

**December 11, 2023**

**Living Rivers comment letter to Reclamation for revised draft SEIS; operations of Glen Canyon Dam and Hoover Dam through Year 2026**

[Click here](#) to read the coalition comments submitted to Reclamation this afternoon by Living Rivers.

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**November 27, 2023**

**Public Meeting: General Construction Permit for Kings Bottom near Moab, Utah**

**ANNOUNCEMENT** from Utah Division of Water Quality.

**PRESENTATION** by John Weisheit, conservation director of Living Rivers & Colorado Riverkeeper

**Zoom credentials:**

[https://utah-gov.zoom.us/j/82526987466?  
pwd=Zy9WWUFXdXITR0JXMTR2NjIFVTBxZz09#success](https://utah-gov.zoom.us/j/82526987466?pwd=Zy9WWUFXdXITR0JXMTR2NjIFVTBxZz09#success)

**HEARING INFORMATION**

PERMIT: UPDES, Construction General Permit, Permit Number UTRC0000

AGENCY: Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Quality

HEARING LOCATION: Virtual

[https://utah-gov.zoom.us/j/82526987466?  
pwd=Zy9WWUFXdXITR0JXMTR2NjIFVTBxZz09#success](https://utah-gov.zoom.us/j/82526987466?pwd=Zy9WWUFXdXITR0JXMTR2NjIFVTBxZz09#success)

DATE: Monday, November 27, 2023

MEETING TIME: 6:00-7:00 PM

STAFF PRESENTATION: 6:00-6:20 PM

QUESTIONS: 6:20-7:00 PM

Meeting ID: 825 2698 7466

Passcode: gOfR^Y4t

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with special needs (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) should contact the Utah State Accessibility website at

<https://www.utah.gov/accessibility.html>

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**September 11, 2023**

**LTEMP SEIS comment letters by Living Rivers and Center for Biological Diversity**

[Living Rivers et al](#)

[Center for Biological Diversity et al](#)

**Additional Information:**

[Public comments for Small Mouth Bass Environmental Assessment of March 2023](#)

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**September 12, 2023**

**Estonian Oil Shale Giant Abandons Federal Oil Shale Lease, Loses Colorado River Basin Water Deal**

[Click here](#) to read this story by Dennis Webb for Grand Junction Sentinel.

[Click here](#) to read this story in The Salt Lake Tribune by Tim Fitzpatrick on August 13, 2023.

[Click here](#) to read this story by Jennifer Yachin for Greenwire.

[Click here](#) to read this story by Naveena Sadasivam for Grist.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 12, 2023**

**Estonian Oil Shale Giant Abandons Federal Oil Shale Lease, Loses Colorado River Basin Water Deal**

Contacts:

- Michael Toll, Grand Canyon Trust, [mtoll@grandcanyontrust.org](mailto:mtoll@grandcanyontrust.org), 303-309-2165
- Ted Zukoski, Center for Biological Diversity, [tzukoski@biologicaldiversity.org](mailto:tzukoski@biologicaldiversity.org), 303-641-3149
- Lori Harrison, Waterkeeper Alliance, [lharrison@waterkeeper.org](mailto:lharrison@waterkeeper.org), 703-216-8565
- Perry Wheeler, Earthjustice, [pwheeler@earthjusWce.org](mailto:pwheeler@earthjusWce.org), 202-792-6211
- Josh Mogerman, Natural Resources Defense Council, [jmogerman@nrdc.org](mailto:jmogerman@nrdc.org), 312-651-7909
- Dr. Brian Moench, Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment,

drmoench@yahoo.com, 801-243-9089

- Stephen Bloch, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA), [steve@suwa.org](mailto:steve@suwa.org), 801-428-3981

- John Weisheit, Living Rivers and Colorado Riverkeeper, [john@livingrivers.org](mailto:john@livingrivers.org), 435-260-2590

SALT LAKE CITY, UT—Estonian state-owned oil shale company Enefit American Oil is abandoning its lease to mine oil shale on federal public land in northeastern Utah's Uinta Basin. The decision marks the end of the George W. Bush-era federal oil shale leasing program and came just weeks before a settlement agreement cut the oil shale giant's planned strip mine and processing facility off from its water supply. The settlement prevents Enefit from exploring a previous deal to siphon billions of gallons of water from the Green River, above where it flows into the Colorado River, to build the first commercial-scale oil shale mine and processing plant in the U.S. in the Utah desert.

