



AMERICA OUTDOORS

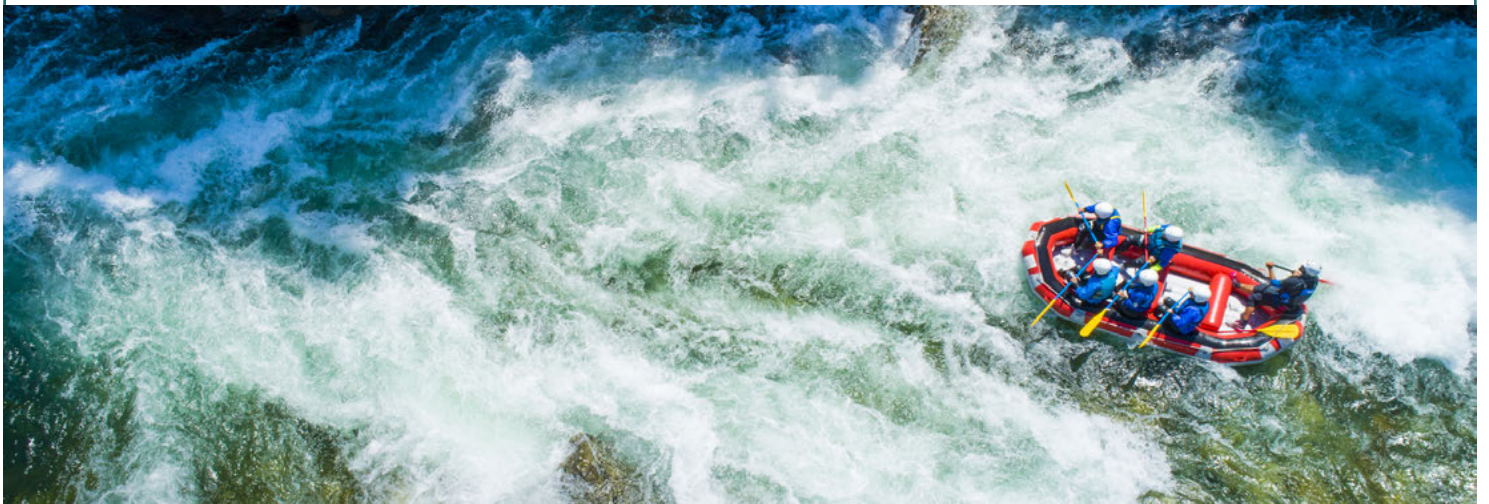
2022 COMMERCIAL RIVER USE REPORT





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U.S. Commercial River Use, 1990-2022

