

# Wyoming Water Update – Green River Basin

## Wyoming State Engineer's Office

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17 May, 2017 – Pinedale, WY

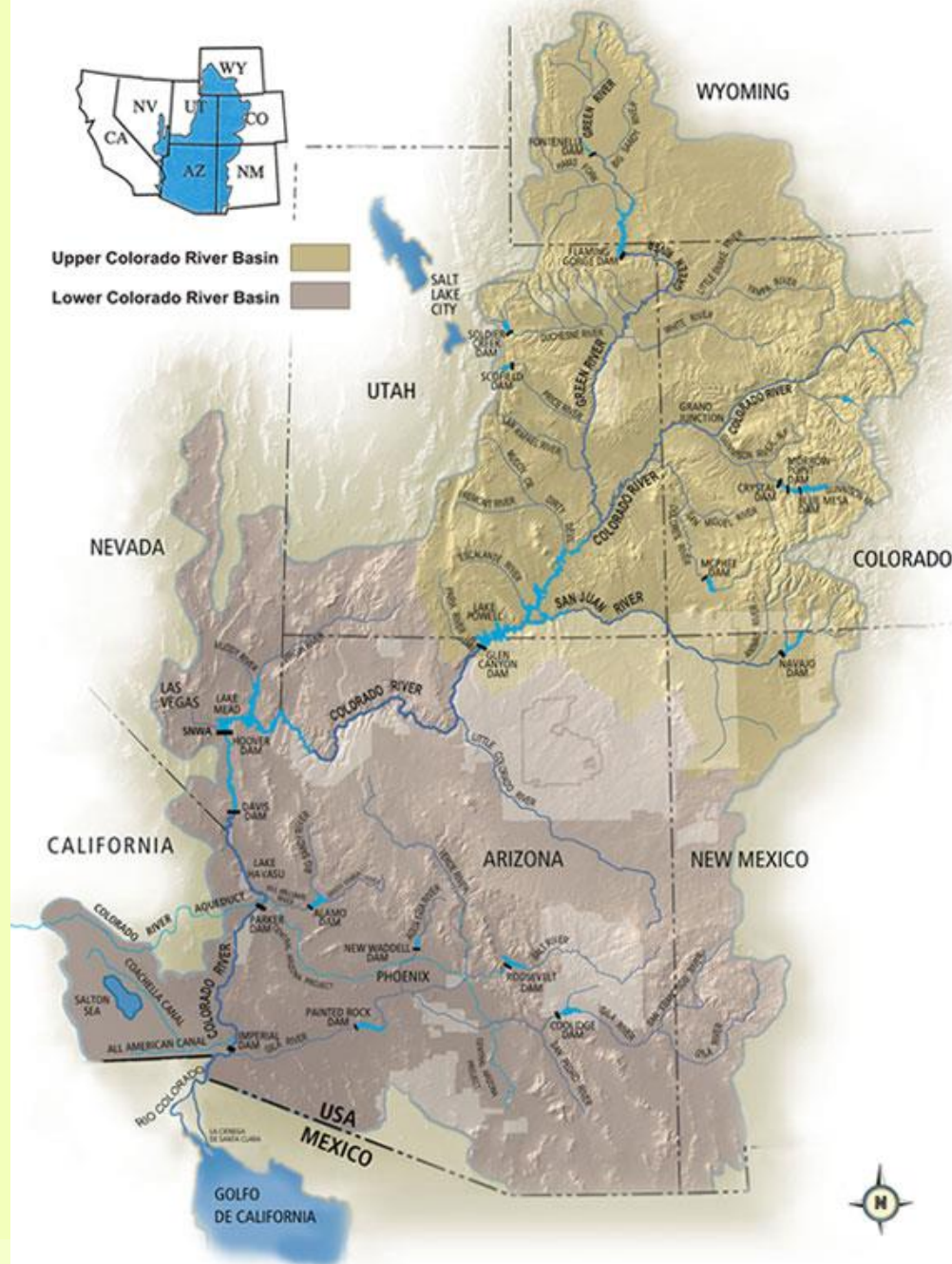


# Topics

- Colorado River Basin
  - Drought Planning
    - Upper Basin Plan
    - Lower Basin Plan
  - New Minute with Mexico
- Green River Basin
  - System Conservation
  - Consumptive Use Work
  - Fontenelle Reservoir
  - Endangered Fish Program
  - Colorado River Report

