

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 communities and nature in the West. We must drive state policy to realize the change needed to create a more hopeful future. *For Home, For Nature* focuses on what we can do through 2025 to ensure our goals become a reality.

As we find ourselves at this critical tipping point, we must accelerate solutions that improve river governance, conserve water, and reduce water waste 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. When the Colorado River's water was divvied up over a century ago, little or no attention was paid to the needs of the environment. Today, dams, reservoirs, and pipelines have drastically altered the river's flows and critical wildlife habitat. At the same time, climate change is tightening its grip on the Colorado River, reducing river flows. Without action to reduce water use, demand 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 water planning.

We have a historic opportunity to create a more sustainable future for the Colorado River. The federal government is working with Colorado River Basin states and Tribes, along with non-governmental organizations, municipalities, and other stakeholders to update the guidelines governing the river. Decisions made in the next two years will determine the future of the Colorado River and the West as we know it.

WRA is working to make sure that the decision-making process is inclusive and that the new guidelines protect the health of the river and the people, fish, and wildlife that depend on it. The survival of the Colorado River and the West depends on our ability to implement long-term, forward-thinking strategies to conserve water and keep our rivers healthy and flowing.

Act Now

Join us in achieving healthy and flowing rivers. Be part of the solution by making a gift to WRA.

CONTACT:

Theresa Bushman

VP of Development & Communications
theresa.bushman@westernresources.org



To discuss how to leverage your philanthropic impact, complete the form at this QR code.

2024 Priorities

We seek to raise \$11 million in 2024 for WRA's strategic plan *For Home, For Nature* and to achieve the following Healthy Rivers outcomes. Your gift will support our critical work in 2024 to:

- **Pass policies for governing the Colorado River** that include provisions to alleviate the strain on the river's limited water supply, protect the environment, address the impacts of climate change, and ensure Tribes are included in decision making.
- Enact legislation in Colorado that provides **\$3 million in annual support for turf (grass) replacement programs** and limits installation of non-functional turf for new developments and redeveloped areas.
- **Secure protections for an additional 570 river miles in our region**, including obtaining new Outstanding National Water Designations on Colorado Mainstem and Yampa River Basins.
- **Ensure municipal water use in the region remains flat**, despite population growth.
- **Partner with Indigenous communities** to use state and federal funding to improve water management and stream health.