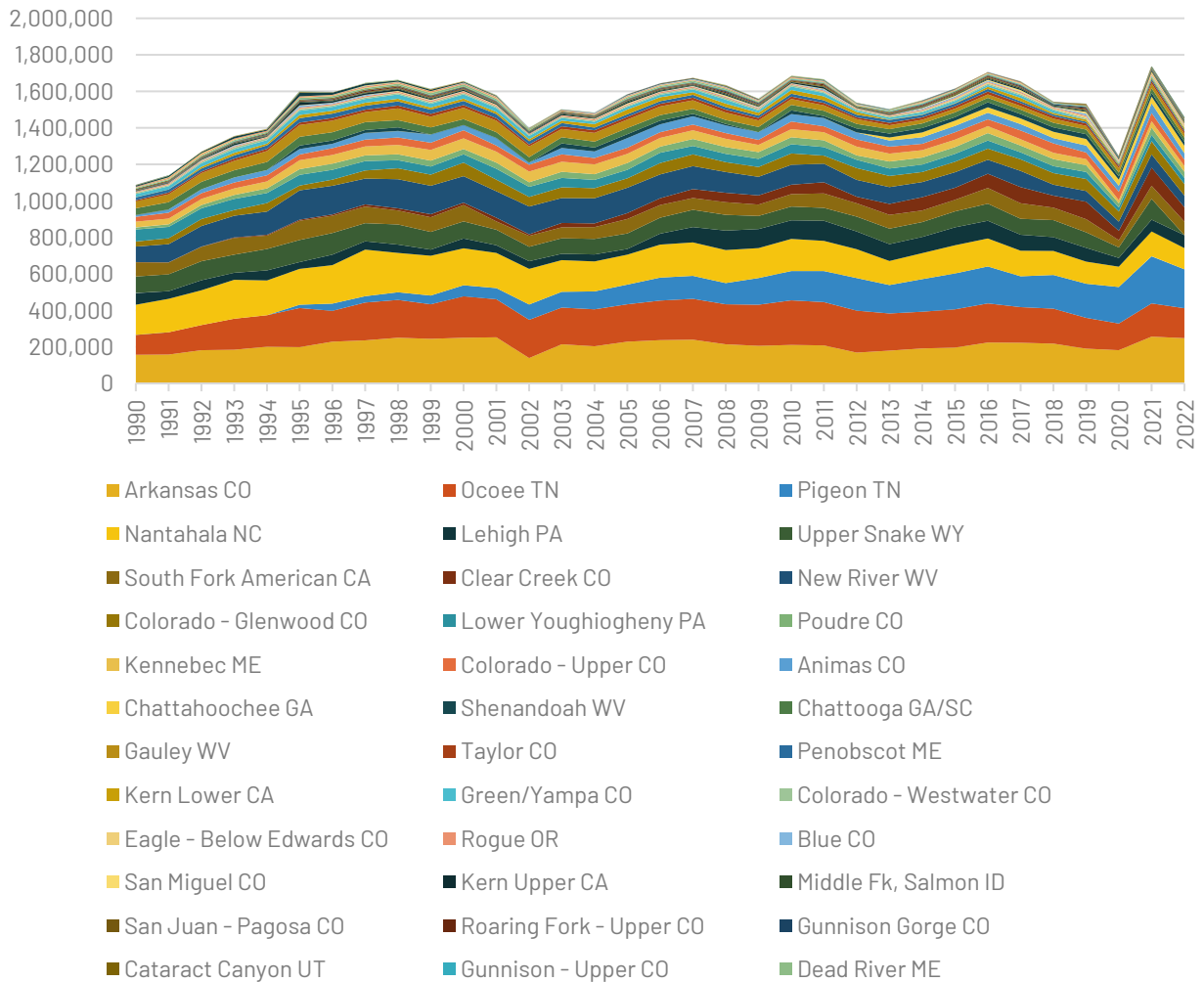
On all charts, data is tracked by visitors, as opposed to visitor days, to best estimate of the number of participants enjoying whitewater rafting trips nationwide. A visitor on a single-day trip is counted as one, and an individual on a multiday trip is also counted as one. Some river resources are a mix of guided and unguided use, but most are guided.

For many operators around the country 2021 was the peak year since America Outdoors began tracking data in 1990. In 2019 and 2020 there was a national need to find relief in outdoor recreation activities during Covid-19 pandemic. Post pandemic, most visible in 2022 numbers, participation has returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Looking at longer term trends, demand remains stronger for resources that are perceived by the public to be low risk and which are near urban areas or destination attractions.

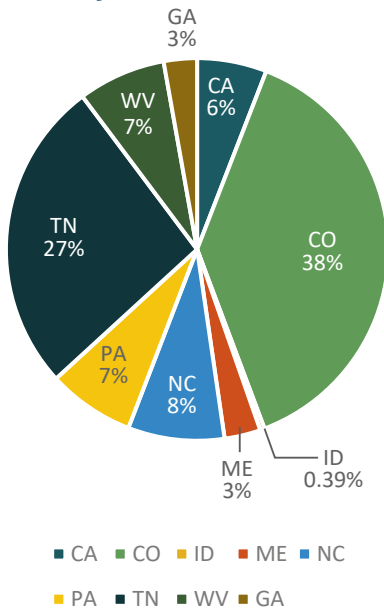
This use report does not account for several whitewater parks that also have significant participation such as Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Charlotte, South Carolina, and Montgomery, Alabama.

U.S. Commercial River Use, Cumulative, 1990-2022

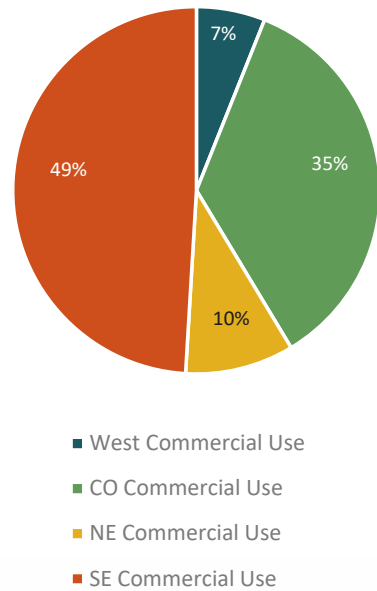


This data is not comprehensive. In addition to rivers like the North and South Platte, Upper Snake and the Green/Yampa, that did not provide data in 2022, we did not collect data from Grand Canyon, Alaska, and other river sections recently developing commercial use.

