

The Future of Rivers in the Colorado River Basin

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Colorado Watershed Assembly
October 8, 2013

Photo credits:
Pete McBride
Maitri Erwin
Osvel Hinojosa
National Park Service
Tamarisk Coalition







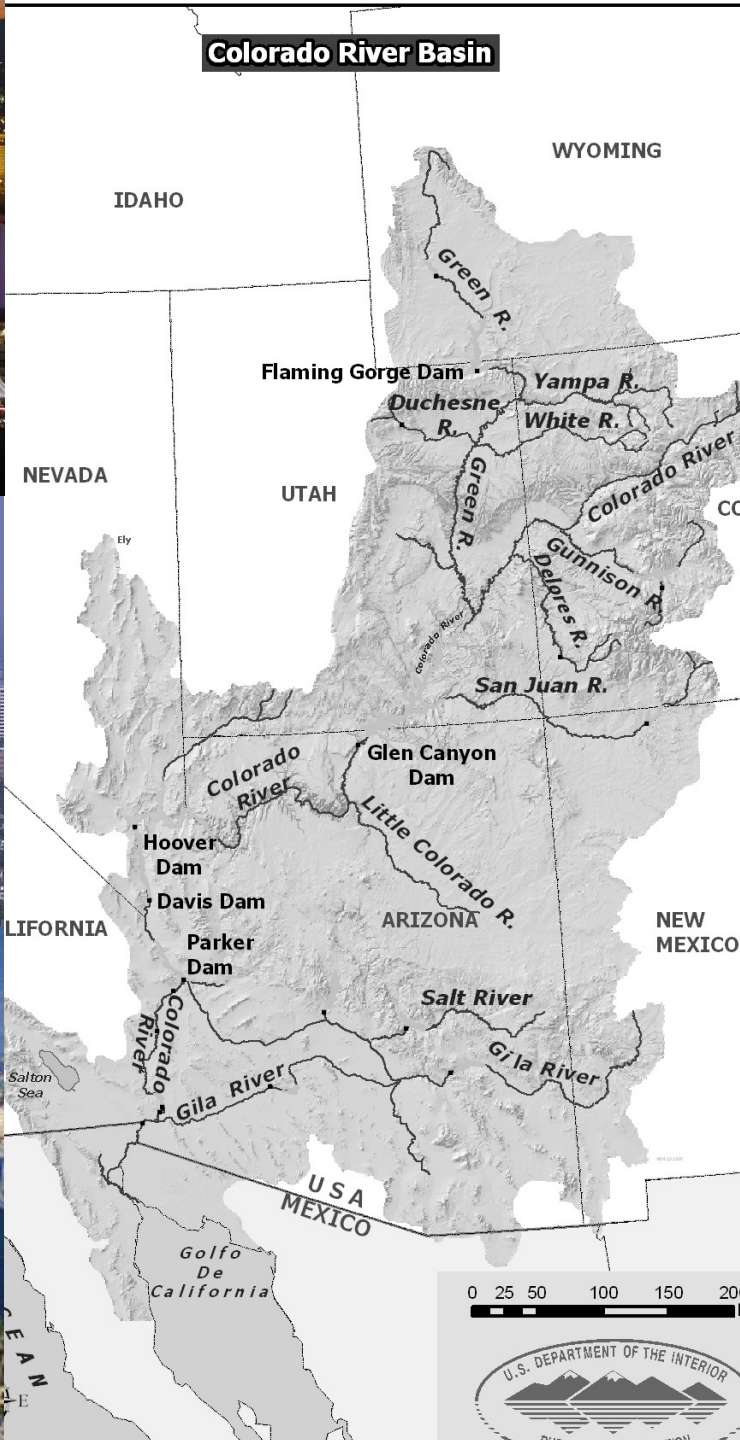
Las Vegas



Los Angeles



San Diego



Colorado River Basin



Denver

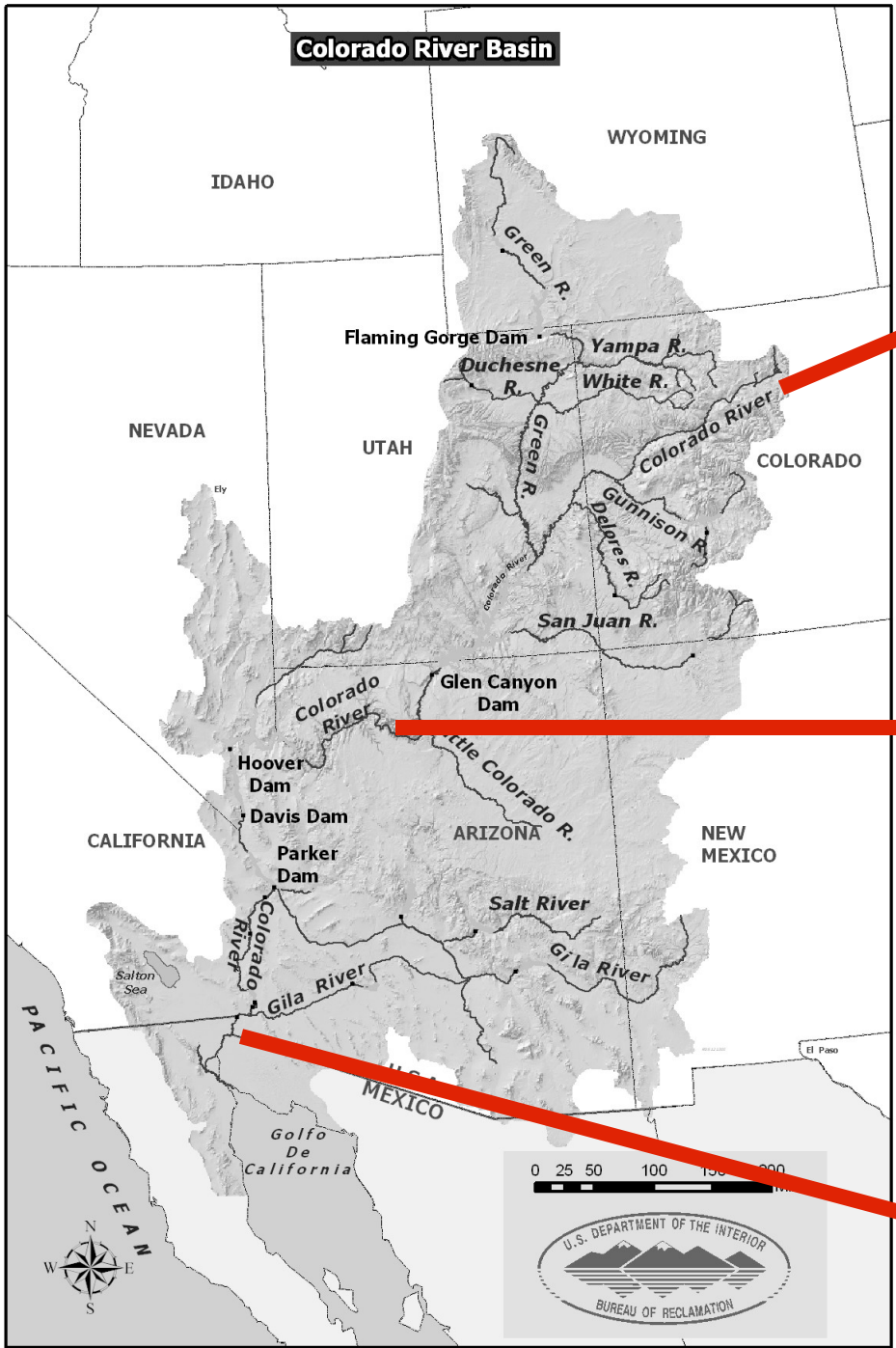


Albuquerque



Phoenix

Colorado River Basin















Click to insert chart





Colorado River Delta Restoration



Minute 319 in which US and MX dedicate water for healthy Colorado River flows in the delta while also improving water supply reliability for all users



HEALTHY FLOWS FOR THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN

LEGEND

Restore River Flows

Protect River Flows

MAP KEY

Numbers in million acre-feet (maf) per year
1 acre-foot=325,851 gallons

River Flow (annual average)

