

**Testimony to Members of House Committee on
Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power
The Honorable Tom McClintock, Chairman**

From: David Costlow, Colorado River Outfitters Association

Title of Hearing: *Oversight Hearing on "Federal Impediments to Water Rights, Job Creation and Recreation: A Local Perspective"*

Date: 4/25/13

I am David Costlow, the Executive Director of the Colorado River Outfitters Association (CROA), an organization representing approximately 45 commercial rafting and float fishing outfitters in the State of Colorado. To give you a little background, river outfitters in Colorado took rafters and anglers on trips that accounted for 496,000 user days in 2011. Rafting days primarily occur during the months from mid-May to August. The rafting season in Colorado is short so it is imperative for outfitters to be planned, trained and ready for business come May. If we consider that in 2011 each boat had a guide and that there was an average of 6 customers per raft, 2011 produced a total of 83,000 guide days, which is a considerable number of work days.

Based on data compiled annually by Joe Greiner and Jody Werner (2013), the economic impact of commercial river rafting in Colorado is approximately \$151 million. In comparison, in 1988, the data indicate the impact to be \$36 million so there has been tremendous growth in the industry over 23 years. River rafting in Colorado is big business.

Over the last few years, the industry has been affected by declines in consumer spending, changes in market segments, changes in tourism travel, forest fires, and drought conditions. This past 2012 season, Colorado experienced a severe drought. Whereas previously mentioned, 2011 had 496,000 user days, 2012 saw a 17% reduction to 411,000 user days. This was a significant hit for most outfitters and affected job opportunities for guides, reservationists, bus drivers, etc. I have included Table 1 showing the number of user days by river. Please look at the cell for the 2012 column and the Poudre River row. You will see a dramatic decrease in user days compared to 2011. The full name of this river is the Cache la Poudre and it is the only federally designated Wild and Scenic River in Colorado. This is the river corridor that suffered from the highly publicized High Park fire last June. The river was closed for 3 weeks. It reopened right at the peak of the July 4th tourist season, but because no one knew when it would reopen outfitters were continuously turning away customers. Once the river opened they had few reservations on the books and had to quickly ramp up efforts to regain their market. Then, just a few weeks later, they experienced the effects of drought as the reservoirs ran low and river levels dropped. They again began turning away customers.

The Arkansas River, one of the most rafted rivers in the world, had an almost 19% decrease in business due to decreased water flows. Water in rivers is important to the recreation industry.

In Colorado, most all raftable rivers are located near the smaller mountain towns not the metropolitan areas. Businesses in these rural towns benefit greatly from the boating industry by

way of expenditures and the towns themselves gain through the receipts of sales tax dollars. When flows are down so are revenues.

Returning to Table 1 you will notice a few interesting things. For the row labeled Colorado-Glenwood you will see that user days rose from approximately 44,000 in 2011 to 64,000 in 2012. For the row Colorado-Upper a similar pattern appears. This is a result of outfitters shifting business to rivers with predictable water flows due to reservoir releases. If you look at the row labeled Clear Creek you will see a drop in user days from over 60,000 in 2011 to just over 35,000 in 2012. Clear Creek has no appreciable water releases to aid the rafting season.

To help maintain predictable water flows, CROA has engaged in negotiations on a number of fronts. About 7 years ago, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was considering stretches of the Upper Colorado River for designation under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. A local stakeholders group was formed to consider alternative approaches. The local group includes the entities shown in Table 2. You will see that this list encompasses a number of trans-mountain water diverters, county governments, Vail Resorts, Trout Unlimited, American Whitewater (representing private boating interests), and CROA, among others. This group has attempted to resolve a number of competing issues for use of the river's resources. The overall goal is to protect the Outstanding Remarkable Values (ORVs) that have been identified in the Eligibility Reports for the BLM. I think you will find this approach will quickly become the preferred alternative for local communities struggling to manage limited water resources. If the Stakeholder Plan is adopted by the BLM as the preferred alternative in its upcoming Management Plan revisions, a Governance Committee consisting of 6 interest groups will manage for the ORVs. A more detailed Briefing Paper for the Upper Colorado River Stakeholder Group Management Plan (Alternative Wild & Scenic Stakeholders Group, 2012) is attached.

Another cooperative agreement exists on the Arkansas River. On this river there is a voluntary program in place to coordinate water releases aimed at moving water to benefit recreational boating and the fishery. The voluntary flow program simply tries to maintain some predictable consistency in the flow to avoid the wild fluctuations that might otherwise occur. The Arkansas River Outfitters Association (AROA), Trout Unlimited, Southeastern Water Conservancy District, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Aurora Water, Colorado Springs Water and the Bureau of Reclamation, among others are participants in these voluntary flow efforts.

This concludes my testimony before this committee. I invite any questions you might have.

Wild & Scenic Alternative Management Stakeholders Group. (2012). *Upper Colorado River Wild & Scenic Rivers Act Process, Briefing Paper for the Upper Colorado River Stakeholder Group Management Plan*. Lafayette, CO: Rob Buirgy.

Greiner, J. & Werner, J. (2013). *Commercial River Use in the State of Colorado 1988-2012*. Buena Vista, CO: Colorado River Outfitters Association.

COMMERCIAL USER DAYS IN THE STATE OF COLORADO 1990 - 2012

River	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Animas	12,000	34,500	35,470	52,700	42,500	44,322	42,250	41,921	41,000	45,000	38,000
Animas - Upper	300	690	658	872	167	598	533	500	411	411	603
Arkansas	139,178	214,555	203,840	228,091	237,160	239,887	214,234	205,876	211,150	208,329	169,486
Blue	0	264	788	1,212	760	2,038	2,906	3,089	1,181	6,580	0
Clear Creek	7,498	24,495	20,115	32,357	36,889	49,190	52,340	50,167	51,301	60,644	35,422
Colorado - Glenwood	42,581	56,876	58,751	57,712	62,652	65,502	52,738	52,737	61,890	44,007	64,086
Colorado - Upper	37,801	32,188	33,224	29,449	36,280	37,068	34,769	33,077	41,626	32,842	39,645
Colorado - Horsethief - Loma	2,324	3,222	3,383	3,318	2,810	2,761	3,283	3,090	2,718	2,907	2,792
Colorado - Westwater	6,626	7,352	7,548	7,043	7,233	7,632	7,624	6,833	7,621	6,069	5,623
Dolores	0	214	174	936	81	195	868	536	194	515	35
Eagle - Upper (Dowd Chutes)	0	1,239	858	3,630	4,621	4,390	4,390	1,374	1,640	1,286	4
Eagle (Below Edwards)	446	1,153	820	1,419	1,441	1,369	1,369	1,369	1,710	4,362	227
Green/Yampa	5,617	7,134	6,826	6,627	6,500	5,813	6,235	4,309	4,803	4,218	7,983
Gunnison Gorge	3,292	2,328	3,010	3,016	3,800	2,826	4,342	3,956	1,390	2,148	1,579
Gunnison - Upper	1,334	1,590	1,982	2,112	2,212	2,500	2,669	2,669	2,669	2,669	1,150
Gunnison - Escalante	1,044	2,113	2,988	3,363	2,265	3,272	2,106	2,549	1,784	2,749	2,950
Gunnison - Forks to Austin (new in 2012)											1,100
Gunnison - Lake Fork	0	160	177	195	165	126	369	203	149	284	1,123
North Platte	0	312	191	566	511	372	851	712	482	850	143
Piedra	0	210	454	725	400	500	547	547	190	190	54
Poudre	26,004	34,164	31,042	36,088	34,533	37,824	37,566	36,991	37,392	37,869	22,780
Rio Grande	92	1,300	2,800	3,060	2,900	3,100	3,200	2,464	2,016	2,016	2,486
Roaring Fork - Above Basalt	0	2,000	1,500	2,215	2,609	2,834	6,187	4,248	2,404	6,672	112
Roaring Fork - Below Basalt	0	500	500	10	79	100	2,500	1,263	1,366	912	736
San Juan - Pagosa	138	1,586	2,550	2,500	1,900	1,900	2,280	4,107	4,986	6,171	778
San Miguel	120	1,959	2,212	4,493	2,800	2,943	5,969	3,782	1,762	1,900	1,828
South Platte	453	935	836	901	655	690	1,150	750	383	430	484
Taylor	11,176	14,734	14,750	14,972	15,127	15,112	14,332	14,332	14,332	14,130	9,891
Total User Days	298,024	447,773	437,447	499,582	509,050	534,864	507,607	483,451	498,550	496,160	411,100
% Change From Previous Year	-40.7%	50.2%	-2.3%	14.2%	1.9%	5.1%	-5.1%	-4.8%	3.1%	-0.5%	-17.1%
User Day Change From Previous Year	-204,366	149,749	-10,326	62,135	9,468	25,814	-27,257	-24,156	15,099	-2,390	-85,060

