



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Sand Creek Massacre  
National Historic Site

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## Sand Creek Massacre News Release

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For Immediate Release

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### **Tourism to Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site Creates over \$400,000 in Economic Benefits**

*Report shows visitor spending supports 7 jobs in local economy*

Eads, CO – A new National Park Service (NPS) report shows that 7,402 visitors to Sand Creek Massacre NHS in 2014 spent \$415,200 in communities near the park. That spending supported 7 jobs in the local area.

“Sand Creek Massacre welcomes visitors from across the country and around the world,” said Superintendent Alexa Roberts. “We are delighted to share the story of this place and the experiences it provides. We also feature the park as a way to introduce our visitors to this part of the country and all that it offers. National park tourism is a significant driver in the national economy, returning \$10 for every \$1 invested in the National Park Service, and it’s a big factor in our local economy as well. We appreciate the partnership and support of our neighbors and are glad to be able to give back by helping to sustain local communities.”

“2014 marked 150 years since the Sand Creek Massacre. The commemoration of this important milestone contributed to an increase of nearly \$150,000 in visitor spending in local communities over the previous year.”

The peer-reviewed visitor spending analysis was conducted by U.S. Geological Survey economists Catherine Cullinane Thomas and Christopher Huber and National Park Service economist Lynne Koontz. The report shows \$15.7 billion of direct spending by 292.8 million park visitors in communities within 60 miles of a national park. This spending supported 277,000 jobs nationally; 235,600 of those jobs are found in these gateway communities. The cumulative benefit to the U.S. economy was \$29.7 billion.

According to the 2014 report, most park visitor spending was for lodging (30.6 percent) followed by food and beverages (20.3 percent), gas and oil (11.9 percent), admissions and fees (10.2 percent) and souvenirs and other expenses (9.9 percent).

To download the report visit <http://www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/economics.cfm>

The report includes information for visitor spending at individual parks and by state.

To learn more about national parks in Colorado and how the National Park Service works with Colorado communities to help preserve local history, conserve the environment, and provide outdoor recreation, go to [www.nps.gov/COLORADO](http://www.nps.gov/COLORADO).

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