U.S. Commercial River Use by State, 2022



U.S. Commercial River Use by Region, 2022



U.S. Commercial River Use by Visitor, 2018-2022

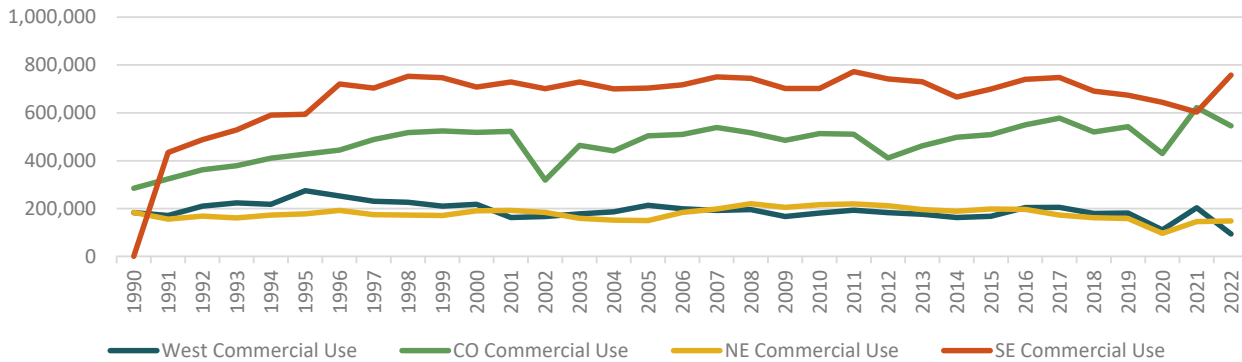
River Section	State	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Arkansas	CO	218,120	190,246	182,005	256,650	247,721
Ocoee	TN	191,157	168,213	146,039	182,073	164,242
Pigeon	TN	185,376	187,784	199,385	257,589	213,426
Nantahala	NC	131,052	121,064	111,610	136,611	115,997
Lehigh	PA	75,552	75,550	48,377	64,286	71,263
Upper Snake	WY	93,624	84,735	56,730	114,124	NR
South Fork American	CA	68,509	72,184	39,458	71,102	73,097
Clear Creek	CO	66,174	95,063	52,044	100,203	80,364
New	WV	59,987	58,983	50,023	72,907	63,250
Colorado - Glenwood	CO	62,181	65,302	55,228	70,753	63,222
Lower Youghiogheny	PA	38,635	38,848	23,495	35,452	33,471
Poudre	CO	38,741	37,707	21,481	39,877	33,008
Kennebec	ME	35,308	33,211	17,637	33,783	32,480
Colorado - Upper	CO	50,681	35,777	46,375	45,433	33,866
Animas	CO	28,495	37,553	33,120	52,967	36,132
Chattahoochee	GA	35,000	36,500	34,000	38,000	40,000
Shenandoah	WV	23,841	26,717	17,057	19,439	21,466
Chattooga	GA/SC	24,960	25,714	20,194	25,986	23,475
Gauley	WV	22,556	19,845	24,588	25,390	20,990
Taylor	CO	13,279	13,665	11,652	15,234	12,974
Penobscot	ME	10,057	8,939	5,942	10,053	8,939
Kern Lower	CA	7,241	11,775	7,832	7,915	8,939
Green/Yampa	CO	15,645	NR	3,756	5,231	NR
Colorado - Westwater	CO	6,654	7,324	4,190	6,369	5,299
Eagle - Below Edwards	CO	3,549	8,851	4,129	5,233	7,507
Rogue	OR	5,921	5,760	4,346	7,206	6,599
Blue	CO	1,086	11,066	636	0	0
San Miguel	CO	2,061	9,778	4,899	8,201	5,547
Kern Upper	CA	1,867	3,708	245	371	1,665
Middle Fk, Salmon	ID	5,300	5,345	4,297	5,816	5,591
San Juan - Pagosa	CO	1,012	5,517	NR	NR	4,000
Roaring Fork - Upper	CO	560	6,751	1,045	948	1,541
Gunnison Gorge	CO	4,787	4,039	4,553	6,110	6,096
Cataract Canyon, UT	UT	2,814	2,963	1,644	3,943	4,086
Gunnison - Upper	CO	3,276	2,129	NR	4,170	2,883
Dead	ME	2,212	2,163	1,002	1,997	1,881
Rio Grande	CO	131	NR	156	221	1,469
Colorado - Horsethief/Ruby	CO	933	1,122	1,268	820	943
Gunnison - Escalante	CO	187	149	27	144	241
South Platte	CO	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Eagle	CO	428	399	1,076	266	88
Gore Creek Vail	CO	0	324	98	0	0
Roaring Fork - Lower	CO	831	7,245	338	221	655
Piedra	CO	17	249	41	173	36
Gunnison - Forks to Austin	CO	991	1,254	1,617	2,326	2,276
Gunnison - Lake Fork	CO	267	245	425	348	169
North Platte	CO	NR	34	5	NR	0
Dolores	CO	0	360	0	0	75

