

Recreation in the Colorado River Basin



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TU



Vail Daily



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KSNV



Photo created by Kestrel Kunz with Canva



Photo created by Scott Harding with ChatGPT4

Economic Impact

\$1.1 trillion national outdoor recreation

Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2023

\$26 billion Colorado River Basin recreation

Southwick Associates, 2012

\$19 billion Colorado water recreation

Business for Water Stewardship, 2019

\$13.5 billion Arizona water recreation

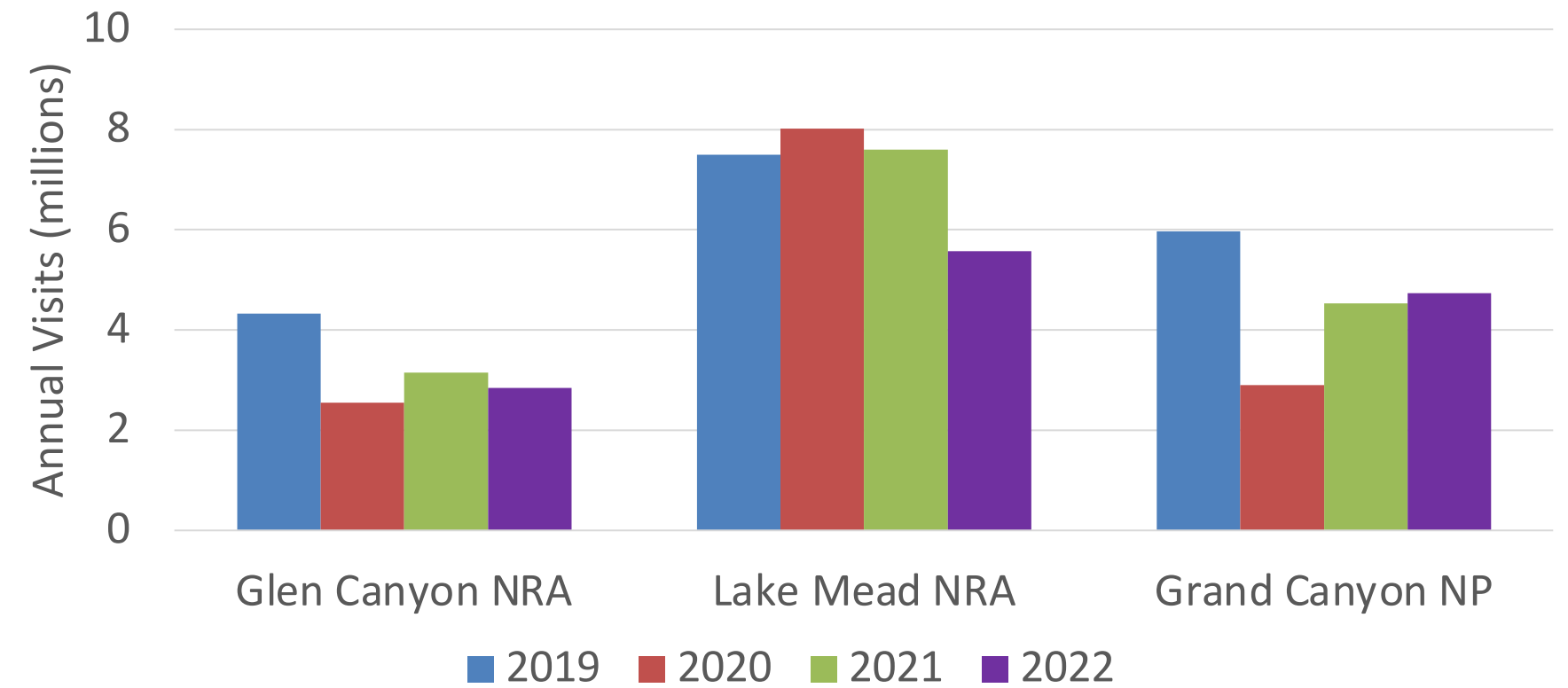
National Audobon Society, 2019



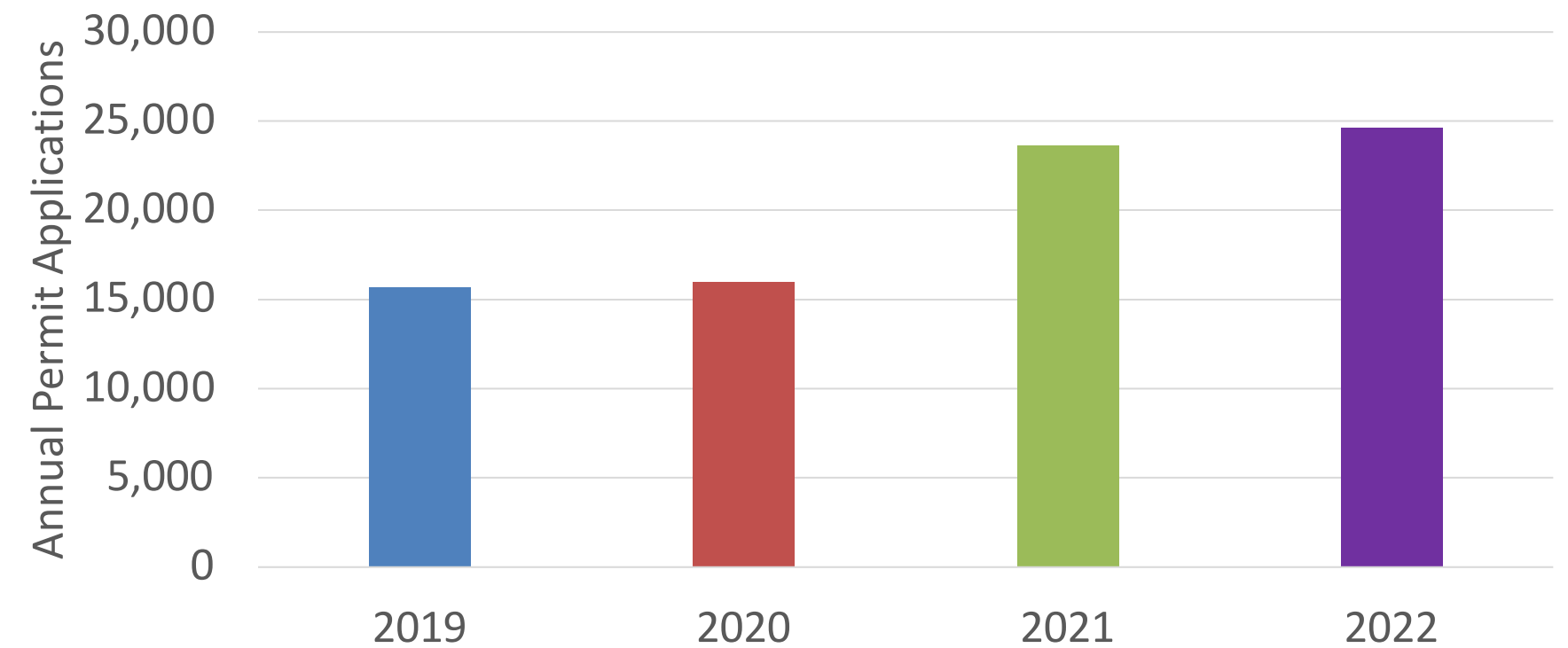
Trends



Visitation Trends
2019 - 2022



Grand Canyon River Permit Applications
2019 - 2022



Diversity in Water Based Recreation

Businesses

- [Ancient Wayves](#)
- [Natives Outdoors](#)
- [Hualapai River Runners](#)
- [Dzil Ta'ah Adventures](#)
- [Grand Canyon 9 Rapids](#)

click for links



Organizations

- [Diversify Whitewater](#)
- [HECHO](#)
- [Next 100 Coalition](#)
- [Native Women's Wilderness](#)
- [Paddle Tribal Waters](#)
- [Canyonlands Field Institute](#)

click for links



Growth in Fishing Paired with Drought Conditions



Hattie Johnson

Utah sees record fishing and hunting license sales during COVID-19 pandemic

[UT Dept. of Water Resources](#)

SALT LAKE CITY — With many people flooding to the outdoors for recreation during the COVID-19 pandemic, Utah State Parks and other land management agencies **saw a significant increase in their number of visitors**. Many of those escaping

“Boating/fishing was the second-largest conventional activity for the nation at \$32.4 billion in current-dollar value added.”
BEA, 2023



22.9%

GROWTH IN FISHING
(FLY, SALT, FRESH) TO
54.5 MILLION ANGLERS

[Outdoor Industry Association](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



COLORADO
Parks and Wildlife
Department of Natural Resources

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Colorado Parks and Wildlife enacts emergency fishing closure on heavily fished portion of Yampa River below Stagecoach Reservoir

