



2025 YEAR END REPORT

COMMERCIAL RIVER USE
in the STATE of COLORADO

1988-2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COMMERCIAL RIVER USE IN COLORADO

2025 Year End Report

Several rivers in 2025 saw greater rafter numbers when compared to the previous year. Clear Creek, the Colorado River through Glenwood Springs, most stretches of the Gunnison River, and the San Miguel River all recorded increased rafter volume. The North Platte has had sufficient water levels for the past two years, allowing more rafters than usual to float the river. Other rivers held steady or declined, with the Animas, Arkansas, and Cache la Poudre showing the largest decreases. A few rivers, Roaring Fork and Blue, saw less demand due to lower water levels. Overall, commercial rafting activity decreased slightly in 2025 compared with 2024.

Tourism in some parts of Colorado fell short of expectations. Although gas prices declined in 2025, they continued to affect travel decisions. Ongoing economic pressures, including rising payroll costs and insurance premiums, also drove trip prices higher, which typically reduces demand. As a result, the rafting industry saw a slight decline, with overall rafter counts, or user-days, down 5.5% from 2024. User-days have declined each year since 2021, when the industry reached its all-time high.

In 2025, river use in Colorado totaled 469,549 user-days, and the industry's statewide economic impact reached \$203,068,423. Outfitters generally aim to show year-over-year growth and remain optimistic that tourism will rebound next season. If inflation eases further and economic conditions improve, visitors may have more discretionary income for activities such as rafting.

The Colorado River Outfitters Association (CROA) compiled this study. Copies are available for downloading at:

<https://www.croa.org/media/annual-commercial-river-use-report/>

Members of CROA adhere to a Code of Ethics and offer quality trips on all of Colorado's rivers.

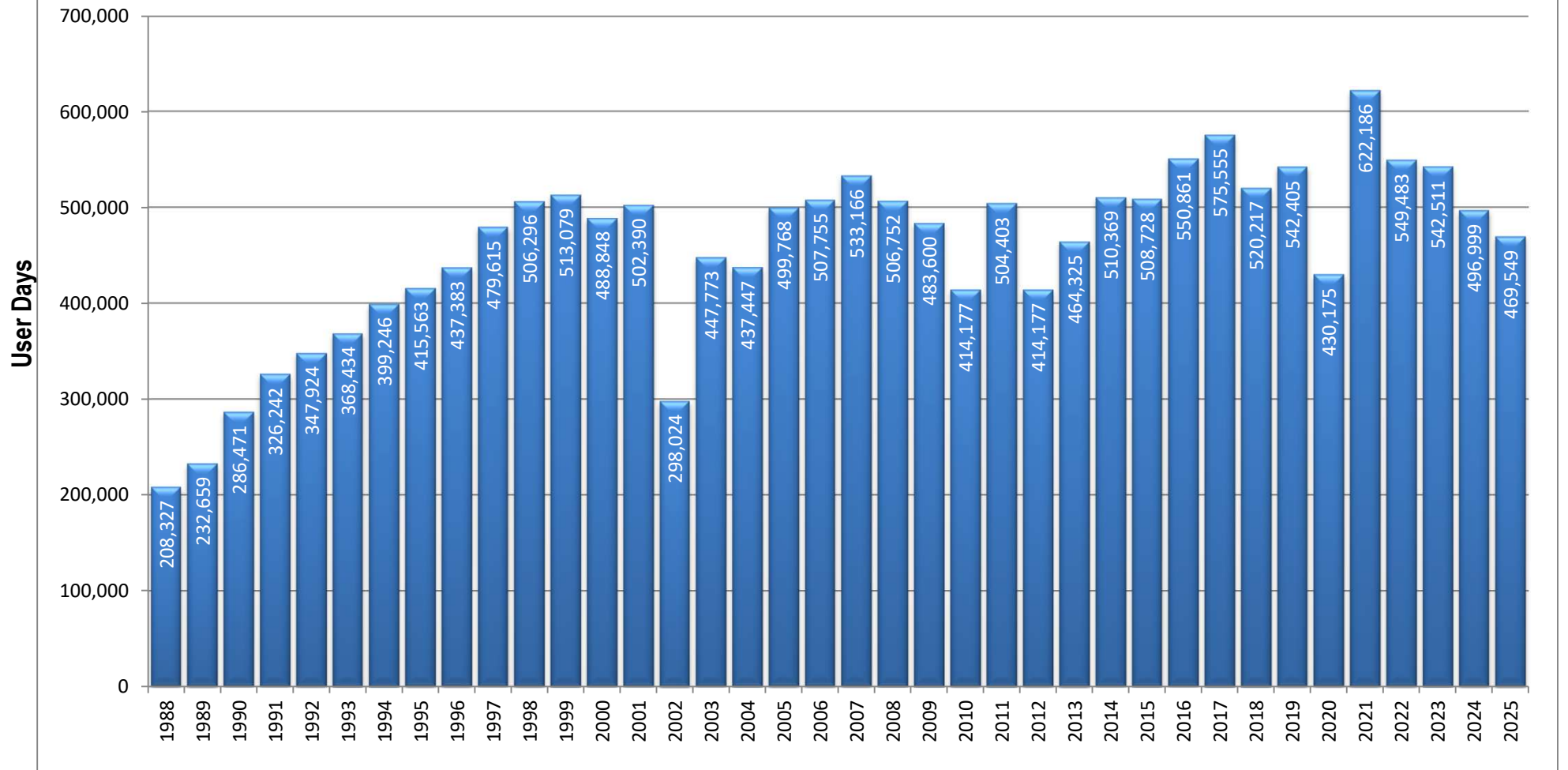
Commercial User Days in the State of Colorado 1999-2012

