

Colorado River Basin Entitlements

The Colorado River Compact, signed on November 24, 1922, apportioned to the Upper and Lower Basin 7.5 MAF respectively of consumptive use on an annual basis; with Lee ferry as the designated point along the mainstem of the river that separates the respective basins.

The Boulder Canyon Project Act (December 21, 1928 then amended on March 6, 1946) further outlined that of the 7.5 MAF designated for the Lower Basin, 4.4 MAF was apportioned to California, 2.8 MAF was apportioned to Arizona, and 0.3 MAF was apportioned to Nevada. The Mexican Water Treaty (signed on February 3, 1944) then allowed for Mexico, an annual quantity of 1.5 MAF from the Colorado River.

The Upper Colorado River Basin Compact of 1948 determined the division and apportionment of Colorado River water in the Upper Basin per the volume designated in the Colorado River Compact. Per this compact, the Upper Basin portion of the state of Arizona would receive 50 KAF per year. The remaining Upper Basin States determined their apportionments on a percentage basis; Colorado received 51.75%, New Mexico received 11.25%, Utah received 23%, and Wyoming received 14% of the remaining Colorado River water in the Upper Basin after Arizona's Upper Basin deduction.

Colorado River Basin States Apportionments

Upper Colorado River Basin		Lower Colorado River Basin	
Colorado	51.75%	Arizona	2,800,000 AF
New Mexico	11.25%	California	4,400,000 AF
Utah	23.00%	Nevada	300,000 AF
Wyoming	14.00%	Mexico	1,500,000 AF
Arizona	50,000 AF		