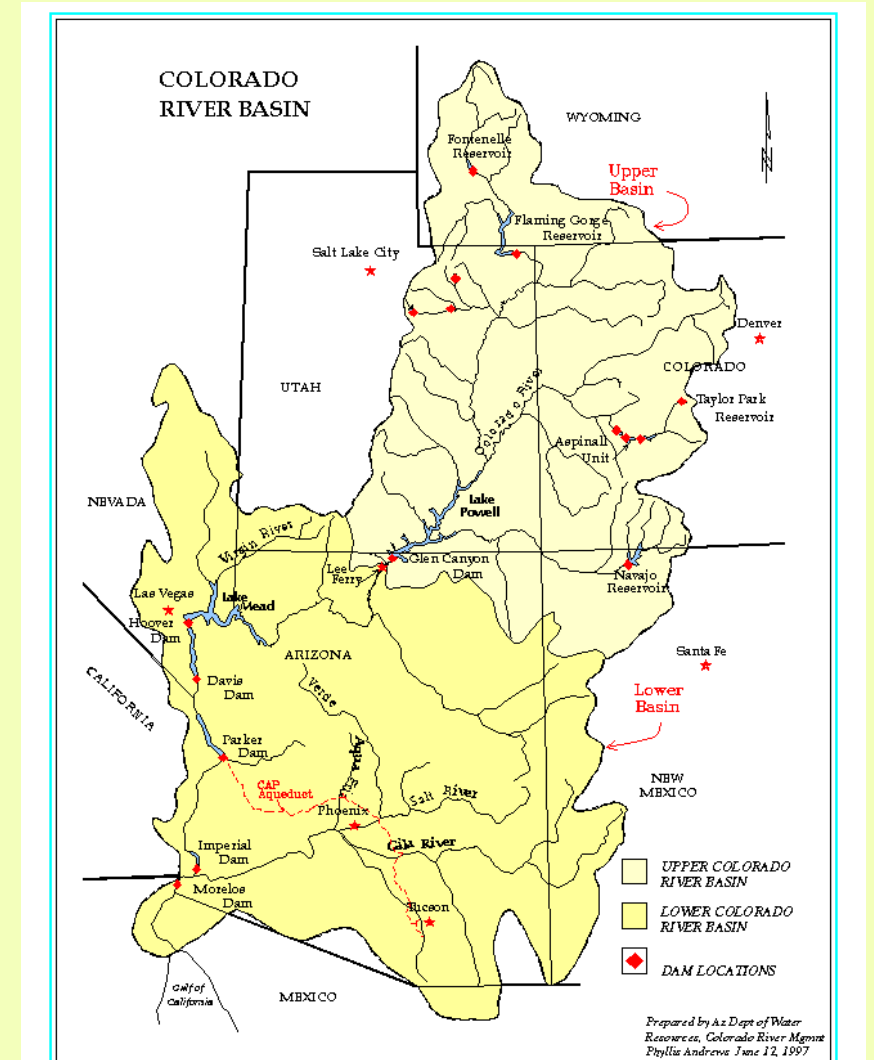






# Basic Apportionments Under Law of the River

- Lower Basin States (7.5 maf!)
  - Arizona 2,800,000 AF/yr
  - California 4,400,000 AF/yr
  - Nevada 300,000 AF/yr
- Upper Basin States (7.5 maf?)
  - Colorado 51.75%
  - New Mexico 11.25%
  - Utah 23.00%
  - Wyoming 14.00%
- Mexico (1.5 maf)





# Natural flows at Lee Ferry

- 1906 – 2016 --- 14.8 MAF
- 2000 – 2016 --- 12.4 MAF
- 2000 – 2004 --- 9.4 MAF
- 2005 – 2015 --- 13.8 MAF
- 1579 – 1600 --- 9.1 MAF

(tree ring estimate, Hidalgo (2000))



# Current/Ongoing Activities Due to Reservoir Storage

- **Lower Basin Drought Planning**
  - Goal is to conserve 1.2 MAF in Lake Mead annually
    - 500 MAF required by 2007 ISG (AZ & NV)
    - 700 MAF with DCP (AZ, NV, CA & BoR)
- **New Binational Minute with Mexico (M32x)**
  - Goal is to ensure “shortage sharing” between the two countries and extend components of M319



