



Upper Colorado  
River Commission

## **Upper Division States through the Upper Colorado River Commission Submit Comments on Post-2026 Colorado River Operations**

**SALT LAKE CITY — March 3, 2026** — On March 2, 2026, the Upper Division States (Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming), acting through the [Upper Colorado River Commission \(UCRC\)](#), submitted comments to the Secretary of the Interior on the draft Environmental Impact Statement for post-2026 Colorado River operations.

The UCRC's comments focused on the following:

- Support for durable, long-term and supply-focused rules for the operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead and appropriately limiting the scope of operations from Lake Powell to the southerly international boundary with Mexico.
- Operations that are consistent with and respect the Law of the River, including recognition of the constrained federal authorities in the Upper Basin.
- Modeling of operations and analysis of impacts within existing legal authorities, including full and appropriate characterization of Lower Basin uses, removing fictional water considered in the modeling and avoiding optimistic hydrology.
- Participation of Upper Basin Tribes within Upper Basin contribution and conservation programs and operations.
- Identifying operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead that are lawful, implementable and grounded in sound hydrologic assumptions that support the long-term stability of the Colorado River.

The Upper Division States through the UCRC remain committed to supply-focused solutions that stabilize the system, respect the Law of the River and reflect the reality of long-term aridification. The UCRC is continuing to work collaboratively with federal, state, Tribal and Basin partners and will provide additional updates and details on these issues over the coming months.

### **About the Upper Colorado River Commission (UCRC)**

The [UCRC](#) is an interstate administrative agency made up of duly appointed representatives from the four Upper Division States — Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

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