

HIGHLANDS COUNTY

About 7% of Highlands County is within the CHNEP area. This area is primarily comprised of Highlands Hammock State Park which draws over 150,000 visitors annually¹. The total economic impact of natural resources in Highlands County within the CHNEP area is approximately \$60.3 million annually. The primary driver in the county is agriculture followed by natural resource-based recreation (primarily tourism) and ecological restoration. Agriculture is dominated by fresh market crops, ranching and timber. As Highlands County is inland, there are not commercial fishing impact attributable.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Natural resources in the CHNEP region generate economic impacts for Highlands County through:

			
Annual Recreation Spending	Annual Commercial Fishing Production	Annual Agriculture Production Value	Property Value Impacts*
\$26,481,000	N/A	\$30,663,000	N/A

*not annualized

Annual spending driven by natural resources in the CHNEP area **creates indirect spending through other businesses and induced spending through jobs as well as tax revenues.** The table below shows the components of the annual economic impacts in Highlands County:

Activity	Total Output	Labor Income	Value Added	Jobs
Recreation	\$27,089,000	\$7,254,000	\$12,350,000	
Commercial Fishing	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Agriculture	\$33,162,000	\$19,068,000	\$22,416,000	
Total	\$60,252,000	\$26,323,000	\$34,768,000	901

¹(2019) Florida State Parks



RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Annual capital investments within **Highlands County** total \$17,000. These investments in protection of natural resources in **Highlands County** results in a net fiscal benefit of **\$735,000**. Fiscal impacts include tax revenues from resource-based activity, improved property values, and return on investment from specific capital projects.



ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

The Habitat Restoration Needs Plan (HRN) was developed to guide habitat preservation/conservation, connectivity, management, restoration, sustainability, and resiliency through the CHNEP Area. **At full implementation, the HRN would preserve/conservate an additional \$2,000 of land value in Highlands County. It is estimated that these investments will generate economic benefits of \$2,000 every year.**

