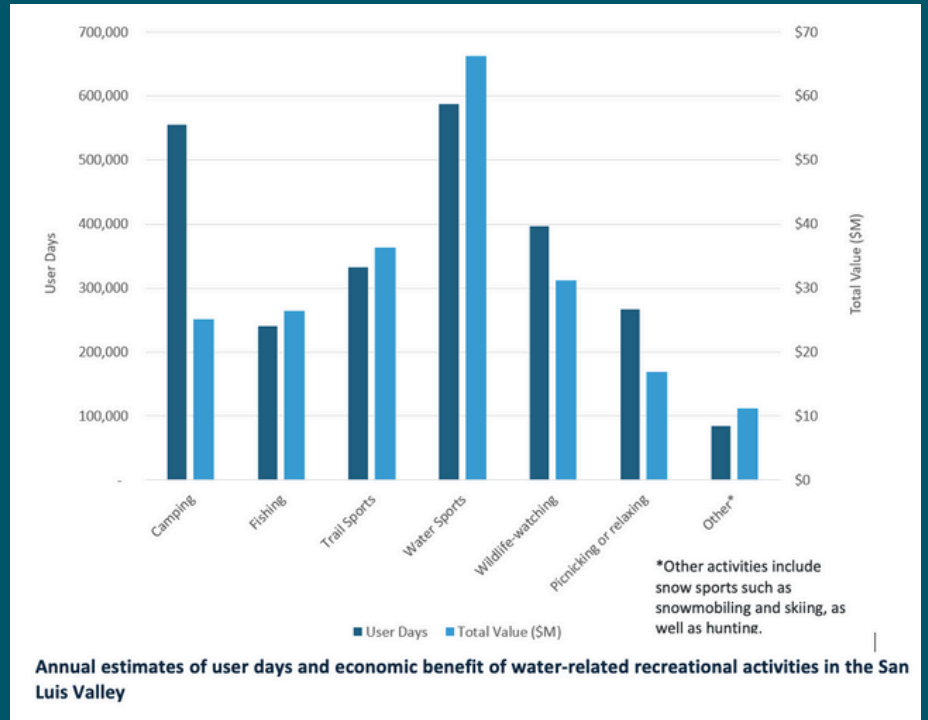




Water resources in the San Luis Valley support a wide range of social, financial, and environmental benefits. The overall economic assessment quantifies the value of water in this region across a multitude of its uses. The values found highlight the diversity of uses and the benefits accrued to individuals, communities and across the local economy. This information aims to underscore the value of water across all sectors to promote and foster continued collaboration in the protection of water resources. In doing so, the Valley can invest in a future where all water-dependent sectors and beings can thrive.

SPOTLIGHT: VALUE OF RECREATION AND TOURISM

The San Luis Valley is home to a wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities that draw residents and visitors, including the Great Sand Dunes National Park, gold medal trout habitat, whitewater boating, and wetland and riparian areas for birding. Many recreational opportunities are either directly dependent on water or enhanced by the proximity to rivers, lakes, wetlands, and reservoirs. In 2019, Business for Water Stewardship conducted a survey on water based recreation and found the SLV hosts an estimated 2.5 million water-related recreational user days each year.



When visitors and residents recreate, they spend money on activities that generate economic activity in the Valley's rural communities.

An estimated \$365.9 million in direct sales associated with water-related recreation in the SLV generated a total economic impact of \$679.7 million.



Read the full report and learn more about the value of water in the San Luis Valley.