

### Demand Management, DROA, Colorado River Issues

CWCB is at a hard pause in their Demand Management Feasibility studies;

- Waiting for other states and UCRC to catch
- Allow CWCB to focus on an intrastate Drought Resiliency Toolkit
  - Ag is being hit hard
  - Environment and recreation are being degraded
- One Drought Resiliency Workshop

### Demand Management Conceptual Framework

Conceptual Framework shelved with the draft in the board packet

<https://youtu.be/C407ZpdS-us?t=4144>

Marti Whitmore “doing it accomplished a lot of what we hoped it would”, “got discussion going, got people thinking about specifics instead of the more conceptual process kind of things CWCB was focusing on”

### Big River Issues

Too many lawyers arguing over Drought Response Operations Agreement, taking too much bandwidth, one time, one shot bandaid.

Trujillo letter to reduce release from Lake Powell to 7 million acre-feet

Interior Department concerned about continuous use of Glen Canyon bypass tubes

### DROA Releases

Andy Mueller:

*“The DROA releases they are looking at significant amounts of water*

*That is primarily going to come out of Flaming Gorge if it's going to come from anywhere. Franlu Blue Mesa doesn't have any water.*

*The Navajo unit, if it releases too much more the Navajo pipeline which was only recently built will no longer function because they didn't design the intake tubes to be at the appropriate level. **There's about 800,000 af sitting in Navajo that can't be released if you are going to keep the Navajo pipeline in service.***

*One might question the wisdom of the engineers who designed that given the primary purposes of the reservoir.”*

#### **Editors Note**

Andy's wording on Navajo is complicated and confusing. I think he is saying the intakes to transfer water to Cutter Reservoir and the Navajo Agriculture Project (NAPI) were placed at a fairly high level, probably to reduce or eliminate pumping costs. This was done when Navajo was originally built and created an 800,000 af inactive pool in Navajo, to keep water above those intakes. The recently built Navajo domestic pipeline which also uses Cutter reservoir, would be cut off the same as NAPI if Navajo were drained to backstop Lake Powell. In theory that was a primary reason for Navajo like all the initial units, but Navajo was also to

get water to the Navajo Nation for Ag and domestic use. The River District is pretty angry the Bureau drained Blue Mesa last year to backstop Powell and its not possible to drain that 800,000 af out of Navajo. Some links

[John Fleck on Cutter Reservoir](#)

[Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project Map](#)

[Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project projected to serve thousands of people](#)

### Lower Basin Overuse

*Andy Mueller: Upper Basin Use in 2021 was **below 4 million acre-feet***

*Lower Basin and Mexico used **close to 11 million acre-feet***

*That is not an equitable division of the waters of the Colorado River*

*The reality is we that we have over delivered every year out of the last 20 years out of Lake Powell, Lower Basin has continued to use more water than was delivered into Lake Mead. So it has put the system in crisis*

*Even with all the touted water conservation programs in the Lower Basin...ICS, 500+ plan, the DCP plan water, all of this is loans back into Lake Mead to try to prop up the leve. They aren't permanent reductions in consumptive use. Those are temporary measures. No focus on permanent reduction in use by the Bureau or the Lower Basin. It's absolutely time that that happened. It's time the Bureau as the master in the lower Basin start turning the faucet down. And yes there is a Tier 1 shortage to Arizona . The farmer's are being hit, the cities are not, the golf courses, the lawns, and swimming pools are still being filled. They are not living within the hydrology.*

*In 2018 we consumed 1.5 maf in our state, we did a 1 million acre-foot conservation program because there was no water. Lower Basin in those years use the exact same amount. All of use have to live within the run of the river, the hydrology The compact says equitable apportionment, 50/50. You have to live withing 50/50 after Mexico gets their water.*

### Kathleen Curry

*What is the legal mechanism for Bureau to enforce shortages in the Lower Basin*

*Andy Mueller: Trujillo letter referenced emergency powers in Interim Guidelines and Bureau has authority in every Lower Basin Contract to take emergency actions*

*Is there a legal mechanism for the Upper Basin to push for that?*

*Andy Mueller: Our states team is pushing for that at every opportunity in every meeting.*

### Marti Whitmore

*It's helpful we are being clear about what the problem vs overuse being referred to as structural deficit. have moved away from structural deficit to what it actually is, overuse.*

<https://youtu.be/C407ZpdS-us?t=4966>

*The drought resilience is all the Upper Basin*

### Taylor Hawes (TNC)

*Advocating DM Conceptual Framework and Drought Resiliency Toolkit*

Watershed/Fireshed Management

Priority areas for money ring the River District, the Front Range and Southwest. Prioritization based on dollar value of home in Wilderness Urban Interface and Front Range is building home in forests  
At a Roundtable with Neguse and Bennet River District pointed out the Front Range water supply comes from the West Slope and no money being spent to protect their water supply.

Put marginal acreage out of production

“Fraught with peril but is something we have to look at”