

# Recreational Use on the Gunnison & Taylor Rivers



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# Recreational Use

- Angling recreational use at lakes, reservoirs, and small streams
- 2021 Gunnison and Taylor Rivers Recreational Use Study
  - Angler “Creel” Survey on Taylor River downstream of Taylor Park Reservoir
  - Gunnison River Angler Creel and Boating Survey, Almont to Blue Mesa Reservoir
  - Boater counts and classification utilizing trail cameras at 4 locations
  - Project Funded by Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and Trout Unlimited.





Photo courtesy Tim Ramano







# Blue Mesa Reservoir









# GUNNISON AND TAYLOR RIVERS

Taylor Park  
Reservoir

Taylor River: 11 miles of  
public bank access

Gunnison River: 6 miles  
of public bank access

Almont

Gunnison

Blue Mesa  
Reservoir





# GUNNISON AND TAYLOR RIVERS

Taylor Park  
Reservoir

Taylor River: 11 miles of  
public bank access

Gunnison River: 6 miles  
of public bank access

25 miles of  
boat access

Almont

Gunnison

Blue Mesa  
Reservoir





# Gunnison River





# 2021 Creel Survey

## Gunnison River

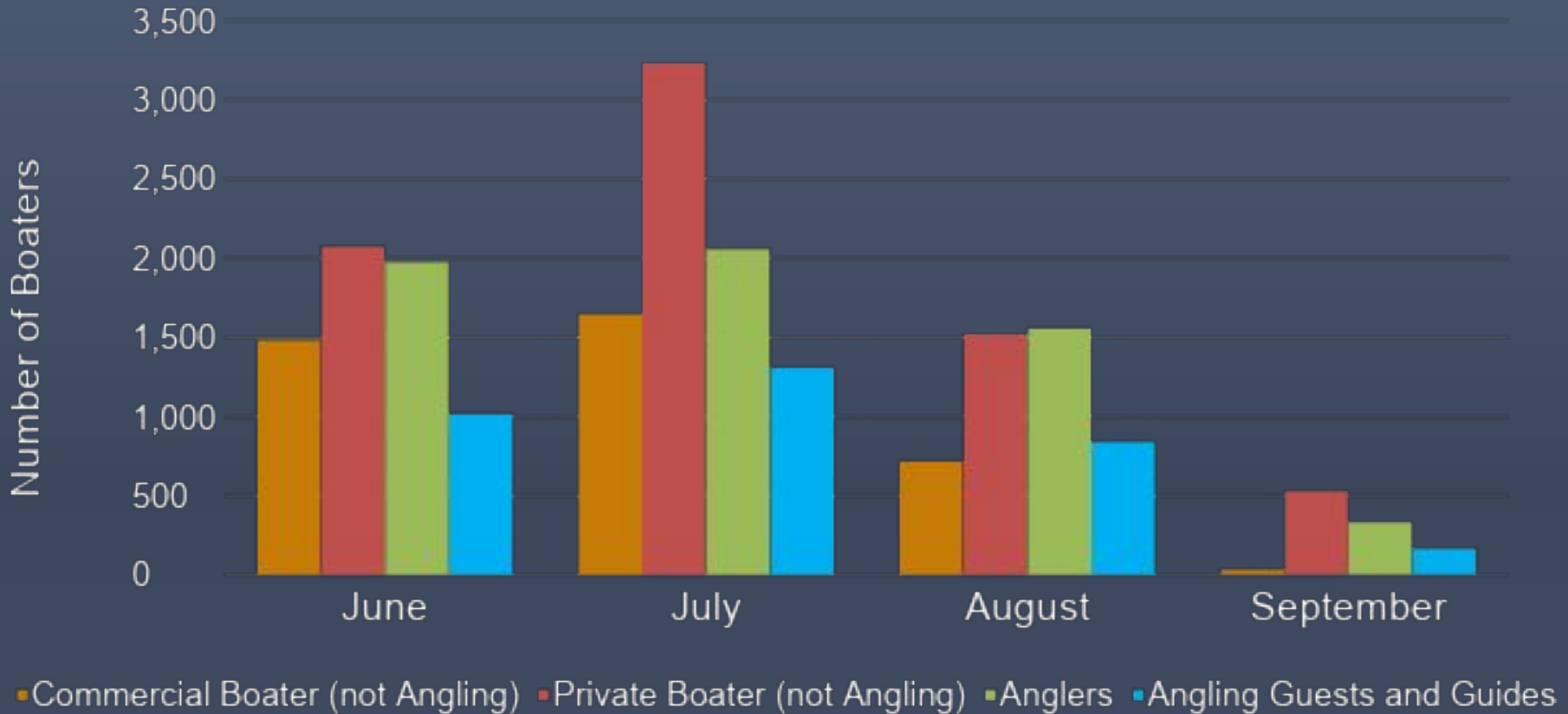


- 2021 Survey counted and interviewed boaters at 5 access points
- Noted whether boater was exiting or passing site
- Anglers interviewed to assess catch and harvest



