Colorado River Updates

Rebecca Mitchell Colorado River Commissioner, State of Colorado



COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado River Recent Events

June 2022

Reclamation announces need to conserve 2 to 4 million acre-feet per year in Colorado River System

July 2022

Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming create the 5 Point Plan in response to Reclamation

December 2022

Congress reauthorizes the System Conservation Pilot Program for voluntary Upper Basin conservation

January 2023

Six states reach consensus on an alternative to model in the SEIS

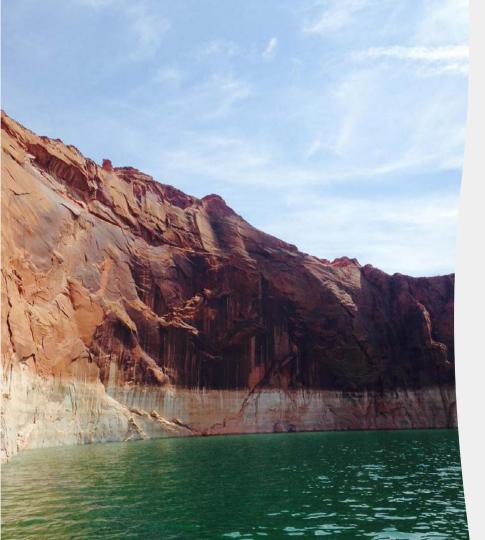
April 2023

Reclamation releases the draft SEIS to adjust current operations for Glen Canyon and Hoover Dams

Draft SEIS

- A mechanism to adjust the current operating guidelines for Glen Canyon and Hoover Dams
- Provides tools for Reclamation to adapt to potentially dry years in the next few water years.





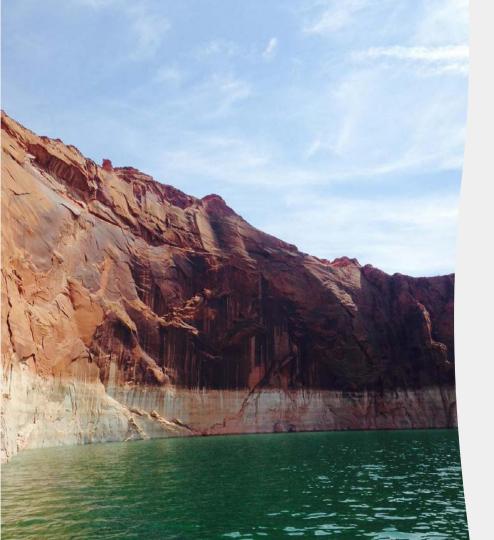
Observations

- Primarily addresses water use in the Lower Basin
- The BOR has significantly more authority in the Lower Basin
- Modifies the '07 Guidelines; all changes are subordinate to the Compact

Next Steps

- 45 days to submit comment
- Colorado considering potential comments and coordinating with other states
- Colorado will work with the Tribal Nations, water users, stakeholders





1922 Colorado River Compact

- Colorado has never been out of compliance
- Not renegotiating the Compact
- Provides for equal sharing of the River between Upper and Lower Basins

Be Involved

• EngageCWCB.org