Note: NR is short for No Record

Commercial River Use by Region

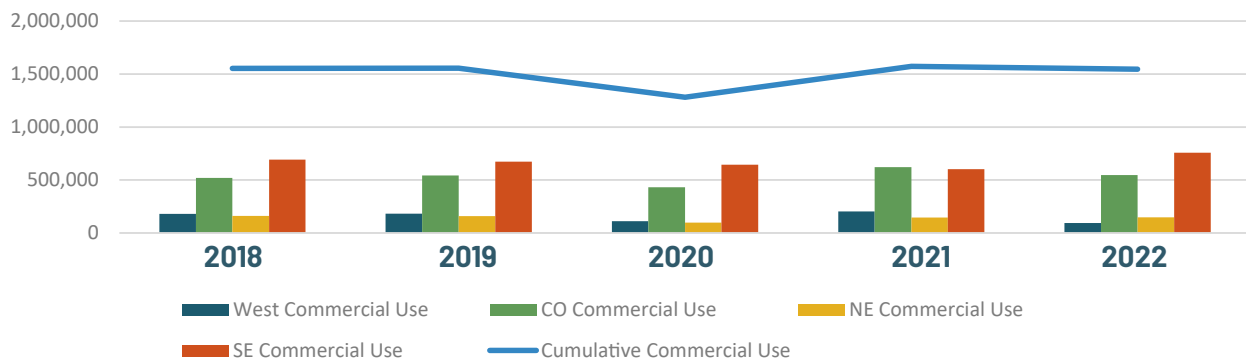
These charts analyze the four predominant regions polled in the River Use Survey: Colorado, Western states excluding Colorado, the Northeast, and the Southeast. Trends are analyzed over 30 years, over the last 5-year period, and finally uses are compiled for 2022. Colorado and the Southeast maintain their dominance, in terms of visitors, in the U.S.

U.S. Commercial River Use Data by Region, 1990-2022



Note: the decline in the West in 2022 is in part due to the lack of data from the Upper Snake. If we were to include an estimated number for that section, there would not be a sharp decline.

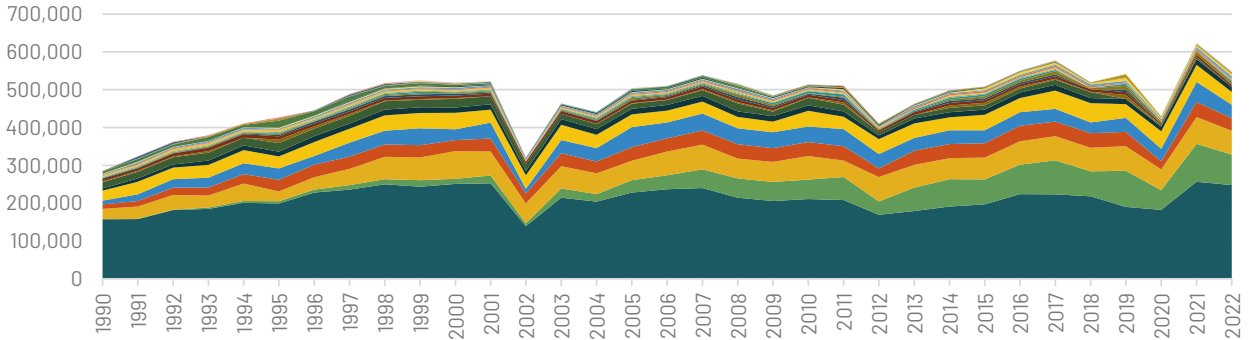
U.S. Commercial River Use Data by Region, 2018-2022



River Section	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Western U.S. Commercial Use	179,355	180,710	110,206	203,271	93,378
Colorado Commercial Use	520,086	542,149	430,164	621,898	546,112
Northeast U.S. Commercial Use	161,764	158,711	96,453	145,571	148,034
Southeast U.S. Commercial Use	691,254	673,929	644,820	602,896	757,995
Cumulative Commercial Use	1,552,459	1,555,499	1,281,643	1,573,636	1,545,519

