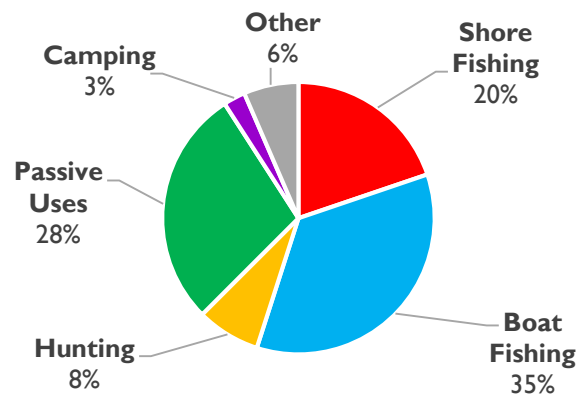


CSUC Economists Continue Analysis of Recreation on the Sacramento River

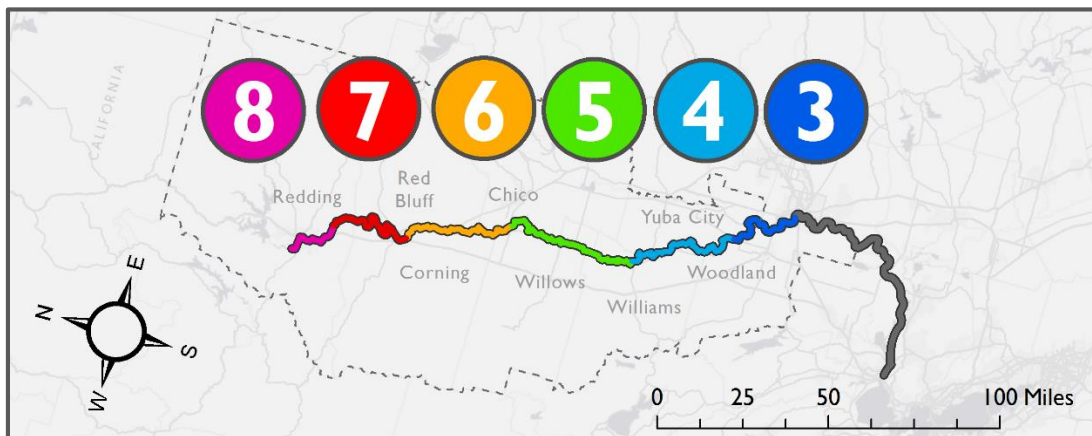
As part of a multiyear project to analyze the economic change associated with public land ownership and habitat conservation along the Sacramento River, researchers at Chico State are continuing to survey users of public access sites along the river corridor between Redding and Knights Landing. The purpose of the survey is to better understand the economic effects associated with travel to and expenditures in communities along the River, while also examining preferences and overall satisfaction with public access sites across the 7-county study area. The research is the result of a partnership between the Geographical Information Center, the CSUC Economics Department, and the Sacramento River Forum, a non-profit organization tasked with promoting and coordinating restoration related activities along the Sacramento River.

The survey effort, which was featured in the CED's March newsletter, will come to a close in September of this year. Summer interns working for the CSUC Economics Department will be focusing on popular boat launches and public access facilities for the remainder of the survey period, as the salmon season comes into full swing later this month. While fishing is the dominant recreational use on the Sacramento River, the survey team is also focusing on other active and passive uses of the river. The diversity in the types of recreation provided by the river is evidenced by the chart to the right, which shows the breakdown of the more than 400 recreational visitors surveyed so far.

Recreational Visitor Survey:
Recreational Activities Surveyed



CSUC's efforts are adding to an existing body of knowledge collected by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding fishing on the Sacramento River. The Department of Fish and Wildlife has provided the CSUC research team with multiple years of data from its angler survey, which asks anglers where they travelled from and how many fish they caught. The CSUC team has used this data to analyze the characteristics and overall economic value associated with fishing along six sections of the Sacramento River, pictured below:



This data can also be used to map trends in travel to access fishing sites along the Sacramento River within these sections of the river. The map to the right shows those trends for the years 2007 to 2013. To read the map: the location of the dot represents where anglers are travelling **from**, and the color of the dot represents where anglers are travelling **to**.

The map shows a general trend of northern river sections attracting anglers from as far away as the major Bay Area population centers, while more southern river sections attract primarily local anglers. Differences in travel patterns are likely to create different economic effects in local counties. The longer the trip taken by a recreational visitor, the more that visitor tends to spend in the local economy on such things

as restaurant meals, fishing supplies, and lodging. The ongoing CSUC survey seeks to add to existing knowledge about travel distances by quantifying the dollars spent by visitors across these categories.

To learn more about this and other ongoing projects in the river corridor, visit the Sacramento River Forum's website at sacramentoriver.org/forum or contact Project Specialist Ryan Miller at rgmiller@csuchico.edu or by phone at (530) 898-3864.