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

Compiled By: Joe Greiner & Jody Werner
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Table 1

COLORADO
RIVER
OUTFITTERS
ASSOCIATION

COMMERCIAL RIVER USE
in the STATE of COLORADO 1988-2012

2012
YEAR END REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COMMERCIAL RIVER USE IN COLORADO

2012 Year End Report

Colorado's whitewater rafting industry took a solid hit in 2012 with overall user days down 17.1 percent over 2011. This is the second highest drop in total user days since tracking began in 1990; the largest drop was seen in 2002 following similar drought and fire conditions throughout the state. With the exception of 2002, in which user days were down by more than 40 percent, 2012 represents the lowest total user days since 1994.

The pro-active education of consumers regarding the quality of lower water conditions helped improve river use over drought stricken 2002 levels. Many families were able to experience rafting for the first time and consumer reviews were extremely positive regarding the quality of the experience. In 2002, many news outlets erroneously reported that rivers were closed to rafting. In 2012, reports in the media more accurately reported that rivers were still open for business and that the quantity of water simply changes the experience without diminishing it.

Rivers such as the Colorado and Green, which have historically had more predictable flows, and which are less affected by fires, came through the 2012 season unscathed, attracting boaters that were displaced from other rivers. Rivers that do not benefit from large reservoir storage upstream such as the Animas, Clear Creek, and Taylor suffered. The Poudre River was closed for a period of time due to fire; and although the Arkansas River has guaranteed flow targets that are augmented by large upstream reservoirs, river use was affected by the Colorado Springs fire.

The 2012 decrease may also be due to the country's sluggish economic conditions.

The outlook for 2013 brightens with consumer spending increases, the stock market at near record levels, and dropping unemployment numbers. Climate change and the potential for drought in 2013 weigh on the possibility of a full recovery.

The Colorado River Outfitters Association (CROA) compiled this study. Copies are available by contacting Joe Greiner at rapids@inaraft.com. It can also be downloaded from the web at:

<http://www.croa.org/site/media.html>

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 1990 - 2012

River	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Animas	10,000	18,000	22,000	26,000	28,600	30,200	23,000	37,000	36,000	45,000	29,000	42,000
Animas - Upper	690	730	810	887	369	368	0	400	920	989	700	721
Arkansas	157,380	157,862	181,716	185,123	201,040	199,109	228,153	235,931	250,098	243,709	250,861	252,213
Blue	1,928	2,288	2,173	4,129	416	9,338	5,854	5,361	1,300	2,100	2,347	14
Clear Creek	650	800	900	3,700	4,400	5,900	7,543	11,889	12,908	16,887	13,616	20,798
Colorado - Glenwood	26,938	32,435	39,149	31,256	46,579	26,150	32,764	43,146	59,822	60,191	57,265	55,829
Colorado - Upper	26,593	33,032	30,877	33,571	34,405	31,020	36,757	36,758	40,309	40,000	42,933	34,381
Colorado - Horsethief - Loma	3,560	3,870	5,013	4,954	4,614	5,387	3,654	4,875	4,171	4,410	4,508	4,188
Colorado - Westwater	6,351	6,841	7,473	8,780	9,456	8,108	7,977	6,614	7,452	7,208	6,859	6,858
Dolores	10	968	1,258	1,707	1,493	3,257	0	2,333	2,406	439	921	0
Eagle - Upper	5,466	7,055	5,935	10,285	6,482	18,735	11,906	11,738	6,361	7,290	3,830	3,702
Eagle - Lower	1,642	2,182	949	952	700	2,862	2,038	2,825	2,226	2,500	2,167	594
Green/Yampa	16,836	17,700	3,359	7,144	6,893	7,757	7,704	7,545	7,938	7,360	8,539	7,825
Gunnison Gorge	2,760	3,618	2,921	3,304	3,996	1,804	3,377	3,289	3,155	3,169	3,928	3,401
Gunnison - Upper	835	2,201	1,808	1,946	1,485	1,123	1,365	1,774	1,420	1,720	1,400	2,690
Gunnison - Escalante	115	241	286	213	179	275	2,083	2,340	899	1,011	1,884	1,887
Gunnison - Forks to Austin (new in 2012)												
Gunnison - Lake Fork	178	426	292	276	446	1,476	1,081	1,850	1,315	1,848	1,310	1,543
North Platte	481	620	97	864	157	1,277	1,351	1,232	804	882	165	137
Piedra	71	55	35	37	67	76	17	31	294	305	50	650
Poudre	11,779	14,345	19,355	21,415	24,949	30,845	33,235	31,981	32,721	32,446	29,012	34,192
Rio Grande	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,000	2,900	2,800	3,000	2,800	3,100	1,950	3,300
Roaring Fork - Above Basalt	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	2,000	4,000	4,500	5,074	4,500	5,000	4,500	2,500
Roaring Fork - Below Basalt	1,500	1,500	1,500	2,000	2,500	5,000	1,100	1,200	1,500	2,000	1,500	1,000
San Juan - Pagosa	600	800	800	800	1,400	1,600	1,200	2,680	3,460	3,400	2,200	2,000
San Miguel	125	365	1,518	2,181	1,642	3,321	1,157	2,000	2,500	3,442	1,379	3,625
South Platte		5,000	5,000	700	101	816	1,112	3,137	3,650	1,306	2,035	2,055
Taylor	5,683	9,008	8,400	11,910	12,877	12,859	15,655	13,612	15,367	15,367	13,989	14,287
Total User Days	286,471	326,242	347,924	368,434	399,246	415,563	437,383	479,615	506,296	513,079	488,848	502,390
% Change From Previous Year	23.1%	13.9%	6.6%	5.9%	8.4%	4.1%	5.3%	9.7%	5.6%	1.3%	-4.7%	2.8%
User Day Change From Previous Year	53,812	39,771	21,682	20,510	30,812	16,317	21,820	42,232	26,681	6,783	-24,231	13,542

