

# THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ADAPTIVE RECREATION IN VT

## WHAT IS ADAPTIVE RECREATION?

Adaptive recreation is the modification of activities and utilization of specialized equipment and/or services to facilitate outdoor recreation participation for people of all abilities. Through adaptive recreation, people with physical, cognitive, developmental, and neurodiverse disabilities can enjoy the outdoors and its numerous benefits.

Adaptive recreation takes many forms, from using trekking poles and knee braces on independent hikes to structured, guided alpine skiing programs with specialized ski equipment like a bi-ski.



## WHY STUDY THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ADAPTIVE RECREATION?

Studies in Vermont and all over the US have examined the economic impact of recreational activities like trail use, snowmobiling, fishing, and boating. However, there is very little or no economic impact data for people with disabilities and adaptive sports recreationists.

As a result, adaptive recreators and organizations are at a disadvantage when competing for funding which leaves decision-makers unaware of the notable economic impacts that this group, their families, and traveling parties produce.

The outdoor industry has made incredible strides over the past few years in expanding equitable access to adaptive recreation experiences, but it's time we moved beyond talking about increasing physical access alone. We also need to advocate for equitable access to information. That is what the Vermont Adaptive Economic Impact Study is all about!

## THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ADAPTIVE RECREATION IN VERMONT

(all adaptive recreation including activities happening outside of Vermont Adaptive programs, events, & operations)

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis says that outdoor recreation added

**\$2.1 billion**

in value to Vermont's economy in 2023, which was about

**4.8%** of the state's GDP

**93%** of people in Vermont participate in outdoor recreation each year, according to the Move Forward Together Vermont Panel Survey

**29%** of respondents to the Move Forward Together Vermont Panel Survey reported that they or someone in their household has a disability

**25%** of Vermont adults possess a disability, according to the Vermont Department of Health

If we estimate that around a quarter of all recreation in Vermont is done by people with a disability and their households, that could mean

**over \$500 million**

of the \$2.1 billion is from adaptive rec!

There were

**532,828**

adults in Vermont in 2023, according to the U.S. Census

# THE ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF VT ADAPTIVE SKI & SPORTS

## WHO IS VERMONT ADAPTIVE SKI & SPORTS?

Vermont Adaptive Ski & Sports is a nationally recognized non-profit organization that empowers people of all abilities through inclusive sports. Vermont Adaptive provides opportunities for youth and adults with disabilities to gain self-confidence and independence through year-round adaptive sports programs and activities.

Vermont Adaptive hosts a variety of summer and winter programs for participants with any type of disability and multiple events throughout the year, attracting thousands of participants, volunteers, and spectators.



**Participant Days**  
(Participants, Volunteer, & Other Travel Party Members)



**Total Economic Impact**  
(sales & labor income in the VT economy)



**Total Jobs Supported**



**Total Tax Impacts**  
(Federal, State, & Local)

WINTER PROGRAM PARTICIPANT SPENDING

8,806

\$3,600,000

25

\$754,000

SUMMER PROGRAM PARTICIPANT SPENDING

2,962

\$490,000

4

\$91,000

EVENT PARTICIPANT SPENDING  
(VT-100, VT-50, KELLY BRUSH RIDE)

6,427

\$2,600,000

17

\$513,000

VERMONT ADAPTIVE'S OPERATIONAL SPENDING

17  
(employees)

\$3,600,000

26

\$434,000

TOTAL ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF VERMONT ADAPTIVE

18,195

\$10,290,000

72

\$1,792,000

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