



Glossary

Colorado River System – The portion of the Colorado River and its tributaries within the United States of America

Demand – Water needed to meet identified uses

Depletion – A use of surface water or groundwater due to human-caused activity, including interbasin transfers. Also termed consumptive use.

Diversion – Water withdrawn from the river system

Diversion point – Location on the Colorado River or its tributaries at which water is diverted for depletion

Non-consumptive use – Water used without diminishing the available supply

Hydrologic shortage – Unmet demand that is not the result of any policy, such as prescribed shortage delivery reductions

Indian Country – Indian Country is defined at 18 U.S.C. § 1151 as:

- a. all land within the limits of any Indian reservation under the jurisdiction of the United States Government, notwithstanding the issuance of any patent, and, including rights-of-way running through the reservation;
- b. all dependent Indian communities within the borders of the United States whether within the original or subsequently acquired territory thereof, and whether within or without the limits of a state; and
- c. all Indian allotments, the Indian titles to which have not been extinguished, including rights-of-way running through the same.

Consistent with the statutory definition of Indian Country, as well as federal case law interpreting this statutory language, lands held by the federal government in trust for Indian tribes that exist outside of formal reservations are informal reservations and, thus, are Indian Country.

Influencing factor – Factors that will likely have the greatest influence on the future of tribal development and use of water from the Colorado River and its tributaries over time

Importance – Being of great significance or value. Used to rate the importance of an influencing factor to tribal development and the use of water from the Colorado River and its tributaries relative to the remaining influencing factors.

Key influencing factors – The key driving forces that are identified as both highly uncertain and highly important

Law of the River – The treaties, compacts, decrees, statutes, regulations, contracts and other legal documents and agreements applicable to the allocation, appropriation, development, exportation and management of the waters of the Colorado River Basin are often referred to as the Law of the River. There is no single, universally agreed upon definition of the Law of the River, but it is useful as a shorthand reference to describe this longstanding and complex body of legal agreements governing the Colorado River.

Mean sea level – Elevation as established by the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey (now superseded by the Environmental Science Service Administration) at the time of the construction of Hoover Dam and Glen Canyon Dam.

Natural inflow – Calculated as gaged flow corrected for the effects of upstream reservoirs and depletion

Policy shortage – Unmet demand that is the result of a policy, such as prescribed shortage delivery reductions

Return flow – Water diverted from and returned to the river system

Simulation set – A collection of model simulations that share the same Tribal Water Development Scenario, Water Supply Scenario, and Reservoir Operation Policy

System reliability metrics – Measurements that indicate the ability of the Colorado River System to meet water delivery needs under multiple future conditions

Trace – A single model simulation

Tribal – Generally refers to the member tribes of the Ten Tribes Partnership, unless the context expresses otherwise.

Uncertainty – Imperfect or unknown information. Used to rate the uncertainty of an influencing factor to tribal development and the use of water from the Colorado River and its tributaries relative to the remaining influencing factors.

