

2023 Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
Special Order of Business

Colorado River Basin

Whereas: The ongoing drought crisis in the Colorado River Basin demands continued collaborative efforts among state, federal, and international agencies and;

Whereas: The Department of Interior is expediting preparation of new measures based on current and projected hydrologic conditions to protect long-term sustainability of the Colorado River System and;

Whereas: Revising the current interim guidelines for operation of Glen Canyon and Hoover Dam is necessary to address the likelihood of continued low-runoff conditions across the Basin and;

Whereas: The Upper Basin states have necessarily adapted to recent drought and low runoff conditions by reducing historical diversions due to lack of water availability and comparative lack of storage capacity.

Therefore: We strongly urge the Bureau of Reclamation to accurately account for evaporation and transit losses in the Lower Basin as well as the Upper Basin and;

Therefore: We ask the Department of Interior for equitable appropriation of water across basins according to the spirit of the 1922 Colorado River Compact and;

Therefore: We urge all relevant governmental agencies to develop protocols and best practices for shepherding water through the Colorado River Basin and;

Therefore: We urge all relevant federal agencies to prioritize addressing factors impacting the supply of water and prioritizing the health of watersheds, improving water cycles, riparian areas, soil organic matter, vegetative ground cover, and the health of forest ecosystems and other headwater areas, while recognizing the role of agriculture in these efforts.