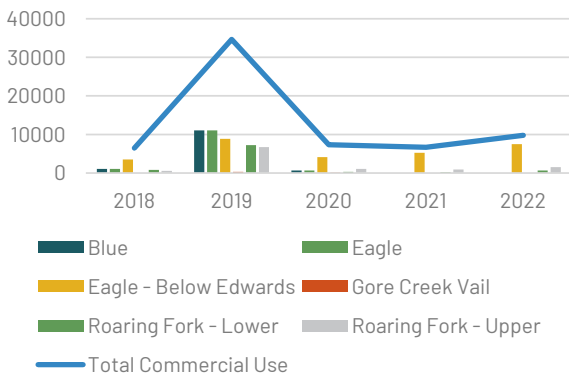
Colorado Commercial River Use

Colorado Commercial River Use, 1990-2022



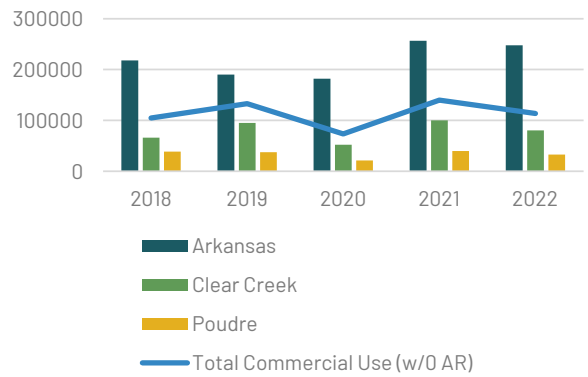
- Arkansas CO
- Poudre CO
- Taylor CO
- Colorado - Westwater CO
- San Juan - Pagosa CO
- Gunnison - Upper CO
- Gunnison - Escalante CO
- Gore Creek Vail CO
- Piedra CO
- Dolores CO
- Clear Creek CO
- Animas CO
- Green/Yampa CO
- Rio Grande CO
- Eagle CO
- South Platte CO
- North Platte CO
- Colorado - Glenwood CO
- Colorado - Upper CO
- Blue CO
- San Miguel CO
- Colorado - Horsethief/Ruby CO
- Eagle - Below Edwards CO
- Roaring Fork - Lower CO
- Gunnison - Forks to Austin CO
- Gunnison - Lake Fork CO

Colorado I-70 Commercial River Use 2018-2022



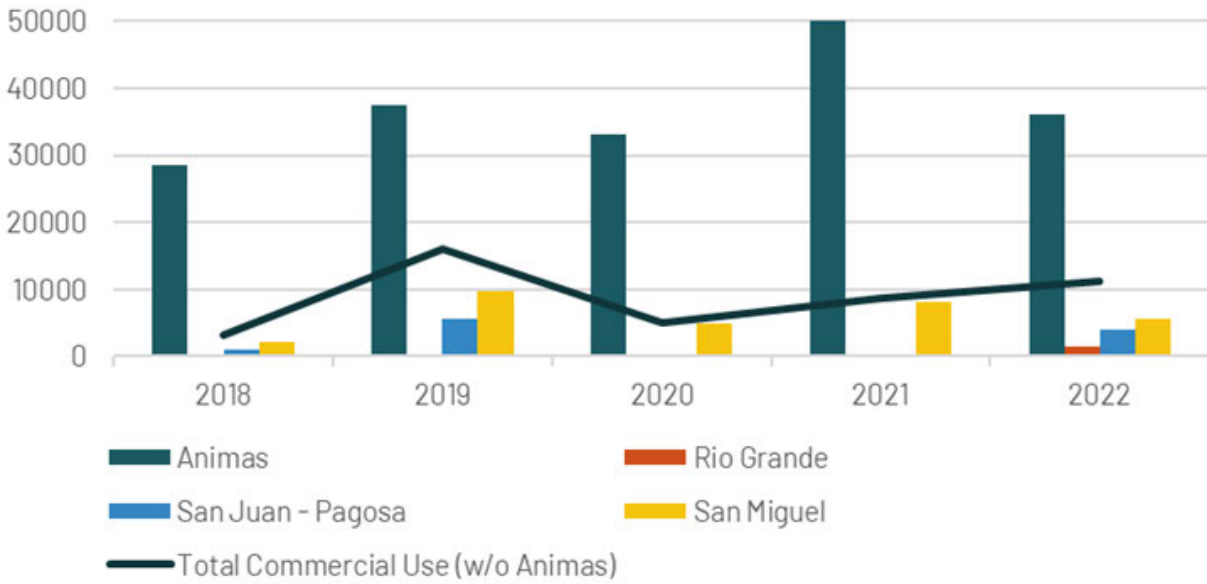
- Blue
- Eagle
- Eagle - Below Edwards
- Gore Creek Vail
- Roaring Fork - Lower
- Roaring Fork - Upper
- Total Commercial Use

