

Study Finds Idaho Tribes have \$1.1 Billion Impact on State Economy

Heather Keen/Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe

Plummer – Collectively, the five tribes of Idaho have a \$1.1 billion sales impact on Idaho's economy, according to an independent study recently completed. The study was completed by Steven Peterson, a research economist at the University of Idaho who has previously completed economic impact studies for Idaho's tribes, with the most recent version released in 2010.

Peterson found that when taking into consideration the collective impacts of the operations of all five of Idaho's Tribes and including multiplier effects, the tribes of Idaho add a total of 13,480 jobs to Idaho's economy and raise the gross state product by \$653 million, or approximately 1% of the gross state product in 2013.

"I am continuously surprised by the strides each Tribe has made year after year and the extraordinary impacts the five Tribes of Idaho have individually within their local and regional economies, ranking within the top three employers. Collectively, they rank within the top ten largest employers in Idaho," said Peterson of his findings.

The report estimates that more than 500,000 people visit tribal casinos each year, with 60% of those visitors coming from outside of the state. The report points out that the impact of Idaho's tribes goes well beyond gaming and hospitality and as sovereign nations, tribes employ thousands of people in tribal government operations, healthcare services and medical centers, police forces, economic development projects and more, all of which create significant impacts, both socially and economically on the surrounding reservation communities.