



2022 YEAR END REPORT

COMMERCIAL RIVER USE
in the STATE of COLORADO 1988-2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY COMMERCIAL RIVER USE IN COLORADO

2022 Year End Report

For 2022, outfitters statewide experienced a more typical season than the previous two as COVID-19 restrictions were largely over. The last CROA Economic Impact report showed a record high number of user days for the industry in 2021. The 2021 report lists reasons for the higher visitations. This season, almost every river in Colorado experienced draught conditions that influenced businesses at some point during the summer. Towards late summer, the drought ended some outfitters' operations earlier than usual. There were indications that the opening of foreign travel reduced visitations to the state and that school districts were functioning closer to normal which resulted in more usual reservation patterns. Compared to 2021, user days decreased by approximately 15%.

This season's user days across the state can best be compared to 2019, the last pre-COVID-19 year. Arkansas River outfitters were exceptions. In 2019 they took 190,246 rafters and float anglers. For comparison, in 2020 there were 182,005 user days, and in 2021 there were 256,650 user days, a substantial increase. Outfitters maintained similar use on the Arkansas in 2022 with 247,721 reported user days. Another exception was the Gunnison Gorge. Although the Gorge dropped in user days from 2021 it was not by much (6,110 versus 6,096). Both 2021 and 2022 user numbers in the Gorge were higher than 2019.

For other drainages such as the Animas River, user days for 2022 dropped from 2021 and most closely resembled 2019's user days (36,132 - 2022 versus - 37,553 – 2019). Had flows been more normal, the Animas may have exceeded 2019 numbers. Clear Creek user days were down when compared to 2021 and down when compared to 2019 (80,364 - 2022 versus 95,063 - 2019). This decrease is largely due to the season-long drought which ended rafting operations a few weeks early. Unlike many stretches of water, Clear Creek does not benefit from reservoir releases.

The opening of international travel after a few years and drought conditions likely played a role in reducing user days. Outfitter were forced to raise prices to keep up with the increased costs of operations. These new prices had a downward influence on demand. Gasoline prices and the economy were factors but probably played less of a role than the previously mentioned factors.

As outfitters roll into the 2023 season, the snowpack throughout much of the state continues to accumulate and if the economy holds, 2023 could be a strong season. Finding labor for key positions plagued many outfitters during the COVID-19 emergency but seems to have subsided overall.

The Colorado River Outfitters Association (CROA) compiled this study. Copies are available by contacting David Costlow at dcostlow@croa.org or Caitlin Wyman at caitlin@croa.org. The report can also be downloaded from the web at: <https://www.croa.org/media.html>. Members of CROA adhere to a Code of Ethics and offer quality trips on Colorado's rivers.