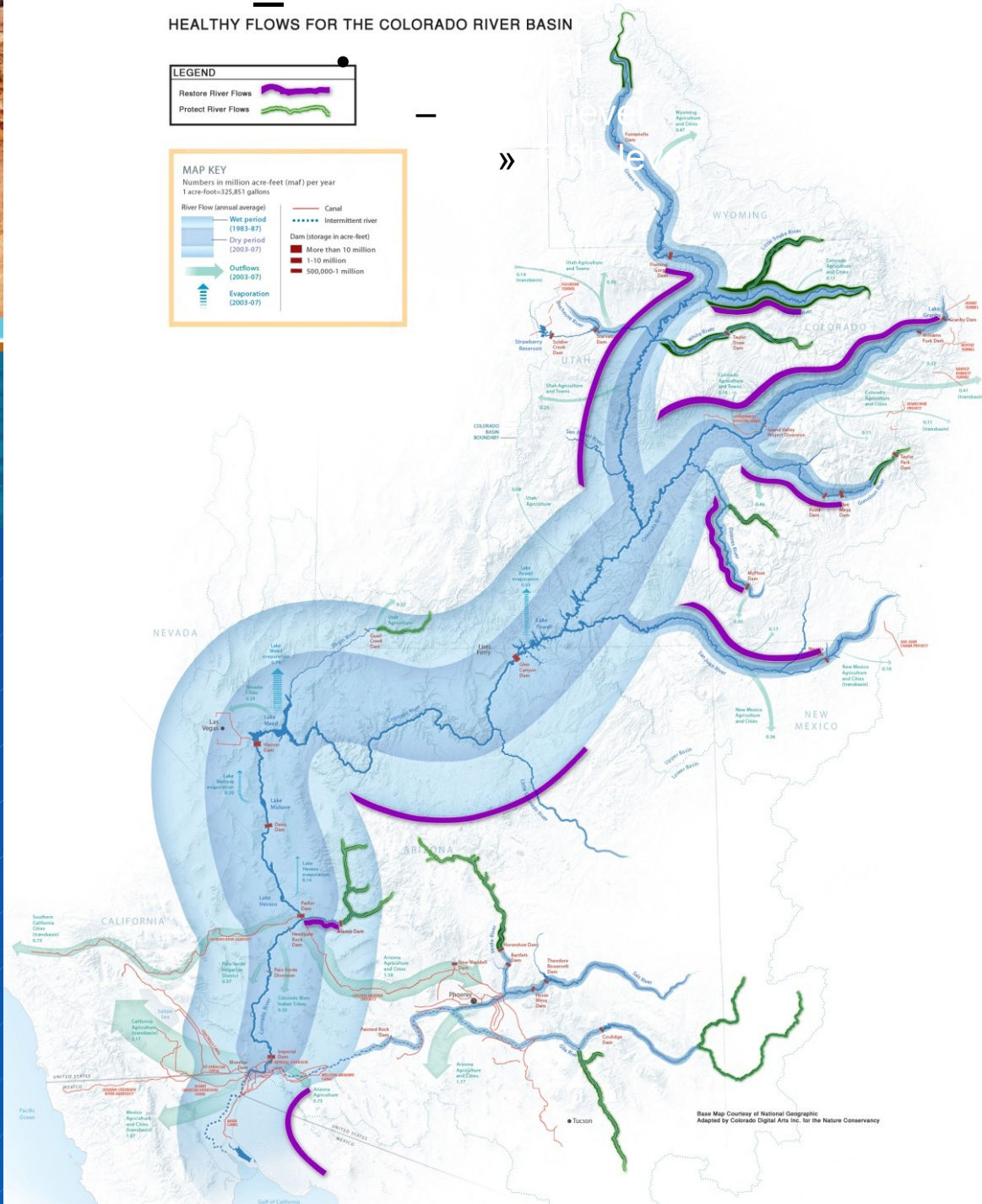
- Wet period (1983-87)
- Dry period (2003-07)
- Outflows (2003-07)
- Evaporation (2003-07)

Dam (storage in acre-feet)

- More than 10 million
- 1-10 million
- 500,000-1 million

Other Symbols:

- Canal
- Intermittent river



Base Map Courtesy of National Geographic
Adapted by Colorado Digital Arts Inc. for the Nature Conservancy

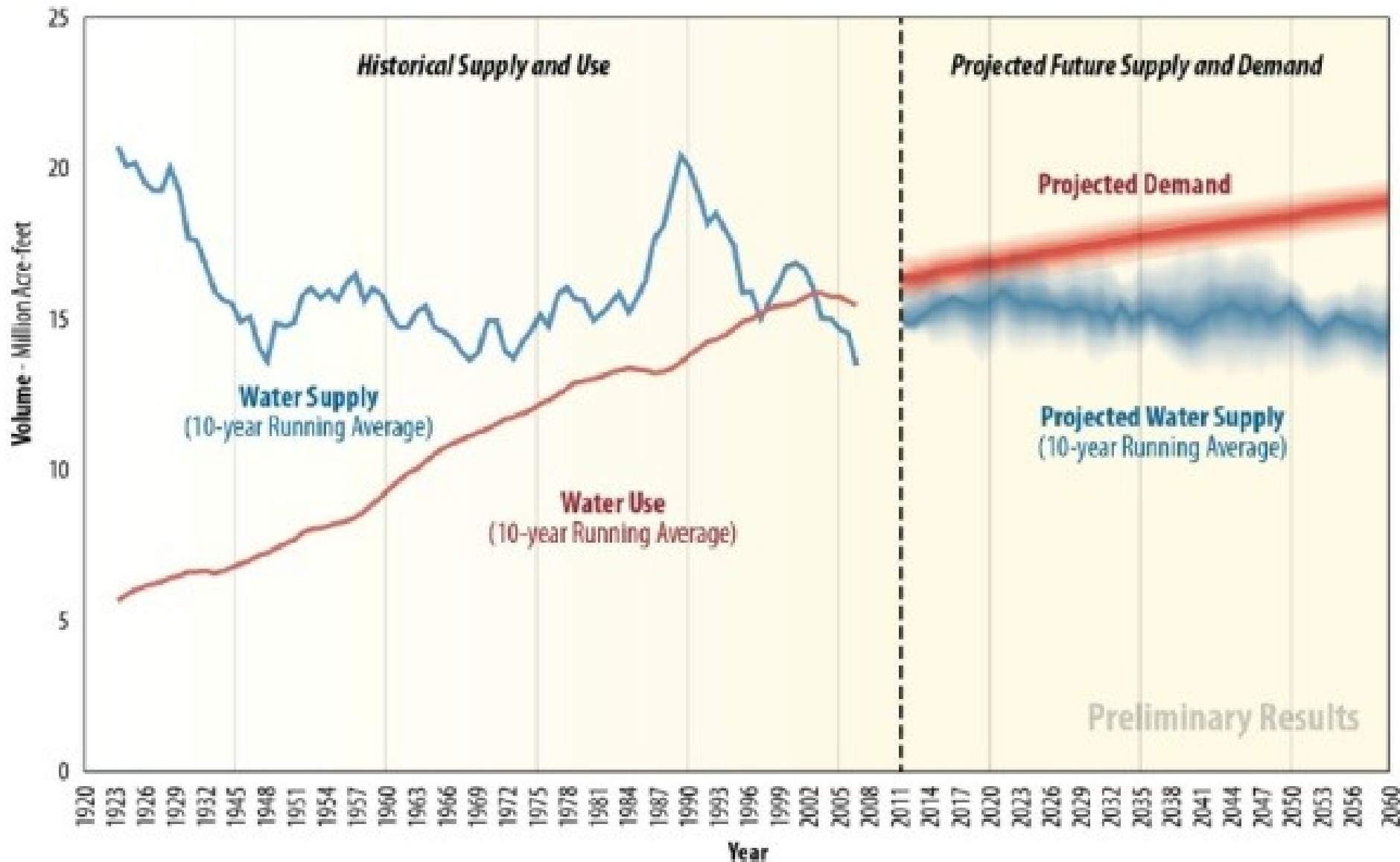
HEALTHY FLOWS FOR THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN





Projected Supply and Demand in the Colorado River Basin

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

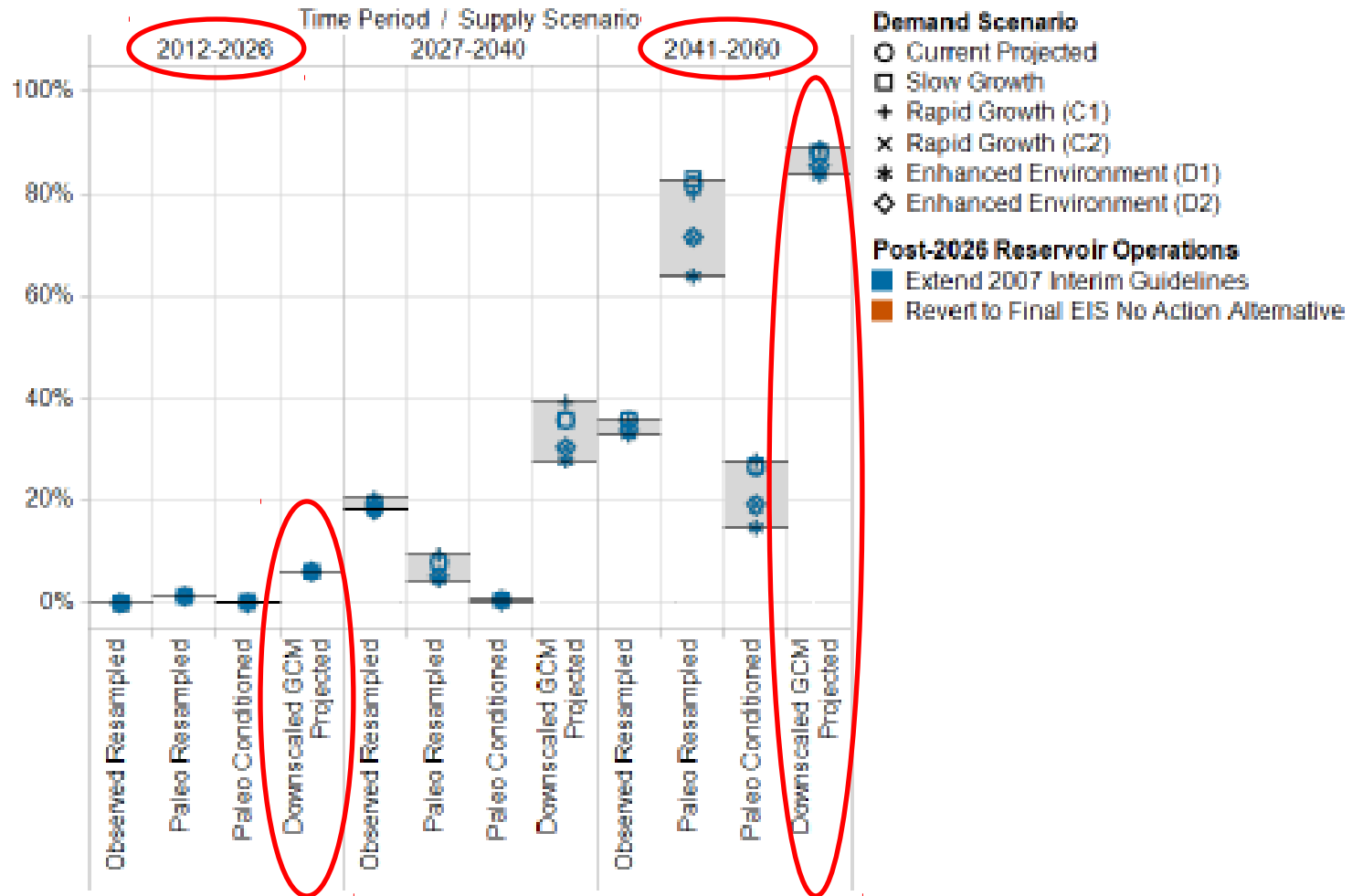


Yampa River – ecological vulnerability

Climate

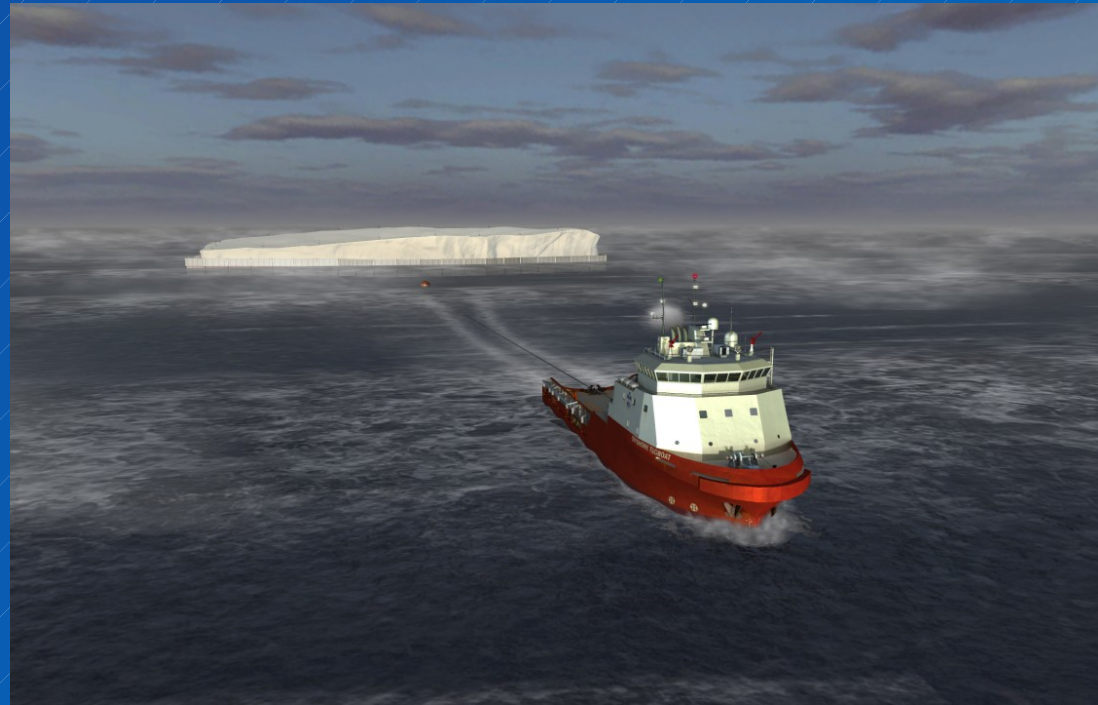
FIGURE G3-67

Percent of Traces Vulnerable Without Options and Strategies by Scenario and Time Period, Yampa River Indicator Metric (ecological vulnerability)



Some solutions might be too expensive and energy intensive *and* don't help rivers

- Pipelines that import water from other basins
- Massive ocean desalination in CA and MX
- Icebergs?