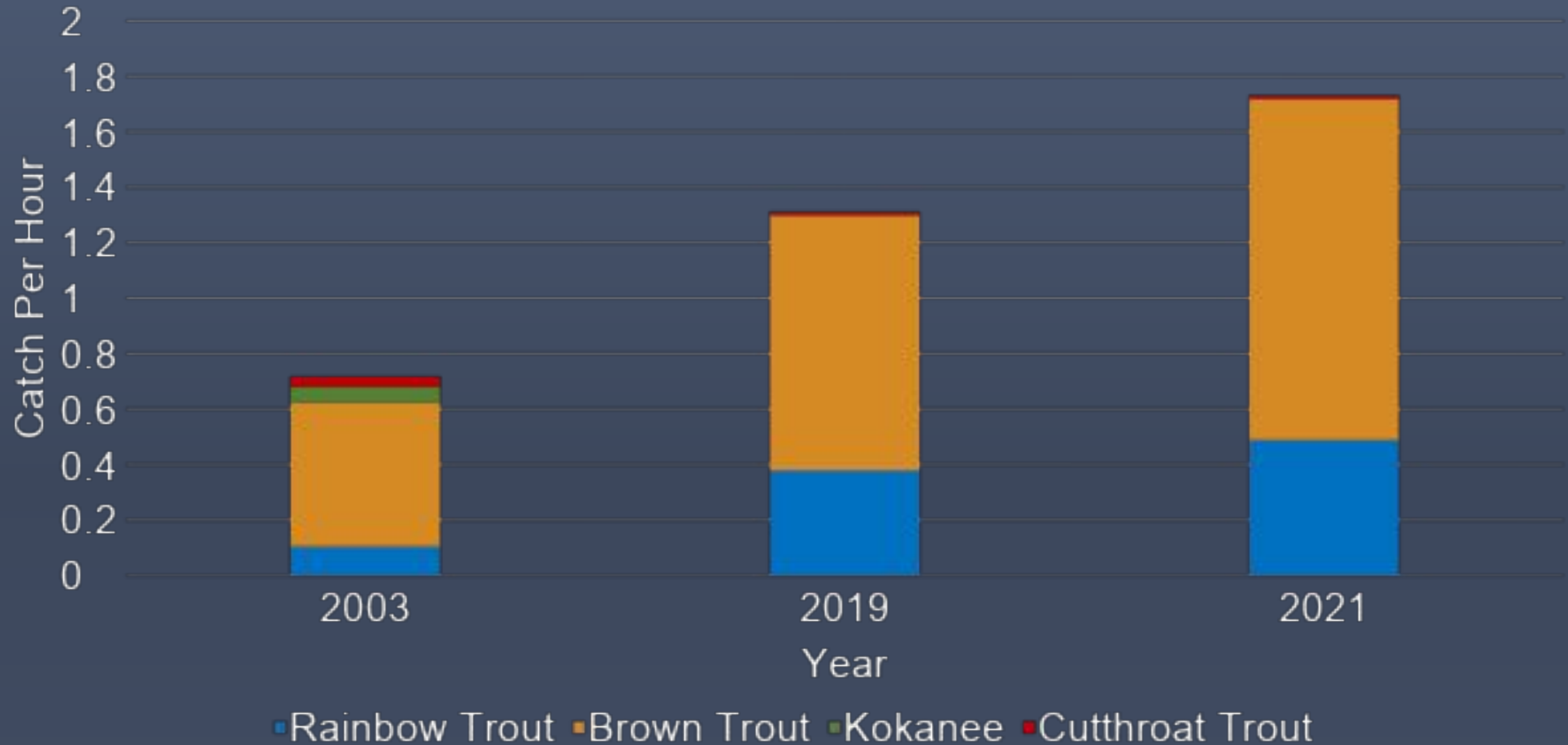


# Gunnison River Boater Estimated Use by Month and Category





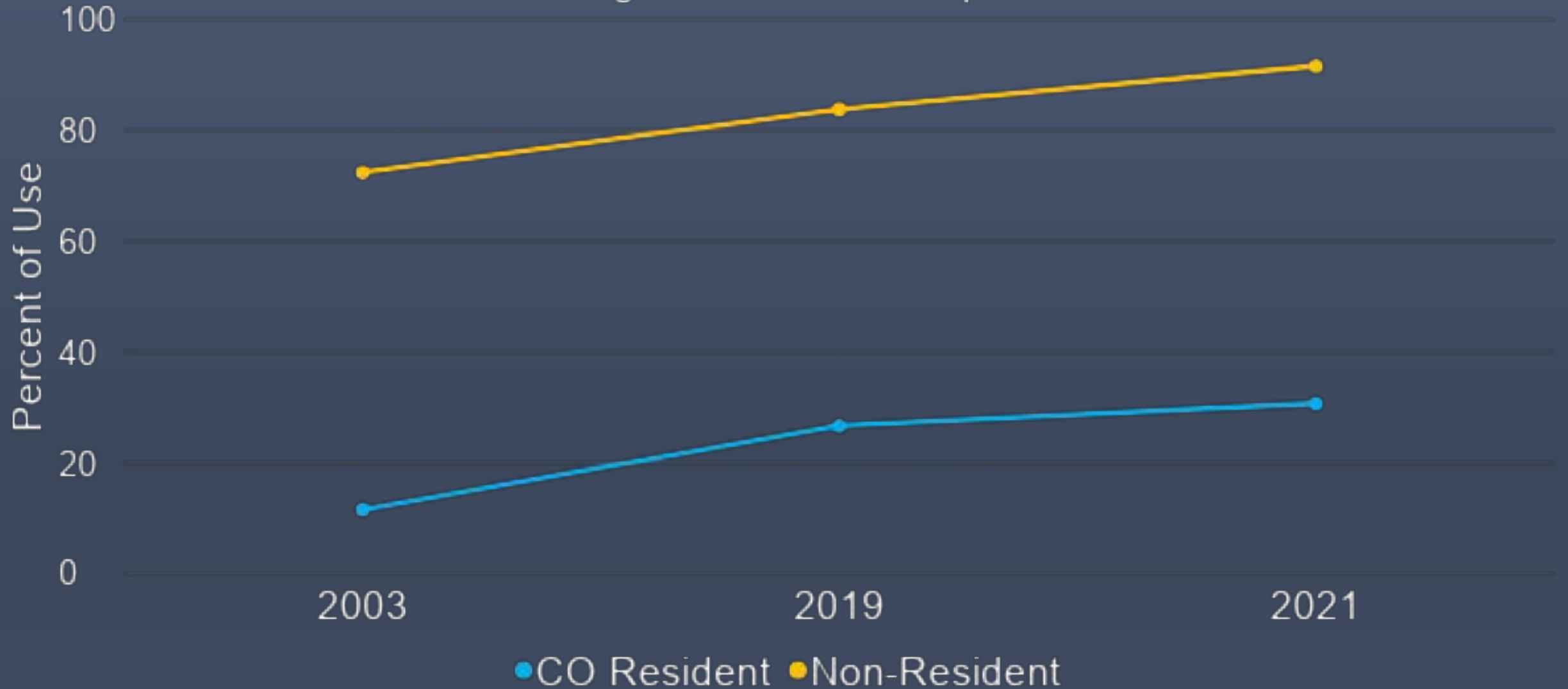
# Gunnison River Angler Catch Rates





# Gunnison River Guided Angling Use

Percent of Anglers on Guided Trip 2003-2021





