

UPPER COLORADO RIVER COMMISSION



- ▶ An interstate water administrative agency established by the 1948 Compact to ensure appropriate allocation of water to the Upper Division States.
- ▶ Serves to ensure commitments under 1922 Compact are met at Lee Ferry and regarding Mexico.
- ▶ Seeks to promote interstate comity and to remove causes of present and future controversies.
- ▶ Comprised of one representative appointed by the Governor of each Upper Division State and one member appointed by the President.

Colorado River Water Wisdom from Olaf (adapted from Frozen 2)



- “Water is Memory”

Build Resiliency

- “I wish it could be this way forever, and yet change is mocking us with her beauty”

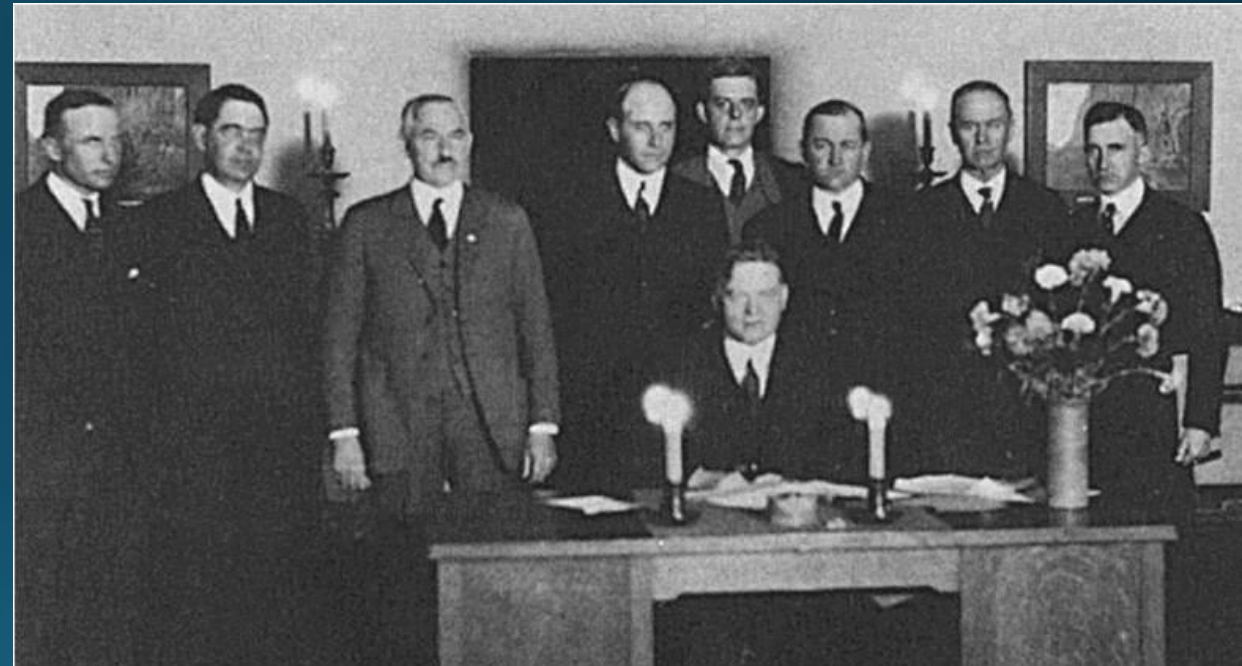
Create Adaptable Solutions

- “All one can do is the next right thing”

Take Actions To Be Sustainable

What Does the 1922 Compact Say

- Article III(d), the Upper Division States will not cause the flow of the Colorado River at Lee Ferry to be depleted below an aggregate of 75,000,000 acre-feet over any ten consecutive years.
- Article III(c) provides that the obligation to Mexico is first supplied by surplus. Surplus is water over and above the beneficial consumptive use apportioned in Articles III(a) and (b).



1948 Upper Colorado River Compact

- Ability for Upper Basin to implement 1922 Compact
- Establishes apportionments based on Depletions:
 - **51.75% Colorado**
 - Includes Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and Southern Ute Indian Tribe settlements
 - **23% Utah**
 - Includes Ute Indian Tribe rights and Navajo Nation settlement
 - **14 % Wyoming**
 - **11.25% New Mexico**
 - Includes Jicarilla Apache Nation and Navajo Nation settlements
 - 50kaf to Arizona
- Establishes the Upper Colorado River Commission with representatives from Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming and U.S.
- Collaboration among the Upper Division States to address shared risks, obligations and opportunities



Upper Basin - Lower Basin Key Differences

- Supply Dominated vs Entitlement/Storage Dominated
 - Upper Basin relies on annual runoff
 - Lower Basin relies on storage - uses downstream of Lake Mead
- Complicated and distributed vs Simple and concentrated
 - Upper Basin > 125,000 active/valid rights in 4 states
 - Lower Basin ~30 turnouts (mainstem) in 3 states + Mexico
- Depletion accounting vs CU accounting
 - Upper Basin accounts for depletions, CU and Losses
 - $\text{Evaporation} + \text{Losses} + \text{CU} = \text{Depletions}$
 - Lower Basin accounts ONLY for CU
 - $\text{Diversions} - \text{return flows} = \text{CU}$
 - Evaporation and losses occur in the Lower Basin
 - Lower Basin Mainstem + Mexico depletions (CU + Evap/Losses) routinely 2x Upper Basin
 - Lower Basin + Mexico depletions > 9.0 MAF/yr
 - Upper Basin < 4.5 MAF/yr



