

## By the Numbers Ecotourism in the Delaware River Watershed

- \$561 million - The estimated total annual value of wildlife/bird watching in the Delaware River watershed
- \$362 million - The estimated annual value of gear retail and trip sales driven by paddle-based recreation in the Delaware River watershed
- Over 600,000 - The estimated number of Delaware River Watershed residents who participate in paddle-based recreation every year
- \$9 million - The estimated annual revenue from the Delaware River watershed canoe and liveries which serve over 225,000 visitors annually
- Nearly 5 million - The annual number of visitors to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. This includes 3 million out-of-area visitors drawn to the park every year.
- \$97 million - The annual value of wages and salaries for the 2,232 jobs supported by the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
- \$325 million - The estimated total annual value of nine ski resorts in Pennsylvania's Pocono mountains
- \$29 million - The annual economic activity driven by the wild trout fishing along the Beaverkill and East Branch, West Branch, and upper main stem of the Delaware River

*The current boom in pipeline construction is threatening the outstanding waters of the Delaware River watershed, a natural resource that deserves to be protected and preserved for the enjoyment of generations to come.*

Learn More at  
[www.StopThePipelines.org](http://www.StopThePipelines.org)



Please Take Action Now

Funded in part through a grant from the Mountain Watershed Association  
Prepared in collaboration with, and support from, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network

## Pipeline Infrastructure & the Ecotourism Impact



*Pipeline construction, maintenance, and operation all harm the environment and diminish the aesthetic, economic, and recreational values of ecotourism in the Delaware River watershed*

## Ecotourism in the Delaware River Watershed

The scenic Delaware River watershed provides plentiful opportunities for birding, hiking, biking, boating, fishing and hunting to the over eight million people who call the basin home, as well as to many visitors from near and far. As the longest undammed river in the eastern United States, the Wild and Scenic Delaware offers country and city folk alike the chance to enjoy waterways, scenic trails, and bucolic vistas of forests and farmlands. Historic river towns also draw tourists from the Northeast and beyond to this region of unmatched beauty and rural charm.

The economic value of the watershed's natural areas is significant. Damage to these valuable resources will result in the loss of important revenues for communities that have built their economies on fishing, hunting, and other outdoor recreational activities. Ecotourism in the Delaware River region depends on healthy and beautiful public lands, open spaces, parks, and pristine forests and freshwater streams, but our lands and waters are now threatened by fossil fuel pipelines.



Photo: W. Selepouchin

## Pipelines vs. Ecotourism

Pipelines are proliferating across the nation to service the fracked gas, oil, and gas liquids industries. In addition to being a health, safety, and noise concern for many Delaware River communities whose lands are scarred by pipeline cuts and air pollution, pipelines pose a serious threat to ecotourism.

Pipeline construction, repeated maintenance cuts, and operation all harm the environment and diminish the aesthetic, economic, and recreational values of ecotourism. The fast pace of Marcellus Shale development will require tens of thousands of miles of new pipelines to be constructed in the next two decades, potentially quadrupling the cumulative negative environmental impacts.



## Pipelines Harm Wildlife

Pipelines damage the forests, wetlands, and streams upon which wildlife depend. Pipeline construction often targets natural areas, and results in habitat disturbance and fragmentation that puts wildlife at risk. Food chains and breeding patterns are disrupted. Fragmentation introduces edge species that can outcompete native species. Effects are worsened by maintenance cuts.

The harms inflicted on wildlife in turn harm wildlife based recreation and ecotourism including hiking, bird watching, wildlife viewing, fishing and hunting. These activities provide irreplaceable economic values to local communities.

## Pipelines Harm Land

Our natural areas and the critical habitats they provide are both directly and indirectly harmed when they are cut by pipelines and access roads. Each mile of 100 foot right-of-way (ROW) for a pipeline directly disturbs over 500,000 square feet (more than 12 acres) of forest, meadow, or wetland. An additional 300 feet (72 acres) of forest on each side of that ROW footprint also becomes degraded.

Habitat cuts invite in invasive plant and animal species, diminish the ability of the land to support healthy native plant communities, and reduce food and habitat for native wildlife. Agricultural lands also become transformed in ways that can significantly diminish crop production.

Habitat degradation caused by pipeline cuts harms the beautiful views and habitats that are key to successful ecotourism.



## Pipelines Harm Water

Wetlands cut by pipelines lose their habitat and water protection qualities. Excavation of stream beds and streamside lands for pipeline construction compromises sensitive aquatic habitats by removing shade, increasing water temperatures, causing sediment pollution and runoff, and impacting food availability for wildlife. Degradation of water quality puts water-based recreation activities at risk.