Denver Metro Commercial River Use 2018-2022

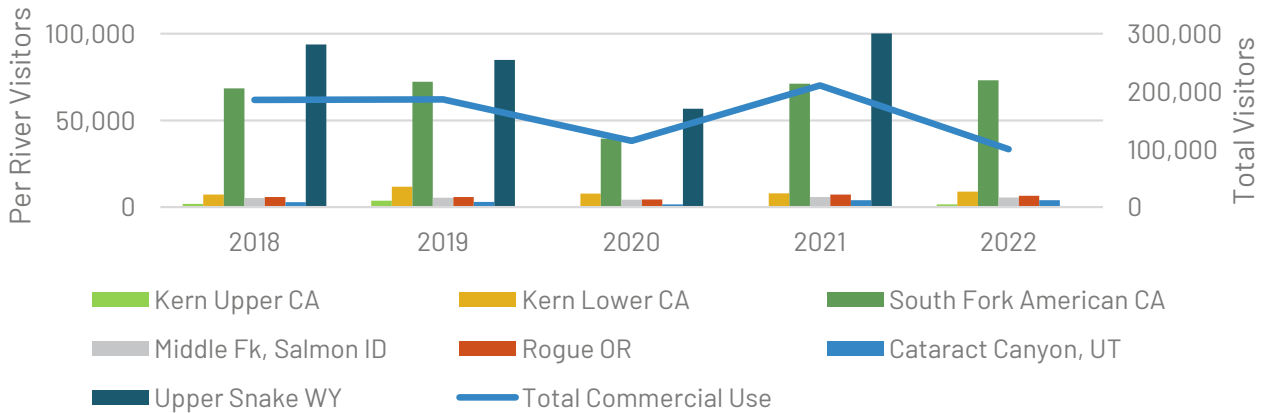


- Arkansas
- Clear Creek
- Poudre
- Total Commercial Use (w/o AR)

Southwest CO Commercial River Use 2018-2022



Western U.S. Commercial River Use (w/o CO, AZ), 2018-2022



Note: The Piedra and Dolores rivers have numbers that would not register on this chart, with 36 visitors and 75 visitors in 2022 respectively. The Rio Grande jumped from 221 visitors in 2021 to 1,469 in 2022.

All Colorado Commercial River Use Data, 2018-2022

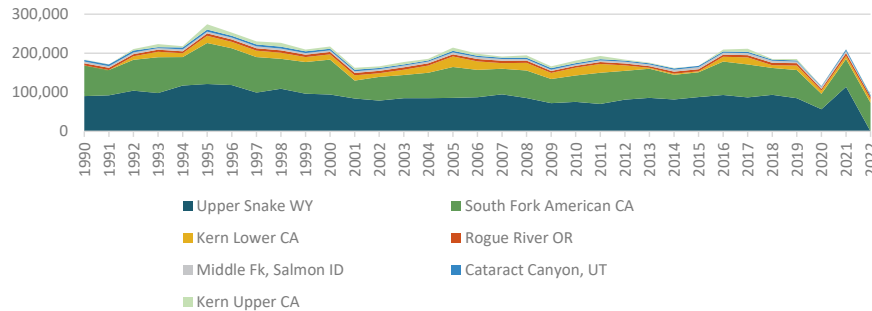
River Section	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Animas	28495	37553	33120	52967	36132
Arkansas	218120	190246	182005	256650	247721
Blue	1086	11066	636	0	0
Clear Creek	66174	95063	52044	100203	80364
Colorado - Glenwood	62181	65302	55228	70753	63222
Colorado - Horsethief/Ruby	933	1122	1268	820	943
Colorado - Upper	50681	35777	46375	45433	33866
Colorado - Westwater	6654	7324	4190	6369	5299
Dolores	0	360	0	0	75
Eagle	428	399	1076	266	88
Eagle - Below Edwards	3549	8851	4129	5233	7507
Gore Creek Vail	0	324	98	0	0
Green/Yampa	15645	NR	3756	5231	NR
Gunnison – Escalante	187	149	27	144	241
Gunnison - Forks to Austin	991	1254	1617	2326	2276
Gunnison – Lake Fork	267	245	425	348	169
Gunnison - Upper	3276	2129	NR	4170	2883
Gunnison Gorge	4787	4039	4553	6110	6096
North Platte	NR	34	5	NR	NR
Piedra	17	249	41	173	36
Poudre	38741	37707	21481	39877	33008
Rio Grande	131	NR	156	221	1469
Roaring Fork - Lower	831	7245	338	221	655
Roaring Fork - Upper	560	6751	1045	948	1541
San Juan - Pagosa	1012	5517	NR	NR	4000
San Miguel	2061	9778	4899	8201	5547
South Platte	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Taylor	13279	13665	11652	15234	12974
Total Commercial Use	520086	542149	430164	621898	546112

Note: NR is short for No Record

Western U.S. Commercial River Use (w/o Colorado, Arizona)

Note that we have no reported data for the Upper Snake in 2022, nor are we tracking Colorado River trips upstream of Cataract Canyon nor the Grand Canyon.