Emerging Access Issues & Re-Emerging Canyons

2023 Photos



Cataract Canyon Rapids

Photo: Returning Rapids



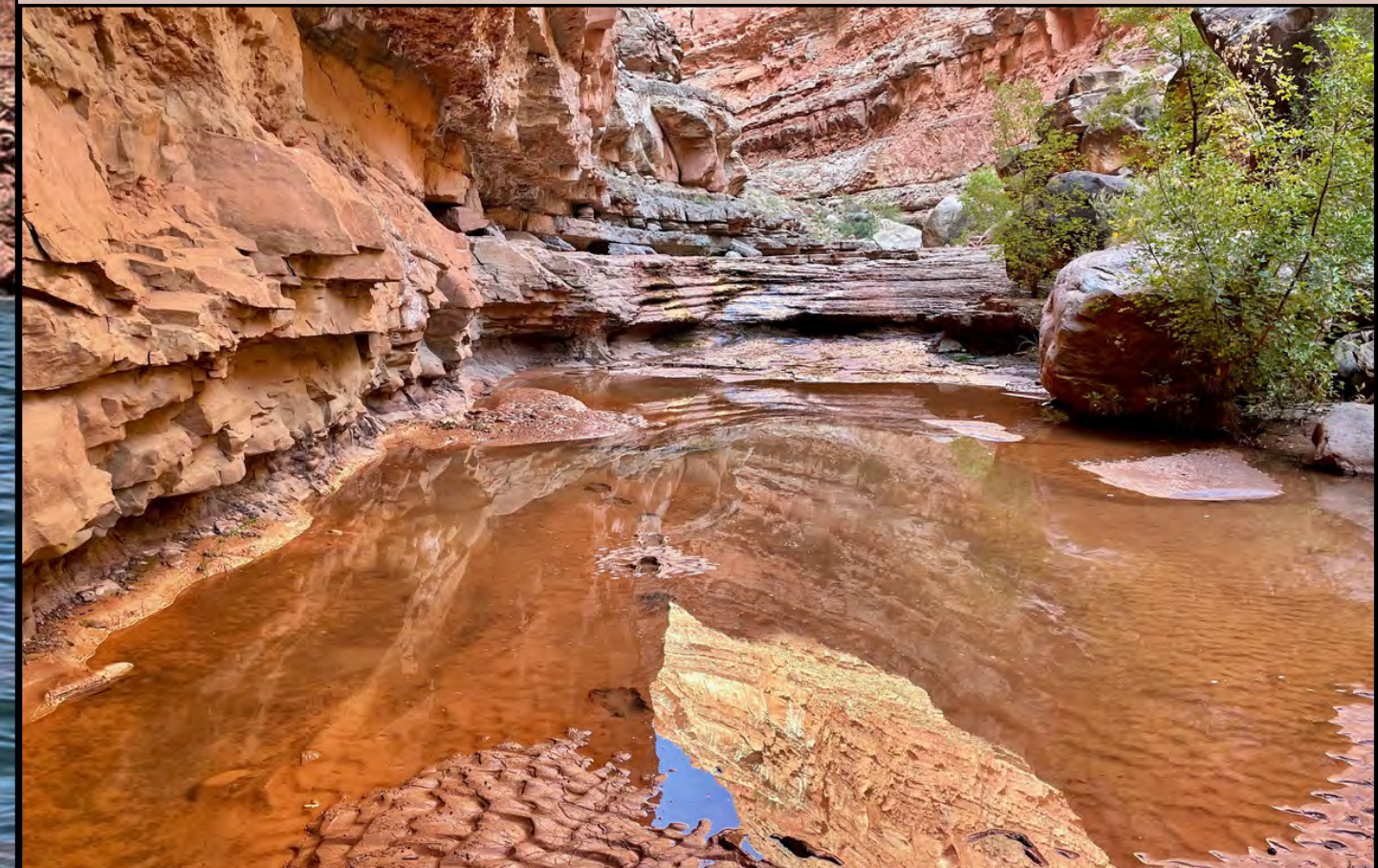
**Antelope Point Boat Ramp Glen
Canyon NRA**

