

COMPARING COLORADO RIVER WATER USE:

AN IMBALANCE BETWEEN THE UPPER AND LOWER BASIN STATES



COLORADO
Upper Colorado River
Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources

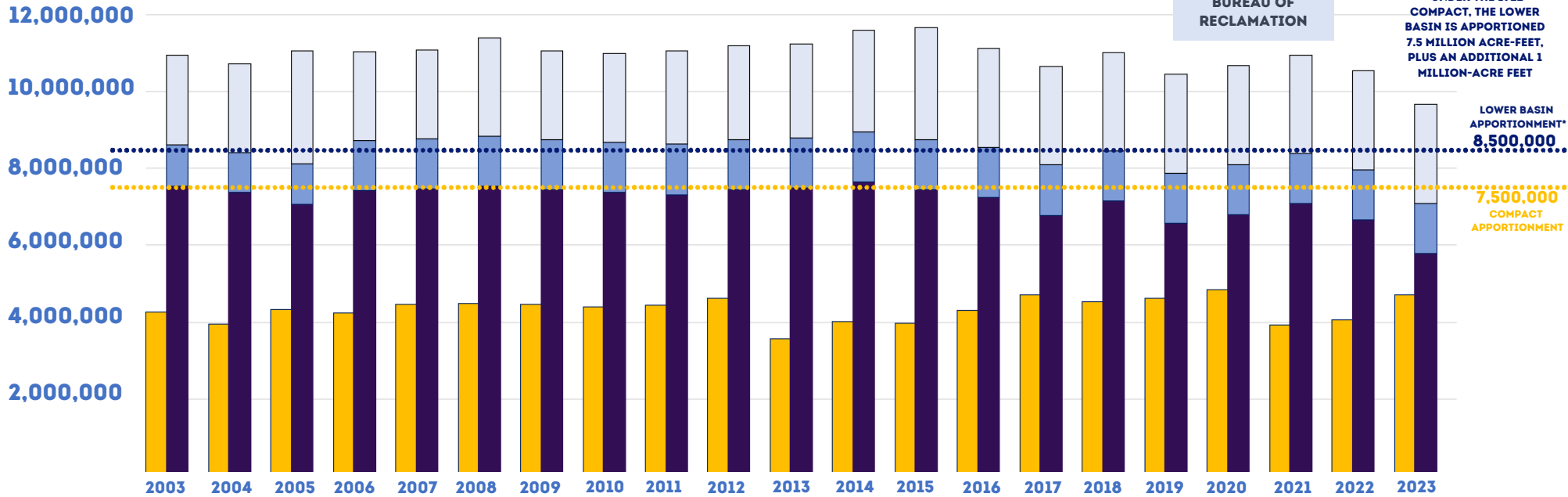
DATA FROM THE
BUREAU OF
RECLAMATION

*UNDER THE 1922
COMPACT, THE LOWER
BASIN IS APPORTIONED
7.5 MILLION ACRE-Feet,
PLUS AN ADDITIONAL 1
MILLION ACRE Feet

LOWER BASIN
APPORTIONMENT*
8,500,000

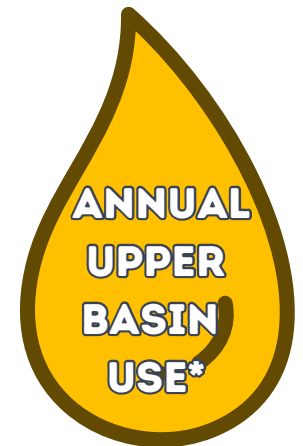
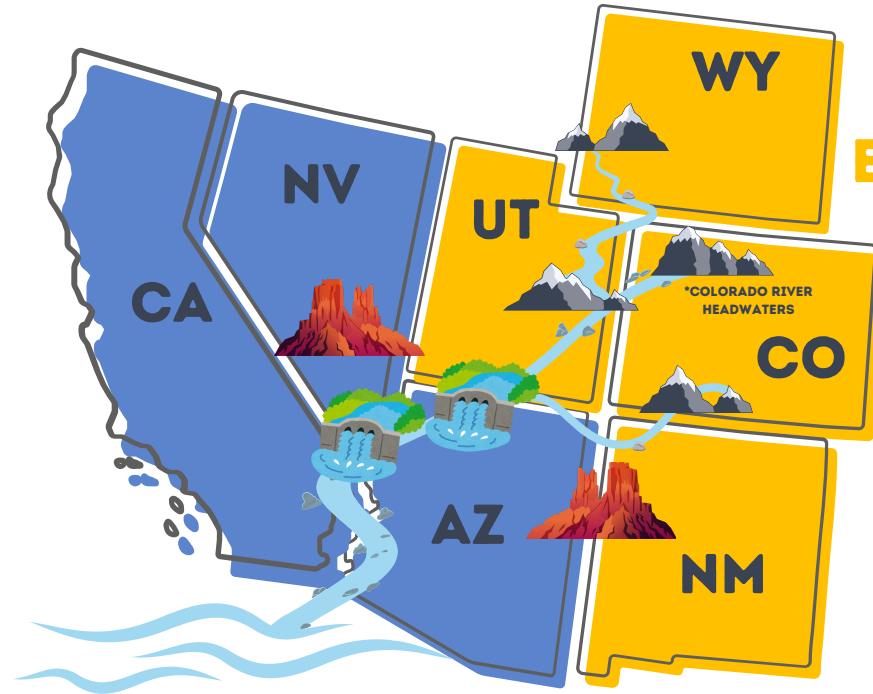
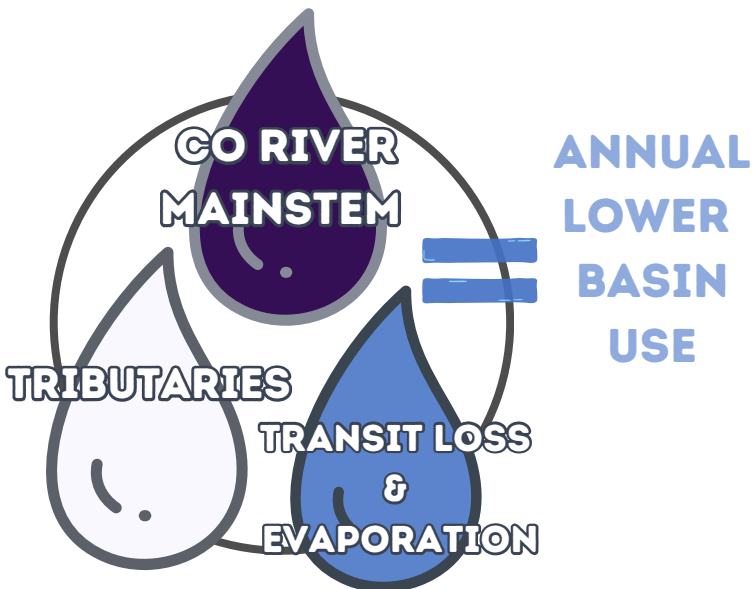
7,500,000
COMPACT
APPORTIONMENT