River	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Animas	45,000	29,000	42,000	12,000	34,500	35,470	52,700	42,500	44,322	42,250	41,921	38,000	45,000	38,000
Animas - Upper	989	700	721	300	690	658	872	167	598	533	500	603	411	603
Arkansas	243,709	250,861	252,213	139,178	214,555	203,840	228,091	237,160	239,887	214,234	205,876	169,486	208,329	169,486
Blue	2,100	2,347	14	0	264	788	1,212	760	2,038	2,906	3,089	0	6,580	0
Clear Creek	16,887	13,616	20,798	7,498	24,495	20,115	32,357	36,889	49,190	52,340	50,167	35,422	60,644	35,422
Colorado - Glenwood	60,191	57,265	55,829	42,581	56,876	58,751	57,712	62,652	65,502	52,738	52,737	64,086	44,007	64,086
Colorado - Upper	40,000	42,933	34,381	37,801	32,188	33,224	29,449	36,280	37,068	34,769	33,077	41,811	39,012	41,811
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	3,099	2,907	3,099
Colorado - Westwater	7,208	6,859	6,858	6,626	7,352	7,548	7,043	7,233	7,632	7,624	6,833	5,623	6,069	5,623
Dolores	439	921	0	0	214	174	936	81	195	868	536	35	515	35
Eagle - Upper	7,290	3,830	3,702	0	1,239	858	3,630	4,621	4,390	4,390	1,374	13	1,286	13
Eagle - Lower	2,500	2,167	594	446	1,153	820	1,419	1,441	1,369	1,369	1,369	227	4,362	227
Gore Creek - Vail								0	0	0	300	900	2,500	900
Green/Yampa	7,360	8,539	7,825	5,617	7,134	6,826	6,627	6,500	5,813	6,235	4,309	7,983	4,218	7,983
Gunnison Gorge	3,169	3,928	3,401	3,292	2,328	3,010	3,016	3,800	2,826	4,342	3,956	1,579	2,148	1,579
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	1,150	2,669	1,150
Gunnison - Escalante	1,011	1,884	1,887	1,044	2,113	2,988	3,363	2,265	3,272	2,106	2,549	3,028	2,749	3,028
Gunnison - Forks to Austin								0	0	0		1,100		1,100
Gunnison - Lake Fork	1,848	1,310	1,543	0	160	177	195	165	126	369	203	1,123	284	1,123
North Platte	882	165	137	0	312	191	566	511	372	851	712	143	850	143
Piedra	305	50	650	0	210	454	725	400	500	547	547	54	190	54
Poudre	32,446	29,012	34,192	26,004	34,164	31,042	36,088	34,533	37,824	37,566	36,991	22,780	37,869	22,780
Rio Grande	3,100	1,950	3,300	92	1,300	2,800	3,246	1,605	1,402	2,345	2,313	2,103	1,589	2,103
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	112	6,672	112
Roaring Fork - Below Basalt	2,000	1,500	1,000	0	500	500	10	79	100	2,500	1,263	736	912	736
San Juan - Pagosa	3,400	2,200	2,000	138	1,586	2,550	2,500	1,900	1,900	2,280	4,107	778	6,171	778
San Miguel	3,442	1,379	3,625	120	1,959	2,212	4,493	2,800	2,943	5,969	3,782	1,828	1,900	1,828
South Platte	1,306	2,035	2,055	453	935	836	901	655	690	1,150	750	484	430	484
Taylor	15,367	13,989	14,287	11,176	14,734	14,750	14,972	15,127	15,112	14,332	14,332	9,891	14,130	9,891
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	414,177	504,403	414,177
% Change From Previous Year	1.3%	-4.7%	2.8%	-40.7%	50.2%	-2.3%	14.2%	1.6%	5.0%	-5.0%	-4.6%	-14.4%	21.8%	-17.9%
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	-69,423	90,226	-90,226

