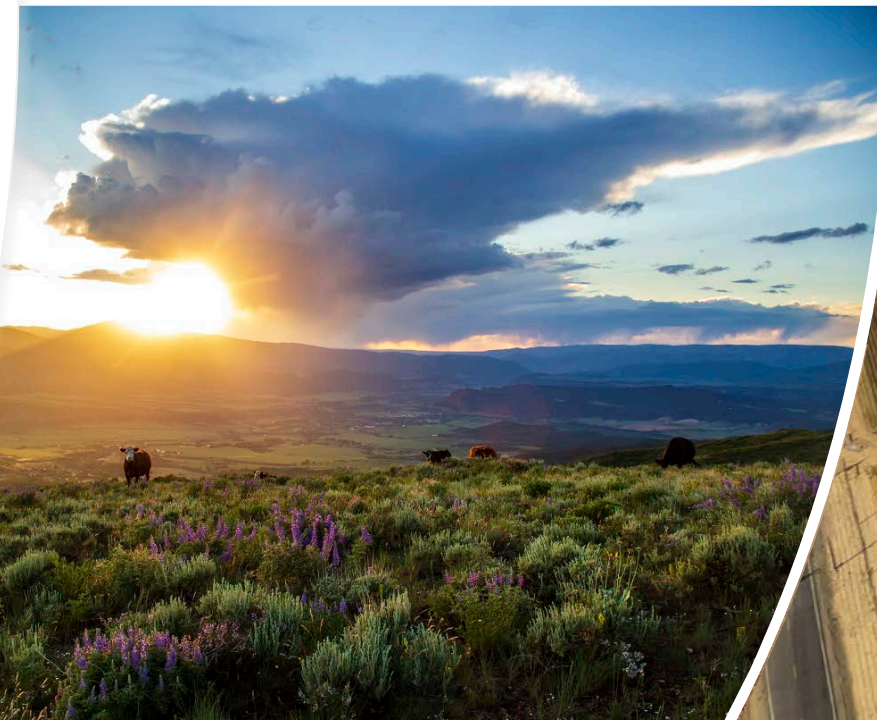





# Our Water, Our Future on the West Slope

*Lindsay DeFrates, PR & Media  
Specialist*

*Colorado River District*





The Colorado River District was formed in 1937 to protect West Slope water users AND to safeguard for Colorado all waters of the Colorado River to which the state is entitled.





# Roadmap

- I. The Colorado River Crisis – Yes, we all know there's still a crisis
- II. Solutions & Unintended Consequences
- III. Protect Western Colorado



# The Colorado River Basin





# West Slope Residents Paying Attention



- 
- **83%** of likely voters are concerned about water levels in the Colorado River – this high-level of interest is reflected across party lines
  - **92%** of voters agree that the Colorado River Basin and streams are important to the economy on the Western Slope
  - **97%** feel that out-of-state water interests like California pose a threat
  - **98%** are concerned about investment firms purchasing water rights on the Western Slope

# A System in Crisis and the Headlines to Prove it

**More bad news for the Colorado River** MONTROSE DAILY PRESS

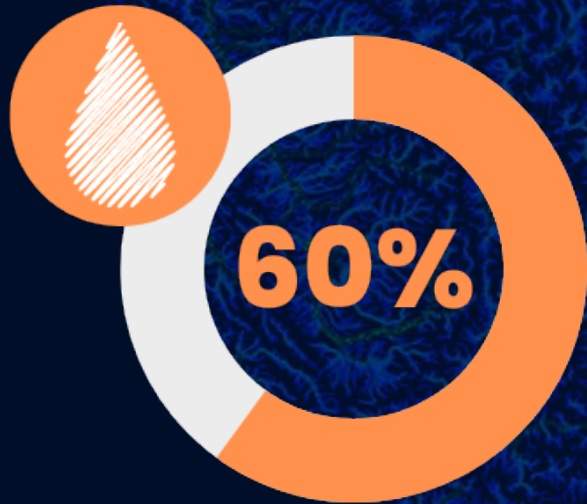
**The Search for Solutions to Colorado's Water Crisis** 5280