# Why is Lake Powell Important to Wyoming?

- Upper Basin savings account used to make water deliveries to the LB under terms of the Compact
- Hydropower generated at Glen Canyon is important across Wyoming
- \$\$ generated from hydropower sales are available for use in Wyoming & programs that support Wyoming water users





# Current/Ongoing Activities Due to Reservoir Storage

- **Upper Basin Drought Planning**
  - Goal is to protect critical thresholds in Lake Powell
  - Three components to plan
    - Weather modification
    - Reservoir Operations
    - Demand Management
- **Wyoming Drought Planning**
  - Goal is to protect Wyoming water users in times of severe drought
  - Looking at concept of “water banking”
  - Role of Fontenelle Reservoir and possible enhancements





# System Conservation Pilot Program (SCPP)

## (A component of UB Drought Planning)

- A temporary (“pilot”) program to test water conservation measures in the Colorado River Basin (voluntary & compensated)
- Applies to all seven states; Lower Basin and Upper Basin Programs operated independently
- Funding has come from Bureau of Reclamation and metropolitan water providers
- Saved water is deemed “system water”; to support elevation of Lake Powell
- Program has/will run 2015 - 2017



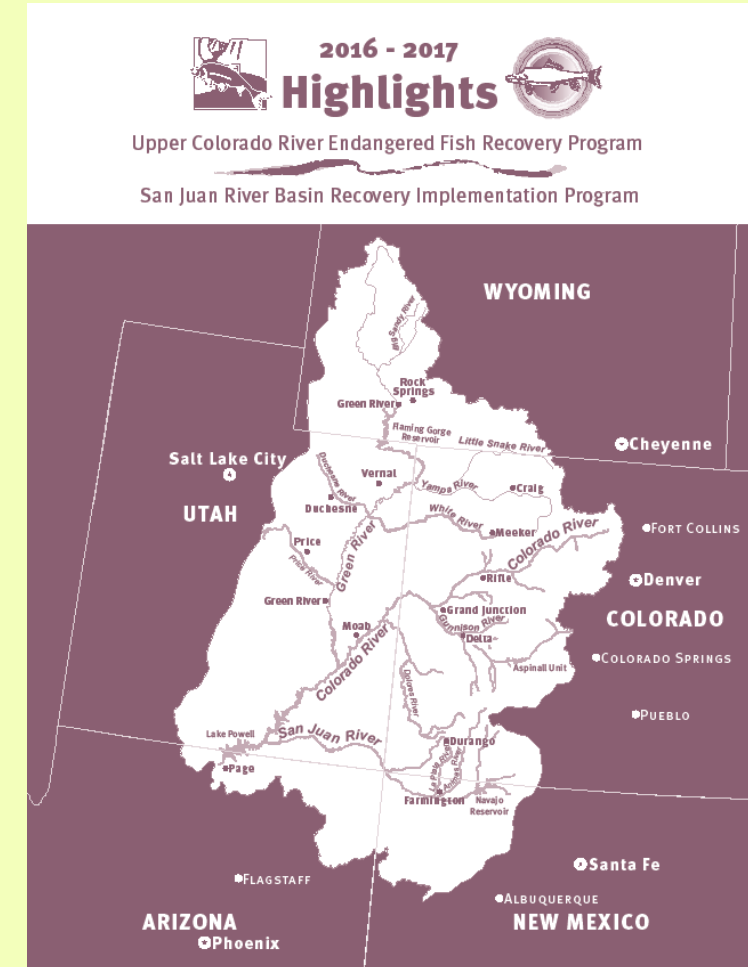
# System Conservation Projects in Wyoming

## (2015 – 2017)

Year	# Projects in Wyoming	Acres	Acre-Feet Conserved	\$ Paid to Landowners
2015	5	2,165	1,644	\$328,800
2016	9	5,678	5,200	\$1,040,000
2017				
- <i>Requests</i>	21	24,942	21,737	\$5,135,849
- <i>Approved</i>	4	2,729	2,744	\$521,330

# Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

- Initiated in 1988 with two goals:
  - Recovery four endangered fish in the basin
  - Allow water development to move forward unhindered
- Water development has continued
- Fish are recovering
  - Expect downlistings in 2018-19; delistings by 2023
- No litigation