COMMERCIAL USER DAYS IN THE STATE OF COLORADO 1999 - 2010

River	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Animas	45,000	29,000	42,000	12,000	34,500	35,470	52,700	42,500	44,322	42,250	41,921	41,000
Animas - Upper	989	700	721	300	690	658	872	167	598	533	500	411
Arkansas	243,709	250,861	252,213	139,178	214,555	203,840	228,091	237,160	239,887	214,234	205,876	211,150
Blue	2,100	2,347	14	0	264	788	1,212	760	2,038	2,906	3,089	1,181
Clear Creek	16,887	13,616	20,798	7,498	24,495	20,115	32,357	36,889	49,190	52,340	50,167	51,301
Colorado - Glenwood	60,191	57,265	55,829	42,581	56,876	58,751	57,712	62,652	65,502	52,738	52,737	61,890
Colorado - Upper	40,000	42,933	34,381	37,801	32,188	33,224	29,449	36,280	37,068	34,769	33,077	40,730
Colorado - Horsethief - Ruby	4,410	4,508	4,188	2,324	3,222	3,383	3,318	2,810	2,761	3,283	3,090	2,718
Colorado - Westwater	7,208	6,859	6,858	6,626	7,352	7,548	7,043	7,233	7,632	7,624	6,833	7,621
Dolores	439	921	0	0	214	174	936	81	195	868	536	194
Eagle - Upper	7,290	3,830	3,702	0	1,239	858	3,630	4,621	4,390	4,390	1,374	1,640
Eagle - Lower	2,500	2,167	594	446	1,153	820	1,419	1,441	1,369	1,369	1,369	1,710
Gore Creek - Vail											300	1,000
Green/Yampa	7,360	8,539	7,825	5,617	7,134	6,826	6,627	6,500	5,813	6,235	4,309	4,803
Gunnison Gorge	3,169	3,928	3,401	3,292	2,328	3,010	3,016	3,800	2,826	4,342	3,956	1,390
Gunnison - Upper (Town Run)	1,720	1,400	2,690	1,334	1,590	1,982	2,112	2,212	2,500	2,669	2,669	2,669
Gunnison - Escalante	1,011	1,884	1,887	1,044	2,113	2,988	3,363	2,265	3,272	2,106	2,549	1,784
Gunnison - Forks to Austin												
Gunnison - Lake Fork	1,848	1,310	1,543	0	160	177	195	165	126	369	203	149
North Platte	882	165	137	0	312	191	566	511	372	851	712	482
Piedra	305	50	650	0	210	454	725	400	500	547	547	190
Poudre	32,446	29,012	34,192	26,004	34,164	31,042	36,088	34,533	37,824	37,566	36,991	37,392
Rio Grande	3,100	1,950	3,300	92	1,300	2,800	3,246	1,605	1,402	2,345	2,313	1,229
Roaring Fork - Above Basalt	5,000	4,500	2,500	0	2,000	1,500	2,215	2,609	2,834	6,187	4,248	2,404
Roaring Fork - Below Basalt	2,000	1,500	1,000	0	500	500	10	79	100	2,500	1,263	1,366
San Juan - Pagosa	3,400	2,200	2,000	138	1,586	2,550	2,500	1,900	1,900	2,280	4,107	4,986
San Miguel	3,442	1,379	3,625	120	1,959	2,212	4,493	2,800	2,943	5,969	3,782	1,762
South Platte	1,306	2,035	2,055	453	935	836	901	655	690	1,150	750	383
Taylor	15,367	13,989	14,287	11,176	14,734	14,750	14,972	15,127	15,112	14,332	14,332	14,332
Total User Days	513,079	488,848	502,390	298,024	447,773	437,447	499,768	507,755	533,166	506,752	483,600	497,867
User Day Change From Previous Year	6,783	-24,231	13,542	-204,366	149,749	-10,326	62,321	7,987	25,411	-26,414	-23,152	14,267

Sources: National Park Service
US Forest Service
Bureau of Land Management
Local Outfitters
Colorado Parks & Wildlife

For Colorado River Outfitters Assoc.
PO Box 1711
Idaho Springs, CO 80452
720-260-4135