**Get Wall Street out of our water** THE DAILY SENTINEL  
GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO

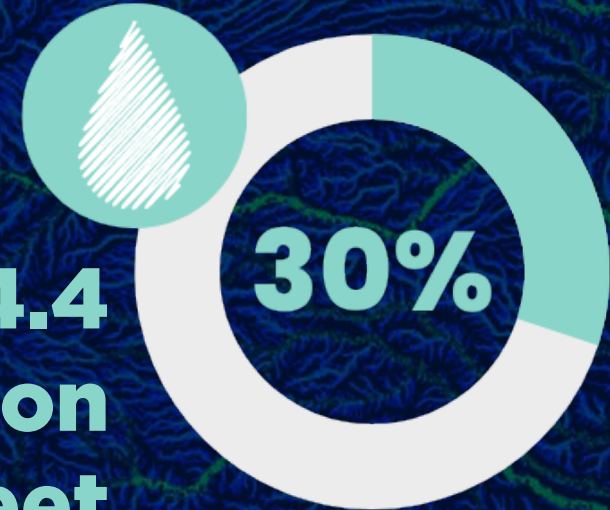
**Conferees told Colorado River action 'absolutely critical'** AP AP NEWS



# 2011-2022 Average Use



8.8  
Million  
Acre Feet



4.4  
Million  
Acre Feet

+ 1.5 Million Acre Feet to Mexico



14.7 Million  
Acre Feet Total

**And  
Transit  
Losses**



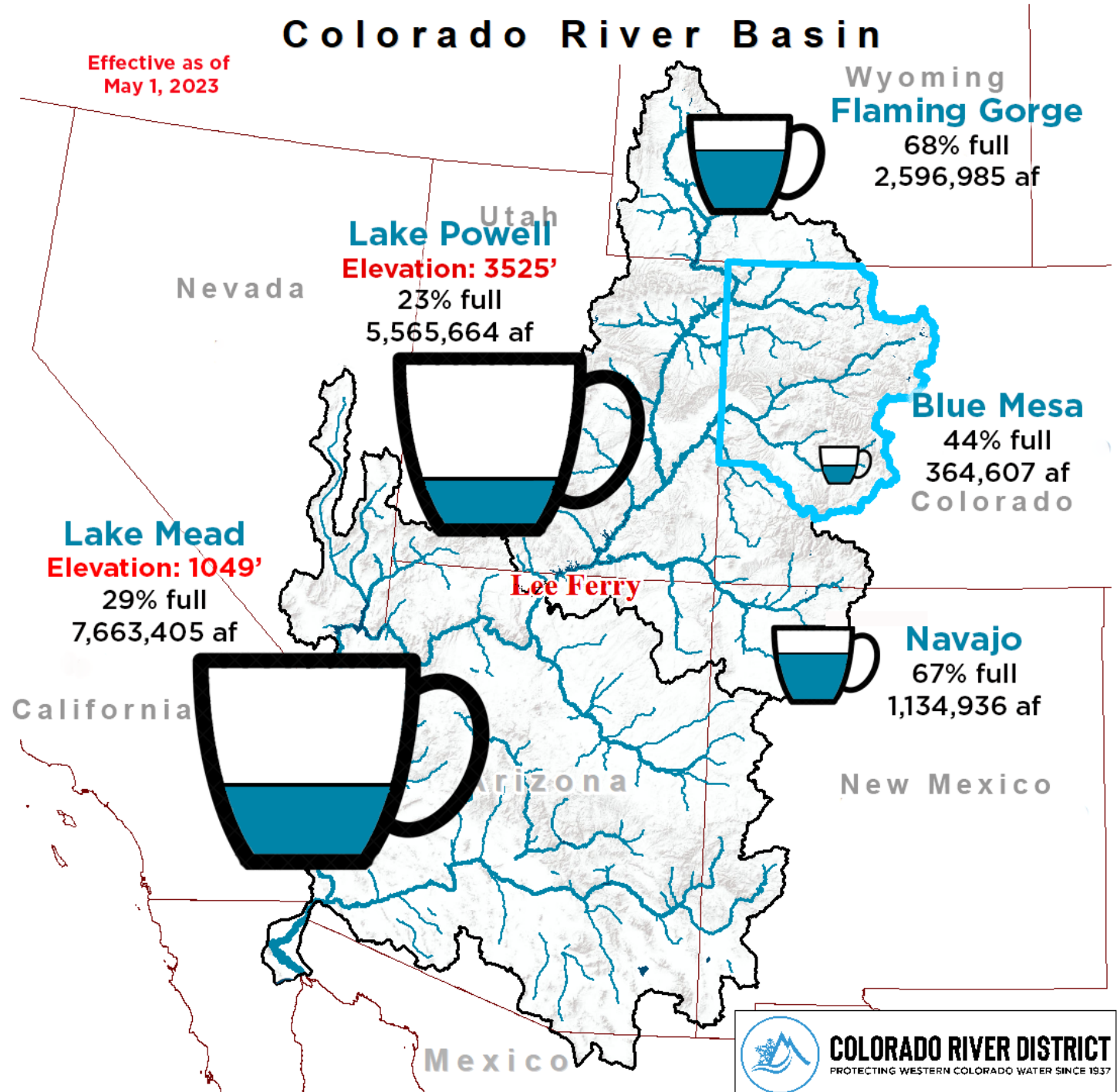


# System Storage as of May 1, 2023



## Colorado River Basin

Effective as of  
May 1, 2023



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# Reclamation official tells Colorado River states to conserve up to 4 million acre-feet of water

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June 15, 2022

Marianne Goodland, [Colorado Politics](#).  
Updated Aug. 17, 2022

Promises to use 'unilateral power' to bring the river back into balance if states cannot come to an agreement.