On August 9, 2023, Enefit notified the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that it was voluntarily relinquishing its 160-acre oil shale research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) lease in northeastern Utah's Uinta Basin and would not mine for oil shale on federal public land, citing "extensive consideration of business plans regarding federal oil shale leasing and development." Surrendering the RD&D lease, issued in 2007, means the company is also abandoning efforts to mine an adjacent 4,960-acre "preference lease right area" of federal public lands.

"The good news is that the Bush-Cheney nightmare vision of strip mining thousands of acres of wildlife habitat on public lands to produce the most carbon-polluting gasoline in the world appears to finally be ending," said Ted Zukoski, senior attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity. "Enefit was the last company holding an oil shale research lease on BLM land that hadn't expired or been relinquished." Major players Chevron and Shell had pulled out of their leases by 2017."

Just two weeks after Enefit announced it was abandoning its RD&D lease, on August 25, 2023, Deseret Generation & Transmission Cooperative (DG&T), which owns the sizable water right (15 cubic-feet per second, or 3.5 billion gallons per year) that Enefit intended to use to mine and process oil shale on the federal lease and on its 13,000 acres of private land, settled an administrative challenge before the Utah Division of Water Rights. The settlement stipulates that neither DG&T nor any other entity can use the water right for fossil fuel development, including oil shale, effectively cutting Enefit's planned oil shale project off from its water supply.

"It sure looks like DG&T was taking advantage of Utah law to help Enefit develop what would have been an environmentally catastrophic oil shale mine and processing plant. This settlement ensures that this very large water right can't be siphoned from the Upper Colorado River Basin to develop oil shale or other fossil fuels. Between the settlement and the abandonment of the federal lease, we're hopeful that Enefit's oil shale plans may finally be gone for good," said Michael Toll, staff attorney for the Grand Canyon Trust, architect of the water right settlement. Enefit's original plans called for building the nation's first commercial-scale oil shale mine and processing plant on

private and nearby federal land in Utah's Uinta Basin, strip mining hundreds of millions of tons of oil shale rock and churning out more than 18 million barrels of synthetic crude oil every year for more than 30 years, all with well-to-wheel carbon emissions up to 75 percent higher than conventional oil. In the process, Enefit would consume more than 100 billion gallons of water over the next three decades from the upper Colorado River Basin — about as much as is consumed by all existing municipal and industrial users in the Uinta Basin combined. Additionally, massive amounts of pollutants would flow into nearby rivers and degrade the basin's already unhealthy air.

"This oil shale scheme would have been an enormous misuse of dwindling water resources, and an environmental, climate, and public health disaster. We are relieved to see the project has unraveled and the relevant parties have seemingly come to their senses," said Dr. Brian Moench, president of Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment. "This is a big win for everyone that depends on Colorado River water, and for everyone that has been fighting to prevent more air pollution in Utah."

A lawsuit in federal district court challenging the rights-of-way for the project across federal public land is ongoing.

"Oil shale has never been commercially viable in the United States, and Enefit's decision to abandon its federal lease is further proof of this," said Michael Hiatt, deputy managing attorney at Earthjustice. "It is well past time to end the oil shale pipe dream and instead embrace energy solutions that won't worsen the water and climate crises we face in the intermountain West."

"Enefit's abandonment of its oil shale lease is a major victory for the overstressed Colorado River Basin and the tens of millions of people and imperiled wildlife that this fragile water system supports," said Daniel E. Estrin, general counsel and legal director for Waterkeeper Alliance. "We must immediately end development of all new fossil fuel projects on our public lands and justly transition to low-carbon energy sources and smart water management strategies if we stand any chance of protecting our planet and waters from the harshest impacts of climate change."

"Enefit walking back its plans reinforces what everyone has known for some time—extreme oil is not viable. Besides being hugely destructive, it simply cannot compete economically. It's having its lunch eaten by renewable energy," said Ann Alexander, senior attorney at the Natural Resources Defense Council.

"For decades mining oil shale in Utah has been the quintessential bad idea that just wouldn't go away: an activity that never penciled out and which in every iteration would have hugely damaging environmental consequences for public lands," said Stephen Bloch, legal director at the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA). "We're glad to be finally closing the book on this doomsday proposal."

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

[Enefit's August 9th relinquishment notification to BLM](#)

[Water Right Settlement Agreement between DG&T and PVR, Inc.](#)

**More about the water right settlement:** The Grand Canyon Trust recently finalized a settlement agreement to resolve the administrative protest filed in 2021 before the Utah Division of Water Rights challenging the huge water right (15 cubic-feet per second, or 3.5 billion gallons per year) that Enefit, an Estonian state-owned oil shale company, intended to use to supply its planned oil shale mine and processing facility in the Uinta Basin.

