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Economic impacts of Alabama quail hunting

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Abstract

Quail hunting in Alabama is a popular recreational activity involving the abundant land resources and wildlife habitats available in the state. Quail hunters and entrepreneurs providing services to quail hunters have an interest in maintaining the natural resources necessary for quality hunting experiences. Hunting involves expenses for equipment, hunter provisions and supplies, dogs, and habitat management. Spending in Alabama related to quail hunting has economic impacts in industrial sectors directly related to hunting, as well as in other sectors that have changes in economic activity which are initiated by quail hunting. A survey of Alabama quail hunters was conducted to determine hunter characteristics and spending in categories related to quail hunting. There were 13,452 Alabama quail hunters in 2007 with 84.8% residing in the state. Quail hunters are mostly in the 45-65 age range. Quail hunters are generally employed and most have household incomes exceeding the Alabama average. Commercial hunting includes quail hunting in which participants travel to a lodge or other hunting facility that provides services for hunters. Personal hunting is characterized by independent hunting with no services provided. Comparing trip totals indicates that 67.9% of quail hunting involves personal hunting, and 32.1% involves commercial hunting. Only a small percentage of quail harvested are wild quail, and pen-raised quail are vital for Alabama quail hunting. Hunting involves expenses for equipment, hunter provisions and supplies, dogs, and habitat management. Spending in Alabama related to quail hunting has economic impacts in industrial sectors directly related to hunting, as well as in other sectors that have changes in economic activity which are initiated by quail hunting. Total 2007 sales related to quail hunting in Alabama is \$30.58 million. This direct output of quail hunting involves 344 part-time and full-time jobs that pay \$5.51 million in employee compensation and proprietary income. Indirect economic impacts of quail hunting lead to a total output impact of \$40.18 million. Total employee compensation and proprietary income is \$8.57 million for 433 jobs. Quail hunting generates \$1.10 million in Alabama state treasury tax revenue and an additional \$726,202 for local governments. Quail hunters in Alabama generate average sales of \$2,273 per hunter as direct output for the total of 13,452 hunters. Total output impact averages \$2,987 per hunter. Average state and local taxes generated are \$135 per hunter.

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