Upper Division States Contributions

- Upper Division States focus on water rights administration
- Shortages to UDS water users > 1.0 MAF annually, cut priorities to 1870's
- Mandatory, uncompensated cuts

Colorado Water Rights Reductions ~ 40% in August 2025

New Mexico ~65% reductions to San Juan Chama for 2025

Utah cuts to 1870's on some tributaries as early as May 2025

Wyoming cut off 164,000 acres



Upper Division States Contributions

- Conservation Programs established across 4 States
 - 100,000 af saved through voluntary, compensated conservation programs
- World class observing network to verify conservation actions

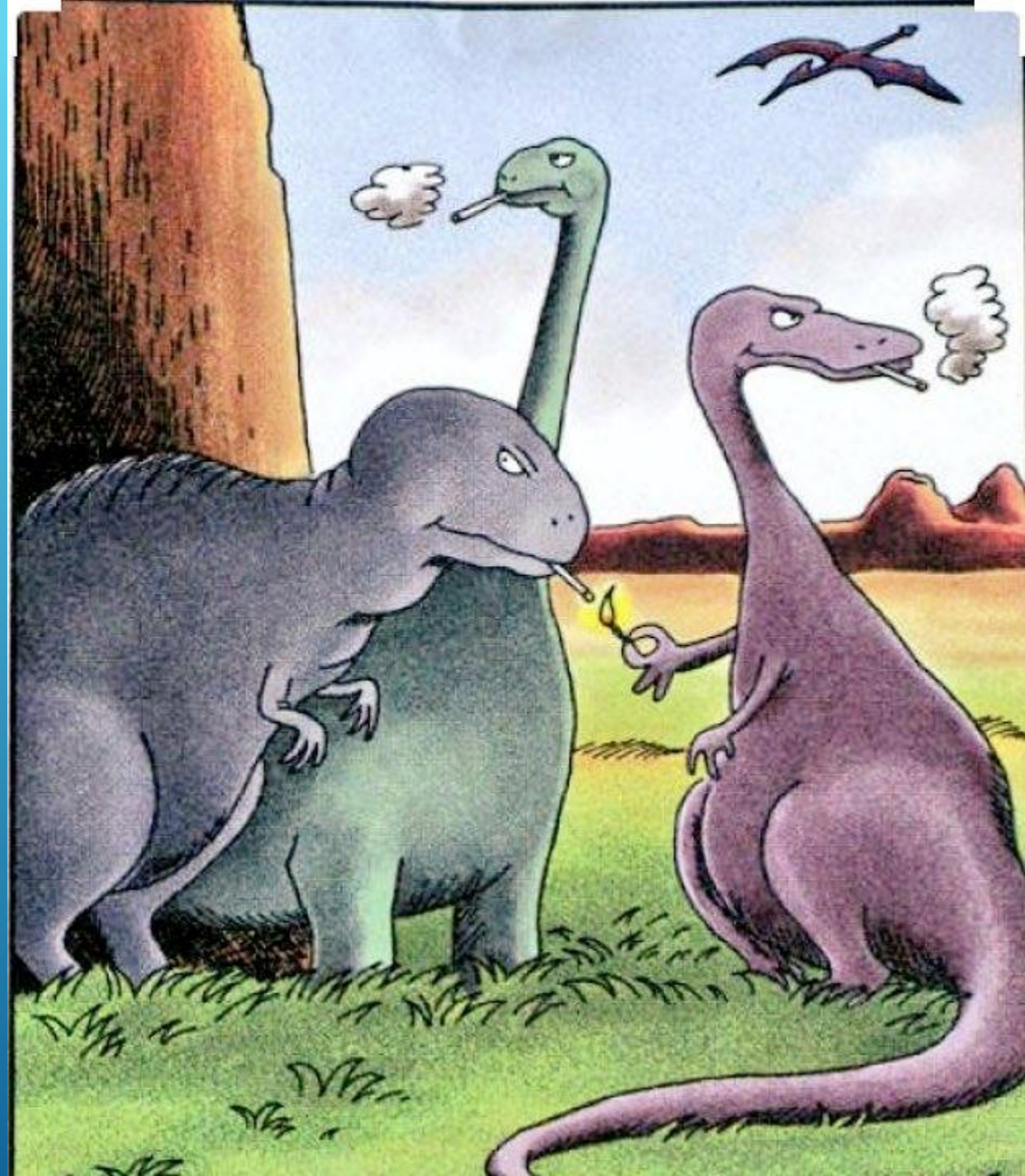
Upper Division States are taking significant actions

Colorado: turf removal, recycling, exchanges, ag efficiency and crop switching

New Mexico: ag efficiency (NAPI), Santa Fe and Albuquerque world class M&I conservation (32% reduction w/40% pop increase)

Utah: state-wide turf conversion program, \$1B state led investments

Wyoming: turf removal, industrial and irrigation efficiency



Colorado River Management Must Evolve/Adapt to solve the Math Problem