The settlement agreement is with Deseret Generation & Transmission Cooperative (DG&T), the owner of the Bonanza power plant in the Uinta Basin. DG&T owns the water right, and under Utah law, it was limited to using the water right for electrical generation to meet the public's future power needs. Yet, DG&T signed a contract entitling Enefit to use the entire amount of the water right to mine and process oil shale. The Trust's administrative protest challenged this unlawful arrangement, hoping to prevent Enefit from using the water right, which it planned to use to supply more than 99 percent of the oil shale project's staggering water needs. Among other things, the settlement agreement ensures that neither DG&T nor any other entity can use the water right for fossil fuel development.

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**August 18, 2023**

### **Federal Appeals Court strikes down Uinta waxy crude railroad approval and siding with environmentalists**

[Click here to read the court decision](#)

- The court's decision also ruled that John Weisheit (declarant) of Living Rivers & Colorado Riverkeeper has standing.

[Click here](#) to read the press release by Center for Biological Diversity

[Click here](#) to read the story by Sam Metz for The Associated Press.

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**August 15, 2023**

### **Post 2026 Operations scoping letter from Living Rivers to Reclamation**

[Click here](#) to read this coalition letter to US Bureau of Reclamation for new operating guidelines for the Colorado River Basin.

[Click here](#) to read The-One Dam Solution. This is a proposed preferred alternative we have formally submitted to Reclamation staff.

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**June 21, 2023**

**Water and Tribes Initiative: Conference of June 8th and 9th, 2023**

**VIDEOS: Getches-Wilkinson Center; University of Colorado at Boulder**

**Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup>**

Day 1, Part 1: <https://youtu.be/egKHhNzk3Hk>

- 00:00 - Welcome and Introduction
- 19:13 - Understanding the Challenges (and Opportunities)
- 2:00:40 - Current Negotiations and the NEPA Process
- 2:39 - Charles Wilkinson Tribute

Day 1, Part 2: <https://youtu.be/yzzLTnhgHFM>

- 00:00 - The Evolving Role of Tribes
- 2:30:52 - Insights from the Basin States

**Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup>**

Day 2, Part 1: <https://youtu.be/OLXX8vyMf50>

- 00:46 - Thinking About a Sustainable Future
- 2:01:13 - Some Specific Questions to Answer

Day 2, Part 2: <https://youtu.be/Yfyb6dNLsx0>

- 00:00 - Some Specific Questions to Answer (Continued)
- 2:30:26 - Themes, Lessons and Concerns: Can We Turn Crisis into Opportunity?

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- [Event Program](#)

## **NEWS**

- [How California agriculture is the problem and solution to Colorado River water crisis](#). Paige Sutherland & Meghna Chakrabarti for WBUR.
- [Expert \(Udall\) says permanent Colorado River reductions still needed](#). By Marianne Goodland for Colorado Politics.
- [Colorado River states need to think bigger](#). By Robert Glennon for The Conversation.
- [Colorado River states are ready to work on a longer term deal to share water](#). By A Martinez for NPR.
- [Clinton's Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt says Colorado River Compact a raw deal for Wyoming and other states](#). By Mark Heinz for Cowboy State Daily.

- [Ahead of new Colorado River talks governments and tribes weigh in on future.](#) By Alex Hager for KUNC.
  - [Fixing the flawed Colorado River Compact.](#) By Shemin Ge et al for Eos (American Geophysical Union).
  - [Tribes push for greater involvement in Colorado River talks.](#) By Ian James for The Los Angeles Times.
  - [The Grand Canyon and Colorado River are in Crisis.](#) By Raymond Zhong for The New York Times.
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**June 18, 2023**

### **Scoping for Reconsultation of Interim Guidelines by Year 2026**

Read the [One-Dam Solution](#) by Living Rivers & Colorado Riverkeeper from 2005.

To review last year's "prescoping" process, [CLICK HERE](#)

### **NEWS**

- [June 16, 2023 - Fixing the flawed Colorado River Compact.](#) By Shemin Ge et al for Eos (American Geophysical Union).
- [June 16, 2023 - Tribes push for greater involvement in Colorado River talks.](#) By Ian James for The Los Angeles Times.
- [June 6, 2023 - The Grand Canyon and Colorado River are in Crisis.](#) By Raymond Zhong for The New York Times.
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During the public scoping meetings for the development of *2007 Interim Guidelines*, the water managers in attendance were emphatic; that reductions greater than 20% would be "impossible" to achieve. This is why the seven states did not participate in the voluntary prescriptions of the original *Guidelines*, until reservoir elevations approached the level where intakes begin to suck air.