Commercial User Days in the State of Colorado 2013-2025

River	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Animas	33,659	37,000	34,117	35,991	34,069	28,495	37,553	33,120	52,967	36,132	37,139	30,079	21,331
Animas - Upper	600	678	No report	615	536	71	326	12	387	286	227	128	78
Arkansas	179,535	191,307	196,998	223,878	223,271	218,120	190,246	182,005	256,650	247,721	224,700	211,635	192,330
Blue	0	6,571	6,651	5,301	2,771	1,086	11,006	636			1,856	2,252	705
Clear Creek	61,172	72,224	65,617	77,783	87,077	66,174	95,063	52,044	100,203	80,364	81,674	67,116	78,618
Colorado - Glenwood	60,757	56,857	57,785	61,880	64,208	62,181	65,302	55,228	70,753	63,222	64,940	62,137	64,958
Colorado - Upper	40,420	40,337	41,352	37,071	47,915	50,681	35,777	46,375	45,433	33,866	32,866	35,183	30,416
Colorado - Horsethief - Ruby	754	3,535	2,787	1,112	3,978	993	1,122	1,268	820	943	1,158	968	715
Colorado - Westwater	6,992	6,432	6,522	6,478	6,522	6,654	7,324	4,190	6,369	5,299	3550	3884	3445
Dolores	0	58	26	74	558	0	350	0		75	940	-	-
Eagle - Upper	359	1,134	570	606	745	428	399	1,076	266	88	669	399	249
Eagle - Lower	2,032	5,174	4,971	6,443	6,088	3,549	8,851	4,129	5,233	7,507	8,776	8,801	8,645
Gore Creek - Vail	900	500	404	601	500	0	324	98	0	0	0	175	130
Green/Yampa	9,694	11,581	11,476	10,196	13,917	15,645	No Report	3,755	5,132	3,085	5,846	5,636	5,669
Gunnison Gorge	3,431	2,152	3,205	3,584	3,861	4,787	4,039	4,553	6,110	6,096	5,054	5,057	6,883
Gunnison - Upper (Town Run)	3,387	3,387	3,083	3,276	3,548	3,276	2,129		4,170	2,883	827	794	858
Gunnison - Escalante	1,434	1,936	1,154	868	1,088	187	149	27	144	241	376	364	264
Gunnison - Forks to Austin	303	302	484	305	731	991	1,254	1,617	2,326	2,276	2,162	2,959	3,651
Gunnison - Lake Fork	221	193	304	259	318	267	245	425	348	169	217	186	204
North Platte	265	230	336	179	305	No Report	34	5	0	0	301	1,010	955
Piedra	25	285	No report	337	318	17	249	41	173	36	438	38	108
Poudre	37,214	37,225	37,934	41,192	38,134	38,741	37,707	21,481	39,877	33,008	29,921	29,076	24,514
Rio Grande	596	3,691	2,511	2,387	2,694	131	No Report	156	221	1,469	2,415	1,304	1,512
Roaring Fork - Above Basalt	1,696	5,210	5,038	4,377	4,420	560	6,751	1,045	948	1,541	2,639	3,726	1,010
Roaring Fork - Below Basalt	458	1,070	895	410	869	831	7,245	338	221	655	3,691	2,206	1,277
San Juan - Pagosa	3,475	3,764	4,949	4,850	3,948	1,012	5,517	0	No Report	4,000	9,340	4,743	2,216
San Miguel	1,235	3,921	5,438	5,064	8,097	2,061	9,778	4,899	8,201	5,547	7,173	4,152	6,912
South Platte	713	371	473	788	No Report	No Report	No Report	No Report	No Report	No Report	No Report	No Report	No Report
Taylor	12,998	13,244	13,648	14,956	15,069	13,279	13,665	11,652	15,234	12,974	13,616	12,991	11,896
Total User Days	464,325	510,369	508,728	550,861	575,555	520,217	542,405	430,175	622,186	549,483	542,511	496,999	469,549
% Change From Previous Year	12.1%	9.9%	-0.3%	8.3%	4.5%	-9.6%	4.3%	-20.7%	44.6%	-11.7%	-1.3%	-8.4%	-5.5%
User Day Change From Previous Year	50,148	46,044	-1,641	42,133	24,694	-55,338	22,188	-112,230	192,011	-72,703	-6,972	-45,512	-27,450