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

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COMMERCIAL USER DAYS IN THE STATE OF COLORADO 1990 - 2012

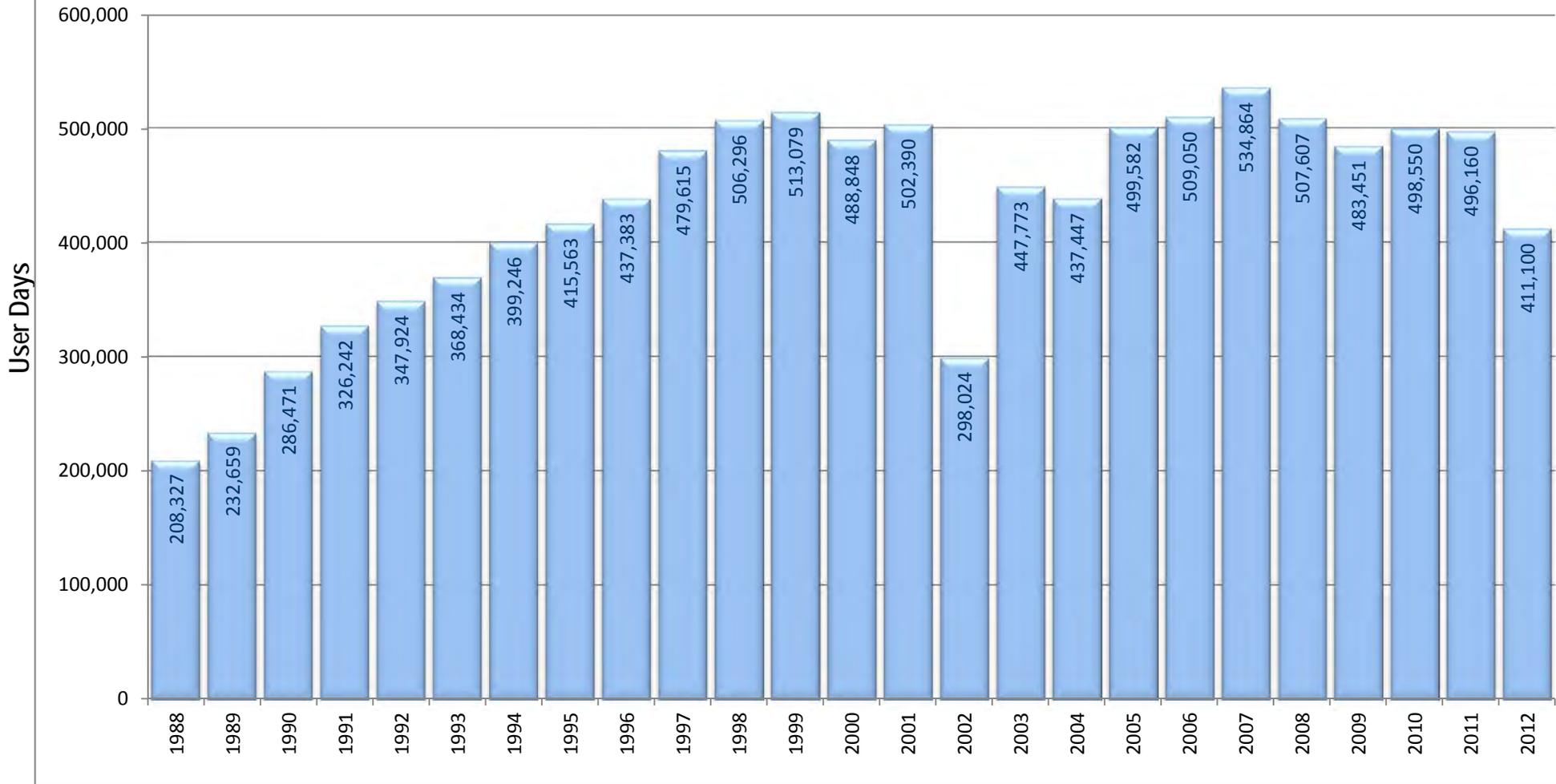
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Arkansas	139,178	214,555	203,840	228,091	237,160	239,887	214,234	205,876	211,150	208,329	169,486
Blue	0	264	788	1,212	760	2,038	2,906	3,089	1,181	6,580	0
Clear Creek	7,498	24,495	20,115	32,357	36,889	49,190	52,340	50,167	51,301	60,644	35,422
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Gunnison - Upper	1,334	1,590	1,982	2,112	2,212	2,500	2,669	2,669	2,669	2,669	1,150
Gunnison - Escalante	1,044	2,113	2,988	3,363	2,265	3,272	2,106	2,549	1,784	2,749	2,950
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Roaring Fork - Above Basalt	0	2,000	1,500	2,215	2,609	2,834	6,187	4,248	2,404	6,672	112
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South Platte	453	935	836	901	655	690	1,150	750	383	430	484
Taylor	11,176	14,734	14,750	14,972	15,127	15,112	14,332	14,332	14,332	14,130	9,891
Total User Days	298,024	447,773	437,447	499,582	509,050	534,864	507,607	483,451	498,550	496,160	411,100
% Change From Previous Year	-40.7%	50.2%	-2.3%	14.2%	1.9%	5.1%	-5.1%	-4.8%	3.1%	-0.5%	-17.1%
User Day Change From Previous Year	-204,366	149,749	-10,326	62,135	9,468	25,814	-27,257	-24,156	15,099	-2,390	-85,060

Sources: National Park Service
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COMMERCIAL USER DAYS IN COLORADO 1988-2012



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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		\$63.80	\$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	499,582	3.4%	\$104.44	\$52,175,078	\$133,568,199	18.1%
2006	509,050	2.0%	\$106.53	\$54,227,169	\$138,821,554	3.9%
2007	534,864	4.1%	\$110.89	\$59,313,096	\$151,841,525	9.4%
2008	507,607	0.1%	\$111.00	\$56,346,754	\$144,247,690	-5.0%
2009	483,451	2.7%	\$114.00	\$55,114,289	\$141,092,579	-2.2%
2010	498,550	1.5%	\$115.71	\$57,688,136	\$147,681,628	4.7%
2011	496,160	3.0%	\$119.18	\$59,133,932	\$151,382,867	2.5%
2012	411,100	1.7%	\$121.21	\$49,829,146	\$127,562,613	-15.7%

% Change from 1988 - 1993 = 50.2%
 % Change from 1994 - 1999 = 30.8%
 % Change from 2000 - 2006 = 16.9%
 % Change from 2007 - 2012 = -19.0%