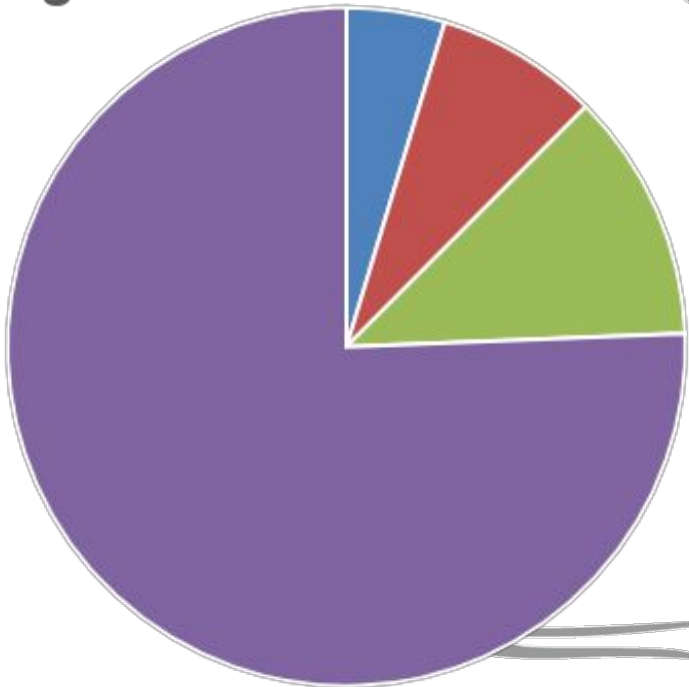
# Angler Crowding



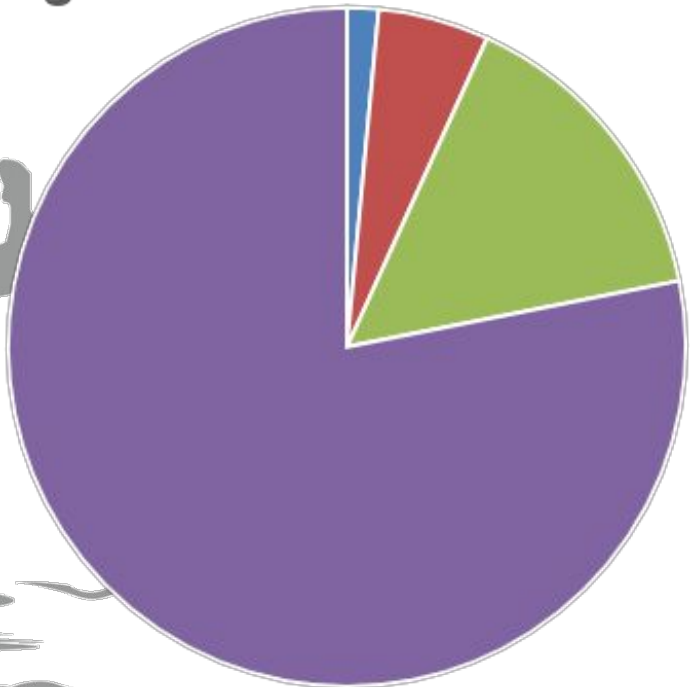
## Gunnison River



How Crowded did you feel by Anglers?



How Crowded did you feel by non-Anglers?



■ A Lot ■ A Moderate Amount ■ A Little ■ Not At All ■ A Lot ■ A Moderate Amount ■ A Little ■ Not At All