COMMERCIAL USER DAYS IN COLORADO 1988-2025



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

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2025 ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COMMERCIAL RIVER RAFTING IN COLORADO

YEAR	TOTAL USER DAYS	INFLATION RATE (CPI)	EXPENDITURES-INFLATION ADJUSTED	DIRECT EXPENDITURES	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	4.7%
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	549,483	6.5%	\$154.60	\$84,951,180	\$217,475,020	-5.9%
2023	542,511	3.4%	\$159.86	\$86,724,986	\$222,015,965	2.1%
2024	496,999	2.9%	\$164.49	\$81,753,543	\$209,289,069	-5.7%
2025	469,549	2.7%	\$168.94	\$79,323,603	\$203,068,423	-3.0%

See glossary for above economic impact formulas and sources

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

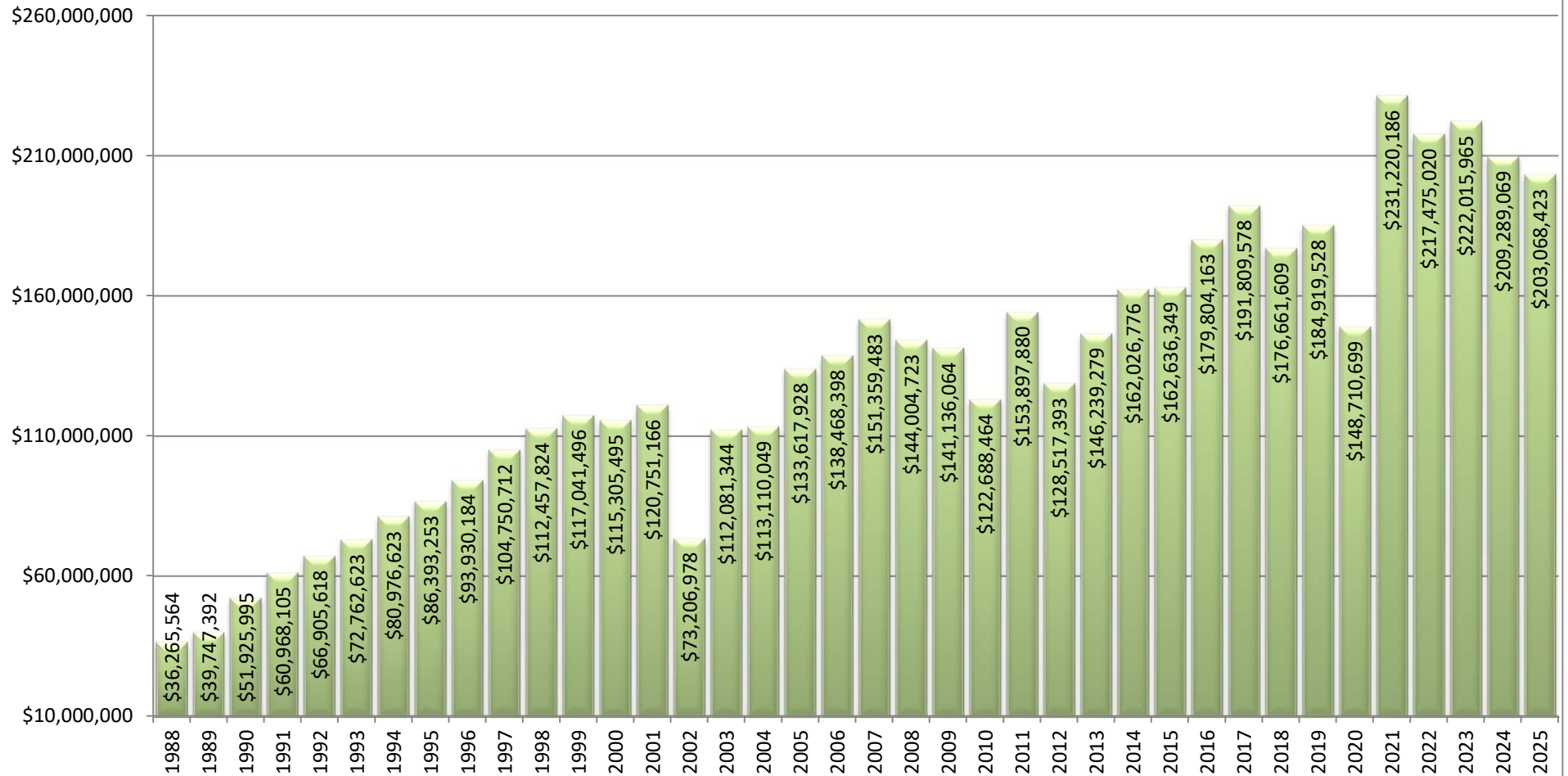
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ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COMMERCIAL RIVER RAFTING IN COLORADO

1988-2025

Economic Impact



Sources: National Park Service
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2025 ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COMMERCIAL RIVER RAFTING IN COLORADO

RIVER	USER DAYS	DIRECT EXPENDITURES	ECONOMIC IMPACT