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COMMERCIAL USER DAYS IN THE STATE OF COLORADO 2011 - 2022

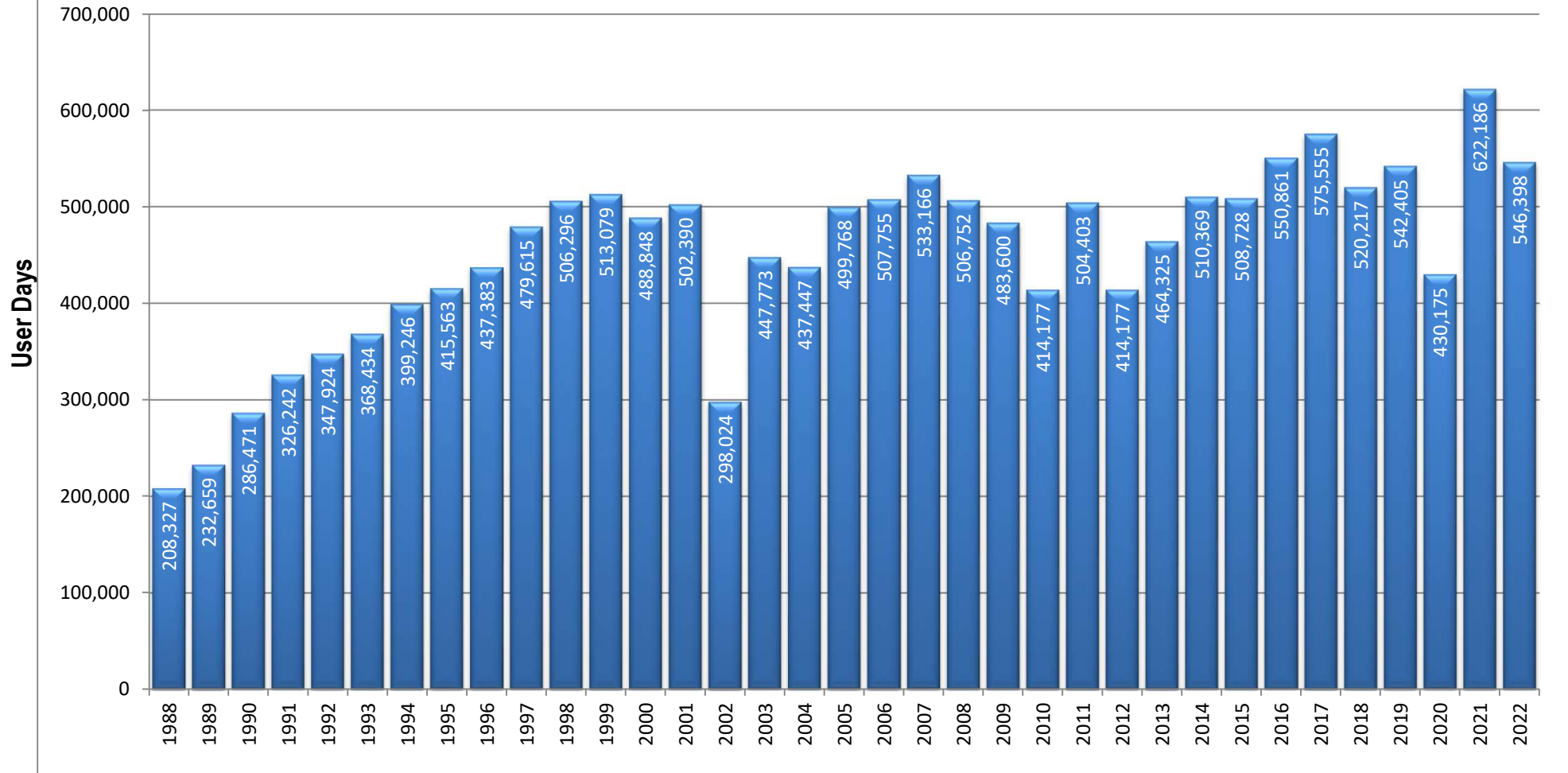
River	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Animas	45,000	38,000	33,659	37,000	34,117	35,991	34,069	28,495	37,553	33,120	52,967	36,132
Animas - Upper	411	603	600	678	No report	615	536	71	326	12	387	286
Arkansas	208,329	169,486	179,535	191,307	196,998	223,878	223,271	218,120	190,246	182,005	256,650	247,721
Blue	6,580	0	0	6,571	6,651	5,301	2,771	1,086	11,006	636	0	0
Clear Creek	60,644	35,422	61,172	72,224	65,617	77,783	87,077	66,174	95,063	52,044	100,203	80,364
Colorado - Glenwood	44,007	64,086	60,757	56,857	57,785	61,880	64,208	62,181	65,302	55,228	70,753	63,222
Colorado - Upper	39,012	41,811	40,420	40,337	41,352	37,071	47,915	50,681	35,777	46,375	45,433	33,866
Colorado - Horsethief - Ruby	2,907	3,099	754	3,535	2,787	1,112	3,978	993	1,122	1,268	820	943
Colorado - Westwater	6,069	5,623	6,992	6,432	6,522	6,478	6,522	6,654	7,324	4,190	6,369	5,299
Dolores	515	35	0	58	26	74	558	0	350	0		75
Eagle - Upper (Dowd Chutes)	1,286	13	359	1,134	570	606	745	428	399	1,076	266	88
Eagle (Below Edwards)	4,362	227	2,032	5,174	4,971	6,443	6,088	3,549	8,851	4,129	5,233	7,507
Gore Creek - Vail	2,500	900	900	500	404	601	500	0	324	98	0	0
Green/Yampa	4,218	7,983	9,694	11,581	11,476	10,196	13,917	15,645	No Report	3,755	5,132	No Report