**Note:** *The proposed reductions from the Lower Basin States, as of this date, is about 12% per year. The ask from Reclamation was a range of 14% to 27%. It would appear that the Upper Basin states will not be participating in any reductions at this time. The Upper Basin states are building and enlarging dams at the present time, and other diversion contracts have been proposed. Consequently, the grassroots have intervened by engaging the judicial branch of government.*

At the end of the next decade, reductions of 30% will be necessary; and then 40% in the following decade. Especially if the municipalities continue to sprawl across the deserts of the American Southwest, and fueling that growth by purchasing water from farmers that take the responsibility of feeding the nation very seriously.

Proposed new sources of water, such as constructing desalination facilities, and the electric generating stations that will power them, and the pipelines, and the pump stations, and the transmission wires, will not be operational in the 2030s, nor in the 2040s.

So these are the decades when the system will crash and the assets of 50 to 60 million people become stranded.

If your thinking otherwise, consider that it took parts of four decades to negotiate the Law of the River, and to finish the construction of Hoover Dam, the All American Canal, and the Colorado River Aqueduct.

We can anticipate the depletion of our groundwater supplies as the third and final bad planning decision.

Rather than kicking a rusty can in the wrong direction, let's stop this madness and take a completely different pathway.

- **Read our 2022 prescoping comment letter [HERE](#)**
- **Review the prescoping process for 2022 [HERE](#)**

## **COMPARING THE PROCESS OF 2005 WITH THE PROCESS OF 2022**

### **Federal Register Notices**

- [Click here to review the Federal Register Notice of June 16, 2023](#)
- **Note:** this document avoids important subjects such as, the changing characteristics of the atmosphere and ocean, floods, evaporation, sublimation, and sedimentation; the looming problems that are always dismissed at every level of future planning.
- [Click here to review the Federal Register Notice of June 15, 2005](#)

### **Scoping Summaries**

- [Click here to read the summary of pre-scoping in 2022](#)
- [Click here to read the summary of scoping in 2005](#)

## **TERMINATION DATES OF 2007 INTERIM GUIDELINES**

### **Termination date of 2007 Guidelines**

See: [2007 Record of Decision](#).

- "Except as provided in Section 8.B., these Guidelines shall terminate on December 31, 2025 (through preparation of the 2026 Annual Operating Plan)."

### **Termination dates of "Special Provisions"**

- 1. "The provisions for the delivery and accounting of ICS in Section 3 shall remain in effect through December 31, 2036, unless subsequently modified, for any ICS remaining in an ICS Account on December 31, 2026."

- 2. "The provisions for the creation and delivery of Tributary Conservation ICS and Imported ICS in Section 3 shall continue in full force and effect until fifty years from the date of the execution of the ROD."
- 3. "The provisions for the creation and delivery of DSS in Section 4 shall continue in full force and effect until fifty years from the date of the execution of the ROD."

**COMMENTS ARE DUE: Tuesday, August 15, 2023 (60 days)**

**Send comments to:**

**eMail address:** [crbpost2026@usbr.gov](mailto:crbpost2026@usbr.gov)

**Or. via postal service to:**

Bureau of Reclamation  
Attn: Post-2026 (Mail Stop 84- 55000)  
P.O. Box 25007, Denver, CO 80225  
[Press Release](#)

More information will be provided at a later time. Please return.

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**May 23, 2023**

**Our thoughts on Reclamation's Supplemental EIS process**

**May 22, 2023: Update from Reclamation about the Supplemental EIS**

The Department of the Interior today announced that it is temporarily withdrawing the draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement published last month so that it can fully analyze the effects of the proposal under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Reclamation will then publish an updated draft SEIS for public comment with the consensus-based proposal as an action alternative. Accordingly, the original May 30, 2023, deadline for the submission of comments on the draft SEIS is no longer in effect.

The Department plans to finalize the SEIS process later this year.

For more information: [Press Release](#)

Marcie Bainson  
SEIS Team Member  
[Send Email](#)

###

**States issue formal plans on May 22, 2023**

- [Deal is reached to keep Colorado River from going dry for now](#). By Christopher Favelle for New York Times.
- [Seven States Final Plan](#)
- [Lower Basin Final Plan](#)
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## OUR ANALYSIS

How the Colorado River Basin is managed in the next three years by this SEIS process, or how it is managed in the next 3 decades by the pending process to develop new guidelines by 2026, the outcomes will not be significantly different. There is only one goal: how will water reduction programs be equitably distributed to humans without ecosystem or societal collapse?