**Some solutions help water users
and healthy rivers**

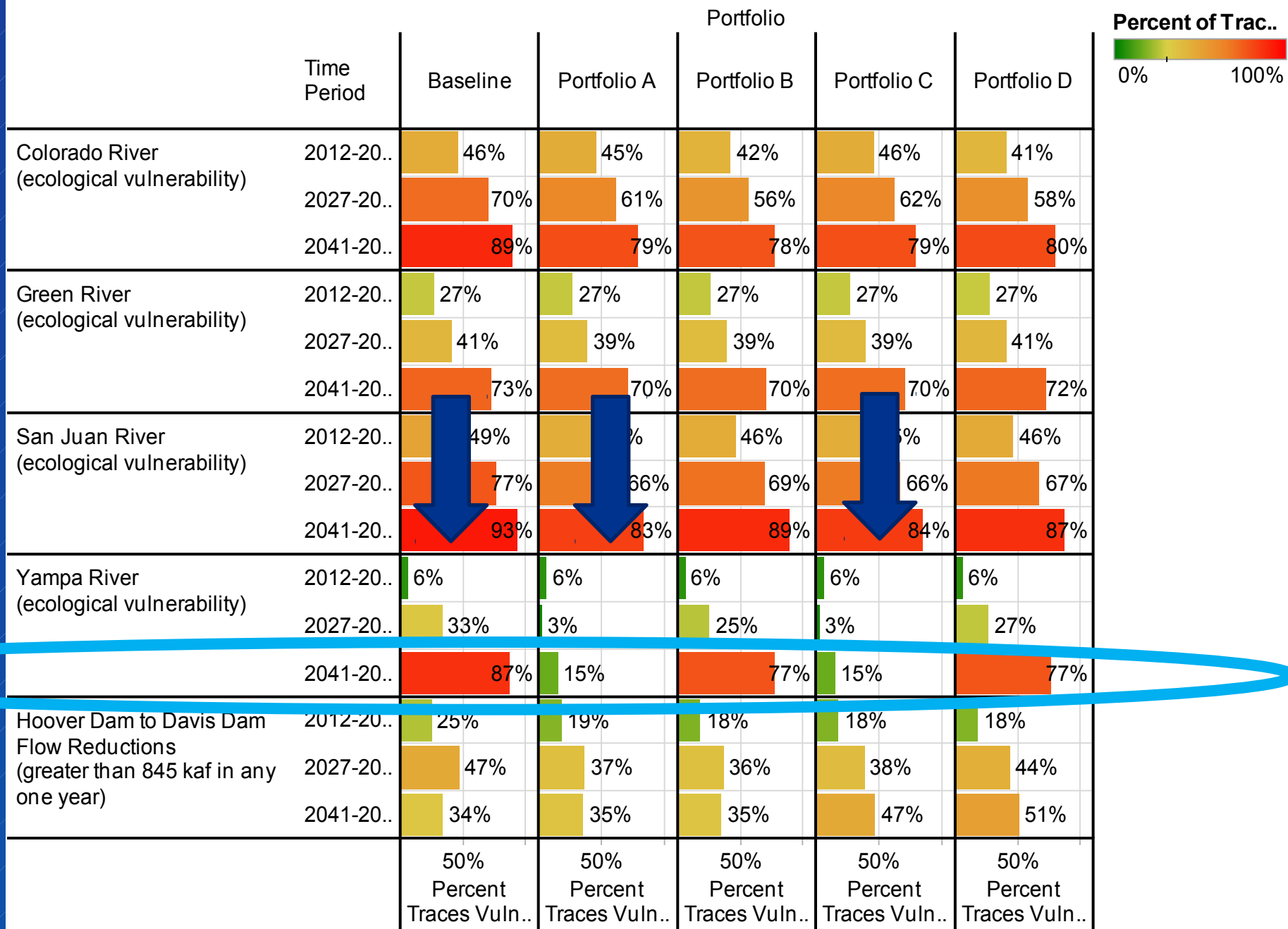
conservation and efficiency for urban, energy, and
agriculture water uses



UPPER BASIN WATER BANK

- Designed to:
 - avoid Lee Ferry deficit
 - protect water rights
 - compensate water users for voluntary conservation
 - more efficient than individual buyer-seller transactions
 - more flexible than “buy and dry”
 - has real costs, but costs are far less than pipelines or desalinization
 - improve healthy river flows
- Basin Study assessed Upper Basin water bank at conceptual level

Percent of Traces Exceeding Vulnerability Threshold At Least Once Ecological Indicator Metrics by Time Period







Let the Colorado Flow

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Message



Community

The Colorado River as it existed a century ago, running free from the Rocky Mountains to Mexico, is today a distant memory. We're working to change that. Learn more at www.coloradoriverbasin.org.



The yellow-billed cuckoo is "one of many species that are in danger because of the degradation of rivers in the West."



5,425

About – Suggest an Edit

Photos

Likes

Highlights ▾

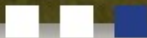


A Balanced Plan for the Colorado River

- ABOUT THE RIVER
- ABOUT US
- THE STUDY
- BLOG: COLORADO CURRENTS
- CONTACT
- FOR THE MEDIA



About the Basin: The Colorado River is a national treasure, the lifeblood of the arid West and essential to the economies of seven states and Mexico.



VIDEO: AMERICA'S ENDANGERED RIVER



As we enter a new era of uncertainty, the river's future, one fact is beyond reasonable dispute: we need to change the way we manage the Colorado River.

A NATIONAL TREASURE

LATEST BASIN NEWS



Let the Colorado Flow

