

# UPPER COLORADO RIVER Fee Adjustment Proposal



Hannah Schechter  
Outdoor Recreation Planner  
BLM Kremmling Field Office

# River Background & History

- Designated SRMA in 1984 RMP (river-related)
- 60,000 people per year
- 55 commercial outfitters
- 60%-70% commercial use
- Current fee program initiated in 1998 (Recreation Fee Demonstration Program)



# Colorado River Fee Site- Pumphouse

- 18 individual and two group campsites (picnic tables, fire rings, and tent pads)
- Five boat ramps
- Public water system
- 12 vault toilets
- Three information kiosks
- Two gravel parking lots
- Trash collection



# Colorado River Fee Site-Radium

- Six individual and two group campsites (picnic tables, fire rings, and tent pads)
- One boat ramp (future boat ramps)
- Two information kiosks
- Five vault toilets
- Gravel parking lot
- Trash collection



# Current Fees at Pumphouse and Radium

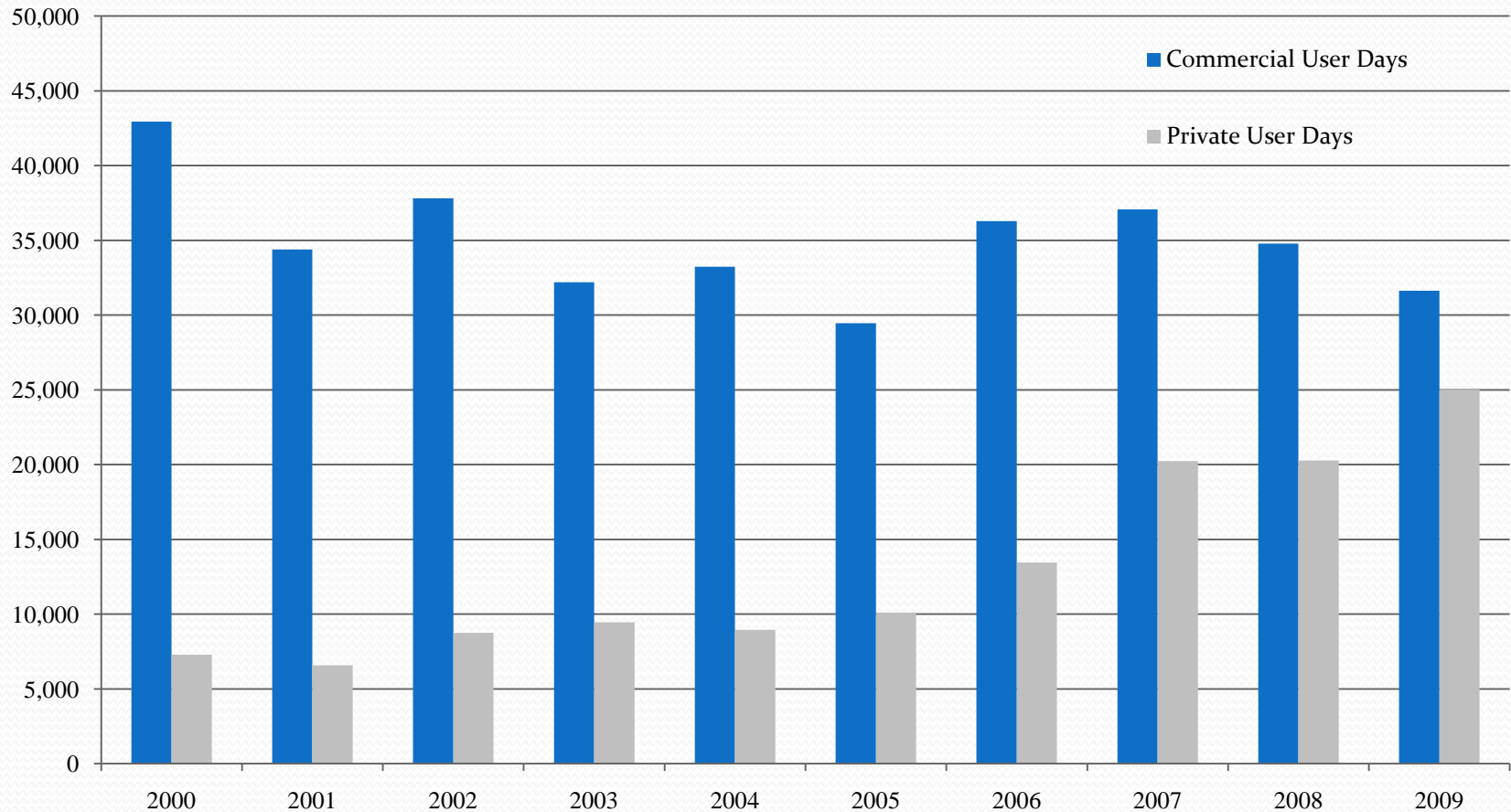
<b>Camping</b>	<b>\$10 per individual site (Pumphouse)</b>
	\$6 per individual site (Radium)
	\$30 per group site (Pumphouse and Radium) *Camping fee includes day-use fee for one vehicle *Any additional vehicles must pay day-use fee
<b>Day-Use</b>	<b>\$3 per vehicle per day</b>
	\$1 per person per day- commercial
<b>Season Pass</b>	<b>\$15- purchased at the BLM office in Kremmling</b>
	Only covers day-use fees for one vehicle