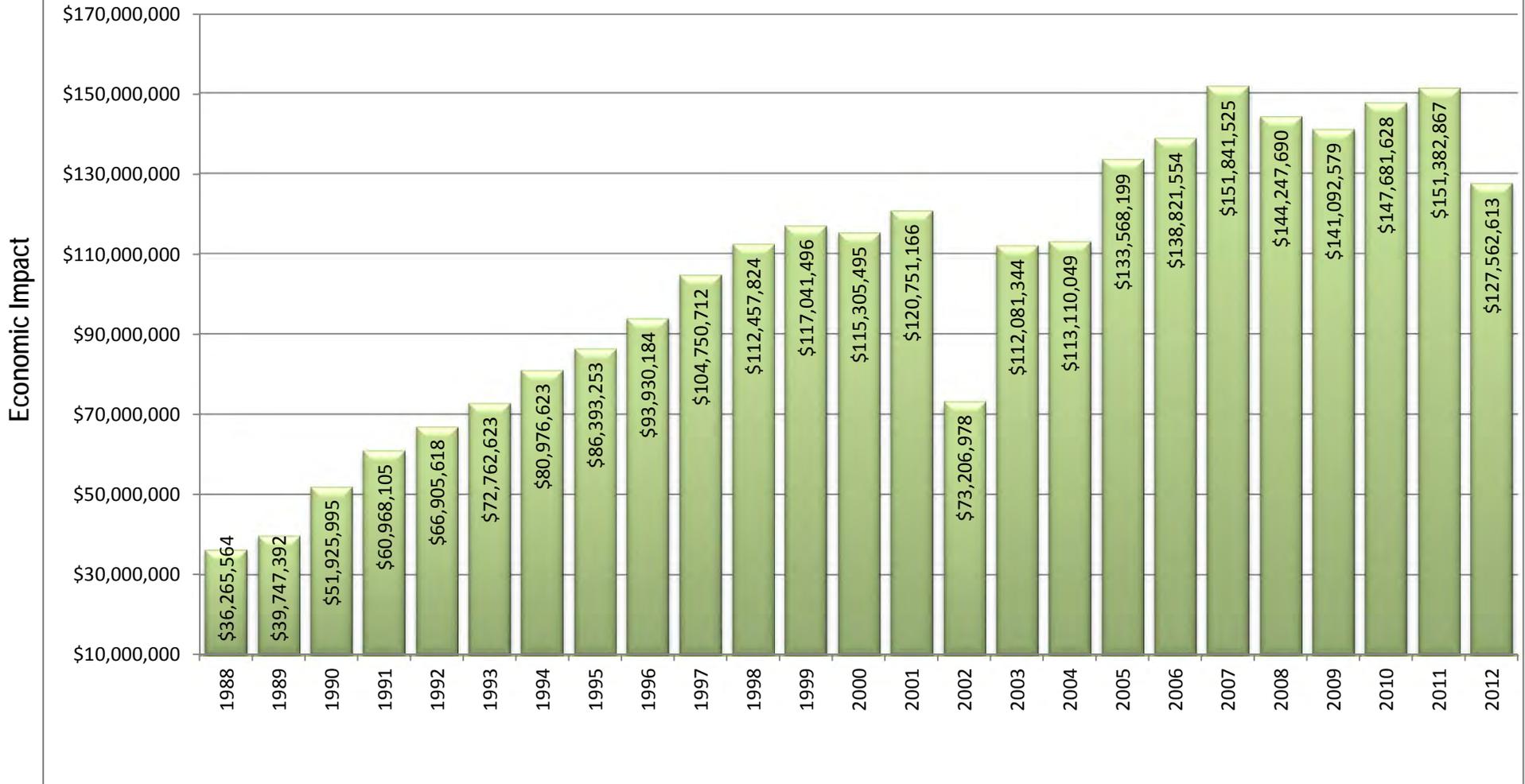
See glossary for above economic impact formulas and sources

Sources: National Park Service
 US Forest Service
 Bureau of Land Management
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ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COMMERCIAL RIVER RAFTING IN COLORADO 1988-2012



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

Compiled By: Joe Greiner & Jody Werner
 For Colorado River Outfitters Assoc.
 Wilderness Aware Rafting
 PO Box 1550
 Buena Vista, CO 81211
 719-395-2112 / www.inaraft.com

Revised: 1/29/2013

2012 ECONOMIC IMPACT BY RIVER

RIVER	USER DAYS	DIRECT EXPENDITURES	ECONOMIC IMPACT
Animas	38,000	\$4,605,954	\$11,791,241
Animas - Upper	603	\$73,089	\$187,108
Arkansas	169,486	\$20,543,280	\$52,590,798
Blue	0	\$0	\$0
Clear Creek	35,422	\$4,293,476	\$10,991,299
Colorado - Glenwood	64086	\$7,767,820	\$19,885,618
Colorado - Upper	39,645	\$4,805,343	\$12,301,678
Colorado - Horsethief - Lower	2792	\$338,416	\$866,346
Colorado - Westwater	5,623	\$681,560	\$1,744,793
Dolores	35	\$4,242	\$10,860
Eagle - Upper	4	\$485	\$1,241
Eagle - Lower	227	\$27,515	\$70,437
Green/Yampa	7,983	\$967,614	\$2,477,092
Gunnison Gorge	1579	\$191,389	\$489,957
Gunnison - Upper	1,150	\$139,391	\$356,840
Gunnison - Escalante	2950	\$357,567	\$915,373
Gunnison - Forks to Austin	1,100	\$133,330	\$341,325
Gunnison - Lake Fork	1123	\$136,118	\$348,462
North Platte	143	\$17,333	\$44,372
Piedra	54	\$6,545	\$16,756
Poudre	22,780	\$2,761,148	\$7,068,539
Rio Grande	2486	\$301,326	\$771,395
Roaring Fork - Above Basalt	112	\$13,575	\$34,753
Roaring Fork - Below Basalt	736	\$89,210	\$228,378
San Juan - Pagosa	778	\$94,301	\$241,410
San Miguel	1828	\$221,571	\$567,221
South Platte	484	\$58,665	\$150,183
Taylor	9891	\$1,198,881	\$3,069,136
Totals	411,100	\$49,829,146	\$127,562,613

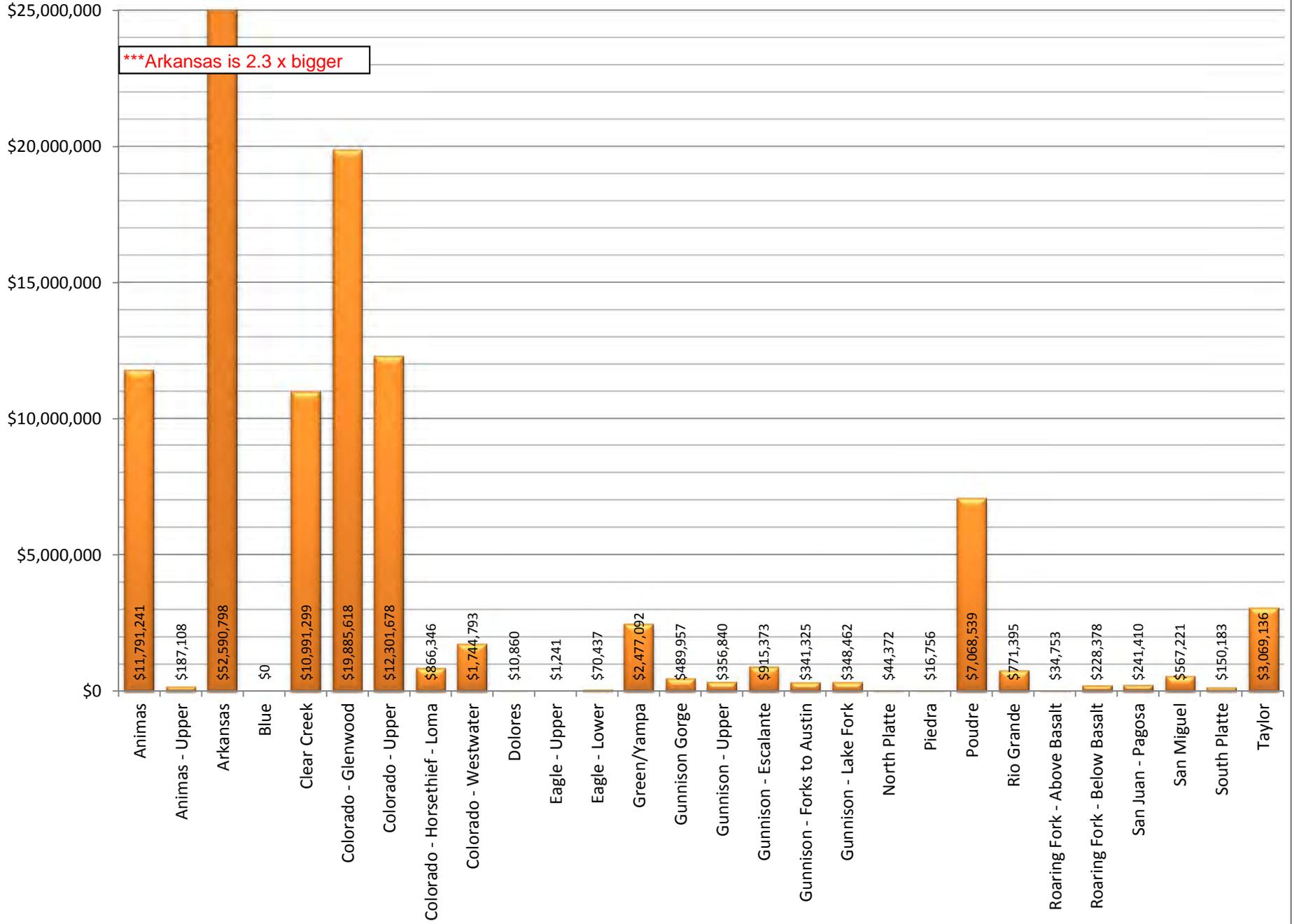
See glossary for above economic impact formulas and sources

