

State of the Colorado River: On the Cusp of a New Century—An Upper Basin Perspective

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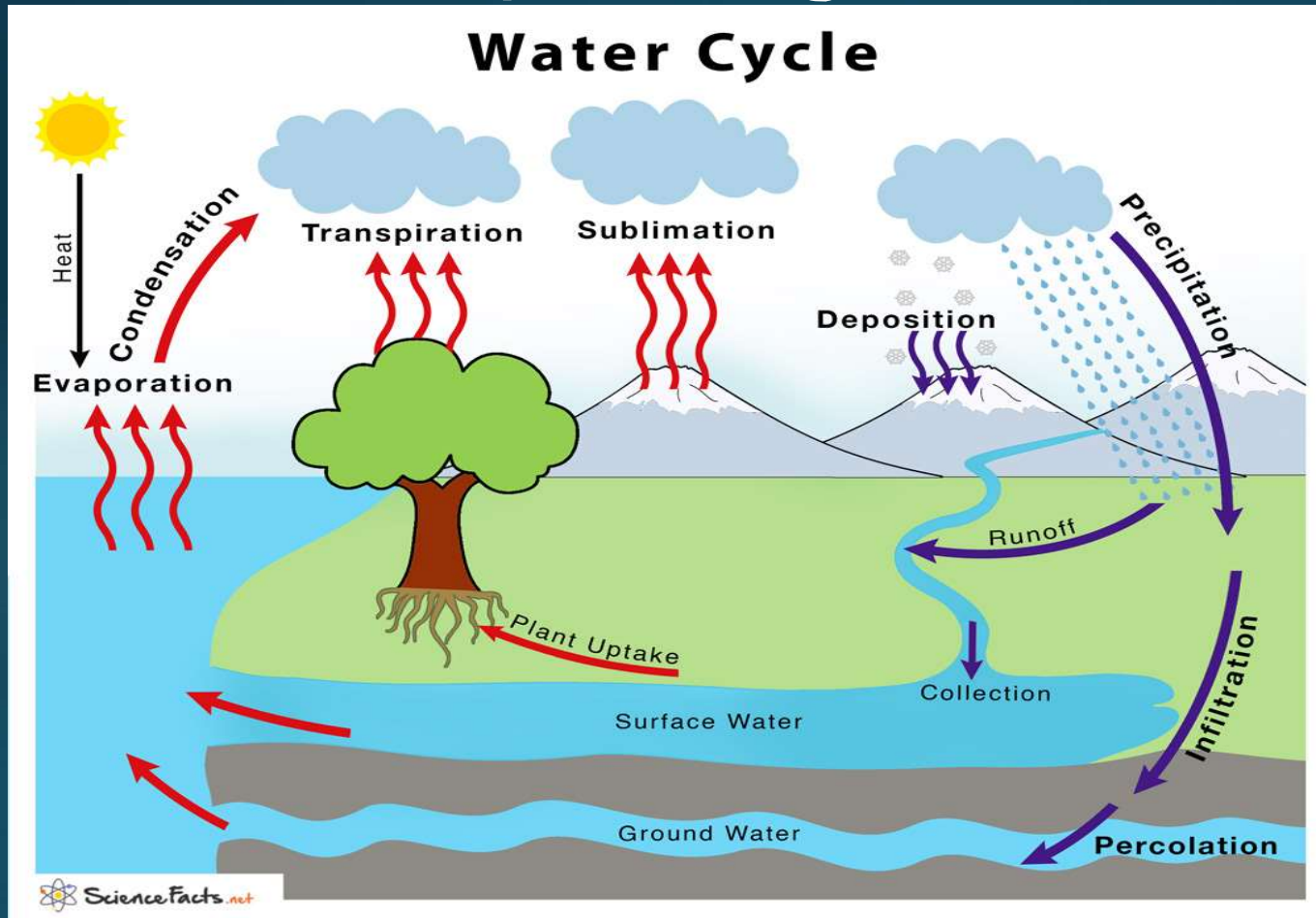


Upper Colorado River Commission

- An interstate water administrative agency established by the 1948 Compact to ensure appropriate allocation of water to the Upper Division States.
- Serves to ensure commitments under 1922 Compact are met at Lee Ferry and regarding Mexico.
- Seeks to promote interstate comity and to remove causes of present and future controversies.
- Comprised of one representative appointed by the Governor of each Upper Division State and one member appointed by the President.



The Real Hydrologic World



Upper Basin & Lower Basin Connected but Different

1. Distributed vs Concentrated

- Thousands of points of diversion vs ~25 major diversion from the mainstem

2. Secretarial Role

- Limited in UB vs BROAD authorities in the LB

3. Accounting for depletions

- Depletions including evaporation accounted for in the UB vs only deliveries to CU accounted for in LB

4. Availability of Storage for water deliveries

- Limited storage available for uses in UB vs total reliance on storage in LB



Upper Basin Stuff

- **Actions by the Upper Division States through UCRC**

- Hosted Basin States Discussions (January – December) & Mexico Discussions
- April 2022 Approved DROA 2022 Plan
- June 2022 Approved Consumptive Use Recommendation and Adopted Remote-Sensing based tools for estimating irrigated agricultural consumptive use for interstate purposes
- June 2022 Directed Staff to Prepare Alternative to Inflow-Outflow Method
- July 2022 Submitted 5-Point Plan for Actions to Mitigate Impacts of Drought and Depleted Storage on Upper Basin Colorado River Resources
- August 2022 Started Tribal – States Dialogue with Inaugural Meeting hosted by Southern Ute Indian Tribe
- August 2022 Adopted 5 Point Plan and Directed Staff to Forward to Implement the Plan
- November 2022 Approved System Conservation Pilot Program Agreement
- December 2022 Response to SEIS Notice of Intent/Scoping