Gunnison Gorge	2,148	1,579	3,431	2,152	3,205	3,584	3,861	4,787	4,039	4,553	6,110	6,096
Gunnison - Upper (Town Run)	2,669	1,150	3,387	3,387	3,083	3,276	3,548	3,276	2,129		4,170	2,883
Gunnison - Escalante	2,749	3,028	1,434	1,936	1,154	868	1,088	187	149	27	144	241
Gunnison - Forks to Austin		1,100	303	302	484	305	731	991	1,254	1,617	2,326	2,276
Gunnison - Lake Fork	284	1,123	221	193	304	259	318	267	245	425	348	169
North Platte	850	143	265	230	336	179	305	No Report	34	5		
Piedra	190	54	25	285	No report	337	318	17	249	41	173	36
Poudre	37,869	22,780	37,214	37,225	37,934	41,192	38,134	38,741	37,707	21,481	39,877	33,008
Rio Grande	1,589	2,103	596	3,691	2,511	2,387	2,694	131	No Report	156	221	1,469
Roaring Fork - Above Basalt	6,672	112	1,696	5,210	5,038	4,377	4,420	560	6,751	1,045	948	1,541
Roaring Fork - Below Basalt	912	736	458	1,070	895	410	869	831	7,245	338	221	655
San Juan - Pagosa	6,171	778	3,475	3,764	4,949	4,850	3,948	1,012	5,517	0		4,000
San Miguel	1,900	1,828	1,235	3,921	5,438	5,064	8,097	2,061	9,778	4,899	8,201	5,547
South Platte	430	484	713	371	473	788	No Report	No Report	No Report	No Report	No Report	No Report
Taylor	14,130	9,891	12,998	13,244	13,648	14,956	15,069	13,279	13,665	11,652	15,234	12,974
Total User Days	504,403	414,177	464,325	510,369	508,728	550,861	575,555	520,217	542,405	430,175	622,186	546,398
User Day Change From Previous Year	6,536	-90,226	50,148	46,044	-1,641	42,133	24,694	-55,338	22,188	-112,230	192,011	-75,788