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ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COMMERCIAL RIVER RAFTING IN COLORADO - 2012



INDIVIDUAL RIVER COMMERCIAL RAFTING STATISTICS - 3 YR RANGE

RIVER	2010 USER DAYS	2011 USER DAYS	2012 USER DAYS	% CHANGE '10 - '11	% CHANGE '11 - 12	2010 % MARKET SHARE	2011 % MARKET SHARE	2012 % MARKET SHARE
Animas	41,000	45,000	38,000	9.8%	-15.6%	8.2%	9.1%	9.2%
Animas - Upper	411	411	603	0.0%	46.7%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Arkansas	211,150	208,329	169,486	-1.3%	-18.6%	42.4%	42.0%	41.2%
Blue	1,181	6,580	0	457.2%	-100.0%	0.2%	1.3%	0.0%
Clear Creek	51,301	60,644	35,422	18.2%	-41.6%	10.3%	12.2%	8.6%
Colorado - Glenwood	61,890	44,007	64,086	-28.9%	45.6%	12.4%	8.9%	15.6%
Colorado - Upper	41,626	32,842	39,645	-21.1%	20.7%	8.3%	6.6%	9.6%
Colorado - Horsethief - Loma	2,718	2,907	2,792	7.0%	-4.0%	0.5%	0.6%	0.7%
Colorado - Westwater	7,621	6,069	5,623	-20.4%	-7.3%	1.5%	1.2%	1.4%
Dolores	194	515	35	165.5%	-93.2%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
Eagle - Upper	1,640	1,286	4	-21.6%	-99.7%	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%
Eagle - Lower	1,710	4,362	227	155.1%	-94.8%	0.3%	0.9%	0.1%
Green/Yampa	4,803	4,218	7,983	-12.2%	89.3%	1.0%	0.9%	1.9%
Gunnison Gorge	1,390	2,148	1,579	54.5%	-26.5%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%
Gunnison - Upper	2,669	2,669	1,150	0.0%	-56.9%	0.5%	0.5%	0.3%
Gunnison - Escalante	1,784	2,749	2,950	54.1%	7.3%	0.4%	0.6%	0.7%
Gunnison - Forks to Austin (n	0	0	1,100			0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Gunnison - Lake Fork	149	284	1,123	90.6%	295.4%	0.0%	0.1%	0.3%
North Platte	482	850	143	76.3%	-83.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%
Piedra	190	190	54	0.0%	-71.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Poudre	37,392	37,869	22,780	1.3%	-39.8%	7.5%	7.6%	5.5%
Rio Grande	2,016	2,016	2,486	0.0%	23.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.6%
Roaring Fork - Above Basalt	2,404	6,672	112	177.5%	-98.3%	0.5%	1.3%	0.0%
Roaring Fork - Below Basalt	1,366	912	736	-33.2%	-19.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%
San Juan - Pagosa	4,986	6,171	778	23.8%	-87.4%	1.0%	1.2%	0.2%
San Miguel	1,762	1,900	1,828	7.8%	-3.8%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
South Platte	383	430	484	12.3%	12.6%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Taylor	14,332	14,130	9,891	-1.4%	-30.0%	2.9%	2.8%	2.4%
Totals	498,550	496,160	411,100	-0.5%	-17.1%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Sources: National Park Service
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GLOSSARY

User Day: A user day is defined as a paying guest on a river for any part of a day.

Direct Expenditures: The total cash outlay for rafting, food, lodging, souvenirs, etc. spent in the local area by one river rafting customer in one day. Taken from a survey conducted in 1991 and published in 1993 titled "The Use and User Characteristics, Management Preferences, and Satisfaction of Boaters and Anglers on the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (Colorado)"

Report to the Bureau of Land Management
Canon City District Office
PO Box 2200
Canon City, CO 81215

by:

Joseph W Roggenbuck
William T Borrie
Daniel R Williams
Department of Forestry
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061-0324

Economic Multiplier: The number of times a dollar is spent (2.56 times) in the local area before being spent outside that area. Colorado Tourism Board.

Inflation Rate (CPI): Consumer Price Index for all items, all urban consumers. Customary source for measuring the inflation rate nationwide.