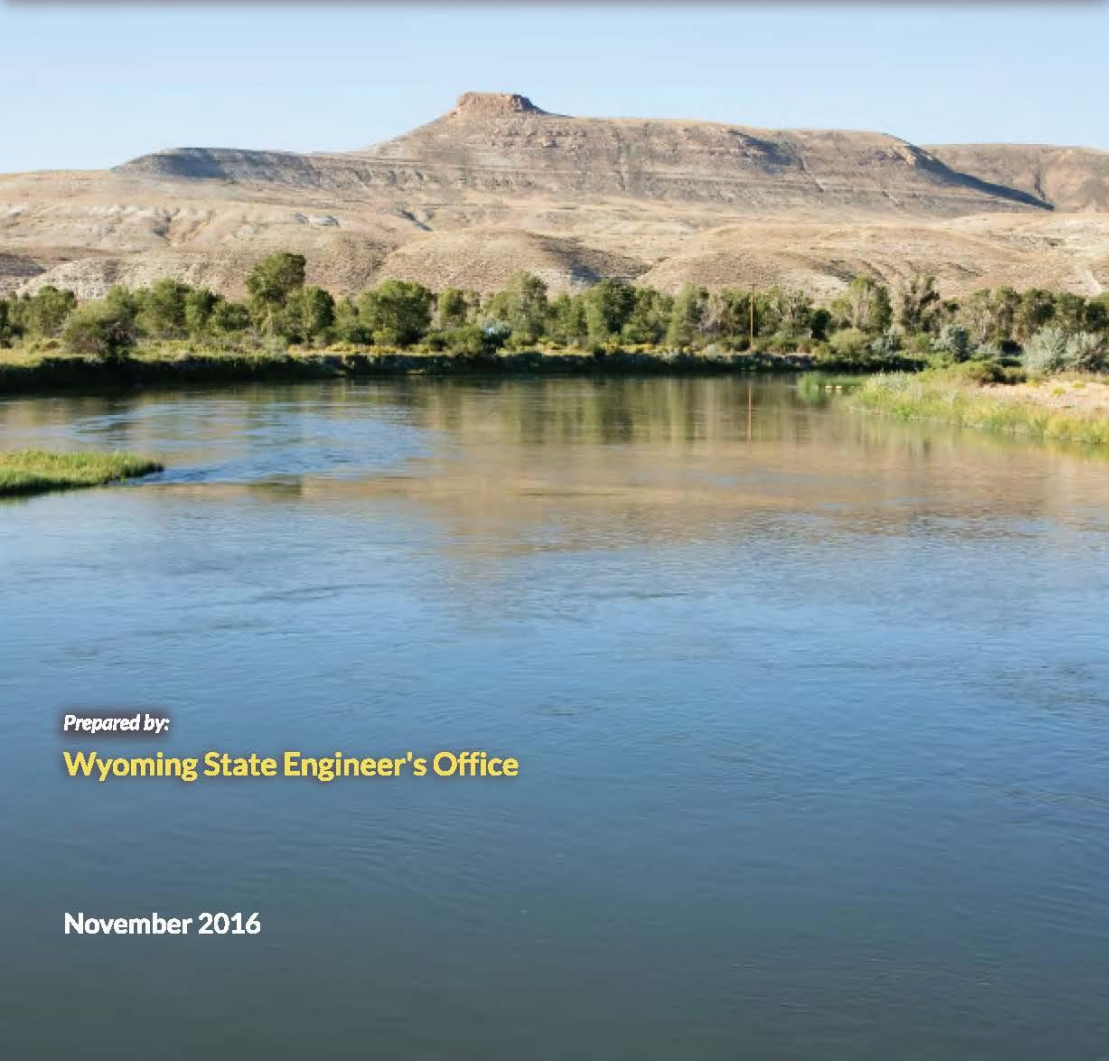
# 2007 Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the Coordinated Reservoir Operations

- Signed in 2007
- Are in effect through WY2026
- Formal review and renegotiations are to begin no later than December 31, 2020.
- Informal discussions have already begun .....





# WYOMING AND THE COLORADO RIVER: A REPORT



*Prepared by:*

**Wyoming State Engineer's Office**

**November 2016**

<http://seo.state.wy.us/>



Mike Keefe THE DENVER POST 8-22-08

# Questions???