Western U.S. Commercial River Use (w/o CO, AZ) 1990-2022



Western U.S. Commercial River Use (w/o CO, AZ) 2018-2022



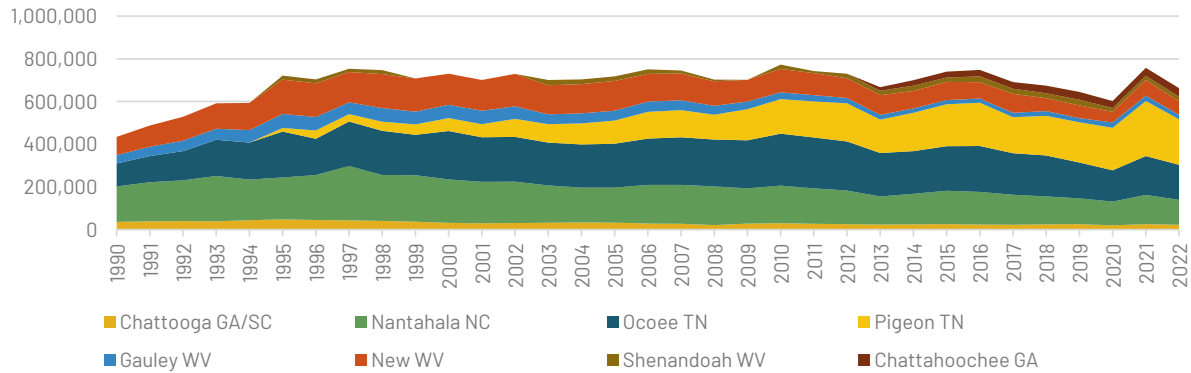
River Section	State	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Kern Upper	CA	1,867	3,708	245	371	1,665
Kern Lower	CA	7,241	11,775	7,832	7,915	8,939
South Fork American	CA	68,509	72,184	39,458	71,102	73,097
Middle Fk, Salmon	ID	5,300	5,345	4,297	5,816	5,591
Rogue	OR	5,921	5,760	4,346	7,206	6,599
Cataract Canyon	UT	2,814	2,963	1,644	3,943	4,086
Upper Snake	WY	93,624	84,735	56,730	114,124	NR
Total Commercial Use		185,276	186,470	114,552	210,477	99,977

Note: NR is short for No Record

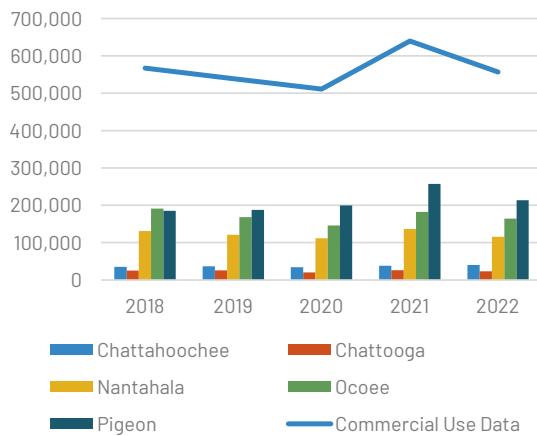
Southeast U.S. Commercial River Use

Note: For the sake of comparison, five-year commercial use data for the Southeast is separated into West Virginia and all other Southeast Use.

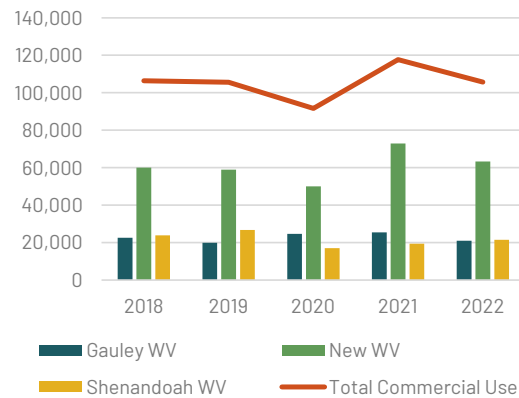
Southeast U.S. Commercial River Use, 1990-2022