Photo: Ben Burr



North Wash, Cataract Canyon Take-Out

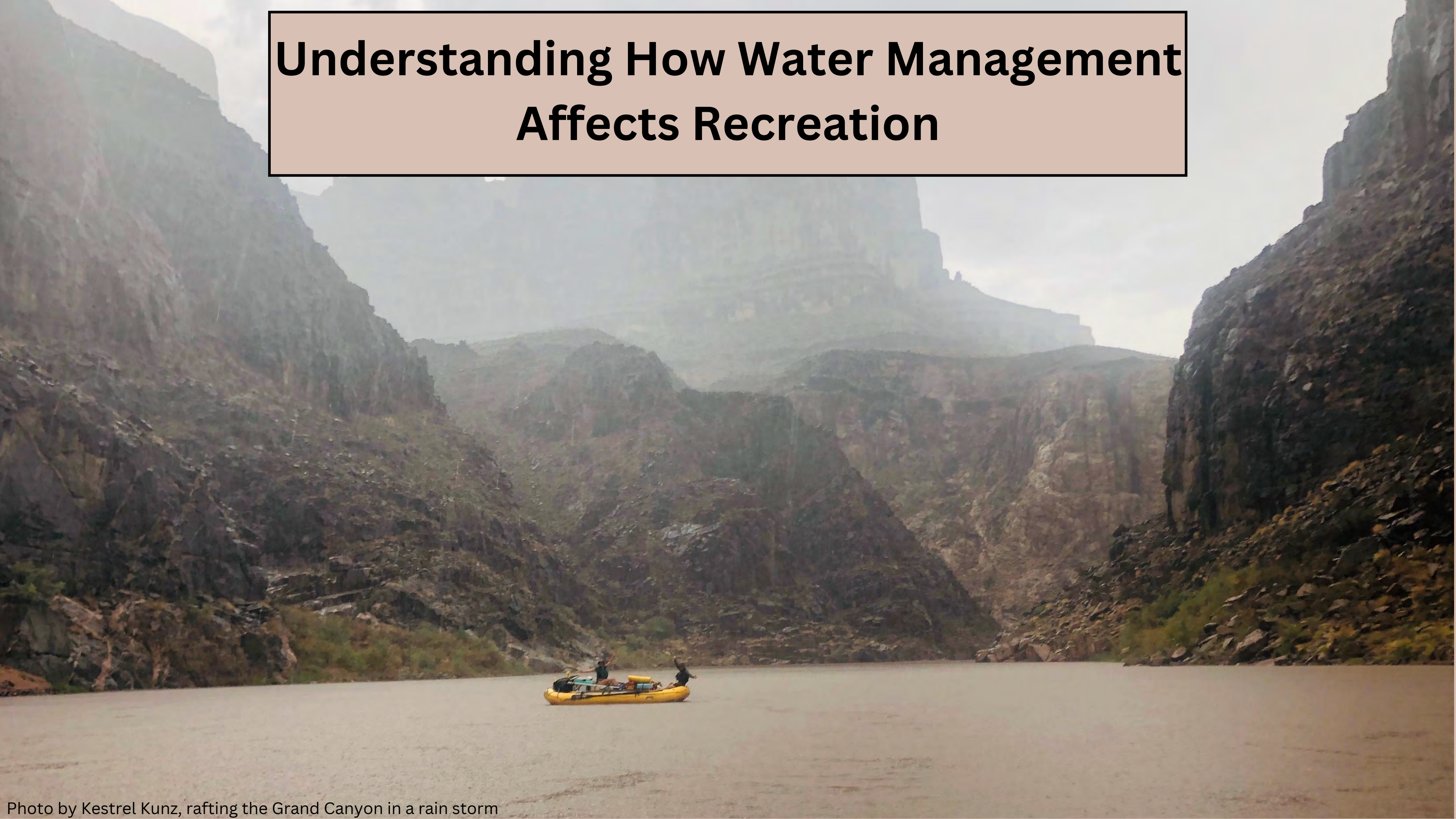
Photo: Returning Rapids



Clearwater Canyon

Photo: Returning Rapids

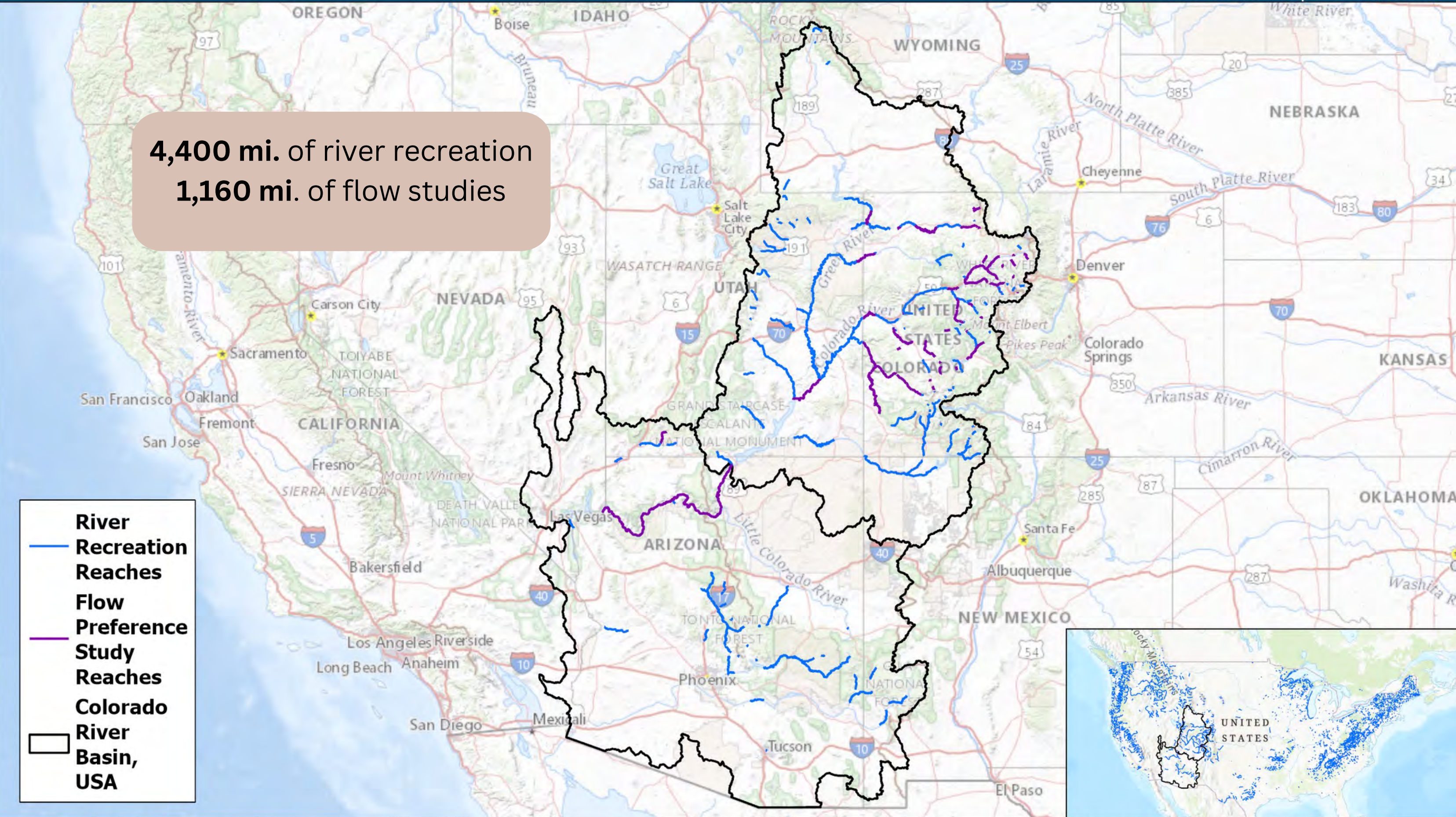
Understanding How Water Management Affects Recreation



Quantifying River Recreation Flow Needs in the Colorado River Basin

Kestrel Kunz | Dec. 5, 2023

4,400 mi. of river recreation
1,160 mi. of flow studies



Map Credits: USGS, American Whitewater, Wilson Water Group, CAP

The background of the slide is a scenic photograph of Ruby Horsethief Canyon on the Colorado River. On the left, a steep, layered rock cliff rises from the water's edge, with some green shrubs at its base. The river water is a murky, brownish-tan color. On the right, the river continues towards a distant, hilly shoreline under a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds.

Key Takeaways

- Recreation generates money
- Decreased water availability affects recreation
- We have robust data quantifying recreational flow needs

**A grand-canyon-sized thank you to
my colleagues that helped inform
this presentation**

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Conservation Partnership
Jordan Neilson, Trout Unlimited
Len Necefer, Natives Outdoors
Ben Burr, Blue Ribbon Coalition

Thank You CRWUA 2023



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