



● Colorado River Management Report

Summary

This Report provides a summary of activities related to management of Metropolitan's Colorado River Resources for the month of January 2018.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Colorado River System Conservation Pilot Program 2017 Implementation Activities

In July 2014, the Bureau of Reclamation, Central Arizona Project, Southern Nevada Water Authority, Denver Water, and Metropolitan (collectively, the funding agencies) entered into an agreement to establish a pilot program to compensate selected projects implementing voluntary reductions in water use for the benefit of the Colorado River System as a whole.

The pilot program is intended to determine the feasibility of using voluntary, compensated reductions in water to partially mitigate the impacts of ongoing drought on the Colorado River System, by increasing water elevation levels in Lakes Mead and Powell with the ancillary benefit of enhancing flows in areas upstream of storage reservoirs. Under the pilot program, the funding agencies jointly select projects in the Colorado River Basin to create conserved water for the benefit of the Colorado River System.

Since last year's report, a total of 15 new projects have been placed under contract. These contracts were executed in the Upper Basin for conservation that occurred in 2017 and used all of the \$2.3 million made available by the funding partners. Contracts for conservation in the Lower Basin in 2017 were executed in 2016 and were included in last year's report. These Upper Basin contracts represent an increase in projects in Utah and New Mexico: three in New Mexico, six in Utah, four in Wyoming, and one in Colorado. All of these projects include some sort of fallowing: five for full season fallowing, five for partial season fallowing, three for a combination of partial season fallowing and full season fallowing, and two include partial season fallowing plus alternative cropping.

While there were fewer Upper Basin projects approved in 2017 than there were in 2016 (15 as opposed to 21), the total expected conservation from the approved Upper Basin projects increased by approximately 50 percent. The attached table lists the contracted projects approved in 2017.

A Review Committee made up of the funding agencies has begun evaluating the proposals for implementation in 2018 for projects in the Upper Basin. A total of 30 proposals were received across all four Upper Basin states. These projects represent one municipal project and a mix of fallowing, deficit irrigation, and alternative cropping. While the proposals include mostly fallowing and deficit irrigation projects, there is an increase in applications from farmers within the same watershed to improve efficiency in making sure the water gets to Lake Powell, and the Upper Colorado River Commission intends to apply a more streamlined contracting process that could be beneficial if the pilot evolves into a larger, more permanent, program. Additional information is being gathered for the proposals and the funding agencies are scheduled to make a decision on which proposals to fund in early 2018. A total of \$5 million is available for these projects.

An additional four proposals are expected for projects in the Lower Basin in 2018. A total of \$5.5 million is available for these projects. A decision will be made in the near future as to which of these proposals to fund.

Board Report (Colorado River Management Report)

Colorado River System Conservation Agreement Projects Approved in 2017

Tributary	State	Project Type	Total Estimated Consumptive Use Savings (Acre-Foot)
San Juan River & Animas River	NM	Combination of Fallow & Partial Season Fallowing	298
San Juan River & Animas River	NM	Fallow	95
San Juan River	NM	Alternative Cropping and Partial Season Fallowing	2,901
Price River	UT	Alternative Cropping & Partial Season Fallowing	58
Price River	UT	Fallow	923
Price River	UT	Combination of Fallow & Partial Season Fallowing	311
Price River	UT	Fallow	372
Price River	UT	Partial Season Fallowing	228
Price River	UT	Fallow	67
Fontenelle Creek	WY	Partial Season Fallowing	407
Fontenelle Creek	WY	Partial Season Fallowing	540
Fontenelle Creek	WY	Partial Season Fallowing	714
Fontenelle Creek	WY	Partial Season Fallowing	1,083
Colorado River	CO	Combination of Fallow & Partial Season Fallowing	3,178
Colorado River & Fraser River	CO	Fallow	233
Total			11,408