The Nature Conservancy

Working in the Colorado River

(Never a dull moment)

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COLORADO
RIVER BASIN

Introductions – my journey

The Nature Conservancy's Approach

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U.S. announces more water cuts as Colorado River hits dire lows

The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

3:15 p.m. ET, August 16, 2022

Feds are taking unprecedented steps to keep hydropower going at Lake Powell

From CNN's Rachel Ramirez

9NEWS

ENVIRONMENT

Flaming Gorge falls as drought felt higher up Colorado River

A boating and fishing paradise on the Utah-Wyoming line is feeling the effects of the two-decade megadrought gripping Western states.

The Colorado River is drying up — but basin states have 'no plan' on how to cut water use

By Rachel Estabrook and Michael Elizabeth Sakas · Sep. 17, 2022, 2:27 pm

CPR News

CNN

Biologists' fears confirmed on the lower Colorado River

KUNC

THE COLORADO RIVER IS IN CRISIS, AND IT'S GETTING WORSE EVERY DAY

The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

COLORADO RIVER BASIN

A Water Lifeline for the West

40 million people

$1.2 trillion economy

15% of U.S. crops irrigated

$26 billion recreation economy

7 States + Mexico

30 Tribal Nations

5 million acres of agricultural land

11 national parks

THE CLIMATE CRISIS
IS A WATER CRISIS
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L: © S.HUFU

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The Challenges & Strategies

Challenges:

- **Water Scarcity & Overuse**
- **Climate Change – Hotter and Drier**
- **Legal & Governance Frameworks Have Not Adapted**

Strategies

- **Balance Water Needs thru Innovation and Water Conservation**
- **Improve (Green and Gray) Water Infrastructure & Operations to Enhance Environmental Benefits**
- **Support Voice, Choice and Action of Indigenous Partners in Water Decisions and Projects**

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TNC's Interest

- Water in the Right Places at the Right Time
- River Health & Wildlife
- Long-term Resilience & Sustainability
- Supporting Voice, Choice, Action & Vision of Indigenous Communities

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How We Work

- Partnerships are Everything
- Water is Bi-Partisan and Political
- Focus on Solutions
- Sixth-Dimensional Chess

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Innovative Water Sharing:

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Partnering with Agriculture

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Restoration & Resilience

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Career Planning

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QUESTIONS?