spring Valley, it was estimated that 20 percent of the reported hunting activity in the second group occurred in Spring Valley, 17 hunter days. The total reported Antelope hunting activity in Spring Valley in 2005 is estimated at 141 hunter days.

Summary, Big Game Hunting: Based on NDOW's reports of hunting activity, big game hunting represents a total of 5,977 hunter days and based on \$70 spending per day, it represents a total of \$418,390 in economic benefit to White Pine County on an annual basis. Compared to the total of \$1,725,150 (24,645 hunter days, \$70 per day), Spring Valley represents 24 percent of the County's economic benefit from big game hunting.

Small Game, Upland Game Birds, and Waterfowl Hunting:

NDOW reports a total of 1,484 hunter days for upland game birds, rabbits, and waterfowl. The majority of the hunters are from White Pine County. Fifty percent (138) of the out-of-area hunters reported they traveled from Eureka County to the western border of White Pine County to hunt Chukars and do not represent hunting activity in Spring Valley. To determine an estimate of economic benefit from small game and bird hunting in Spring Valley, it was estimated that approximately one-eighth of the hunting activity took place in Spring Valley based on an estimate of the percentage of the land area in the County. Total estimated direct economic benefit from Small Game, Upland Game Bird, and Waterfowl Hunting, in White Pine County is based on 1,484 hunter days at \$70 per day, for a total of \$103,880. The direct economic benefit from small game, upland game bird, and waterfowl hunting in Spring Valley is \$11,777 which represents approximately 10.34 percent of the county's total direct economic benefit from small game and bird hunting..

Source:

Nevada Department of Wildlife, www.ndow.org, *Small Game Postseason Questionnaire*

Fishing:

Data from NDOW's annual 10 Percent Angler Census are not compiled in a detailed report, but the Fisheries, Habitat, and Wildlife Diversity Bureaus staff queried the database for the twenty fishable streams in Spring Valley. According to their records, fishermen reported activity in two of the creeks: 743 angler days at Cleve Creek and 3 at Kalamazoo Creek in 2004. Fishing activity in Spring Valley represents approximately \$52,220 in economic benefit. Based on an estimated total angler days of 51,107, at \$70 per day, the total direct economic benefit from fishing in White Pine County is \$3,577,490 and Spring Valley represents 1.5 percent.

Additional Economic Benefit:

NDOW reports mountain lion hunting by hunting unit and trapping activity for the County as a whole. Based on the assumptions for the portions of the hunting units in Spring Valley, four of the thirteen mountain lions harvested in units 111-115 can be attributed to Spring Valley. In addition, NDOW reports trapping activity by species and average price on a countywide basis. Based on their report, fur sales from trapping activity in White Pine County totaled \$74,925.34. Guided hunts and taxidermy activity related to hunting in White Pine County and specific to Spring Valley represent additional economic benefit to the County. However, there is not sufficient information available to determine the level of activity in Spring Valley and its economic benefit to White Pine County.

Source:

Nevada Department of Wildlife, www.ndow.org

Summary, Hunting and Fishing Activity:

Hunting and Fishing activity in Spring Valley provide an estimated \$482,387 in annual direct economic benefit or approximately 8.84 percent of the total direct economic benefit to White Pine County (5,454,920).

Sources:

Nevada Department of Wildlife: www.ndow.org: *Big Game Status Book, Small Game, Upland Game Bird Report, 2005; and History of License Sales*, Chris Crookshanks, Fisheries Biologist, NDOW Ely Field Office
Carolyn Montgomery, Administrative Assistant, Fisheries Division, NDOW State Office; queries of 10 percent Angler Survey data base

Residential Activity:

According to the County Assessor's records there are 3,132 acres of private land in Spring Valley listed on the tax roles as either single family or vacant single family residential property rather than agricultural. The Assessor's records indicate that there are seventeen occupied residences in Spring Valley not associated with agriculture.

Based on the total assessed valuation, the total value of the homes is \$1,141,945 and the tax revenue they generate per year is \$14,642. The residential activity in Spring Valley not associated with agriculture is primarily as second and summer homes and is related to recreational use in the Valley.

Source:

Robert Bishop, White Pine County Assessor

Summary, Recreational Activity:

Direct economic benefit due to recreational activity in Spring Valley includes: Great Basin National Park visitors, \$957,500; recreation on public land, \$2.8 million; Hunting and Fishing Activity, \$482,387; and residential/recreational property, \$14,642; For a total of \$4,254,529. Great Basin National Park analysis of direct and indirect benefits shows that the park's total contribution to White Pine County's economy is \$1,030,000 compared to \$4.12 million for the park as a whole.

Submitted By:


Karen Rajala


Date