



Upper Colorado  
River Commission

## Upper Basin Addresses Unprecedented Colorado River Hydrologic Conditions

**SALT LAKE CITY — April 17, 2026 —** The Upper Division States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, acting through the Upper Colorado River Commission (UCRC), address worsening hydrologic conditions in the Upper Colorado River Basin.

The current projections show inflows into Lake Powell at historic lows, with an increased risk that the reservoir could approach critical elevations threatening infrastructure at Glen Canyon Dam as early as June 2026. Historically, low runoff is already affecting Upper Basin water users, with mandatory and uncompensated cuts impacting communities, Tribes and local economies.

The Upper Division State governors recently warned that current conditions are among the most severe on record, underscoring the need for immediate, coordinated action within limited available water supplies. The Upper Division States are taking unprecedented action to protect critical elevations at Lake Powell in the face of the dire conditions this year.

On top of implementing significant mandatory and uncompensated reductions through each state's strict regulation of all water rights, each Upper Division State is also immediately implementing voluntary conservation and efficiency measures. In addition, through an agreement between the Upper Division States and Reclamation, the Upper Division States are planning releases from Flaming Gorge Reservoir in Utah and Wyoming to support Lake Powell. Under that agreement, any water released from Flaming Gorge will be fully recovered once the release concludes and as hydrologic conditions improve.

The Upper Division States are committed to responsible stewardship of the Colorado River and managing water uses within the available supply. This year, the Upper Division States are working closely with water users in real time to cooperatively adapt to worsening conditions for the protection of communities, agriculture, industry, and the environment.

Additional information will be shared during the upcoming UCRC Special Meeting:

Upper Colorado River Commission Special Meeting

April 21, 2026, 4 to 5 p.m. MT

Zoom Meeting Link [HERE](#)

The UCRC Special Meeting will focus on DROA discussions and provisional accounting project updates.

### 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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