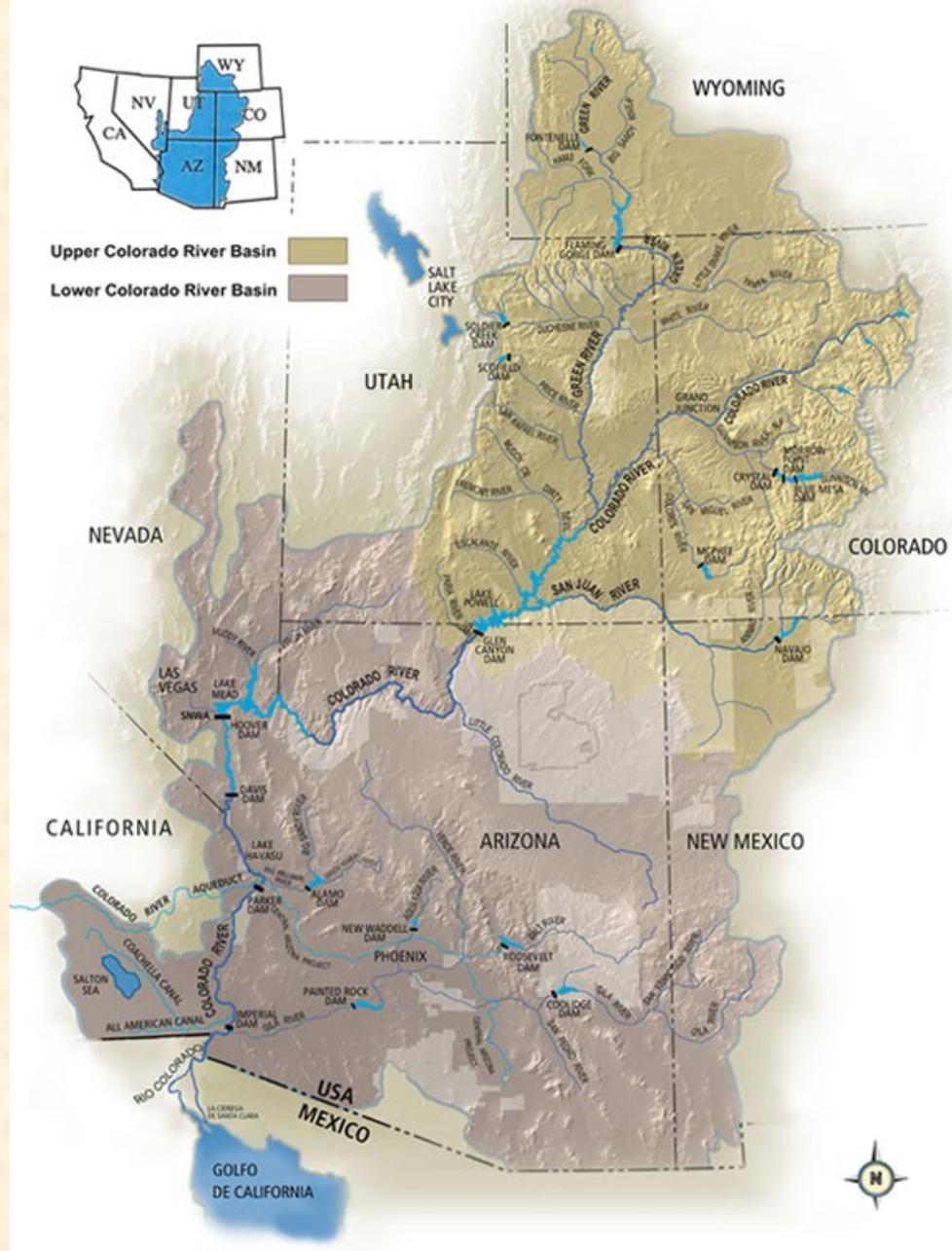


# **SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES ROUNDTABLE**

## **A Sustainability Success Story: The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program**

**Golden, Colorado  
July 19, 2016**





# QUICK RIVER FACTS

- Primary Water Supply for 40+ Million People
- Irrigates 5.5 Million Acres of Cropland
- Sustains aquatic/riparian habitat for numerous sensitive species
- Used by millions for water-based recreation
- Flows 1,400 miles from Rocky Mountain Headwaters to Gulf of California
- Water Allocated to States and Mexico via complex series of political agreements, court decrees, and treaties





# QUICK SALINITY FACTS

- Salinity Increases from 50 mg/L to 850 mg/L from Headwaters to Gulf of California
- 10 Million Tons of Dissolved Salts Transported Annually below Hoover Dam
- High Salinity Causes about \$382 Million in Economic Damages to Users
- Long Standing Source of Conflict With Water Delivered Under Treaty to Mexico









# REGULATORY HISTORY

- **Federal Water Pollution Control Act (1972)**
- **Colorado River Salinity Control Act of 1974**
- **1984 Revisions to the Act (USDA and BLM Participation Requirement)**
- **1995 Revisions to the Act (Created Competitive Grant Program)**
- **Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Created USDA EQIP)**
- **2008 Revisions to the Act (Basin States Program-Cost-Share Requirements)**



# PROGRAM PARTNERS

Department of the Interior

Bureau of Reclamation

Bureau of Land Management

US Geological Survey

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Cons Service

Agricultural Research Service

US Environmental Protection Agency

State of Arizona

State of California

State of Colorado

State of Nevada

State of New Mexico

State of Utah

State of Wyoming

Hundreds of water districts, canal/ditch companies, etc.

Thousands of private water users/producers



# PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

## ORGANIZATION/GOVERNANCE

- Salinity Control Forum
- Advisory Council
- Working Group/Technical Advisory Group/Science Committee

## BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

- Basin States and State Matching Funds

## NRCS

- Farm Bill/EQIP

## BLM

- Appropriated Funds



# HOW ARE WE DOIN' ??