# 2021 Boater Counts

## Gunnison River

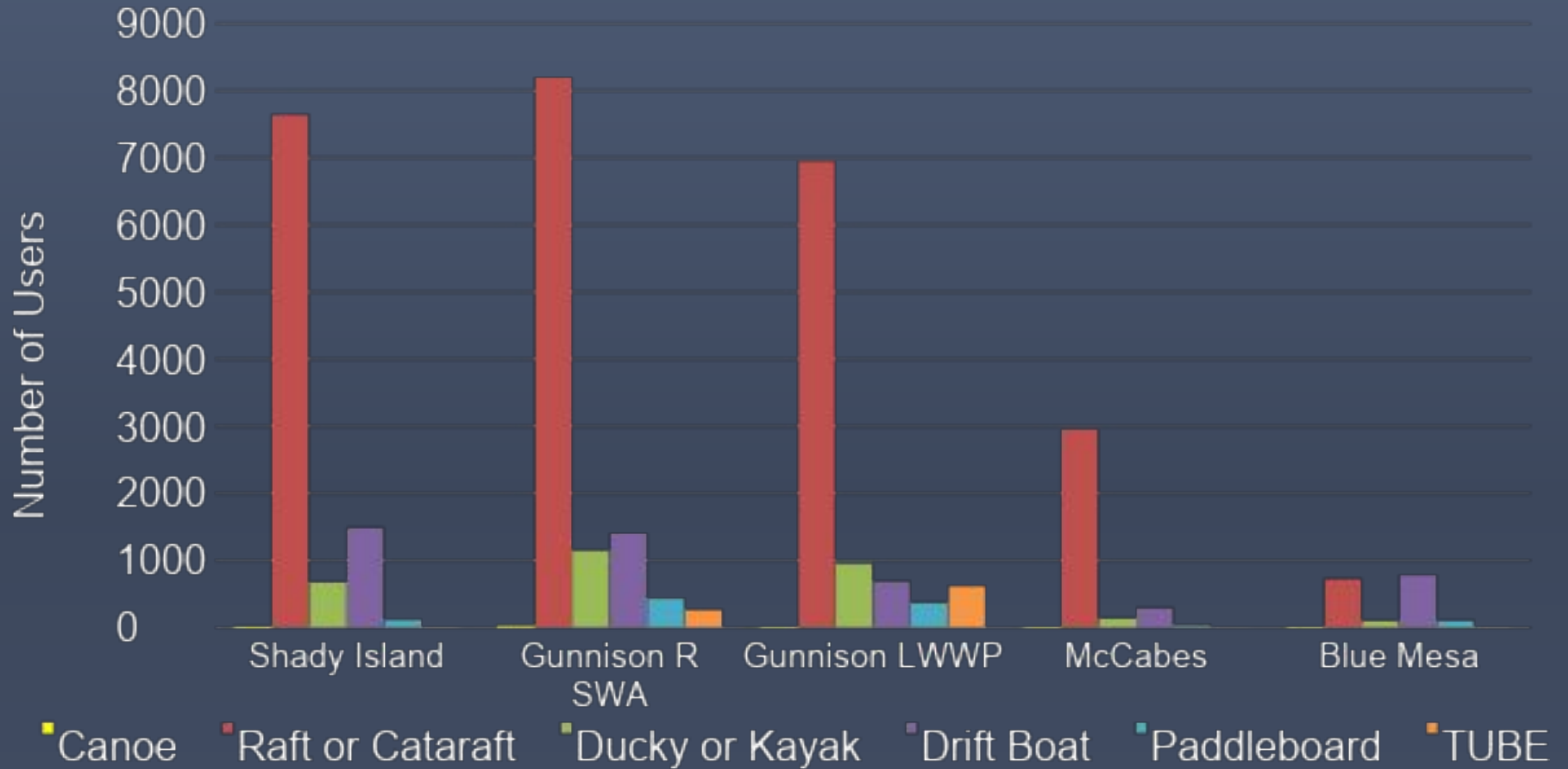


- Used Reconyx trail cameras at 4 sites during June through September
- Triggered not dependable due to distance, so used time lapse
- Picture taken every 6 seconds, with light sensor used to sample dawn to dusk
- Just under 3.7 million photos taken and users counted and boats classified