Animas	21,331	\$3,603,568	\$9,225,134
Animas - Upper	78	\$13,177	\$33,733
Arkansas	192,330	\$32,491,409	\$83,178,006
Blue	705	\$119,100	\$304,895
Clear Creek	78,618	\$13,281,389	\$34,000,356
Colorado - Glenwood	64,958	\$10,973,727	\$28,092,741
Colorado - Upper	30,416	\$5,138,349	\$13,154,174
Colorado - Horsethief - Ruby	715	\$120,789	\$309,220
Colorado - Westwater	3,445	\$581,984	\$1,489,878
Dolores	0	\$0	\$0
Eagle - Upper	249	\$42,065	\$107,686
Eagle - Lower	8,645	\$1,460,449	\$3,738,750
Gore Creek - Vail	130	\$21,962	\$56,222
Green/Yampa	5,669	\$957,697	\$2,451,703
Gunnison Gorge	6,883	\$1,162,785	\$2,976,729
Gunnison - Upper (Town Run)	858	\$144,947	\$371,064
Gunnison - Escalante	264	\$44,599	\$114,174
Gunnison - Forks to Austin	3,651	\$616,784	\$1,578,968
Gunnison - Lake Fork	204	\$34,463	\$88,225
North Platte	955	\$161,334	\$413,014
Piedra	108	\$18,245	\$46,707
Poudre	24,514	\$4,141,290	\$10,601,704
Rio Grande	1,512	\$255,431	\$653,903
Roaring Fork - Above Basalt	1,010	\$170,625	\$436,800
Roaring Fork - Below Basalt	1,277	\$215,731	\$552,271
San Juan - Pagosa	2,216	\$374,362	\$958,366
San Miguel	6,912	\$1,167,684	\$2,989,270
South Platte	No Report	\$0	No Report
Taylor	11,896	\$2,009,659	\$5,144,728
Totals	469,549	\$79,323,603	\$203,068,423

