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#### Refuge in NW Mo. Contributes \$3.5 Million

(AP) - A new study says the Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge produced about \$3.5 million in economic benefits in 2011 for northwest Missouri.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says the refuge provides economic benefits from retail sales, taxes and job income, along with visitor spending on recreation activities at the refuge near Mound City.

The refuge provides habitat for bald eagles, snow geese and ducks among other species.

The St. Joseph News-Press reports Squaw Creek was among 92 of the nation's 550 national wildlife refuges in the study, which examined spending in areas within 50 miles of each refuge.

The study says total spending for 2011 for Squaw Creek amounted to \$2.6 million. Employment income registered \$1 million and tax revenue was \$411,000.

Associated Press