Sources: National Park Service
US Forest Service
Bureau of Land Management
Local Outfitters
Colorado Parks & Wildlife

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PO Box 1711
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2022 ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COMMERCIAL RIVER RAFTING IN COLORADO

YEAR	TOTAL USER DAYS	INFLATION RATE (CPI)	EXPENDITURES- INFLATION ADJUSTED	DIRECT EXPENDETURES	ECONOMIC IMPACT	% CHANGE
1988	208,327		rt	\$14,166,236	\$36,265,564	
1989	232,659	4.6%	\$66.73	\$15,526,325	\$39,747,392	9.6%
1990	286,471	6.1%	\$70.81	\$20,283,592	\$51,925,995	30.6%
1991	326,242	3.1%	\$73.00	\$23,815,666	\$60,968,105	17.4%
1992	347,924	2.9%	\$75.12	\$26,135,007	\$66,905,618	9.7%
1993	368,434	2.7%	\$77.15	\$28,422,900	\$72,762,623	8.8%
1994	399,246	2.7%	\$79.23	\$31,631,493	\$80,976,623	11.3%
1995	415,563	2.5%	\$81.21	\$33,747,364	\$86,393,253	6.7%
1996	437,383	3.3%	\$83.89	\$36,691,478	\$93,930,184	8.7%
1997	479,615	1.7%	\$85.31	\$40,918,247	\$104,750,712	11.5%
1998	506,296	1.7%	\$86.77	\$43,928,838	\$112,457,824	7.4%
1999	513,079	2.7%	\$89.11	\$45,719,334	\$117,041,496	4.1%
2000	488,848	3.4%	\$92.14	\$45,041,209	\$115,305,495	-1.5%
2001	502,390	1.9%	\$93.89	\$47,168,424	\$120,751,166	4.7%
2002	298,024	2.2%	\$95.95	\$28,596,476	\$73,206,978	-39.4%
2003	447,773	1.9%	\$97.78	\$43,781,775	\$112,081,344	53.1%
2004	437,447	3.3%	\$101.00	\$44,183,613	\$113,110,049	0.9%
2005	499,768	3.4%	\$104.44	\$52,194,503	\$133,617,928	18.1%
2006	507,755	2.0%	\$106.53	\$54,089,218	\$138,468,398	3.6%
2007	533,166	4.1%	\$110.89	\$59,124,798	\$151,359,483	9.3%
2008	506,752	0.1%	\$111.00	\$56,251,845	\$144,004,723	-4.9%
2009	483,600	2.7%	\$114.00	\$55,131,275	\$141,136,064	-2.0%
2010	414,177	1.5%	\$115.71	\$47,925,181	\$122,688,464	-13.1%
2011	504,403	3.0%	\$119.18	\$60,116,359	\$153,897,880	25.4%
2012	414,177	1.7%	\$121.21	\$50,202,107	\$128,517,393	-16.5%
2013	464,325	1.5%	\$123.03	\$57,124,719	\$146,239,279	13.8%
2014	510,369	0.8%	\$124.01	\$63,291,709	\$162,026,776	10.8%
2015	508,728	0.7%	\$124.88	\$63,529,824	\$162,636,349	0.4%
2016	550,861	2.1%	\$127.50	\$70,236,001	\$179,804,163	10.6%
2017	575,555	2.1%	\$130.18	\$74,925,616	\$191,809,578	6.7%
2018	520,217	1.9%	\$132.65	\$69,008,441	\$176,661,609	-7.9%
2019	542,405	2.3%	\$133.17	\$72,234,191	\$184,919,528	-3.6%
2020	430,175	1.4%	\$135.04	\$58,090,117	\$148,710,699	-19.6%
2021	622,186	7.5%	\$145.17	\$90,320,385	\$231,220,186	55.5%
2022	546,398	6.5%	\$154.60	\$84,474,232	\$216,254,035	-6.5%