The intent, since 2007, has **always** been about avoiding water shortages due to human accountability errors that have already disrupted the economy and the environment of our homeland inheritance. The collaborative solutions provided since the initiation of 2007 Guidelines were grossly insufficient and the sixteen years of potential progress hence, was squandered.

### The narrative of the SEIS does acknowledge that...

- The hydrology of the Colorado River Basin is impacted by heat, evaporation, dry soils and by sublimation (implied); specifically a 20% reduction in annual streamflow, and that this negative consequence will continue to increase.
- Proposed construction projects for water diversions and water augmentation are speculative.
- The characteristics of groundwater resources are important.
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### The narrative of the SEIS does not acknowledge that...

- Human behaviours have become problematic. For example: denial, recalcitrance, procrastination and gradualism.
- Leadership to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions is not a shared responsibility for water managers.
- The decomposition of organic materials in reservoirs do emit greenhouse gases.
- The negative characteristics of vacated reservoirs will compromise the downstream ecosystems of our national parks and wildlife refuges.
- Dams and powerplants have lifespans; a day of reckoning will confront future generations; the cost will exceed the benefits.
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## THE ISSUES OF THE UPPER BASIN

- Previous scenario planning documents predict Upper Basin shortages will range between 2 to 3 million acre-feet between now and Year 2060.
- The first priority to consider are the arrival times of approaching deadlines, as mandated by the 1922 Colorado River Compact and the 1944 Mexican Treaty (a "Compact Call").

- The approaching Lower Basin deadline: When will 75 million acre-feet in a ten-year period **fail** to pass the Compact Point, located one mile below the mouth of the Paria River near Lee's Ferry, Arizona? This is a fixed number set in perpetuity; see Article III d of the 1922 Compact.
- The approaching deadline to Mexico: When will half of the annual water treaty allocation to Mexico, which is 750,000 acre-feet per year, **fail** to pass the Compact Point near Lee's Ferry, Arizona? See Article III c of the 1922 Compact. This amount must be adjusted down to 675,000 acre-feet, to honor a present-day shortage agreement with Mexico called Minute 323.
- Water demand reduction programs, such as Demand Management and System Conservation, are not producing significant contributions in the range of the required 2 to 3 million acre-feet.
- The accounting systems to measure water consumption is yet to be perfected.
- Glen Canyon Dam was not engineered for the extremes of the natural hydrology, augmented by climate disruptions from greenhouse gas emissions.

### **THE ISSUES OF THE LOWER BASIN**

- Previous scenario planning documents predict Lower Basin shortages will be 3 to 4 million acre-feet between now and Year 2060.
- Not subtracting the evaporation and transit losses from the fixed allocations that happens between Hoover Dam and Morelos Dam (the "structural deficit") and estimated to range as high as 1.5 million acre-feet

### **THE ISSUES FOR BOTH BASINS**

- Efficiency programs are confined by the limits of Nature. Perpetual growth was never an option; there is no physical law that supports such a concept.
- There is a planning and zoning problem, more than a water resource problem.
- Is this river basin based on a prior appropriation system, or not? If not, then the legal foundations must be changed.
- Sustainability, resilience and equity is achieved by respecting the merits of functioning ecosystems; work with Nature.
- The floodplain is occupied by critical infrastructure, which includes an immense structural depression below sea level called the Salton Through.

### **NEWS**

- [Colorado River deal outlines water cuts to California](#). By Ian James for Los Angeles Times.
- [Deal is reached to keep Colorado River from going dry for now](#). By Christopher Favelle for New York Times.
- [Wet year amid Colorado River drought puts water use cuts in question](#). By Tony Davis for *Arizona Daily Star*.
- [Colorado River talks near deals as California Arizona Nevada agree to conserve water use](#). By Joshua Partlow for *Washington Post*.

- [Three states agree on plan to save Colorado River water](#). By Tony Davis for *Arizona Daily Star*.
- [Water saved through Upper Basin program unlikely to move needle in Lake Powell](#). Heather Sackett for Aspen Journalism.
- [Wet year amid Colorado River drought puts water use cuts in question](#). Tony Davis for *Arizona Daily Star*.
- ['We can't be living in an economy of 40 million people this close to the edge.'](#) By Dan Ross for Capital And Main.
- [The very bad math behind the Colorado River crisis](#). By Daniel Penner for Grist.
- [White House proposes evenly cutting water allotments from Colorado River](#). By Christopher Flavell for NY Times.
- [Crisis on the Colorado: The Indigenous fight for water rights](#). By Megan O'Toole and Jillian Kestler-D'Amours for Aljazeera.
- [Proposed cuts to the Colorado River: What it means for those who rely on it](#). Nika Anschuetz for University of Denver.

