

Mar 5, 2013

Pam Adams  
P.O. Box 61470  
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

Subject: America's National Parks Deserve Consideration and Participation in Colorado River Basin Decisions!

Dear Pam Adams,

Thank you for accepting comments on the Bureau of Reclamation's Colorado River Basin Water Demand and Supply Study. This project is a positive and significant step in identifying issues and priorities for the demands on the Colorado River. I support the common sense and low cost strategies such as water conservation and water reuse as effective initial ways to address the identified gap in the Colorado River's water supply.

Throughout the Colorado River drainage the same story is heard. Residential and industrial water consumption is increasing and little of that water is returned to the drainage. Traditional agricultural users might improve efficiency through technology but they lack both the capital and the end-product price to do so. Instead they sell their water rights for large sums and leave agriculture.

The Colorado River Compact overcommitted the normal flow and we appear to be in an extended drought even now. To entirely suspend the compact would disrupt lives and markets. It would, however be fair to ration some consumers below what they would have received in order to be fair to others.

The compact was signed before anyone saw the value of in-stream flows. While a farm that lies fallow for a season can be replanted, the flora and fauna and the scenic value of a river may require a century to recover after a season of restricted flow. The plants, the animals and the people in the river who did not have a chance to negotiate the compact need consideration now.

The traditional users have trade associations to speak for them. There must be a process for the National Parks and the towns that they support to speak for the land and everything that lives on it.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Robert Cruder