

**SUBMIT OPTION SUBMITTAL FORM BY:**

1. EMAIL TO: [COLORADORIVERBASINSTUDY@USBR.GOV](mailto:COLORADORIVERBASINSTUDY@USBR.GOV)

2. U.S. MAIL TO: BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, ATTENTION MS. PAM ADAMS, LC-2721, P.O. BOX 61470, BOULDER CITY, NV 89006-1470

3. FACSIMILE TO: 702-293-8418

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## Option Submittal Form

**Contact Information (optional):**

**Keep my contact information private.**

Contact Name: _____	Title: _____
Affiliation: _____	
Address: _____	
Telephone: _____	E-mail Address: _____

Date Option Submitted: 3/5/12

**Option Name:**

Tribes with rights to water must be able to beneficially use all the water to which they have rights.

**Description of Option:**

Tribes with Adjudicated water rights, including the mainstem tribes, are not always in a position to divert all the water to which they have rights. When the Interim Shortage Guidelines were finalized in 2007, states were provided with a mechanism – Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) that encouraged them to conserve water which they were able to draw down in future years. Tribes have been given no comparable incentive to conserve water. There should be an incentive for tribes to conserve water to which they have rights. The incentive might be created as a demonstration program for a Tribal Conservation Reserve (TCR). For purposes only of illustrating the concept, such details might include the following:

- In accordance with a plan, developed voluntarily by a tribe, a portion of the water that the tribe is eligible to divert in a given year would be held in Lake Mead in the form of TCR credits. The tribe could then divert that water in a future year by calling on its credits.
- A tribe with TCR credits could use its credits for the diversion of water to its own reservation. In addition, by mutual consent with another tribe with mainstem rights, a tribe with storage credits could elect to exchange its credits with another tribe for that tribe's use.
- Such exchanges would be permitted only among tribes, and only involving water accounted for in the same state's apportionment.
- The release of water reducing TCR credits would not be considered as "surplus" water as its withdrawal in the future year would be in lieu of its withdrawal in the year in which the credits were accrued.

Tribes currently return very significant amounts of irrigation water to the River. This is water that the tribes have a right to divert and put to their own use for agricultural or non-agricultural purposes, but instead is considered as non-tribal water as soon as it flows into the River. In non-Indian communities, agricultural water reuse is regarded as one of a variety of options for obtaining additional water to support future community needs. This is not currently the case with respect to tribal communities.

Creating a Tribal Agricultural Water Reuse demonstration project would address this issue. The details of such a plan should be worked out by interested tribes and BOR. For purposes only of illustrating the concept, such details might include the following:

- In accordance with a plan, developed voluntarily by the tribe, the amount of agricultural drainage water produced in any given year would be given storage credits in an on-River

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reservoir. The tribe could redeem those credits in a future year for community and economic development purposes within the reservation's borders.

- Storage credits for agricultural reuse water would be accrued year by year based on the calculated volume of such water.

- The tribe could redeem its credits in any future year in accordance with its plan, for purposes described in that plan. Eligible purposes might include: municipal needs in communities within the exterior boundaries of the reservation, on-reservation economic development, including power generation, on-reservation development of additional agricultural land, transfer of the use of credits to other tribes with the consent of all the tribes involved.

**Location:** Describe location(s) where option could be implemented and other areas that the option would affect, if applicable. Attach a map, if applicable.

**Quantity and Timing:** Roughly quantify the range of the potential amount of water that the option could provide over the next 50 years and in what timeframe that amount could be available. If option could be implemented in phases, include quantity estimates associated with each phase. If known, specify any important seasonal (e.g., more water could be available in winter) and/or frequency (e.g., more water could likely be available during above-average hydrologic years) considerations. If known, describe any key assumptions made in order to quantify the potential amount.

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## Additional Information

**Technical Feasibility:** Describe the maturity and feasibility of the concept/technology being proposed, and what research and/or technological development might first be needed.

**Costs:** Provide cost and funding information, if available, including capital, operations, maintenance, repair, replacement, and any other costs and sources of funds (e.g., public, private, or both public and private). Identify what is and is not included in the provided cost numbers and provide references used for cost justification. Methodologies for calculating unit costs (e.g., \$/acre-foot or \$/million gallons) vary widely; therefore, do not provide unit costs without also providing the assumed capital and annual costs for the option, and the methodology used to calculate unit costs.

**Permitting:** List the permits and/or approvals required and status of any permits and/or approvals received.

**Legal / Public Policy Considerations:** Describe legal/public policy considerations associated with the option. Describe any agreements necessary for implementation and any potential water rights issues, if known.

**Implementation Risk / Uncertainty:** Describe any aspects of the option that involves risk or uncertainty related to implementing the option.

**Reliability:** Describe the anticipated reliability of the option and any known risks to supply or demand, such as: drought risk, water contamination risk, risk of infrastructure failure, etc.

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**Water Quality:** Identify key water quality implications (salinity and other constituents) associated with the option in all of the locations the option may affect.

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**Energy Needs:** Describe, and quantify if known, the energy needs associated with the option. Include any energy required to obtain, treat, and deliver the water to the defined location at the defined quality.

Energy Required	Source(s) of Energy

**Hydroelectric Energy Generation:** Describe, and quantify if known, any anticipated increases or decreases in hydroelectric energy generation as a result of the option.

Location of Generation	Impact to Generation

**Recreation:** Describe any anticipated positive or negative effects on recreation.

Location(s)	Anticipate Benefits or Impacts

**Environment:** Describe any anticipated positive or negative effects on ecosystems within or outside of the Colorado River Basin.

Location(s)	Anticipated Benefits or Impacts

**Socioeconomics:** Describe anticipated positive or negative socioeconomic (social and economic factors) effects.

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**Other Information:** Provide other information as appropriate, including potential secondary benefits or considerations. Attach supporting documentation or references, if applicable.

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