## THE DOCUMENTS OF THE DRAFT SEIS

- [Fact Sheet](#). Biden & Harris Administration.
- [Volume One](#)
- [Appendix A](#)
- [Appendix B](#)
- [Appendix C](#)
- [Appendix D](#)
- [Appendix E](#)
- [All Documents COMBINED](#) (searchable).

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [24-Month Report for April 2023, including minimum and maximax snow melt forecast](#) (documents combined).

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**March 10, 2023**

## **Comments for smallmouth bass Environmental Assessment and the Adaptive Management Program for operations at Glen Canyon Dam**

STATEMENT: US Bureau of Reclamation; Upper Basin Division

The Bureau of Reclamation's Upper Colorado Basin recently prepared a targeted Environmental Assessment to pursue implementation of flow options at Glen Canyon Dam to respond to invasive smallmouth bass below the dam. With the extended drought, water levels in Lake Powell continue to decline to historically low levels, which

has contributed to record high water temperature releases through Glen Canyon Dam. Below the dam, these warm water releases are creating ideal spawning conditions for smallmouth bass, a predatory invasive fish species, which poses a threat to the federally protected humpback chub and other native fish.

To respond to the threat of smallmouth bass establishment below Glen Canyon Dam, a targeted EA was prepared that identified various flow options designed to disrupt and prevent smallmouth bass from spawning in the Colorado River between Glen Canyon Dam and the confluence of the Little Colorado River.

Reclamation appreciates the many comments received on the draft Environmental Assessment. The Comment Analysis Report is available now at the link below. Consistent with the NEPA process, we will transition this analysis to an Environmental Impact Statement process which will be initiated through a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register. Comments received on the Draft EA will be considered in the future EIS.

[Draft Environmental Assessment](#). USBR.

[Public Comment Analysis](#). USBR.

[Click here](#) to read the comments written by Taylor McKinnon of Center for Biological Diversity

[Click here](#) to read the comments written by John Weisheit of Living Rivers & Colorado Riverkeeper.

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**February 06, 2023**

**Living Rivers and Great Basin Water Network submitted supplemental comments for the SEIS about new dam operations in 2023**

**SCOPING COMMENT PERIOD HAS CLOSED**

If you submitted comments on time (December 20, 2022), you may still provide supplemental information and records to Reclamation. Especially after reading the following letters and news about plans from the states that are off target and overdue by 50-years.

**Two alternatives from the Seven States**

- January 31, 2023 - [Supplemental Scoping Letter from Six States to model negotiated water reductions](#)
- January 31, 2023 - [Supplemental Scoping Letter from California to model negotiated water reductions](#)

## Alternative from Living Rivers, Great Basin Water Network and Colorado Riverkeeper

- February 6, 2023 - [Supplemental Comments by Great Basin Water Network, Living Rivers, and Colorado Riverkeeper](#)

### Listen:

- January 31, 2023 - [New York Times Podcast](#)

### Read:

- January 27, 2023 - [New York Times: As the Colorado River Shrinks, Washington Prepares to Spread the Pain](#). By Christopher Flavelle for *The New York Times*.
- February 1, 2023 - [Utah joins five states in plan to keep feds from making cuts in Colorado River](#). By Felicia Fonseca and Suman Naishadham for *The Associated Press*.

### Observe:

- February 1, 2023 - [Plan is elusive as river shrinks](#). By Ian James for *The Los Angeles Times*.
- February 1, 2023 - [California Opposes Colorado River Plan](#). By Tony Davis for *Arizona Daily Star*.
- February 1, 2023 - [California releases its own plan for Colorado River cuts](#). By Kathleen Ronayne and Suman Naishadham for *The Associated Press*.
- February 1, 2023 - [Conservation organizations emphasize need to protect environmental priorities in CR Basin](#). Major NGOs.
- February 2, 2023 - [California's Colorado River plan would hit Arizona hard](#). Tony Davis for *The Arizona Daily Star*.
- February 2, 2023 - [State pushes its plan to save water](#). Ian James for *The Los Angeles Times*.
- February 3, 2023 - [Biden administration is caught between California and its neighbors in Colorado River fight](#). By Camille Von Kaenel & Annie Snider for *Politico*.
- February 3, 2023 - [Why is California going it alone in Colorado River talks](#). By Ian James for *The Los Angeles Times*.
- February 4, 2023 - [Law of the River is at the heart of water crisis](#). By Hayley Smith and Ian James for *The Los Angeles Times*.
- February 4, 2023 - [Game of chicken or chess game: Colorado River solution elusive](#). Tony Davis for *Arizona Daily Star*.
- February 5, 2023 - [Key Colorado River reservoirs unlikely to refill in our lifetimes](#). By Rong-Gong Lin II and Ian James for *The Los Angeles Times*.