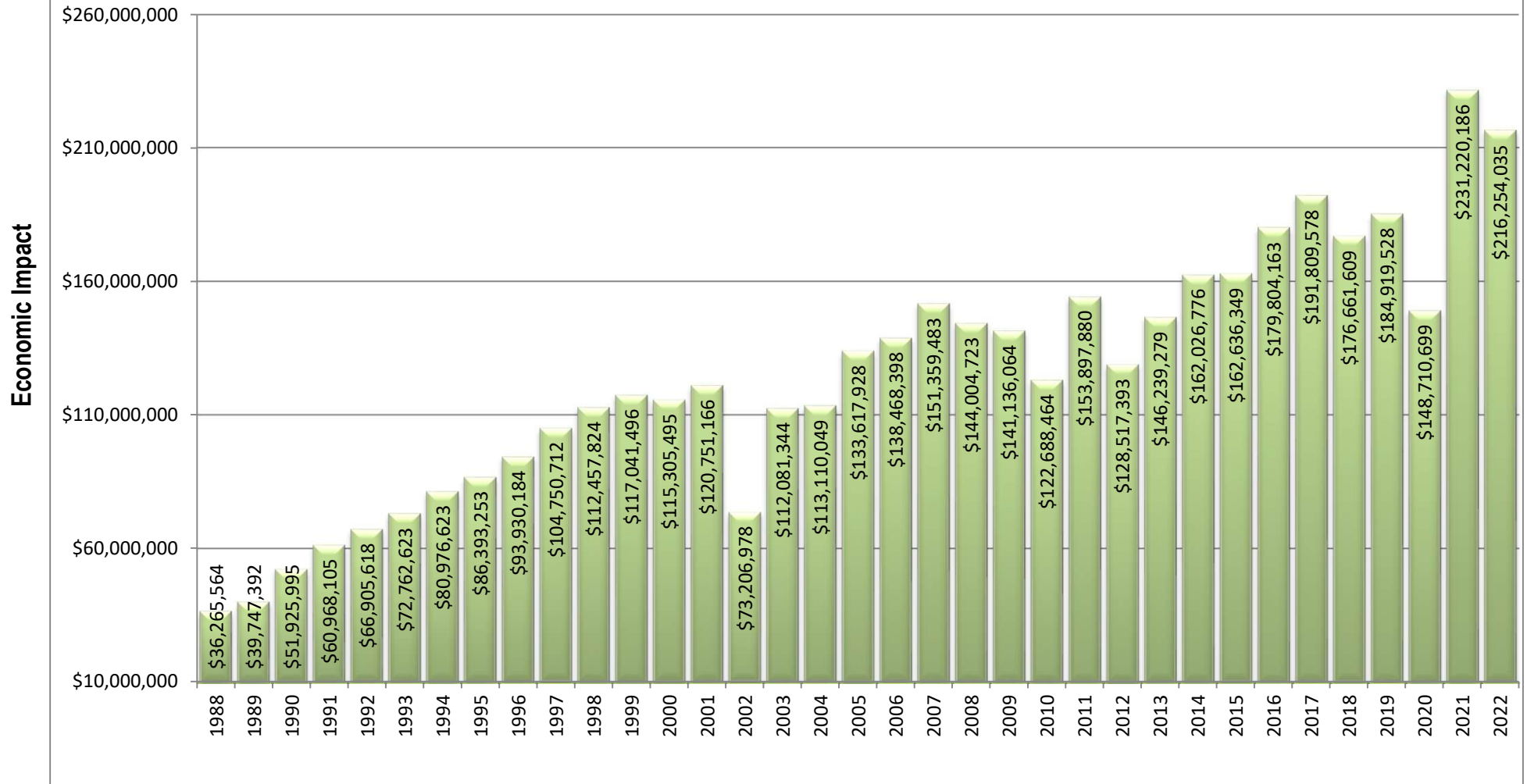
See glossary for above economic impact formulas and sources

Sources: National Park Service
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ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COMMERCIAL RIVER RAFTING IN COLORADO

1988-2022



Sources: National Park Service
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2022 ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COMMERCIAL RIVER RAFTING IN COLORADO

