



# 5 | Assessment of Current Tribal Water Use and Projected Future Water Development

## 5.0 Introduction

Partnership Tribes assessed how they currently use water and how the future development of their reserved water rights and unresolved claims may occur. This chapter presents each Partnership Tribe's description of its current and historical water use and analysis of its projected future water development through 2060. The chapter is organized by the location of the Partnership Tribes' reservations from north to south in the Basin. Current tribal water use and future water development are also summarized for both the Upper and Lower Basins. Although this chapter is based, in part, on information jointly developed during the Tribal Water Study and through collaboration with Reclamation, much of the information was provided by the individual Partnership Tribes. This collaboration does not constitute an endorsement by Reclamation or the Department of the Interior of either the Partnership Tribes' positions or the information contained in this report.

Each Partnership Tribe provided a description of its reservation, a summary of how it currently uses and manages water, and the challenges to using its reserved water rights and unresolved claims. This information includes, as appropriate: water rights; water supplies; the amount, type and location of use; infrastructure components; operations, including efficiencies and conservation activities; and historical use and cultural importance of water. Because of the differences among the Partnership Tribes in the availability and quality of data, current water use was considered either as an average water use over recent years or a single recent representative year (for additional information, see *Chapter 4 – Methodology for Assessing Current Tribal Water Use and Projected Future Water Development*). The Tribal Water Study focused on four categories of water use: Irrigated Agriculture and Livestock Water Use; Domestic, Commercial, Municipal, and Industrial Water Use; Environmental, Cultural, and Recreational Water Use; and Transfers, Leases, and Exchanges. This methodology did not provide a lengthy historical record of tribal water use, but is a good snapshot of recent water use, by category, for each Partnership Tribe and advances the understanding of tribal water use in the Basin. The current water use information was used to develop recommendations for Colorado River model enhancements, as well as serving as the basis for conducting the future water development assessment.

In coordination with Reclamation, Partnership Tribes assessed future tribal water development using a scenario planning process to envision a range of how tribal water could be developed through 2060. The scenario planning process and its outcomes reflect the priorities that the Partnership Tribes identified as critical to their future water development (see *Chapter 4 – Methodology for Assessing Current Tribal Water Use and Projected Future Water Development*).