# Gunnison River Boat User Types, June – September 2021







# Taylor River





# Creel Survey



Taylor River

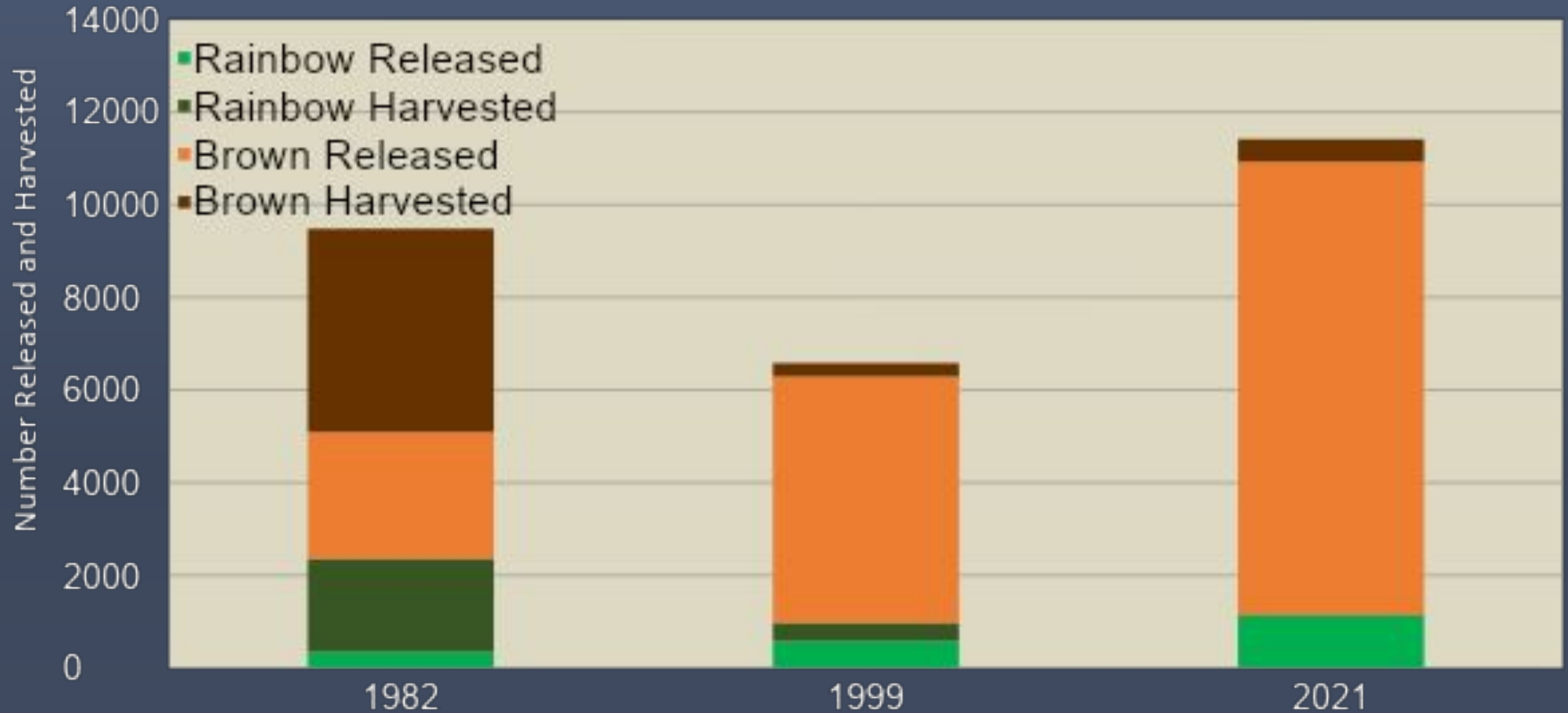
- Surveyed shore anglers
- Same survey completed in 1982 and 1999
- 2021 survey counted and interviewed anglers on public reaches
- Surveys split between the tailwater (catch and release) and downstream (standard regulation) reaches