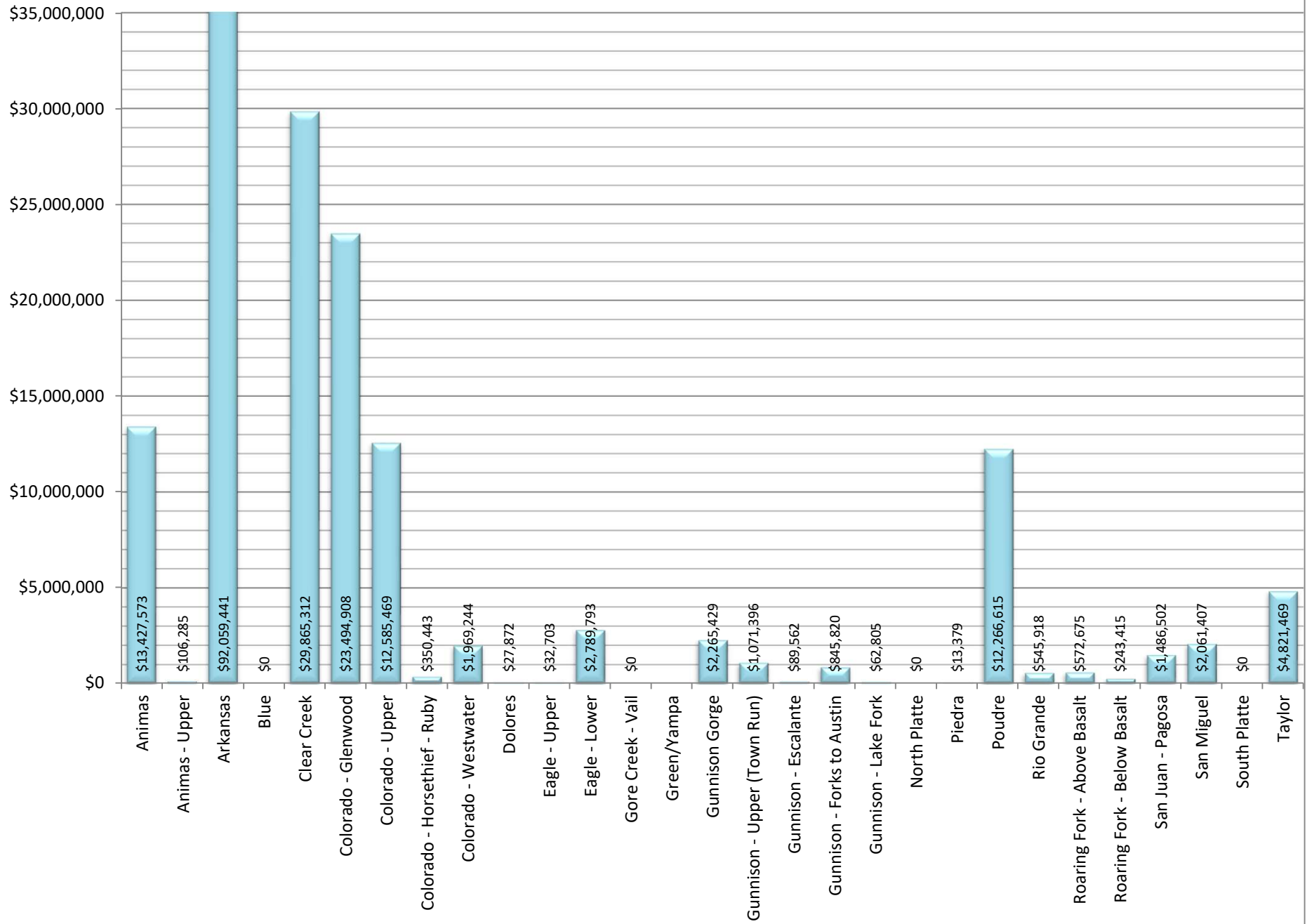
RIVER	USER DAYS	DIRECT EXPENDITURES	ECONOMIC IMPACT
Animas	36,132	\$5,245,146	\$13,427,573
Animas - Upper	286	\$41,518	\$106,285
Arkansas	247,721	\$35,960,719	\$92,059,441
Blue	0	\$0	\$0
Clear Creek	80,364	\$11,666,137	\$29,865,312
Colorado - Glenwood	63,222	\$9,177,698	\$23,494,908
Colorado - Upper	33,866	\$4,916,199	\$12,585,469
Colorado - Horsethief - Ruby	943	\$136,892	\$350,443
Colorado - Westwater	5,299	\$769,236	\$1,969,244
Dolores	75	\$10,887	\$27,872
Eagle - Upper	88	\$12,775	\$32,703
Eagle - Lower	7,507	\$1,089,763	\$2,789,793
Gore Creek - Vail	0	\$0	\$0
Green/Yampa	No Report		
Gunnison Gorge	6,096	\$884,933	\$2,265,429
Gunnison - Upper (Town Run)	2,883	\$418,514	\$1,071,396
Gunnison - Escalante	241	\$34,985	\$89,562
Gunnison - Forks to Austin	2,276	\$330,398	\$845,820
Gunnison - Lake Fork	169	\$24,533	\$62,805
North Platte	0	\$0	\$0
Piedra	36	\$5,226	\$13,379
Poudre	33,008	\$4,791,646	\$12,266,615
Rio Grande	1,469	\$213,249	\$545,918
Roaring Fork - Above Basalt	1,541	\$223,701	\$572,675
Roaring Fork - Below Basalt	655	\$95,084	\$243,415
San Juan - Pagosa	4,000	\$580,665	\$1,486,502
San Miguel	5,547	\$805,237	\$2,061,407
South Platte	No Report	Not Available	Not Available
Taylor	12,974	\$1,883,386	\$4,821,469
Totals	546,398	\$79,318,528	\$203,055,432