# UPPER COLORADO RIVER COMMISSION



**1** REAUTHORIZE SYSTEM  
CONSERVATION PILOT  
PROJECT

**2** DROUGHT  
OPERATIONS  
RESPONSE PLAN

**3** UPPER BASIN DEMAND  
MANAGEMENT  
PROGRAM

**4** FUND IMPROVED  
WATER MANAGEMENT  
TOOLS

**5** STATE ADMINISTRATION  
OF AVAILABLE WATER  
SUPPLY



# System Conservation (Pilot) Program vs. Demand Management



SCP

Water NOT  
measured or  
shepherded

Water sent  
downstream to  
protect critical  
infrastructure

BOTH

Voluntary, Temporary,  
Compensated

NOT a Free Market  
Program

Potential long-term  
consequences for local  
ag

Address system  
shortages.



DEMAND  
MANAGEMENT

Water amounts  
measured and  
shepherded into  
Upper Basin  
reservoirs

To be used only for  
Compact  
compliance

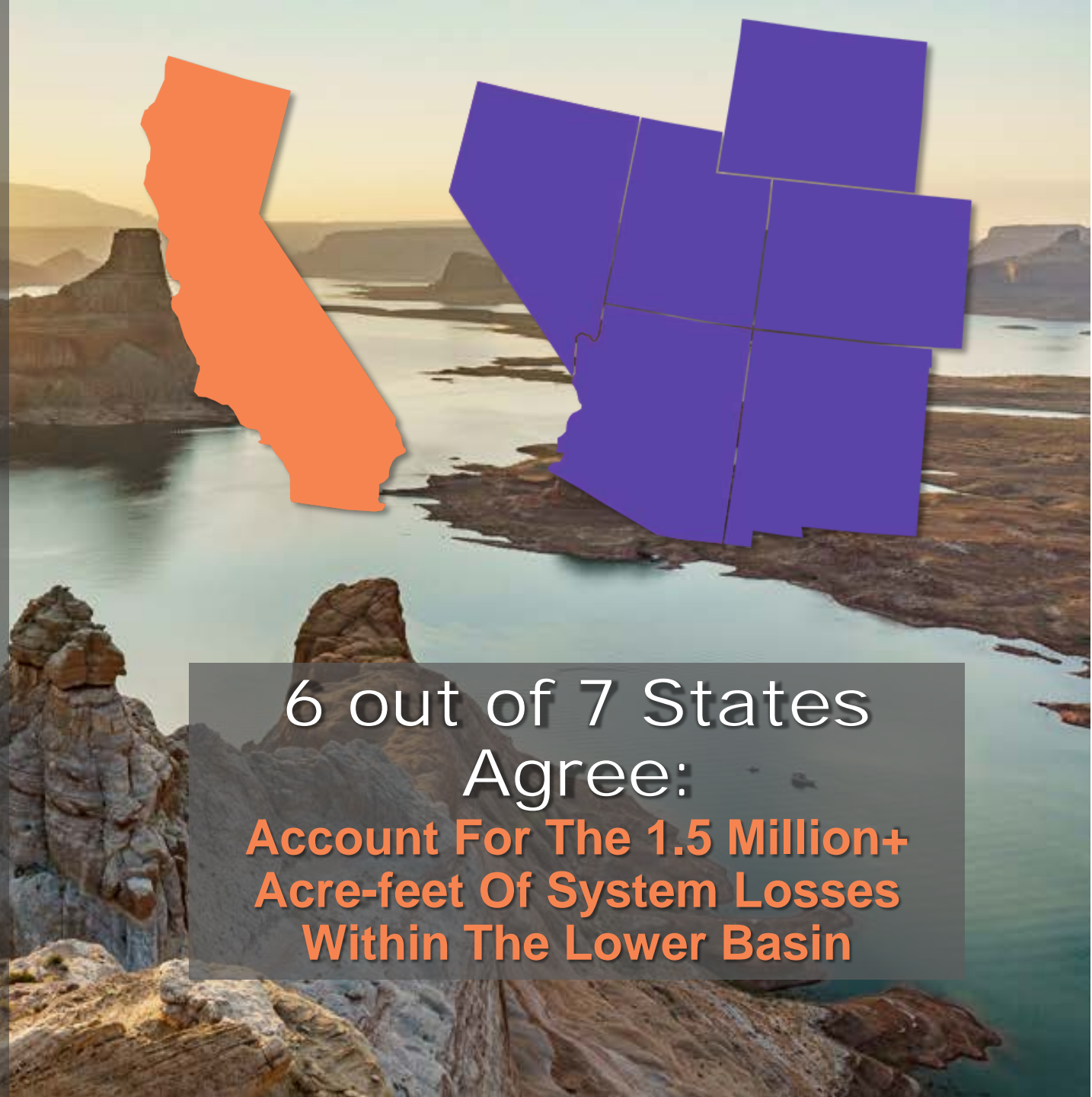






# The 6-State Solution: Consensus-Based Modeling

- Submitted to the Department of Interior on January 31, 2023
- Adjustments to Lower Basin contributions required under Drought Contingency Plan
- Account for hydrologic shortages in the Upper Division States



**6 out of 7 States Agree:  
Account For The 1.5 Million+ Acre-feet Of System Losses Within The Lower Basin**



# The Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)

- Draft shared by the Bureau of Reclamation on April 11, 2023
- 45-day NEPA public comment period
- The River District is working directly with Commissioner Mitchell to look at the ramifications of the proposed actions



## Purpose

- Primarily addresses BOR's water management in the Lower Basin, where they are water masters
- Allows the Bureau greater flexibility when trying to balance the system between 2024 and 2026
- Prevent further crisis while stakeholders develop a long-term consensus solution to implement in 2026



