

# COLORADO RIVER PACT 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



## About the Colorado River

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### Did You Know

At 1,450 miles long, the Colorado River is the sixth longest in the nation, passing through seven states and two nations.

The Colorado basin spans 260,000 square miles, about 8 percent of the continental U.S.

The river flows through 11 national parks and monuments.

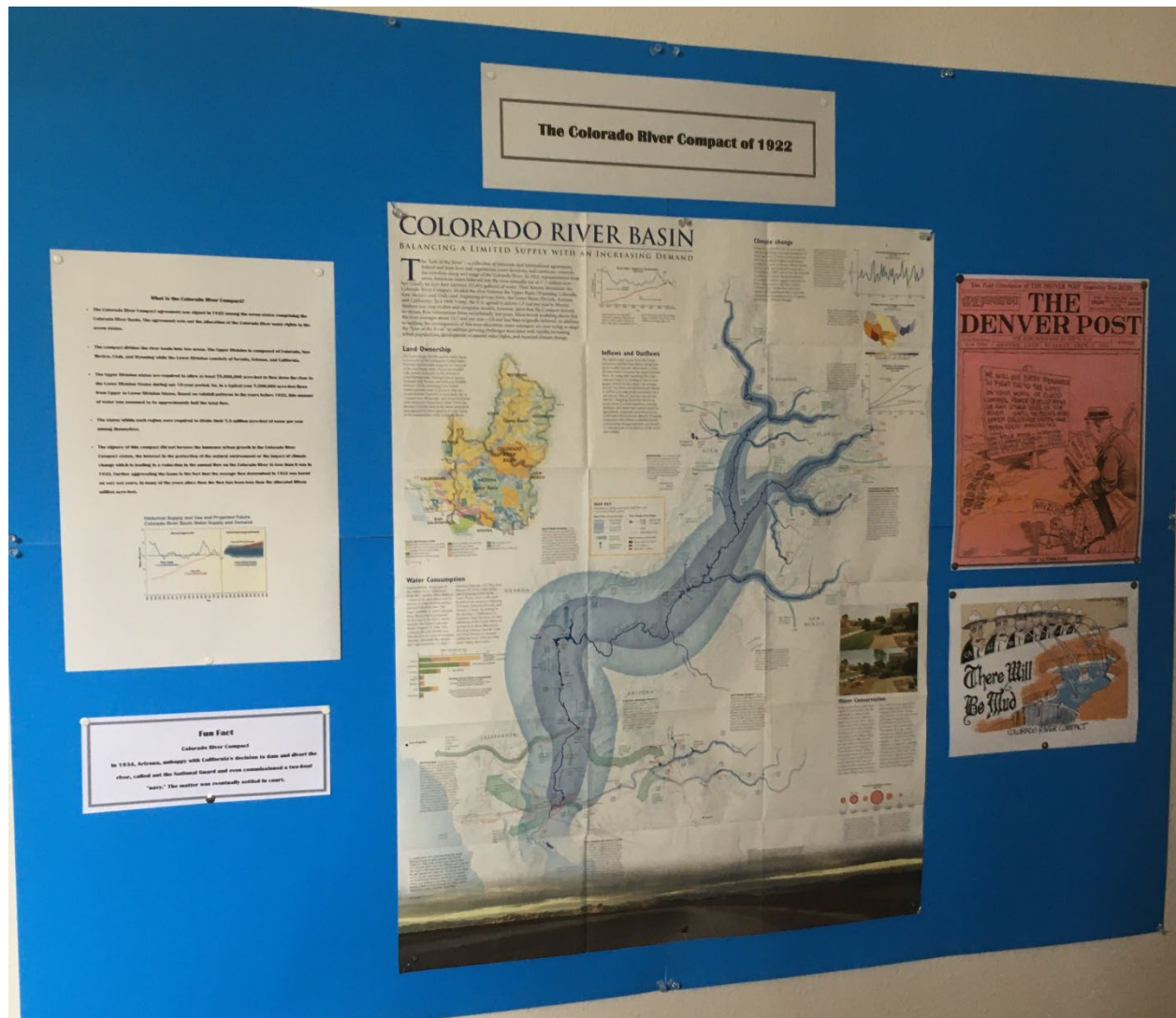
The Colorado River Water Compact drafted in 1922 to divide water between upper and lower basin states was based on analysis of one of the wettest 10-year periods in history, establishing a permanent deficit.



The Colorado River starts high in the Rocky Mountains of Rocky Mountain National Park. Originally known as the Grand River, the name was changed in 1921 to the Colorado River and this part in RMNP was known as the North Fork of the Colorado River. The South Fork of the river is now known as Arapahoe Creek and enters the Colorado River below the reservoirs built in 1930-40s. The North Fork of the Colorado River enters Lake Granby and water is released from the reservoir into the river as well as being pumped up into Grand Lake and through the Adams Tunnel under RMNP to the eastern plains.







