

Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan

Arizona Implementation



What is the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP)?

DCP is a set of agreements designed to protect the Colorado River system through voluntary reductions and increased conservation. The agreements were developed through a collaborative process amongst the federal government, states, water users and Mexico. The Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) and Central Arizona Project (CAP) were the participants from Arizona.

There is an Upper Basin DCP involving Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming and the US; a Lower Basin DCP involving Arizona, California, Nevada and the US; and a companion agreement which connects these two programs and links them to Mexico through a US-Mexico agreement.



How was Arizona's DCP Implementation Plan developed

In 2018 and early 2019, ADWR and CAP jointly led nearly 40 stakeholders through months of public and small group meetings. During this process, new arrangements, which form a package called the Arizona DCP Implementation Plan, were negotiated. The package of agreements shares the burden of impacts from Colorado River reductions and the benefits of increased reliability for Arizona water users.



Why did Arizona participate in DCP?

Arguably Arizona, and CAP specifically, had the most to lose because of its junior priority on the Colorado River, which means its supply might be cut first and most, during times of shortage. There was also uncertainty about what would happen if Lake Mead, the Lower Basin's principle reservoir, dipped to the very lowest levels. Arizona participated in DCP in order to reduce this risk by sharing reductions with other states and Mexico.



Will DCP prevent a shortage?

DCP will not prevent a Colorado River shortage, but thanks to Arizona's innovative water management programs, conservation and collaborative long-term planning, Arizona will continue to enjoy reliable water supplies. With DCP and Arizona's water management framework, we are prepared to handle the effects of drought and potential Colorado River shortage.



When does DCP start?

Federal Legislation implementing the DCP is anticipated in 2019. Reductions to Arizona's Colorado River supply under DCP could begin as early as 2020. The DCP agreements run through 2026. It is anticipated that new rules will be negotiated and put into effect after 2026.

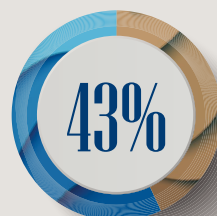


Why was DCP necessary?

The risks of Lake Mead falling below critically low reservoir elevations has tripled in the past decade, increasing the risks of large-scale reductions to Arizona's Colorado River supply and threatening the health of the river for all users. Previous agreements and guidelines designed to protect the system against such dry times may not be sufficient to address the current risks to the system.

Projections by the US Bureau of Reclamation show that DCP would reduce the risks of Lake Mead falling below critical elevations. DCP provides Arizona with greater certainty for reliable and secure water supplies now and in the future.

Risk of Lake Mead going below
1,025' by the year 2026



Without DCP



With DCP

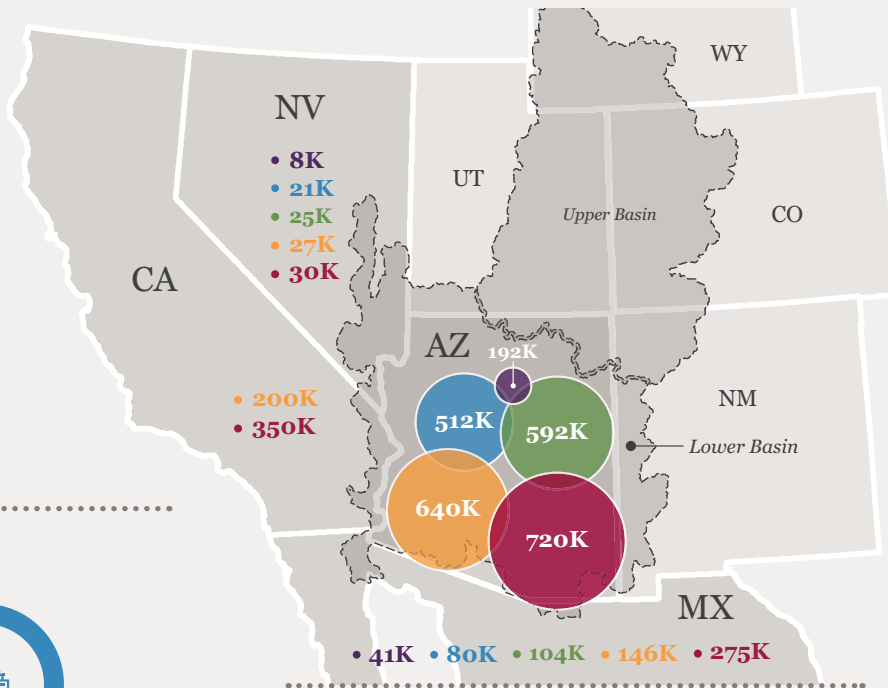
You should know...

- A Colorado River water shortage **does not mean that Arizona is in a water crisis.**
- **Arizona leads the nation with rigorous water conservation and sustainability laws** that protect Arizona water users.
- The DCP **provides a plan** for how Arizona cities, agricultural users, industries, tribes and others will **share Colorado River water supplies** during shortages, while honoring the existing priority system.

Lower Basin DCP Contributions to Lake Mead

IN ACRE-FEET PER ELEVATION PER YEAR

- Less than 1,090'
- Less than 1,075'
- Less than 1,050'
- Less than 1,045'
- Less than 1,025'



Bureau of Reclamation
• 100K / year



What does DCP mean to me?

Arizona residents can now be assured that future water supplies are more reliable and secure. The economies supporting the state can continue to thrive based on this secure water supply.

Coming together to secure
Arizona's Water Future

www.CentralArizonaProject.com