# West Slope Residents Paying Attention



**94%**

of voters think the loss of farmlands, ranches and orchards and the availability of water for agriculture are serious issues.

**98%**

are concerned about investment firms purchasing water rights on the Western Slope.





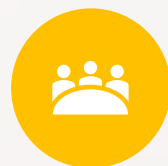
# River District in the Big River Conversation



Provide up-to-date  
science, data, modeling



Build and maintain  
relationships with  
policy makers



Driving the  
conversation in  
Interstate & Federal  
discussions



Call for Lower Basin  
evaporation and transit  
loss accounting



# COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT

COMMUNITY FUNDING PARTNERSHIP



High-Impact Projects  
And Investments For  
West Slope Water

**\$4.2 MILLION ANNUALLY**





## Community Funding Partnership

Over \$7 million

80+ projects

Leveraging over  
\$63 million  
For West Slope Water



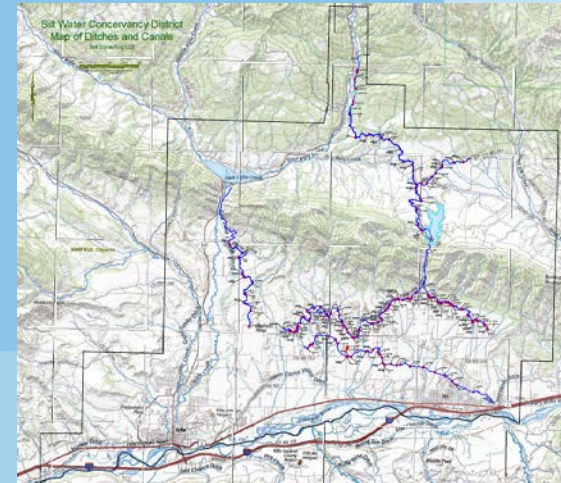
# City of Glenwood Springs

- Award Amount: \$300,000
- Redundant water source to mitigate the high environmental hazards in Glenwood Canyon
- Construct a new raw water transmission line from Roaring Fork Pump Station to Red Mountain Water Treatment Plan



# Silt Water Conservation District

- Award Amount: \$15,000
- Water Delivery and Storage Analysis: Rifle Gap and Harvey Gap Reservoirs balancing program
- Support irrigation and recreation in times of drought
- Utilize soil moisture data, snow pack levels, and reservoir levels to calculate releases



# Protect Western Colorado



## SIGN UP

- Sign up for our News Drop, follow us on social media

## JOIN IN

- Join in local water conservation discussions

## TALK TO US

- We're listening
- Community Funding Partnership
- Other project funding opportunities



**COLORADORIVERDISTRICT.ORG**



**Colorado River District**



**@ColoradoWater**



**ColoradoRiverDistrict**