SE Commercial River Use (w/o WV), 2018-2022



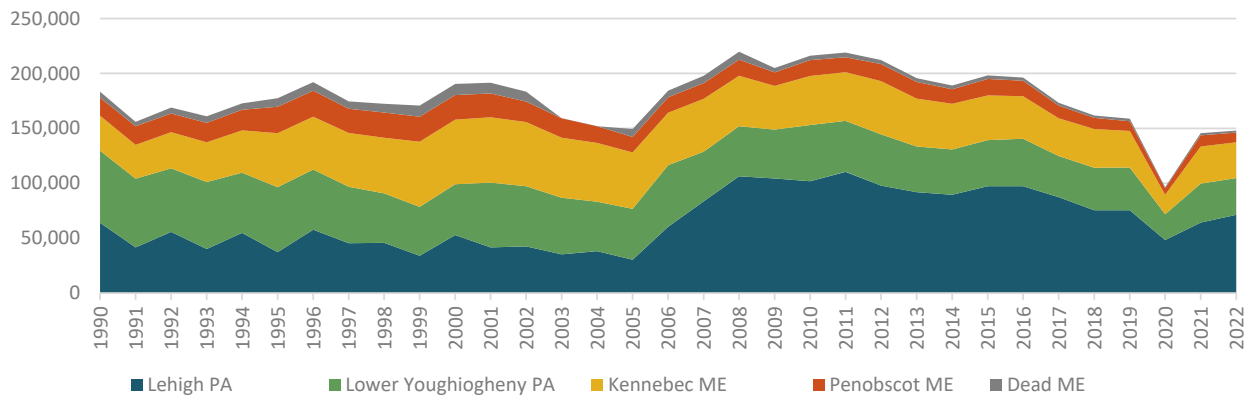
WV Commercial River Use, 2018-2022



River Section	State	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Chattahoochee	GA	35,000	36,500	34,000	38,000	40,000
Chattooga	GA/SC	24,960	25,714	20,194	25,986	23,475
Nantahala	NC	131,052	121,064	111,610	136,611	115,997
Ocoee	TN	191,157	168,213	146,039	182,073	164,242
Pigeon	TN	185,376	187,784	199,385	257,589	213,426
Gauley	WV	22,556	19,845	24,588	25,390	20,990
New	WV	59,987	58,983	50,023	72,907	63,250
Shenandoah	WV	23,841	26,717	17,057	19,439	21,466
Total Commercial Use	SE	673,929	644,820	602,896	757,995	662,846

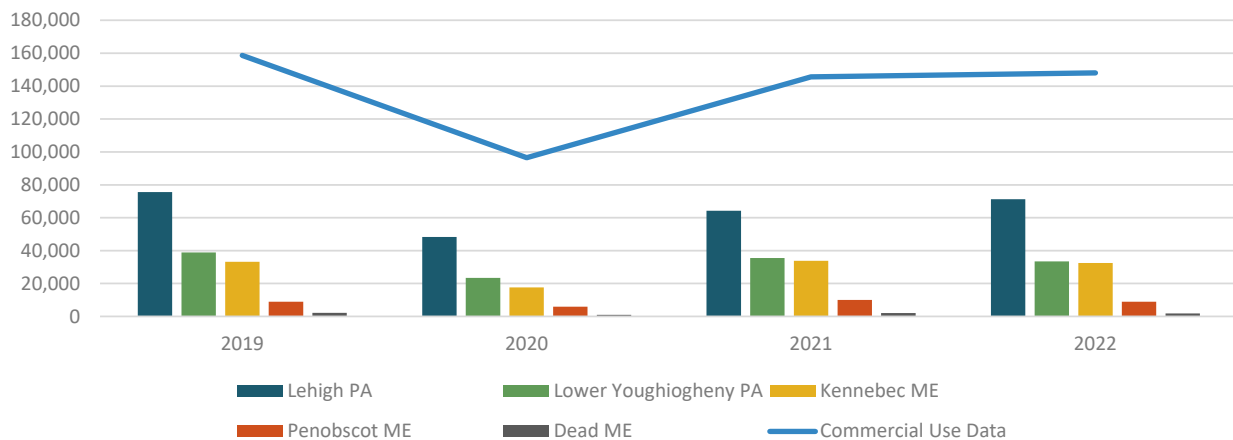
Northeast U.S. Commercial River Use

Northeast U.S. Commercial River Use, 1990-2022



Beginning in 2006, approximately 25% additional visits added to Lehigh River to reflect estimated use increases as a result of improved flows and use on lower section outside State Park.

Northeast U.S. Commercial River Use 2018-2022



River Section	State	2019	2020	2021	2022
Lehigh	PA	75,550	48,377	64,286	71,263
Lower Youghiogheny	PA	38,848	23,495	35,452	33,471
Kennebec	ME	33,211	17,637	33,783	32,480
Penobscot	ME	8,939	5,942	10,053	8,939
Dead	ME	2,163	1,002	1,997	1,881
Total Commercial Use		158,711	96,453	145,571	148,034