<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/cpi.nr0.htm>

Economic Impact: Direct Expenditures x User Days x Economic Multiplier

CROA Membership - 2013

COMPANY NAME	CONTACT	ADDRESS	CITY, STATE	ZIP CODE	PHONE	CROA EMAIL	WEBSITE
A Wanderlust Adventure	Bob Klein	3500 Bingham Hill Rd.	Fort Collins, CO	80521	800-745-7238	info@awanderlustadventure.com	www.awanderlustadventure.com
Adventure Bound River Expeditions	Tom Kleinschnitz	2392 H Road	Grand Junction, CO	81505	800.423.4668	tomk@adventureboundUSA.com	www.adventureboundUSA.com
American Adventure Expeditions	Michael Kissack	12844 E. Hwys 24/285	Buena Vista, CO	81211	719.395.2409	Mike@AmericanAdventure.com	www.americanadventure.com
Arkansas River Tours	Bob Hamel	PO Box 337	Cotopaxi, CO	81223	719.942.4362	bob@arkansasrivertours.com	www.arkansasrivertours.com
Arkansas Valley Adventures	Duke Bradford	PO Box 4310	Buena Vista, CO	81211	970.406.0321	duke@coloradorafting.net	www.coloradorafting.net
Aspen Whitewater Rafting	Jim Ingram	PO Box 11763	Aspen, CO	81612	866.377.4837	jim@aspenwhitewater.com	www.aspenwhitewater.com
Black Canyon Anglers	Ben Olson	PO Box 180	Austin, CO	81410	970-835-5050	info@blackcanyonanglers.com	www.blackcanyonanglers.com
Blazing Adventures	Dan McMahon	PO Box 5552	Snowmass Village, CO	81615	800-282-7238	danm@blazingadventures.com	www.blazingadventures.com
Blue Sky Adventures	Patrick Drake	P.O. Box 3195	Glenwood Springs, CO	81601	877-945-6605	blueskyraft@gmail.com	www.blueskyadventure.com
Browns Canyon Rafting	Byron Brown	PO Box 1273	Silverthorne, CO	80498	719-275-2890	admin@raftbrownscanyon.com	www.raftbrownscanyon.com
Centennial Canoe Outfitters	Marty Genereux	PO Box 3365	Centennial, CO	80161	877-353-1850	marty@centennialcanoe.com	www.centennialcanoe.com
Clear Creek Rafting Company	John Rice	P.O. Box 3178	Idaho Springs, CO	80452	303.567.1000	John@clearcreekrafting.com	www.clearcreekrafting.com
Colorado Discover Ability	Martin Wiesiolek	PO Box 1924	Grand Junction, CO	81502	970.257.1222	martin@coloradodiscoverability.org	www.coloradodiscoverability.org
Colorado Adventure Center	Johnny Cantamessa	1308 CR 129	Glenwood Springs, CO	81601	970.945.6737	johnny@raftingcolorado.com	www.raftingcolorado.com
Colorado Mountain College	Sameta Rush	821 Grand Avenue	Glenwood Springs, CO	81601	970.870.4527	srush@coloradomtn.edu	www.coloradomtn.edu
Colorado River Center	Otto Andl	PO Box 4258	Edwards, CO	81632	888-888-7238	info@coloradorivercenter.com	www.coloradorivercenter.com
Colorado River & Trail Expeditions	Vicki Mackay	P.O. Box 57575	Salt Lake City, UT	84107	801.261.1789	crate@crateinc.com	www.crateinc.com
Bill Dvorak's Kayak and Rafting Expeditions	Bill Dvorak	17921 Hwy 285	Nathrop, CO	81236	800-824-3795	bill@dvorakexpeditions.com	www.dvorakexpeditions.com
Echo Canyon	Andy Neinas	45000 US HWY 50 N	Canon City, CO	81212	800-748-2953	Andy@raftecho.com	www.raftecho.com
GEO Tours Whitewater Raft Trips	Bruce Becker	P.O. Box 483	Morrison, CO	80465	303.756.6070	bruce@georrafting.com	www.georrafting.com
Glenwood Canyon Rafting, Inc.	Gary Hansen	Box 1566	Glenwood Springs, CO	81601	970.384.0445	goraft@raftingglenwoodsprings.com	www.raftglenwoodsprings.com
Independent Whitewater	Mike Whittington	333 Maxwell	Salida, CO	81201	719.539.7737	twodogs@salida.net	www.independentrafting.com
KODI Rafting	Chris Campton	P.O. Box 4275	Frisco, CO	80443	970.668.1548	campy@whitewatercolorado.com	www.whitewatercolorado.com
Kokopeli Rafting Adventures	John Seiner	551 W. Cordova Rd #540	Santa Fe, NM	87505	800-879-9035	john@kokopelliraft.com	www.KRAColorado.com
Liquid Descent	Alan Blado	PO Box 1957	Idaho Springs, CO	80452	970-393-0158	alan@liquiddescent.com	www.liquiddescent.com
AAM's Mild to Wild Rafting	Alex Mickel	50 Animas View Drive	Durango, CO	81301	970.247.4789	alex@mild2wildrafting.com	www.mild2wildrafting.com
Mile Hi Rafting	Suzen Raymond	P.O. Box 1744	Lawson, Co	80439	303.567.0717	info@milehirafting.com	www.milehirafting.com
Mountain Waters Rafting & Adventure Co	James Wilkes	P.O. Box 2681	Durango, CO	81302	970.903.9428	booth@durangorafting.com	www.durangorafting.com
Noah's Ark Whitewater Rafting Co.	Micah Salazar	P.O. Box 850	Buena Vista, CO	81211	719.395.2158	micah@noahsark.com	www.noahsark.com
OARS and Don Hatch River Expeditions	Bruce Lavoie	P.O. Box 67	Angels Camp, CA	95222	800-346-6277	jjmw@oars.com	www.oars.com
Pagosa Outside Adventures	Toby Rohwer	PO Box 2106	Pagosa Springs, CO	81147	970 264-4202	info@pagosaoutside.com	www.pagosaoutside.com
Performance Tours Rafting	Kevin Foley	P.O. Box 7305	Breckenridge, CO	80424	970.453.0661	ptbreck@aol.com	www.performancetours.com
Raft Masters	Dennis Weid	2315 E. Main Street	Canon City, CO	81212	719.275.6645	dennis@raftmasters.com	www.raftmasters.com
RIGS Fly Shop and GUIDE SERVICE	Tim Patterson	PO Box 2086	Rigeway, CO	81432	970.626.4460	info@fishrigs.com	www.fishrigs.com
Rimrock Adventures	Travis Baier	P.O. Box 608	Fruita, CO	81521	970.858.9555	info@rradventures.com	www.rradventures.com
River Runners	Jon Donaldson	24070 C.R. 301	Buena Vista, CO	81211	719.395.2466	jon@whitewater.net	www.whitewater.net
Rocky Mountain Outdoor Center	Brandon Slate	14825 Hwy 285	Salida, CO	81201	719-539-4680	brandon@rmoc.com	www.rmoc.com
Rocky Mountain Adventures	Ryan Barwick	P.O. Box 1989	Fort Collins, CO	80522	970.493.4005	rbarwick@shoprma.com	www.shoprma.com
Royal Gorge Rafting & Zipline Tours	James Whiteside	45045 US HWY 50	Canon City, CO	81212	719.275.7238	raft@royalgorgerafting.net	www.royalgorgerafting.net
Sage Outdoor Adventures	Darryl Bangert	PO Box 460	Wolcott, CO	81655	970-476-3700	darrylbangert@msn.com	www.sageoutdooradventures.com
Scenic River Tours	Ches Russell	703 W. Tomichi Avenue	Gunnison, CO	81230	970.641.3131	info@scenicrivertours.com	www.scenicrivertours.com
Three Rivers Resort and Outfitting	Mark Schumacher	P.O. Box 339	Almont, CO	81210	970.641.1303	mark@3riversresort.com	www.3riversresort.com
Journey Quest	Mark Anderson	27077 HWY 50, Ste. #4	Texas Creek, CO	81223	719.276.2227	mark.a@journeyquest.org	www.vhrafting.com
Wilderness Aware	Joe Greiner	P.O. Box 1550	Buena Vista, CO	81211	719.395.2112	joe@inaraft.com	www.inaraft.com