# Visitor Demographics

- Private, non-commercial visitors
  - Two- three hour radius
  - Majority from Front Range
  - Day trip or multi-day trip
- Commercial visitors
  - 55 outfitters
  - Staying at resort communities
  - Majority ½ or full-day day rafting trips or float and wade fishing trips

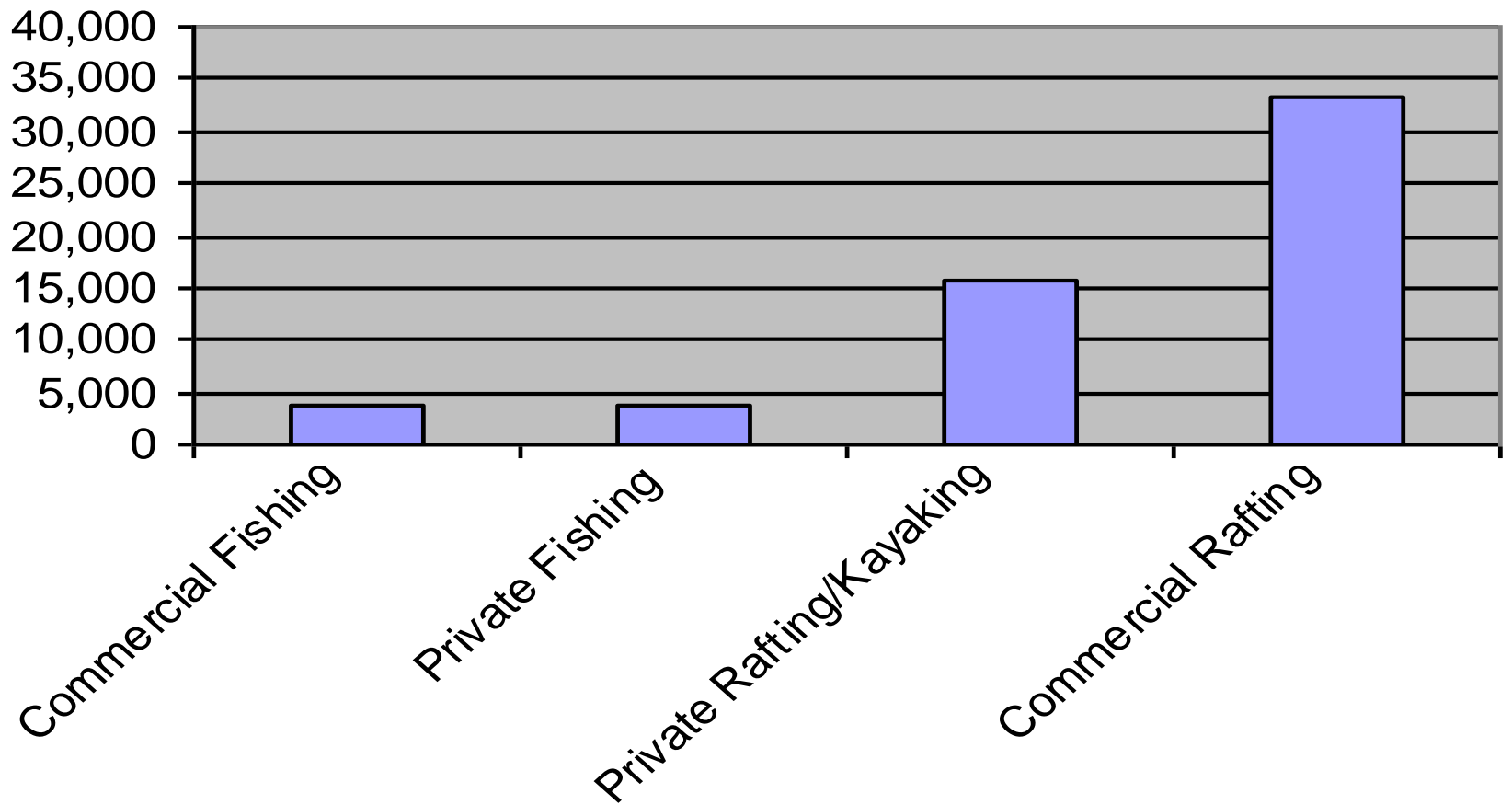
# Recreation Use

## Upper Colorado User Days 2000-2009



# Recreation Use

## Upper Colorado User Days





# Financial Analysis

## Annual Costs:

### Payroll:

Seasonal Employee	\$18,000
Seasonal Employee	\$10,000
Recreation Assistant	\$28,000
Front Desk	\$10,000
15% Admin/Overhead	\$18,250
Law Enforcement	\$38,000

### Maintenance:

Road Maintenance	\$7,500
Toilet Pumping	\$6,500
Supplies/Services	\$11,000
Utilities	\$7,500
Vehicles	\$15,000
Facility Repair /maintenance	\$15,000

**Total Annual Expenses: \$184,750**

# Financial Analysis

## Annual Revenue:

Maintenance Appropriated funds	\$42,477
Fee Collection (private day use)	\$19,200
Fee Collection (commercial day use)	\$29,072
Commercial River Outfitters Special Recreation Permit Fees	\$67,000
Campground Fees	\$6,500

**Total Annual Income: \$164,249**

# Financial Analysis

## Future Development Costs:

Pumphouse Launch #3 Rebuild	\$21,000
Pumphouse Parking Lot Improvements	\$36,000
Pumphouse Parking for Group Camp Sites	\$17,000
New storage facility at Pumphouse	\$100,000
Improve Pumphouse access road (new gravel, grading, mag chloride)	\$100,000
Update and publish a new river guide	\$25,000

**Total Capital Expenses: \$299,000**

# Fair Market Value Assessment

- **Dillon Ranger District (White River NF)**
  - Cataract Lake Trailhead (day use) \$5/vehicle
  - Green Mtn. Reservoir Campground \$5-\$10/site
  - Dillon Reservoir Campground \$10-\$22/site
- **Sulphur Ranger District (Arapahoe/Roosevelt NF)**
  - Arapahoe National Rec Area day use \$5/vehicle
  - Annual Pass for day use \$30/vehicle
  - Walk-in or bike-in day use \$2/person
  - Campground (concessionaire operated) \$16-\$21/site