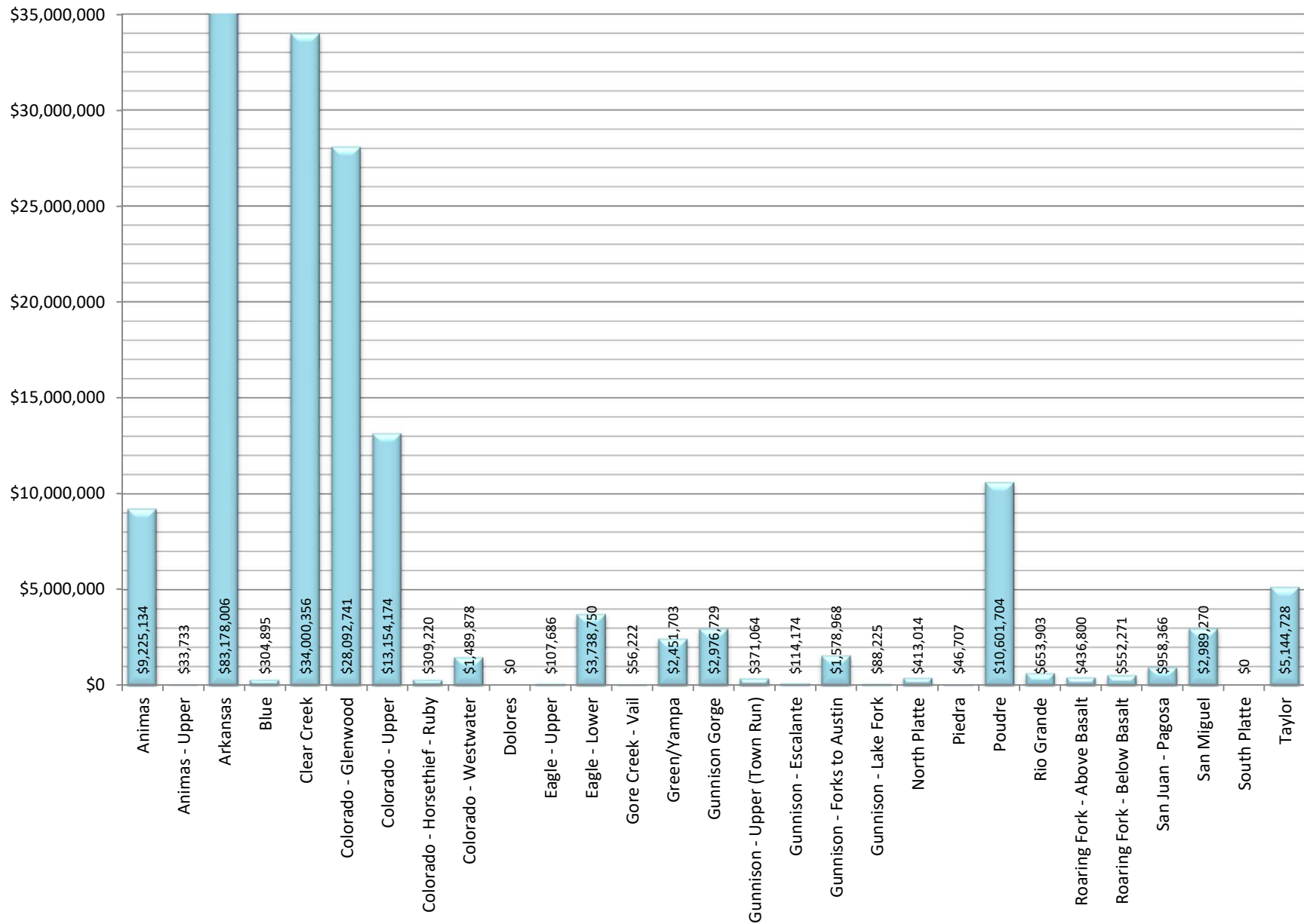
See glossary for above economic impact formulas and sources

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ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COMMERCIAL RIVER RAFTING IN COLORADO - 2025



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