# TAYLOR RIVER ANGLER CREEEL SURVEYS 1982-2021

## STANDARD REGULATION REACH



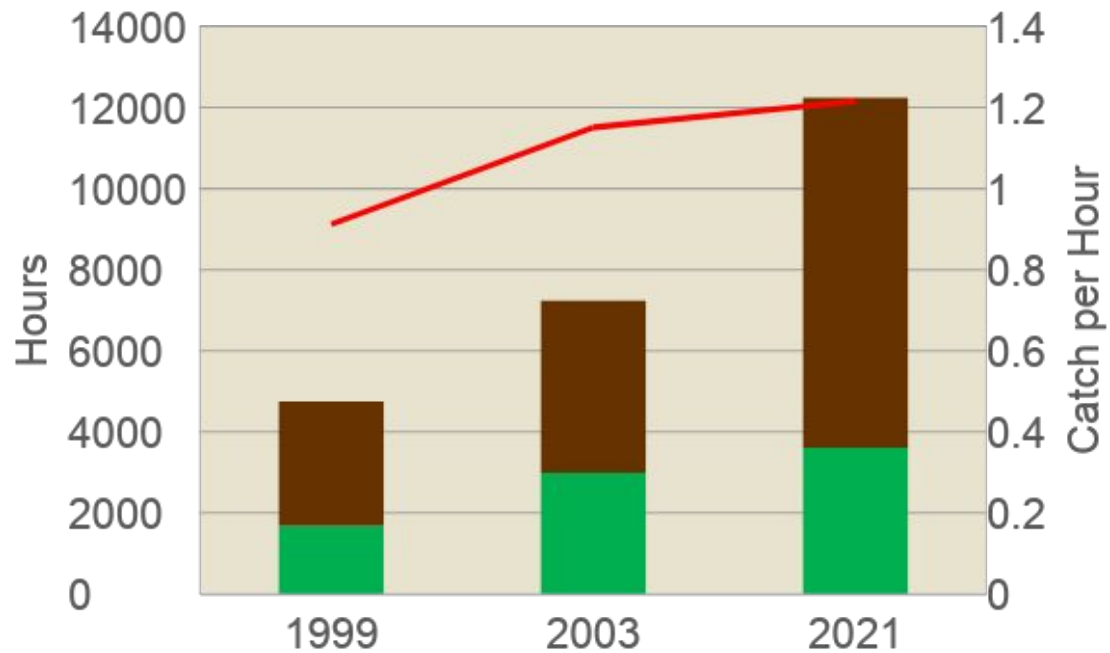


# Catch Rates & Angler Hours

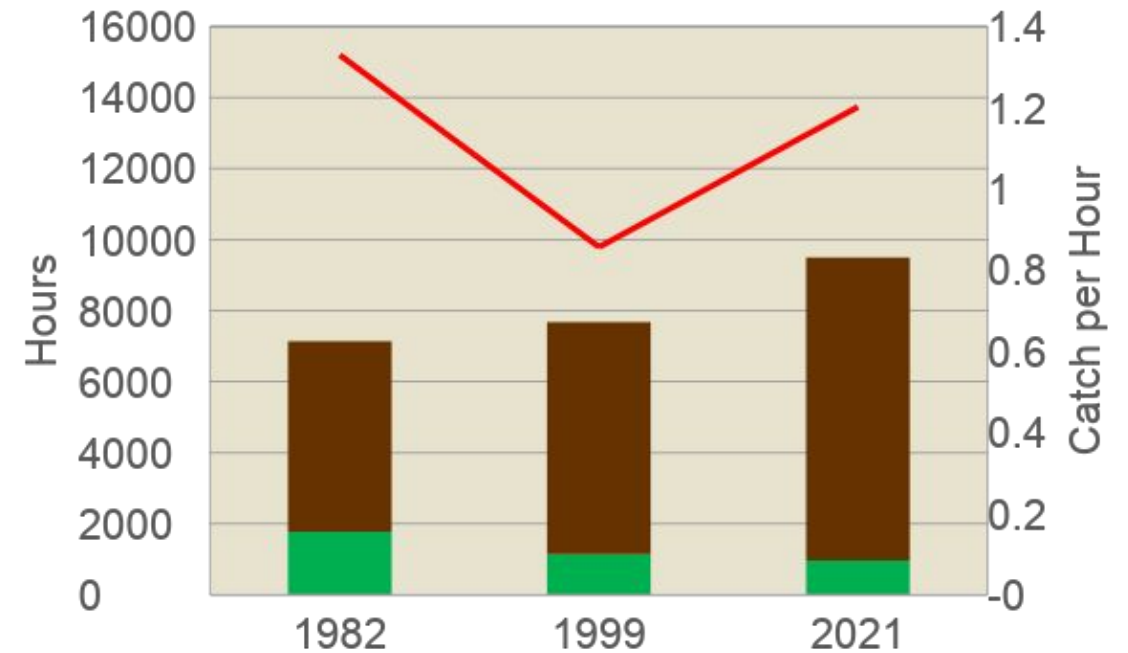


Taylor River

## Taylor Dam Tailwater Catch and Release



## Standard Regulations (Below Tailwater)



 Rainbow CPH  Brown CPH  Angler Hours





# Angler Crowding

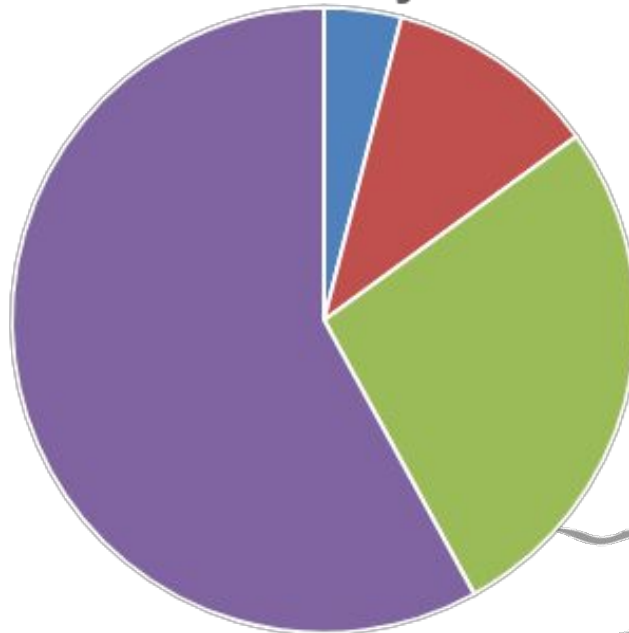


Taylor River

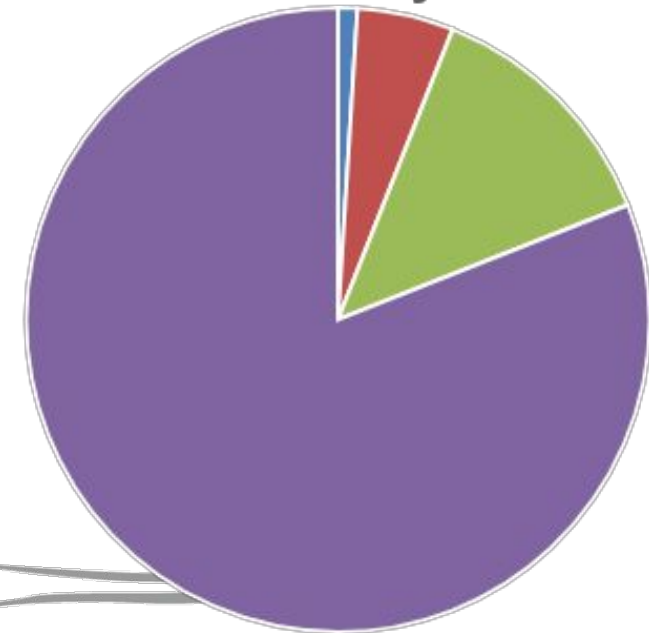
@ Taylor Dam Tailwater (0.5 mi)

Below tailwater (10.5 mi)

How Crowded did you feel by Anglers?