- **Yampa Ranger District (Medicine Bow/Routt NF)**
  - Campgrounds \$10/site
  - Designated dispersed campsites \$5/ site

# Rationale for Fee Change

## -Two changes to Fees-

- Change classification of day use fees from ***expanded amenity fee*** to ***standard amenity fee***
  - Standard amenity will allow day-use fees to cover
    - American the Beautiful Annual (no day use fee, full camping fee)
    - Volunteer Interagency (no day use fee, full camping fee)
    - Senior (no day use fee, 1/2 camping fee)
    - Access (no day use fee, 1/2 camping fee)
  - Expanded amenity
    - Annual & Volunteer (pay full day use & camping fee)
    - Senior & Access (pay 1/2 day use fee & full camping fee)

# Rationale for Fee Change

## -Two changes to Fees-

- Increase day-use fees
  - Private Users
    - increase from \$3 per vehicle to \$4 per vehicle per day
  - Commercial Users
    - Increase from \$1 per person to \$1.25 per person per day
  - Season Pass
    - Increase from \$15 to \$20

# Social/Economic Impacts

- Arizona State University Visitor Study (2007)
  - Day use visitors to UCR- SRMA- \$163/ day
- \$1 increase = less than 1% increase
- Compared to other government fee sites, still less



# Visitor Feedback Mechanisms

- Visitor Feedback Opportunities
  - On-site visitor contacts
  - Webmail
  - Fee envelopes
- Reports
  - Triennial report to Congress
    - Accomplishments for fee sites
  - Annual Fee Revenue and Expenditures
    - Posted on-site at Pumphouse and Radium



# Public Participation

- Solicit Public Comment from
  - Media (Denver, Fort Collins, Grand Junction, Grand County, Eagle County, Summit County, and Routt County)
  - Outfitters (KFO and CRVFO)
  - Other interested groups (e.g., Trout Unlimited, State Parks, CROA, American Whitewater, etc.)
  - BLM KFO web site
  - Mountain Buzz
  - Presentation to Grand County Commissioners
  - Presentation to Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council

# Questions/Comments?