ACRE FEET OF WATER USE PER YEAR



LOWER BASIN STATES

UPPER BASIN STATES



*UPPER BASIN USE INCLUDES
ALL MAINSTEM, TRIBUTARY,
EVAPORATION & TRANSIT
LOSSES COMBINED

Comparing Colorado River Water Use

An Imbalance Between the Upper and Lower Basin States

Infographic Text

Colorado State Logo: Upper Colorado River Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources

A bar graph shows how much water is used in the upper basin states and how much water is used in the lower basin states. Data is from the Bureau of Reclamation.

Y-Axis: Acre Feet of Water Use Per Year

Range: 2,000,000 acre-feet - 12,000,000 acre-feet in 2 million acre-feet intervals

X-Axis: The years of water use: 2003-2023

Data:

2003

Upper Basin - Around 4,000,000 acre-feet

Lower Basin - Around 11,000,000 acre-feet

2004

Upper Basin - Around 4,000,000 acre-feet

Lower Basin - Around 11,000,000 acre-feet

2005

Upper Basin - Around 4,000,000 acre-feet

Lower Basin - Around 11,000,000 acre-feet

2006

Upper Basin - Around 4,000,000 acre-feet

Lower Basin - Around 11,000,000 acre-feet

2007

Upper Basin - Around 4,000,000 acre-feet

Lower Basin - Around 11,000,000 acre-feet

2008

Upper Basin - Around 4,000,000 acre-feet

Lower Basin - Around 11,000,000 acre-feet

2009

Upper Basin - Around 4,000,000 acre-feet

Lower Basin - Around 11,000,000 acre-feet

2010

Upper Basin - Around 4,000,000 acre-feet

Lower Basin - Around 11,000,000 acre-feet

2011

Upper Basin - Around 4,000,000 acre-feet

Lower Basin - Around 11,000,000 acre-feet

2012

Upper Basin - Around 4,000,000 acre-feet

Lower Basin - Around 11,000,000 acre-feet

2013

Upper Basin - Around 4,000,000 acre-feet

Lower Basin - Around 11,000,000 acre-feet

2014

Upper Basin - Around 4,000,000 acre-feet

Lower Basin - Around 11,000,000 acre-feet

2015

Upper Basin - Around 4,000,000 acre-feet

Lower Basin - Around 11,000,000 acre-feet

2016

Upper Basin - Around 4,000,000 acre-feet

Lower Basin - Around 11,000,000 acre-feet

2017

Upper Basin - Around 4,000,000 acre-feet

Lower Basin - Around 11,000,000 acre-feet

2018

Upper Basin - Around 4,000,000 acre-feet

Lower Basin - Around 11,000,000 acre-feet

2019

Upper Basin - Around 4,000,000 acre-feet

Lower Basin - Around 10,000,000 acre-feet

2020

Upper Basin - Around 4,000,000 acre-feet

Lower Basin - Around 11,000,000 acre-feet

2021

Upper Basin - Around 4,000,000 acre-feet

Lower Basin - Around 11,000,000 acre-feet

2022

Upper Basin - Around 4,000,000 acre-feet

Lower Basin - Around 11,000,000 acre-feet

2023

Upper Basin - Around 4,000,000 acre-feet

Lower Basin - Around 10,000,000 acre-feet

Under the 1922 Compact, the Lower Basin is apportioned 7.5 million acre-feet, plus an additional one million-acre feet.

Lower Basin Apportionment: 8,500,000 acre-feet

Compact Apportionment: 7,500,000 acre-feet

Lower Basin States infographic is a circle bisected by three raindrops:

Dark Blue Raindrop = Colorado River Mainstem Use

Mid Blue Raindrop = Transit Loss and Evaporation

Light Blue Raindrop = Tributaries

The three combined = Annual Lower Basin Use

Upper Basin States infographic is a map of the southwestern United States showing the Upper Basin States of Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and New Mexico in yellow and the Lower Basin States of Nevada, California, and Nevada in blue. The map includes a comic-style illustration of the Colorado River and the locations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead.

Yellow Raindrop = Annual Upper Basin Use*

*Upper Basin use includes all mainstem, tributary, evaporation & transit losses combined.