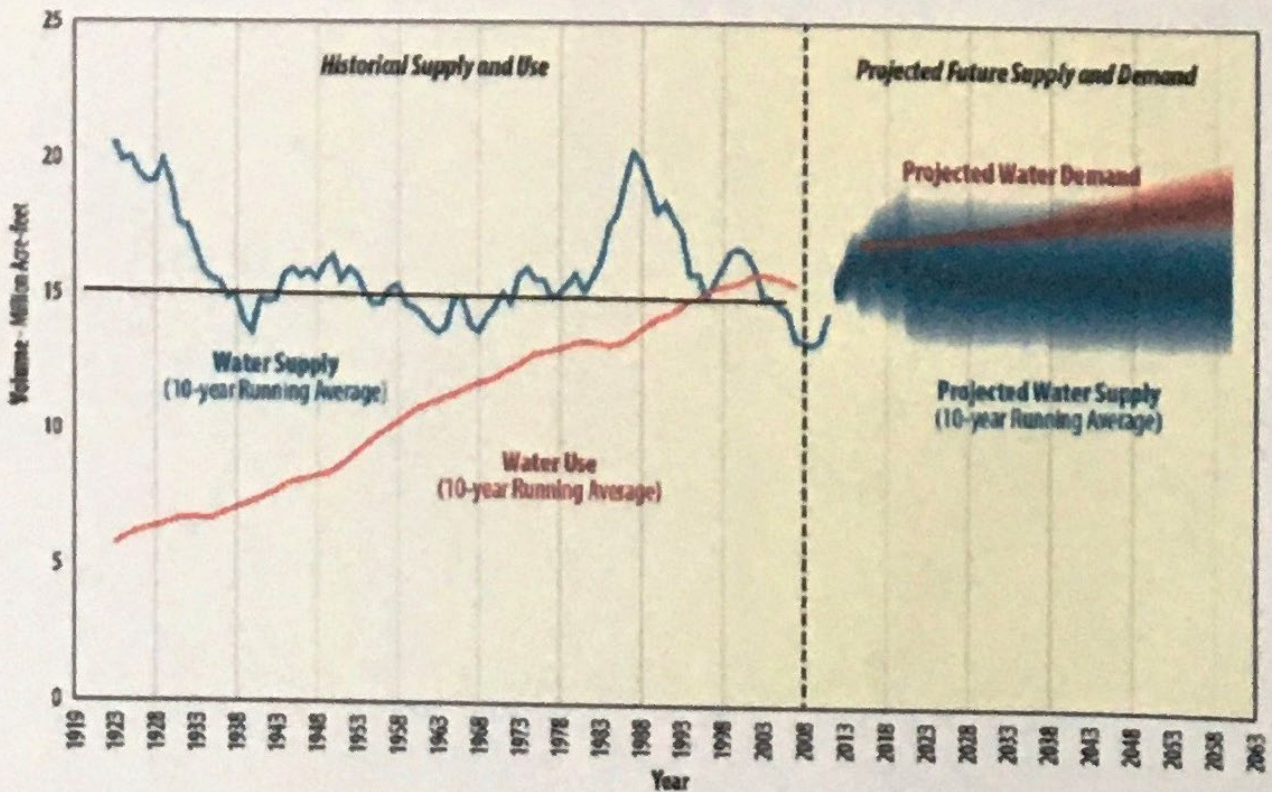
## What is the Colorado River Compact?

The Colorado River Compact signed in 1922 allocated the Colorado River water rights to the upper division of four states, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. The Upper Division states are required to allow at least 75,000,000 acre-feet to flow down the river during any ten year period. So in a typical year 7,500,000 acre feet flow from the upper to the lower division states. Based on the rainfall patterns before 1922, this amount was assumed to be half the total flow. The states within each region were required to divide their 7.5 million acre feet of water per year among themselves.

The signers of this compact did not foresee the immense urban growth in the Colorado River Compact states, the interest in the protection of the national environment or the impact of climate change which is leading to a reduction in the annual flow of the Colorado River to less than it was in 1922. Further aggravating the issue is the fact that the average flow determined in 1922 was based on very wet years. In many of the years since then the flow has been less than the allocated fifteen million acre-feet.

A compact for the lower basin states, Nevada, Arizona and California was signed in 194... and allocated with 10% to go to Mexico. Not enough water reaches the lower basin.

## Historical Supply and Use and Projected Future Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand



### Fun Fact

#### Colorado River Compact

**In 1934, Arizona, unhappy with California's decision to dam and divert the river, called out the National Guard and even commissioned a two-boat "navy." The matter was eventually settled in court.**



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Sunday paid circulation of The Denver Post 100,000 greater than total paid circulation of all newspapers other Sunday papers printed in Denver and Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico combined.

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COLORADO RIVER COMPACT