2012 CROA Report Providers

Name	Address1	City	State	Zip	Contact Person	Phone	EmailAddress	River(s)
USFS- Bayfield	PO Box 439	Bayfield	CO	81122	Mike Herin		mjherin@fs.fed.us	
					Scott Justham	(970) 884-1404	sejustham@fs.fed.us	Upper Animas, Piedra
AHRA	307 W Sackett St	Salida	CO	81201	John Kreski	(719) 539-7289	john.kreski@state.co.us	Arkansas
USFS - Blue River	PO Box 620	Silverthorne	CO	80498	Jackie Brown	(970) 468-5400	jbrown05@fs.fed.us	Blue River
USFS- Glenwood Canyon	PO Box 720	Eagle	CO	81631	Robert Rodriguez	(970) 827-5154	rtrdriguez@fs.fed.us	Glenwood Canyon, Upper Eagle at Dowd Chutes
					Terri Parvin		tparvin@blm.gov	
BLM Kremmling	PO Box 68	Kremmling	CO	80459	Hannah Schechter	(970) 724-3027	Hannah_Schechter@blm.gov	Upper colorado
BLM Grand Junction	2815 H Road	Grand Junction	CO	81506	Mike Jones	(970) 244-3044	mdjones@blm.gov	Lower Gunnison (Escalante), Horsethief/Ruby, lower Dolores
BLM Moab	82 E. Dogwood Ste G	Moab	UT	84532	Jennifer Jones	(435) 259-2136	jjones@blm.gov	Colorado River - Westwater, Lower Dolores, Horsethief/Ruby
Dolores Public Lands Office	29211 Hwy 184	Dolores	CO	81323	Jeff Christenson	(970) 882-7296	jchristenson@blm.gov	Upper Dolores
					Greg Wolfgang		gregory_wolfgang@blm.gov	
Colorado River Valley Field Office	2300 River Frontage Rd	Silt	CO	81652	Kim Miller	(970) 876-9075	kmmiller@blm.gov	Lower Eagle, Lower Roaring Fork, Colorado State Bridge down
Dinosaur National Monument	4545 Hwy 40	Dinosaur	CO	81610	Kelley Kager	(970) 374-3020	kelly_kager@nps.gov	Green, Yampa
								Gunnison Gorge, San Miguel, Lower Gunnison (Escalante) , Gunnison - Forks to Austin
BLM Montrose	2505 S. Townsend	Montrose	CO	81401	Edd Franz	(970) 240-5309	edd_franz@blm.gov	
BLM Gunnison	216 N. Colorado	Gunnison	CO	81230	Jim Lovelace	(970) 642-4940	jlovelac@blm.gov	Gunnison - Lake Fork
USFS - N. Platte	South Hwy 130, PO Box 249	Saratoga	WY	82331	Diana Hood	(307) 326-2532	dhood@fs.fed.us	North Platte
USFS - Ft Collins	2150 Centre Ave Bldg E	Ft. Collins	CO	80526	Jon Halverson	(970) 295-6723	jhalverson@fs.fed.us	Poudre
Clear Creek Rafting	PO Box 3178	Idaho Springs	CO	80452	Dale	(303) 567-1000	dale@clearcreekrrafting.com	Clear Creek - collect data from each company
Pagosa Outside	PO Box 2106	Pagosa Springs	CO	81147	Tobi Rohwer	(970) 264-4202	info@pagosaoutside.com	San Juan / Pagosa - collect from each company
Scenic River Tours	703 W Tomichi Ave	Gunnison	CO	81230	Ches Russell	(970) 641-3131	info@scenicrivertours.com	Taylor, Gunnison - Upper (town run)
Divide Ranger District	PO Box 270	Creede	CO	81130	Aaron Drendel	(719) 658-2556	adrendel@fs.fed.us	Rio Grande
Pitkin County Open Space & Trails	530 E Main St 3rd Floor	Aspen	CO	81611	Fran Soroka	(970) 920-5232	fran.soroka@co.pitkin.co.us	Upper Roaring Fork,
cityWILD	1620 E 36th Ave	Denver	CO	80205	Seth Winnerman	(303) 227-6862	seth@citywild.org	South Platte
Mild to Wild	50 Animas View Dr	Durango	CO	81301	Alex Mickel	(970) 247-4789	info@mild2wildrafting.com	Animas

Upper Colorado River Wild & Scenic Rivers Act Process

Briefing Paper for the Upper Colorado River Stakeholder Group Management Plan

Process Background

The Bureau of Land Management (Kremmling and Colorado River Valley Field Offices) (BLM) and the Forest Service (White River National Forest) (USFS) are in the process of revising Resource Management Plans (RMPs) for a combined Planning Area that includes a large segment of the upper Colorado River within Colorado. As a part of the plan revision process, the federal agencies are required to inventory and evaluate waterways within the Planning Area pursuant to requirements under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to determine if those waterways meet the Act's free flowing standard and also possess Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) that would be subject to agency protection under the Act.

Because this reach of river is so critical in supporting Colorado's many other existing and future water uses, a Stakeholder Group¹ (SG) has formed to bring local government, water users, and other interested entities together to develop a plan that balances protection of the ORVs with Colorado's other competing needs through cooperative and voluntary efforts. The SG includes a broad range of East Slope and West Slope interests including water providers, landowners, local and state governmental agencies, and conservation sportsmen and recreation groups in consultation with the Colorado Water Conservation Board, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and the Bureau of Reclamation. The SG Plan developed by the group over the past five years has been included as one of the four management alternatives in the agencies' Draft RMPs and Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

This briefing paper describes the salient features of the locally-controlled and voluntary SG Plan which, if adopted by the BLM and USFS, will be integrated with federal agency management under the agencies' RMPs.

SG Plan Purpose

The SG Plan is being proposed to BLM and USFS as a Wild and Scenic management alternative to protect the ORVs identified in the Eligibility Reports for BLM Segments 4 – 7 (USFS Segments 1 – 2) of the Upper Colorado River². The purpose of the SG Plan is to “balance permanent protection of the ORVs, certainty for the stakeholders, water project yield, and flexibility for water users.” The SG Plan is under evaluation by the federal agencies as part of their resource management plan revision process. The SG Plan would become effective upon its approval by BLM and USFS without material change as the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act management alternative for these segments.

¹ See attached membership list

² See attached map

Key Elements of the Plan

Protection of the ORVs:

- The SG Plan aims to protect all ORVs identified in the Eligibility Reports for these segments, while focusing on the water-related Recreational Fishing and Recreational Boating ORVs.
- Long Term Protection Measures include appropriation of CWCB instream flows, continued delivery of water to downstream demands, continued delivery to downstream senior water rights, and ongoing deliveries to the endangered fish species under the Upper Colorado River Recovery Program. The SG Plan contains provisions for addressing a material change in circumstances that undermines the value of these long term protection measures. The instream flow filings were developed jointly by the SG members and filed in state water court by the CWCB in 2011.
- Cooperative Measures strategies will be used by the Stakeholders to maintain or enhance the ORVs. Examples of cooperative measures are identified in the Plan. Implementation will be considered annually and will be based on hydrologic conditions, forecasted needs for the ORVs and availability of voluntary cooperative actions that do not impair the ability of water providers to meet their water supply commitments using prudent operational constraints.

Monitoring and Protection Plan:

- The SG uses *ORV Indicators* and *Resource Guides* to monitor and protect the ORVs. The SG will monitor *ORV Indicators* and *Resource Guides* to assist with implementation of the SG Plan.
 - *ORV Indicators*, which describe conditions that characterize the ORVs, will be monitored to gauge whether the ORVs are being protected under the SG Plan. Failure to meet criteria related to the provisional or final *ORV Indicators* would trigger actions under the Plan intended to address issues within the SG's control.
 - *Resource Guides* include flow ranges for recreational boating, fish habitat and sediment mobilization, as well as water quality standards. The *Resource Guides* will be used as a source of information to inform SG discussions under the Plan. The *Resource Guides* are not intended to be used as a test for Plan success nor for use by permitting agencies or entities as criteria for evaluating a project's effects on the ORVs.
- The Monitoring Plan has an initial 3-to-5 year provisional period during which the SG will monitor, evaluate, and revise, if necessary, the Provisional ORV Indicators and Resource Guides.

Governance:

Under the SG Plan, implementation and decision-making will be conducted by a Governance Committee comprised of six Interest Groups, each with three representatives:

- West Slope Water Conservancy/Conservation Districts and Landowners/Water Users
- Local Government
- Trans-Mountain Diverters
- Conservation/Environmental/Fishing
- Recreational Floatboating
- State Interests (e.g., CWCB, CP&W, and State or Division Engineer)

(BLM and USFS will be advisors to the SG)

Elevation/Referral/Termination process:

Any stakeholder can elevate issues to the full SG to address unresolved concerns related to implementation of the Plan or the status of the ORVs. The SG Plan provides governing mechanisms to address a Significant Risk of Impairment to an ORV, a missed Milestone or Material Change in Circumstances. If cooperative attempts fail and concerns remain about the ORVs, the Plan can be terminated on a vote of five out of six Interest Groups.

