

# Healthy Rivers

## Key Strategies:

- Keep Water in Rivers
- Ensure Strong Governance
- Reduce Water Demand

Without urgent action, rising temperatures, drought, and habitat degradation will have profound effects on both people and nature. We must drive state policy to realize the change needed to create a more hopeful future.

As we find ourselves at this critical tipping point, we must accelerate solutions that conserve water and reduce water waste, which are the cheapest, fastest, and most reliable ways to protect the health of rivers. We must lock in these policy commitments today so there is time for them to be implemented and to achieve their full impact by 2030.

## 2030 Goal

**Western states are using 25% less water, and the Colorado and other key rivers are protected.**

The Colorado River is in crisis. We are using more water than the river can provide. Many reaches no longer meet basic ecological functions, and climate change and growing demand are further driving the crisis. Without action to reduce water use, the demand for water will continue to grow as the population and economy in the Interior West expands. WRA drives state policies, programs, and river management that saves water and protects rivers by reducing water use, improving stream flow, and advancing

The next three years are especially important as the federal government works with Colorado River Basin states and Tribes, along with non-governmental organizations, municipalities, and other stakeholders to update the Interim Guidelines for managing the river. Decisions made in the coming years will determine the future of the Colorado River and the West as we know it.

WRA is diligently working to make sure that the decision-making process is inclusive and the new guidelines incorporate forward-thinking policies to reduce water consumption, respond to climate change, protect fish and wildlife habitat, and ensure equitable access to water.

## Learn more about WRA's Healthy Rivers solutions.

Join us in achieving healthy and flowing rivers.



## 2023 Priorities

- WRA has developed and built support for **policies to reduce water use** from the Colorado River, keep it in streams, and pay users to voluntarily reduce water use.
- WRA's recommendations for **basin-wide sustainable management policies** have been embraced and supported by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, basin-state representatives, Tribes, and other key stakeholders.
- WRA is partnering with Indigenous communities to use **federal dollars to improve water management and stream health**.
- WRA has **secured water rights for the environment** that improve flows on 40 river miles of Colorado River tributaries.