**Solutions:** will not arrive until the limits of this geography and its climate are respected and embedded into new and different policies for long-term regional planning. The adherents to the Colorado River Compact of 1922 are perpetuating system failure and societal collapse.

## Comment Letters

- [Complete list of all public comments](#)
- [Living Rivers et al.](#) (Clean Copy)
- [Major NGOs](#)
- [Save The Colorado](#)
- [Southern Nevada Water Authority](#)
- [Grand Canyon Trust](#)
- [Wyoming](#)
- [Upper Colorado River Commission](#)
- [New Mexico](#)
- [Colorado](#)
- [Utah](#)
- [Municipalities of Lower Basin](#)
- [California](#)
- [Arizona](#)

**Federal Register Notice:** <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/11/17/2022-25004/notice-of-intent-to-prepare-a-supplemental-environmental-impact-statement-for-december-2007-record>

Reclamation anticipates utilizing the work of this SEIS to also inform operating guidelines for the 2025-26 period, which will also undergo NEPA analysis in the near future.

## OFFICIAL RECLAMATION WEBPAGE FOR THIS SEIS

- [CLICK HERE](#)

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January 27, 2023

## The Los Angeles Times Podcasts and Videos: The Colorado River in Crisis

### COLORADO RIVER IN CRISIS

A Six-Part Series by LA Times staff and interviewing the people of the Colorado River Basin with sound and visuals

### LA TIMES STAFF

- **Journalists:** Ian James, Sammy Roth, Molly Hennessy-Fiske, Hayley Smith and Rong-Gong Lin II
- **Videography:** Albert Brave Tiger Lee
- **Podcasts:** Denise Guerra, Kasia Broussalian, Gustavo Arellano, David Toledo and Ashlea Brown
- **Photography:** Carolyn Cole, Luis Sinco, Brian van der Brug, and Gina Ferazzi

- **Graphics:** Sean Green
- **Editors:** Monte Morin, John Penner, Isabelle D'Antonio and Dave Bennett
- **Photo editor:** Marc Martin
- **Promotion and engagement:** Javier Panzar and Mary Kate Metivier
- **Design:** Alison Hong, David Lewis and Beto Alvarez
- **Editorial assistants:** Roberto Reyes and Nicolas Perez
- **Engineers:** Mario Diaz, Mark Nieto and Mike Heflin
- **Fellow:** Helen Li
- **Editor:** Kinsee Morlan
- **Producers:** Jazmin Aguilera, Heba Elorbany and Shani Hilton
- **Music** is by Andrew Eapen

## VIDEOS

- December 26, 2022 - [Desert suburbia is growing. But the Colorado River, and Arizona's groundwater, cannot keep up.](#) YouTube.
- January 13, 2023 - [The Colorado River is drying up. Climate change and drought have taken a major toll.](#) YouTube.
- January 20, 2023 - [Colorado Riverkeeper says day of reckoning is here: 'This river can't sustain 40 million people'.](#) YouTube.
- January 27, 2023 - [Agriculture under pressure: The Imperial Valley braces for a future with less water.](#) YouTube.
- January 31, 2023 - [Reclaiming the river: Tribes push for change on the Colorado River.](#) YouTube.
- January 31, 2023 - [Reviving the river: A pulse of water revives the dry Colorado River Delta.](#) YouTube.

## PODCASTS

- **Part One: A Dying River** - [Podcast.](#) YouTube.
- **Part Two: The Source** - [Podcast.](#) YouTube.
- **Part Three: The Dam** - [Podcast.](#) YouTube.
- **Part Four: The Tribe** - [Podcast.](#) YouTube.
- **Part Five: The Valley** - [Podcast.](#) YouTube.
- **Part Six: The End** - [Podcast.](#) YouTube.

## PHOTO JOURNALISM

- January 26, 2023 - [The Colorado River: Where the West quenches its thirst.](#) Luis Sinco for Los Angeles Times.

