

**COMPARISON OF CONSUMPTIVE USES, LOSSES, AND WATER SUPPLY
1922 VS. PRESENT
COLORADO RIVER MAINSTEM
(Values in Million Acre-Feet per Year)**

	1922	Present
Reconstructed average virgin flow at Lee Ferry	17.5 ¹	15.0 ²
Long term reconstructed average		13.5 ⁴
Lowest reconstructed ten-year period		9.7 ⁴
Lowest ten-year period of record		11.8 ³
Lower Basin tributary inflow	3.0 ¹	1.4 ⁵
Total available water supply (Mainstem)	20.5¹	11.1-16.4
Upper Basin Uses	2.5 ⁶	4.2 ⁷
Upper Basin Reservoir Evaporation	---	0.5 ⁷
Total Upper Basin Uses	2.5	4.7
Lower Basin Mainstem Uses	2.6 ⁸	8.0 ⁹
Lower Basin Reservoir Evaporation	---	1.8 ¹⁰
Total Lower Basin Mainstem Uses	2.6	9.8
Delivery to Mexico and Welton-Mohawk bypass		1.6
Total Mainstem Uses	6.1	16.1

Notes

1. For the period 1903-1922. This was the amount reported by Delph E. Carpenter in his Historical Memorandum In Re Colorado River, and Brief of Law of Interstate Compacts, June 4, 1921 at hearing on H.R. 6821, Judiciary Committee, Colorado House of Representatives. In his Comments to Congress on the Colorado River Compact, Commissioner of Reclamation Arthur Powell Davis estimated the reconstructed flow at 18.1 maf/yr. Cong. Rec., January 30, 1923, pp. 2713-2717.
2. Long term average for the period 1906-1999. Fifty-First Annual Report, Upper Colorado River Commission, Salt Lake City, UT, September 30, 1999.
3. Critical ten-year averages for the periods 1931-1940 and 1954-1963. For the twelve-year period 1953-64, the average annual virgin flow at Lee Ferry was only 11.6 maf. *Id.*
4. Tree ring analysis, The Lowest ten-year reconstructed record was for the period 1584-1593. Meko, Stockton and Boggess, The Tree-Ring Record of Severe Sustained Drought, *Water Resources Bulletin, American Water Resources Association*, Vol. 31, No. 5, Oct. 1995.
5. As used by the Lower Colorado Region, Bureau of Reclamation, informal communication.
6. Report of Delph E. Carpenter, December 15, 1922.
7. Upper Colorado River States Depletion Schedule, 2000. Upper Colorado River Commission.
8. Comments to Congress on the Colorado River Compact, Commissioner of Reclamation Arthur Powell Davis, Cong. Rec., January 30, 1923, pp. 2713-2717.
9. Estimate of 1997 Colorado Water Use, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, April 30, 1997. However, 1997 is a year of declared surplus. Under a normal year, Lower Basin mainstem uses are limited to 7.5 maf/yr.
10. The Bureau of Reclamation Consumptive Uses and Losses Report, 1981-1985, shows total Lower Basin reservoir evaporation of about 1.0 maf/yr. However, current accounting of the Lower Colorado Region of the Bureau of Reclamation estimates 1.8 maf/yr., informal communication.

Source: James S. Lochhead, *An Upper Basin Perspective on California's Claims to Water From the Colorado River - Part I: The Law of the River*, 4 U. DENV. WATER L. REV. 290 (2001)