

# Roundtable Frequently Asked Questions

This a list of questions generated during the two sub-committee meetings the Roundtable held regarding the draft Drought Contingency Plan and Demand Management documents. Questions were organized by discussion topics, quantifiable and clarification needed, and unknown at this time.

## 1. Potential Roundtable Discussion Topics

- i. If a Demand Management program was implemented, what side boards would Southwest Colorado like to see in the program? What suggestions does the Roundtable have for making a program work in our area?
- ii. How do we balance environmental impacts versus economic impacts during a drought?
- iii. Instead of only looking at costs, could the Roundtable prioritize what they value and propose possible protections of these values in a drought or during curtailment?

## 2. Quantifiable and Clarification Questions

- i. Are CRSP Reservoir Operations targeted at critical elevations? Is the purpose of Demand Management to address Compact compliance?
- ii. Quantification of phreatophyte removal? Is it a meaningful amount to increase water supply?
- iii. Comparisons of 16.5 MAF theoretical allocations for the two basins to current actual uses today.
- iv. Clarify depletion versus delivery obligations for the Upper Basin states.
- v. Adjudication and appropriation dates for local federal projects and others on the website. Perhaps add TMD water rights to this table for review too.
- vi. Provide figures to show how DCPs and a Demand Management program “bend the curve” when it comes to Compact risk.
- vii. Provide figures of Upper Basin consumptive use over time.

### 2.1. Lake Powell and Lake Mead Specific

- i. What is the dead pool volume of Lake Powell?
- ii. Is the Upper Basin still obligated to deliver water if there is nothing in Lake Powell to deliver?
- iii. What are the total cost impacts of lost power revenues?
  - a. Specifically, to Southwest Colorado and local federal projects
- iv. How is the Lower Basin charged for evaporation losses on their ICS water?

## 3. Unknown Questions Yet to be Investigated

### 3.1. General Unknowns

- i. At some point in the future, will the Upper Basin states also be looking at voluntary shortages similar to the Lower Basin?

- ii. When will draft federal legislation authoring the Drought Contingency Plans and Upper Basin storage account be available for review? Timeline for approval? Will the legislation have set criteria of when enacted or implemented?
- iii. What are the costs associated with Compact compliance compared to a voluntary program? Any form of reductions in the future will be costly, which option is more sustainable?
- iv. What is the domino affect of complying with the Compact versus 2007 Interim Guidelines versus power production? What are the relationships and differences between these agreements?
- v. Applicability of Sections 602(a) and 603(a) in the 1968 Colorado River Basin Projects Act.

### 3.2. Endangered Species Act Compliance

- i. What does lack of Section 7 Compliance look like? Entail? Cost?
- ii. Lesser of two evils, lack of Section 7 Compliance or Compact violation?
- iii.

### 3.3. Lake Powell Specific

- i. Is the Upper Basin still obligated to deliver water if there is nothing in Lake Powell to deliver?

### 3.4. Demand Management Program Specific

- i. How will conserved consumptive use water be shepherded through Colorado and other states? What protections and mechanism will be in place to protect this water?
- ii. How will Colorado measure and/or quantify conserved consumptive use water?
- iii. Will the Upper Basin storage pool created in Lake Powell be charged evaporation losses? At what rate? How much could this be each year?
- iv. More information is needed on the economic impacts of a Demand Management program.
- v. Who is coordinating the funding component of the program?
- vi. What is the expected role of the Upper Colorado River Commission as it relates to this program? Other State roles?

## 4. Documents for Further Review

- A. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation 24-month study