## NARRATIVES

- June 14, 2022 - [Major water cutbacks loom as shrinking Colorado River nears 'moment of reckoning.'](#) Ian James for *The Los Angeles Times*.
- June 20, 2022 - [As water crisis worsens on Colorado River, an urgent call for Western states to 'act now.'](#) Ian James for *The Los Angeles Times*.
- June 23, 2022 - [Where Colorado River no longer meets the sea, a pulse of water brings new life.](#) Ian James for *The Los Angeles Times*..
- July 15, 2022 - [They sounded alarms about a coming Colorado River crisis. But warnings went unheeded.](#) Ian James for *The Los Angeles Times*..
- December 19, 2022 - [Federal Officials Urge Action on Shrinking Colorado River.](#) Ian James for *Los Angeles Times*.
- December 26, 2022 - [In Arizona, Colorado River crisis stokes worry over growth and groundwater depletion.](#) Ian James for *The Los Angeles Times*.
- January 19, 2023 - [These farmers dominate the Colorado River. Cross them at your peril.](#) Sammy Roth for *The Los Angeles Times*.
- January 26, 2023 - [The Colorado River is overused and shrinking. Inside the crisis transforming the Southwest.](#) Ian James & Molly Hennessy-Fisk for *The Los Angeles Times*.
- January 26, 2023 - [The Colorado River: Where the West quenches its thirst.](#) Luis Sinco for *Los Angeles Times*.
- January 26, 2023 - [A river guide's view of Lake Powell's decline and the depths of the Colorado River crisis.](#) Ian James for *The Los Angeles Times*.
- January 26, 2023 - [Inside the water crisis: A journey across the Colorado River Basin.](#) Ian James for *The Los Angeles Times*.
- January 26, 2023 - [The Colorado River is overused and shrinking. Inside the crisis transforming the Southwest.](#) Ian James for *The Los Angeles Times*.
- January 27, 2023 - [In California's Imperial Valley, farmers brace for less Colorado River water.](#) By Ian James for *The Los Angeles Times*..
- January 29, 2023 - [How Las Vegas declared war on thirsty grass and set an example for the desert Southwest.](#) By Molly Hennessy-Fiske and Ian James for *LA Times*.
- January 29, 2023 - [Why desert golf courses and artificial lakes remain untouched by the Colorado River crisis.](#) By Ian James for *The Los Angeles Times*.
- January 31, 2023 - ["A Living Spirit" Native People Push for Changes to Protect the Colorado River.](#) By Ian James for *The Los Angeles Times*.
- February 1, 2023 - [Plan is elusive as river shrinks.](#) By Ian James for *The Los Angeles Times*.
- February 2, 2023 - [California pushes its plan to save water.](#) Ian James for *The Los Angeles Times*.
- February 2, 2023 - [From high above an Atmospheric River a deep dive for data.](#) Ian James for *The Los Angeles Times*.
- February 3, 2023 - [Why is California going it alone in Colorado River talks.](#) By Ian James for *The Los Angeles Times*.
- February 4, 2023 - [Law of the River is at the heart of water crisis.](#) By Hayley Smith and Ian James for *The Los Angeles Times*.

- February 5, 2023 - [Key Colorado River reservoirs unlikely to refill in our lifetimes](#). By Rong-Gong Lin II and Ian James for *The Los Angeles Times*.
- February 7, 2023 - [Why California is so far apart from other states in Colorado River water cuts plan](#). Ian James and Sean Greene for *The Los Angeles Times*.
- February 18, 2023 - [Officials study overhauling dam: Lake Powell's low level imperils the ability to generate power, release water & Front Page Edition](#). Ian James for *The Los Angeles Times*.

## Opinion

- [California and its neighbors are at an impasse over the Colorado River: Here's a way forward](#). Eric Kuhn for *The Los Angeles Times*.

## Additional Information

- [The 2023 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement \(SEIS\) for operations at Glen Canyon Dam and Hoover Dam](#)

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**January 20, 2023**

**Colorado Riverkeeper says day of reckoning is here: 'This river can't sustain 40 million people'**



*"I want a different system. Because this is a system that comes to an end."*

**The Los Angeles Times**

**FEATURED ARTICLE:** Ian James, Carolyn Cole and Sean Greene with [Colorado Riverkeeper, John Weisheit](#)

**VIDEO:** Ian James and Albert Brave Tiger Lee

[Interview with John Weisheit](#)

**PODCAST:** Denise Guerra and Ian James

[Interview with John Weisheit](#)

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**End of Posts for 2023**