See glossary for above economic impact formulas and sources

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ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COMMERCIAL RIVER RAFTING IN COLORADO - 2022



INDIVIDUAL RIVER COMMERCIAL RAFTING STATISTICS - 3 YR RANGE

RIVER	2020 USER DAYS	2021 USER DAYS	2022 USER DAYS	% CHANGE '20 - '21	% CHANGE '21 - '22	2020 % MARKET SHARE	2021 % MARKET SHARE	2022 % MARKET SHARE
Animas	33,120	52,967	36,132	59.9%	-31.8%	7.7%	8.5%	6.6%
Animas - Upper	12	387	286	N/A	N/A	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Arkansas	182,005	256,650	247,721	41.0%	-3.5%	42.3%	41.2%	45.6%
Blue	636			-100.0%	#DIV/0!	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Clear Creek	52,044	100,203	80,364	92.5%	-19.8%	12.1%	16.1%	14.8%
Colorado - Glenwood	55,228	70,753	63,222	28.1%	-10.6%	12.8%	11.4%	11.6%
Colorado - Upper	46,375	45,433	33,866	-2.0%	-25.5%	10.8%	7.3%	6.2%
Colorado - Horsethief - Ruby	1,268	820	943	-35.3%	15.0%	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%
Colorado - Westwater	4,190	6,369	5,299	52.0%	-16.8%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%
Dolores	0		75	#DIV/0!	N/A	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Eagle - Upper	1,076	266	88	-75.3%	-66.9%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Eagle - Lower	4,129	5,233	7,507	26.7%	43.5%	1.0%	0.8%	1.4%
Gore Creek - Vail	98			-100.0%	N/A	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Green/Yampa	3,755	5,132		36.7%	N/A	0.9%	0.8%	N/A
Gunnison Gorge	4,553	6,110	6,096	34.2%	-0.2%	1.1%	1.0%	1.1%
Gunnison - Upper (Town Run)		4,170		#DIV/0!	-100.0%	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%
Gunnison - Escalante	27	144	241	433.3%	67.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Gunnison - Forks to Austin	1,617	2,326	2,276	43.8%	-2.1%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
Gunnison - Lake Fork	425	348	169	-18.1%	-51.4%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%
North Platte	5			N/A	No Report	0.0%	No Report	No Report
Piedra	41	173	36	N/A	N/A	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Poudre	21,481	39,877	33,008	85.6%	-17.2%	5.0%	6.4%	6.1%
Rio Grande	156	221	1,469	41.7%	N/A	0.0%	0.0%	N/A
Roaring Fork - Above Basalt	1,045	948	1,541	-9.3%	62.6%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%
Roaring Fork - Below Basalt	338	221	655	-34.6%	196.4%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
San Juan - Pagosa	0		4,000	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%
San Miguel	4,899	8,201	5,547	67.4%	-32.4%	1.1%	1.3%	1.0%
South Platte	No Report	No Report	No Report	N/A	N/A	No Report	No Report	No Report
Taylor	11,652	15,234	12,974	30.7%	-14.8%	2.7%	2.4%	2.4%
Totals	430,175	622,186	543,515	44.6%	-12.6%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Sources: National Park Service

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