

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## **Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study: Moving Forward**

## **Environmental and Recreational Flows Workgroup Report**

**December 11, 2014**



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation

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# Four main elements of report

1. Guiding Principles
2. Identification and Assessment of Four Focal Reaches
3. Existing Programs that Benefit Environmental, Recreational, and Hydropower Resources
4. Opportunities to Protect and Restore Environmental and Recreational Resources

# Selected four focus reaches

- Mainstem of the **Colorado River** between the confluence with the Gunnison River and confluence with the Green River
- **White River** between Taylor Draw Dam and the confluence with the Green River
- **Bill Williams River** from Alamo Dam to the confluence with the Colorado River at Lake Havasu
- **Henry's Fork** headwaters area within parts of Utah and Wyoming

# Existing Ecological, Recreational, and Hydropower Programs

- Reviewed 78 programs operating in the Basin, in other parts of the U.S. and in international regions
- Existing programs provide valuable resources
- Identify promising approaches and practices

# Opportunities and Challenges for Expanding Environmental and Recreational Flows Programs

- Could apply to focus reach or more broadly
- Developed to meet Workgroups primary objective
- Developed to be consistent with Guiding Principles
- Flow and non-flow related potential actions

# Sustainable Funding for Environmental and Recreational Flow Projects



# Market-Based Mechanisms to Provide Benefits to Multiple Sectors



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## **Watershed Management**



## **Enhanced Coordination among Existing Programs**



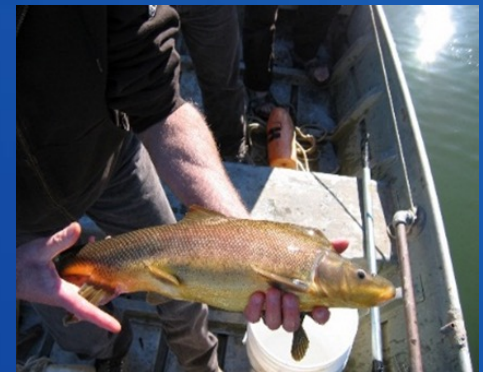
## **Foster Payment for Protection of Environmental Attributes**

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# Voluntary Water Management Optimization to benefit Environmental and Recreational Flows

# Support Capacity-Building for Existing and New Stakeholder Coalitions



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# Conclusions & Observations

- First-of-its-kind environmental & recreational assessment
- Very diverse workgroup agreed on guiding principles & opportunities
- Process and report highlighted many opportunities for multi-sector solutions
- Process fostered trust and cooperation across sectors
- Stakeholders are ready to begin implementing solutions
- Need for funding cuts across all workgroups and solutions