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## ***New Report Analyzes Ten Strategies and Solutions for Building Climate Resilience in the Colorado River Basin***

*Amid record-breaking heat and drought, a new report from leading conservation, sportsmen and sportswomen groups examines approaches that would reduce pressure on water supplies, mitigate carbon emissions, and strengthen local economies*

**TUCSON, AZ** – A new report issued today by seven environmental non-profit organizations examines ten strategies to bolster climate resilience and mitigate the impact of climate change in the Colorado River Basin, which is currently grappling with a historic megadrought.

A crucial source of water for over 40 million people, the Colorado River is facing severe declines in stream flows and a [looming federal shortage declaration](#) as a result of a decades-long drought and increasing temperatures. The strategies analyzed in the report have the potential to help communities adapt to, respond to, and mitigate the steady, compounding, and extreme risks of climate change to economies, communities, landscapes, and the water resources that support them.

The [report](#), titled “**Ten Strategies for Climate Resilience in the Colorado River Basin**,” is authored by [Martin & McCoy](#) and [Culp & Kelly, LLP](#) with contributions from American Rivers, National Audubon Society, Environmental Defense Fund, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, The Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, and Western Resource Advocates. It examines ten climate resilience strategies ranging from the well-demonstrated, to the emerging, to theoretical but largely untested concepts, and assesses how each strategy would bolster the Basin’s climate resilience in multiple ways, from reducing pressure on existing water supplies to strengthening economic resilience in surrounding communities. The report further explores the near-term next steps to moving the ten investment strategies forward, including demonstration projects and investments, supportive financing, and action-oriented research to monitor and track project implementation.

“Additional approaches are needed to help our communities directly and holistically tackle the risks of climate change to the Colorado River – and the economies, communities, and ecosystems that rely on it,” said **Kevin Moran, Senior Director of the Colorado River Program at the Environmental Defense Fund**. “The strategies outlined in this report represent our best means of building resilience and staving off the worst effects of the devastating climate crisis.”

“As we face another summer of drought and fire, we are already seeing what our future could look like if we continue with business-as-usual,” said **Nancy Smith, Conservation Director at The Nature Conservancy’s Colorado River Program**. “The scale and pace of climate-related changes in the Colorado River Basin pose an increasing risk to the reliability of our water supplies – and we do not have time to waste. This report offers a crucial and solutions-oriented approach that will help us bolster climate resilience and safeguard our future water supplies.”

The ten investment strategies include:

- *Forest Management & Restoration* - Prioritizing forest management and restoration to maintain system functionality and biodiversity
- *Natural Distributed Storage* - Restoring highly degraded natural meadow systems to improve local aquifer recharge, water retention, reconnect historic floodplains, and support productive meadows and riparian ecosystems
- *Regenerative Agriculture* - Promoting voluntary farming and ranching principles and practices that enrich soils, enhance biodiversity, restore watershed health, and improve overall ecosystem function and community health
- *Upgrading Agricultural Infrastructure & Operations* - Upgrading diversion, delivery and on-farm infrastructure and operations, including irrigation systems, to improve water conservation
- *Cropping Alternatives & New Market Pathways* - Developing on-farm operational shifts and market and supply chain interventions to incentivize water conservation, e.g. shifting to lower water-use crops
- *Urban Conservation & Re-Use* - Incentivizing conservation technologies, indoor and outdoor conservation programs, and direct and indirect potable reuse without negatively impacting downstream fish, wildlife, or ecosystem functions
- *Industrial Conservation & Re-Use* - Incentivizing modifications and upgrades to reduce water use and increase energy efficiencies
- *Coal Plant Retirement Water* - Purchasing or reallocating water rights from closed or retiring coal plants to be used for system or environmental benefits, or other uses
- *Reducing Dust on Snow* - Improving land management practices to reduce the dust on snow effect – which controls the pace of spring snowmelt that feeds the headwaters of the Colorado River
- *Covering Reservoirs & Canals* - Implementing solutions to reduce evaporation from reservoirs and conveyance systems

Read the report [here](#).