- **Looking Forward**

- Continue Tribal – States Dialogue
- DROA 2023 Planning
- Implement 2023 SSCP (IRA Funding)
- Implement Infrastructure Plan (IIJA – DCP Funding)
- Implement Remote-Sensing based estimation of CU in the Upper Basin
- Prepare Alternative to Inflow-Outflow Method
- Continue Consideration of Demand Management Program
- Basin States Discussions & Mexico Discussions
- Respond to Draft SEIS and Prepare for Development of Post-2026 Operating Rules

Upper Division 5 Point Plan Components

- July '23 - Upper Division States responded to Commissioner Touton's call for additional actions to protect Colorado River infrastructure – Glen Canyon and Hoover Dam, as well CRSP upstream initial units
 - System Conservation Pilot Program
 - DROA 2023 Planning
 - Consider Demand Management Program
 - Implement BIL DCP Funding for new water management infrastructure
 - Continue Strict Water Management
 - Regulation and enforcement of water rights consistent with annual available supply
 - Continue to implement new aggressive water conservation programs

Run of River Scenario

Storage USE TODAY 12/15

Lake Powell inflow ~4600 cfs
Lake Powell Release ~ 9700 cfs

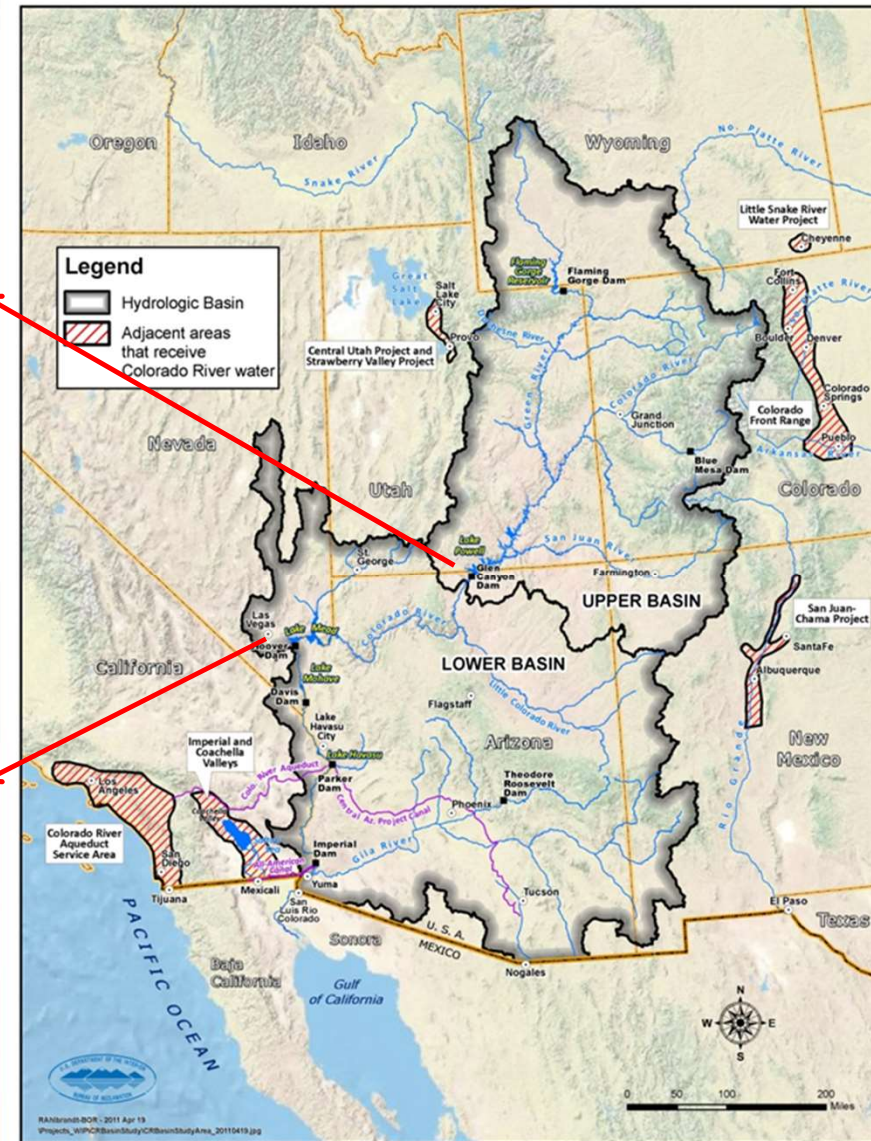
Lake Mead inflow ~ 10,000 cfs
Lake Mead Release ~ 10,000 cfs

RUN of RIVER
INFLOW = OUTFLOW

Lake Powell inflow ~ 4,600 cfs
Lake Powell Release ~ 4,600 cfs

Lake Mead inflow ~ 5,000 cfs
Lake Mead outflow ~ 5,000 cfs

TODAY's SUPPLY CUT 50%
WHO GETS CUT???



Next Steps

Collective Painful Action Is Necessary

All States, Sectors, Priorities and Tribes must play a role

Hydrology will dictate more than policy

The Alternative to Inaction is Brutal and Obvious