Water Projects Poison Pill:

If the outcome of negotiations or final permitting related to Denver Water's Moffat Project and/or the Municipal Subdistrict's Windy Gap Firming Project precludes continued support of the Plan by any stakeholder, that stakeholder shall provide written notification of such position to the SG and the SG will withdraw the Plan from consideration by BLM and USFS as a locally supported Wild and Scenic management alternative. Such withdrawal will leave the BLM and USFS to determine the appropriate Wild and Scenic determinations and protective measures, if any, for Segments 4, 5, 6 and 7, without taking into account the SG Plan alternative.

Funding:

Administrative and operating costs associated with the SG Plan will be provided by annual funding from each Interest Group (comprised of at least three stakeholders) which is initially set at \$10,000.

In addition to the annual revenue from Interest Group dues, the SG Plan contemplates an endowment fund of at least \$1.5M to be used for protecting and enhancing the ORVs. The SG anticipates seeking funding from a variety of grant programs and federal, state and local sources.

Issues for Consideration in Evaluating the SG Plan:

Resource Guides and ORV Indicators are provisional. The intent is that monitoring data and information gathered in the 3-5 years after the plan becomes effective will provide information to develop the Final Resource Guides and ORV Indicators. The Plan contains a list of tasks the SG group will undertake prior to the effective date.

Water Project Permits. Continued participation in the SG Plan by the Municipal Subdistrict and Denver Water is contingent upon completion of all NEPA and related environmental permitting for the Municipal Subdistrict's Windy Gap Firing Project and Denver Water's Moffat Project, and upon the Subdistrict's and Denver Water's election to proceed with the permitted Projects, as well as the non-exercise of the Poison Pill.

Suitability Determination and Agency Coordination. The SG Plan is contingent upon the neutral deferral of a suitability determination under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by BLM/USFS. The SG Plan will terminate if either agency enters formal findings that Segments 4, 5, 6 or 7 of the Upper Colorado River are suitable or not suitable.

New Projects. Proposed new water projects may seek to opt-in to the SG Plan but are not required to do so. All new projects will go through normal regulatory approvals, regardless of whether or not they opt-in to the SG Plan.

Additional Information

Upper CO River Wild & Scenic Stakeholder Group

Website: www.upcowildandscenic.com; info@upcowildandscenic.com

Project Manager: Rob Buirgy; rbuirgy@gmail.com

U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Kremmling Field Office: <http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/kfo.html>

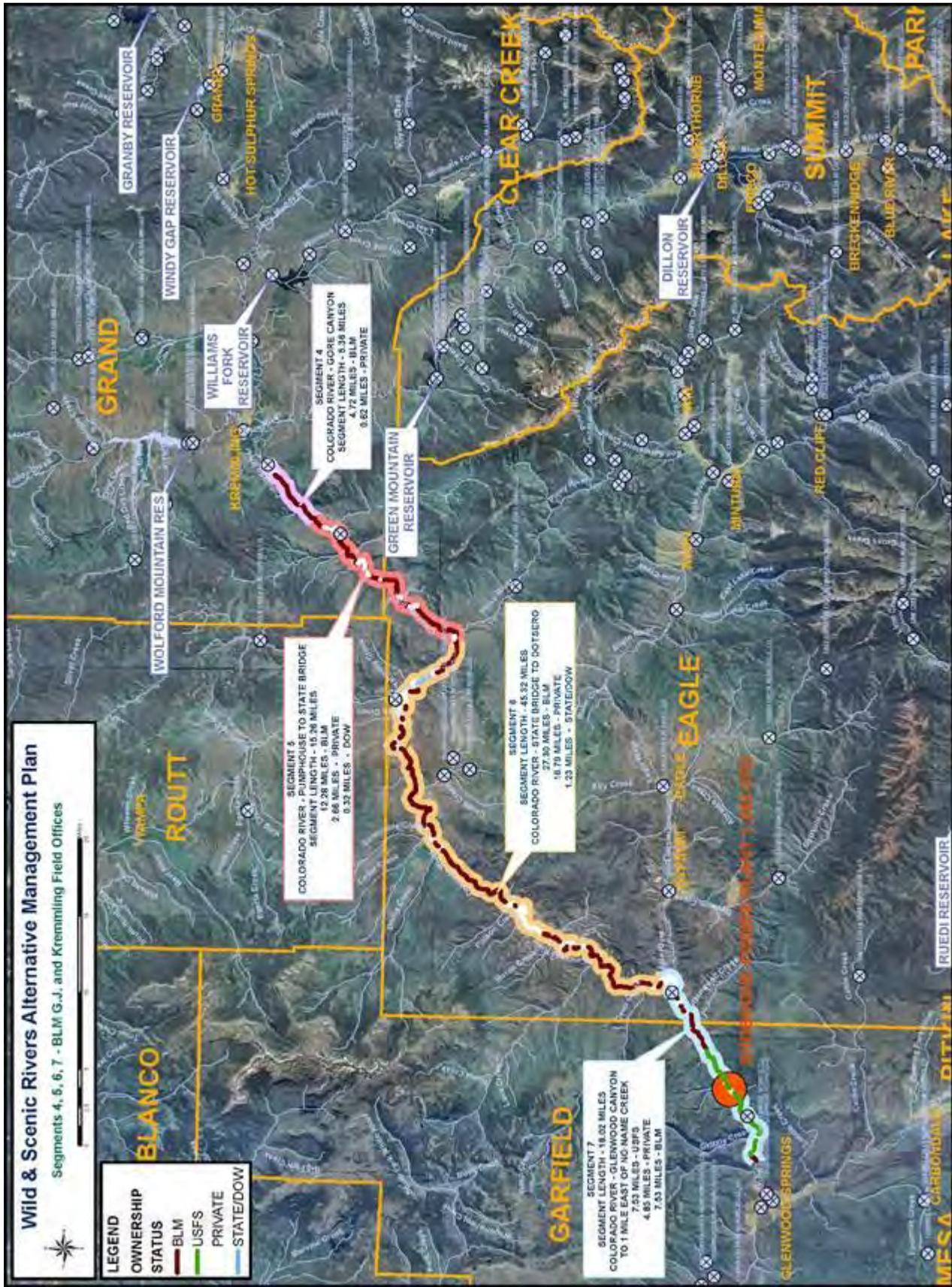
Colorado River Valley Field Office: <http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/crvfo.html>

U.S. Forest Service

White River National Forest: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/whiteriver/landmanagement>

The SG Plan is endorsed by the governing boards of the following stakeholder entities:

American Whitewater
Aurora Water
Blue Valley Ranch
Colorado River Outfitters Association
Colorado River Water Conservation District
Colorado Springs Utilities
Denver Water
Eagle County
Eagle Park Reservoir Company
Eagle River Water and Sanitation District
Grand County
Northern CO Water Conservancy District (NCWCD)
Northwest CO Council of Governments (NWCCOG)
NWCCOG/Quality Quantity Committee
Middle Park Water Conservancy District
Municipal Subdistrict, NCWCD
Summit County
Trout Unlimited
Upper Eagle Regional Water Authority
Vail Resorts, Inc
The Wilderness Society



Alternate Upper Colorado River Wild & Scenic Stakeholder Group Membership

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