



Buffalo National River Visitation 2004-2014

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
BUFF	1,191,021	984,059	1,068,090	1,194,043	1,405,802	1,522,586	1,545,599	1,169,802	1,093,083	1,125,227	1,357,057
OTHER AR PARKS	1,625,647	1,562,150	1,488,576	1,547,010	1,467,224	1,509,256	1,580,065	1,709,692	1,634,371	1,650,956	1,775,841

11-Year Average Annual Visitation

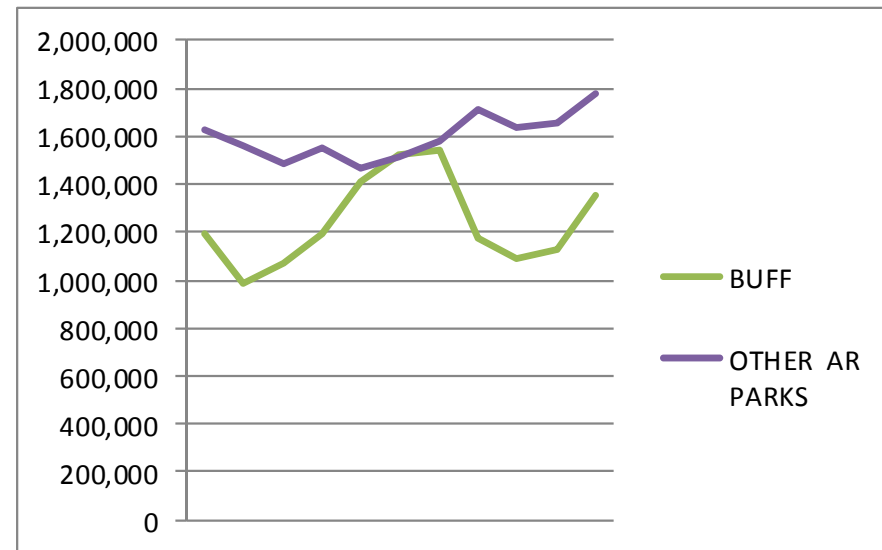
BUFF	1,241,488
OTHER AR PARKS	2,837,014

Visitation Increase from 2013 to 2014

BUFF	+20.6%
OTHER AR PARKS	+ 7.56%
ALL AR PARKS	+12.85%

BUFF Economic Impact for 2013*

Total Visitor Spending:	\$46,152,800
Jobs Created:	637



NOTE: Visitation patterns for Buffalo National River differ significantly from other NPS units in Arkansas because Buffalo National River visitation is highly dependent on rainfall that sustains river levels.

*Economic data for 2014 not yet available.



Arkansas National Park Visitation 2004-2014

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
ARPO	38,183	37,740	36,665	37,230	43,137	32,160	34,712	37,127	39,703	36,420	30,860
BUFF	1,191,021	984,059	1,068,090	1,194,043	1,405,802	1,522,586	1,545,599	1,169,802	1,093,083	1,125,227	1,357,057
CHSC	28,836	44,293	35,264	56,938	42,302	60,103	49,740	66,106	63,938	114,144	115,908
FOSM	78,444	74,400	77,014	83,850	75,174	63,540	68,678	86,122	87,386	69,584	88,790
HOSP	1,418,735	1,340,160	1,273,456	1,300,152	1,238,147	1,284,707	1,311,807	1,396,354	1,302,505	1,325,719	1,424,484
PERI	61,449	65,557	66,177	68,840	68,464	68,746	115,128	114,234	131,907	95,251	104,686
WICL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,749	8,932	9,838	11,113
TOTALS	2,816,668	2,546,209	2,556,666	2,741,053	2,873,026	3,031,842	3,125,664	2,879,494	2,727,454	2,776,183	3,132,898

2013 VISITATION & ECONOMIC IMPACT

(2014 ECONOMIC IMPACT DATA NOT YET AVAILABLE)

11-Year Average Annual Visitation

2,837,014

Increase from 2013 to 2014

12.85%

	TOTAL VISITOR		
	VISITATION	SPENDING	JOBS CREATED
ARPO	36,420	\$2,007,400	27
BUFF	1,125,227	\$46,152,800	637
CHSC	114,144	\$6,291,600	94
FOSM	69,584	\$3,835,400	57
HOSP	1,325,719	\$80,191,000	1,140
PERI	95,251	\$5,250,200	79
WICL	9,838	\$542,300	7
	2,776,183	\$144,270,700	2041

2014 Prosperous Year for Park Concessioners

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Date: January 8, 2015

Contact: Teri Gage, 870-365-2702

Depending on which economist you ask, the U.S. economy grew between one and four percent in 2014. But on a local level, several small businesses that serve visitors to the Buffalo National River reported a much higher rate of growth over the past year.

According to park officials, the twelve concessioners who provide canoe rentals and shuttle services along the river saw a 25 percent increase in canoe rentals over 2013. According to Commercial Services Manager Teri Gage, "Twenty-five percent was the parkwide average increase in canoe rentals. Some concessioners –especially those operating in the most upper part of the river, saw a much a greater increase. Others saw a more a modest increase. But overall, it was a very good year. Canoe rentals were higher in 2014 than they'd been in more than ten years." At Buffalo Point, where local businessman Larry Davenport operates the only in-park lodging and food service concession, sales were up 35 percent over the previous year.

"It was a great year for us," stated Davenport. "I hope the weather continues to cooperate and we see another good year in 2015.

"While concessioners attribute the success to mild summer temperatures and frequent rains throughout the floating season, it's likely that the broader economic climate played a part as well. The gross domestic product was up, unemployment was down, and gasoline prices held steady throughout the floating season. In addition, the Arkansas Tourism Department launched an aggressive tourism marketing strategy in early 2014, designed to attract visitors from near and far.

The National Park Service awards ten-year concession contracts on a competitive basis to businesses that provide services deemed to be necessary and appropriate to meet the needs and expectations of park visitors. More information about concessioners at Buffalo National River may be found on the park website at <http://www.nps.gov/buff/concessions.htm>.

Last Updated: 03/29/2015