How Crowded did you feel by Anglers?



■ A Lot ■ A Moderate Amount ■ A Little ■ Not At All ■ A Lot ■ A Moderate Amount ■ A Little ■ Not At All



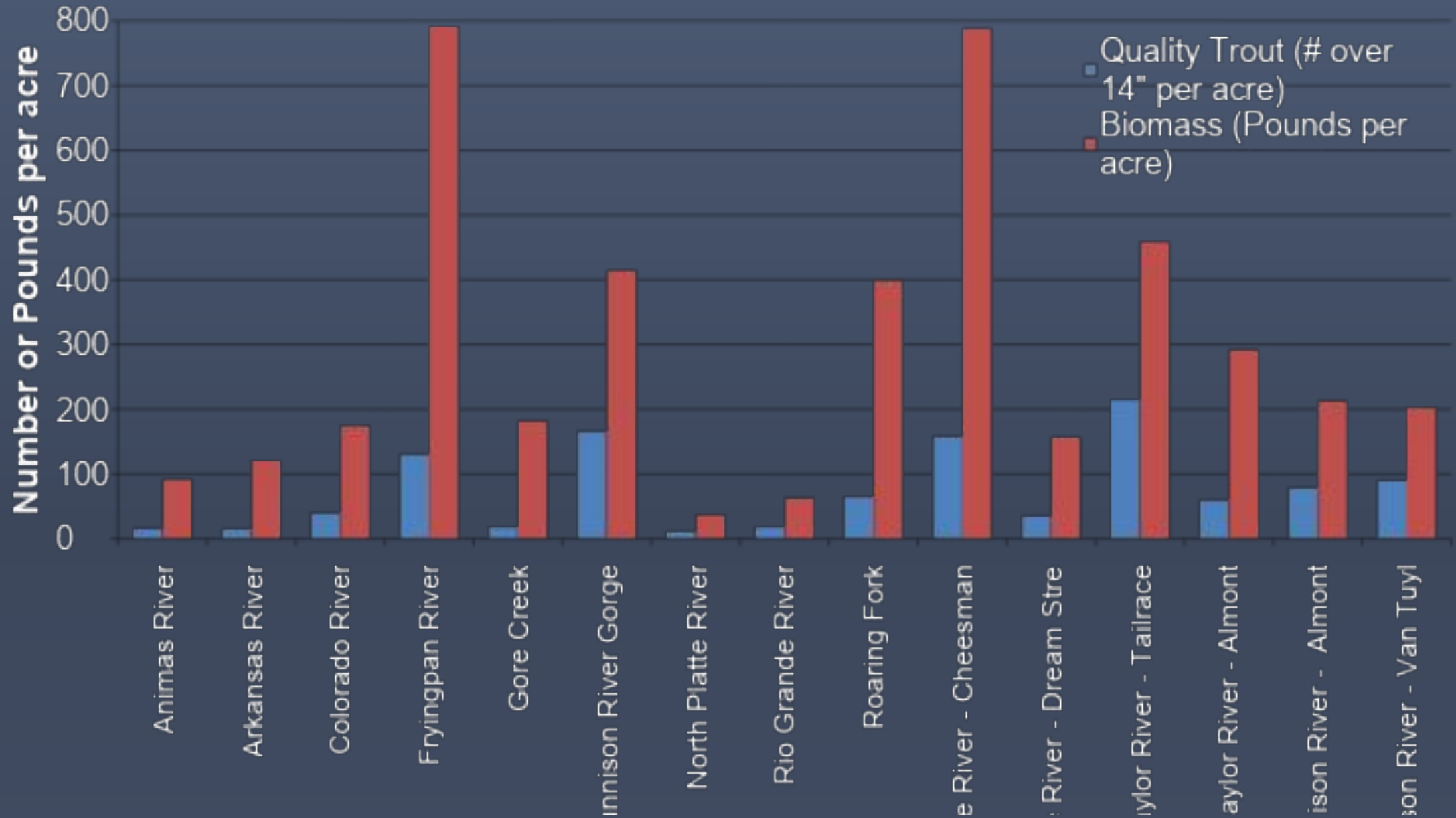








# GOLD MEDAL WATERS







QUESTIONS?