
GLOSSARY

GLOSSARY

A

abutment	A structure that supports the ends of a dam or bridge.
accretion	Gradual increase in flow of a stream due to seepage, ground-water discharge, or tributary inflow.
acre-foot	Measure of volume that would cover one acre to a depth of one foot. One acre-foot is approximately equivalent to 325,851 gallons.
acquired lands	Lands where title has been obtained from non-federal sources by purchase, donation, exchange, or condemnation and some portion of whose cost has been charged to the project's construction costs. This term applies to easements as well as fee title lands. Regarding the Preferred Alternative, acquired lands are those lands within or adjacent to the Division acquired by the United States pursuant to Public Law 93-320 or Public Law 100-512.
agricultural return flows (ARFs)	Includes, but is not limited to: (1) water delivered at Reclamation's Main Outlet Drain Station 0+00; (2) Gila Gravity Main Canal seepage credited to the District; (3) gravity flow returns, both surface and subsurface, to the Gila River measured at the Gila River gauging station near Mohawk, Arizona, and at Dome, Arizona, when no flow is present near Mohawk.
Advisory Council	Refers to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.
affected environment	Existing biological, physical, social, and economic conditions of an area subject to change, both directly and indirectly, as the result of a proposed human action.
aggradation	Process of filling and raising the level of a streambed, flood plain, or sandbar by deposition of sediment. The opposite of degradation.

algae	A plant or plantlike organism of any of several phyla, divisions, or classes of chiefly aquatic usually chlorophyll-containing nonvascular organisms.
allocation, allotment	Refers to a distribution of water through which means specific persons or legal entities are assigned individual rights to consume pro rata shares of a specific quantity of water under legal entitlements. For example, a specific quantity of Colorado River water is distributed for use within each Lower Division State through an apportionment. The water available for consumptive use in that state is further distributed among water users in that state through the allocation. An allocation does not establish an entitlement; the entitlement is normally established by a written contract with the United States.
alluvium	Sedimentary material transported and deposited by the action of flowing water.
ambient	Surrounding natural conditions (or environment) in a given place and time.
amphibian	Vertebrate animal that has a life stage in water and a life stage on land (i.e., salamanders, frogs, and toads).
apportionment	Refers to the distribution of water available to each Lower Division state in normal, surplus or shortage years, as set forth, respectively in Articles II(B)(1), II(B)(2), and II(B)(3) of the 1964 Decree in <i>Arizona v. California</i> .
aquifer	A geologic formation that contains sufficient saturated materials to be capable of storing and transmitting water in usable quantities to a well.
arroyo	A gully or channel cut by an ephemeral stream.
avifauna	All the birds in a particular region.
B	
backwater	A relatively small, generally shallow area of a river with little or no current.

base load	Minimum load in a power system over a given period of time.
Basin States	The seven states referred to in the Compact as making up the Colorado River watershed, including Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, and California.
biological opinion	Document stating the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service opinion as to whether a federal action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.
bypass drain	A drain beginning at the end of the Main Outlet Drain Extension that runs in a southerly direction along the Colorado River corridor, across the international boundary with Mexico, and ends at the Cienega de Santa Clara in Mexico.

C

candidate species	Plant or animal species not yet officially listed as threatened or endangered, but which is undergoing status review by the FWS.
Cienega de Santa Clara	Santa Clara Slough, an extensive marsh in the Colorado River delta area of Mexico.
Colorado River Basin	The drainage basin of the Colorado River in the United States.
Compact	The Colorado River Compact of 1922.
Compact point	The reference point designated by the Colorado River compact dividing the Upper and Lower Colorado River basins, designated at Lee Ferry, Arizona.
Consolidated Contract	Reclamation's contract with the District, Contract No. 1-0-30-W0021 as amended and/or supplemented.

consumptive use	The use of water by plants, animals, and/or humans. This includes evapotranspiration but does not include water that returns to the surface or groundwater system. With reference to Colorado River entitlements, it means diversion from the river less return flows to the river.
cooperating agency	With respect to the NEPA process, an agency having jurisdiction by law or special expertise concerning an aspect of a proposed project action that is requested by the lead agency to participate in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.
criteria	Standards used for making a determination.
critical habitat	Specific areas with physical or biological features essential to the conservation of a listed species and which may require special management considerations or protection.
cubic foot per second (cfs)	A rate of water flow equal to one cubic foot of water passing a point in one second of time.
cultural resource	A site or structure that is part of the heritage of an area and typifies a particular stage of human activity in the area. Includes archeological, historic, and undisturbed natural sites that have historic or prehistoric associations.

D

Decree	Decree entered in <i>Arizona v. California</i> in 1964 by the Supreme Court.
delta	Sediment deposit formed at the mouth of a river.
depletion	Loss of water from a stream, river, or basin resulting from consumptive use.
deposition	Settlement of material out of the water column and on to the streambed. Occurs when the energy of flowing water is unable to support the load of suspended sediment.

Division The Wellton-Mohawk Division of the Gila Project, Arizona, as authorized under Gila Project Reauthorization Act of July 30, 1947 (61 Stat. 628).

dissolved oxygen (DO) Amount of free oxygen available in water to support fish and other aquatic life, and an indicator of water quality.

ditchrider An irrigation system attendant who releases water to irrigators from canal-side gates and monitors the physical operation of canals and laterals.

E

easement A right to the use of land that does not involve change of ownership.

ecosystem Complex system composed of a community of fauna and flora and the associated chemical and physical environment.

endangered species A species or subspecies whose survival is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205, 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) A law enacted by Congress to provide for the conservation of endangered and threatened species of fish, wildlife, and plants, and for other purposes.

entitlement Refers to an authorization to beneficially consume Colorado River water pursuant to (1) a decreed right, (2) a contract with the United States through the Secretary of the Interior, or (3) a Secretarial reservation of water.

F

flow	Volume of water passing a given point per unit of time.
	peak flow – Maximum instantaneous flow in a specified period of time.
	return flow – Portion of water previously diverted from a stream and subsequently returned to that stream or to another body of water from irrigation or irrigation related activities.

G

gauging station	Specific location on a stream where systematic observations of hydrologic data are obtained through mechanical or electrical means.
Gila Project Act of July 30, 1947 (P.L. 272)	An Act enabled by Congress that reauthorized the construction of the Gila Project, an irrigation service project that is separated into the Yuma and Wellton-Mohawk Divisions, the latter of which serves the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District.
GVPD/MMWCD lands	Those Gila Valley Power District and Mohawk Municipal Water Conservation District lands remaining in title to the United States which were acquired by the United States pursuant to Section 2 of the Gila Project Reauthorization Act of July 30, 1947 (61 Stat. 628) for which the repayment obligation has been satisfied.

H

headwater	The source and upper part of a stream.
herbivore	An animal that feeds on plants.
heterogeneous	Consisting of dissimilar ingredients or constituents.
hydroelectric power	Electrical capacity produced by falling water.

hydrology A science dealing with the properties, distribution, and circulation of water on and below the earth's surface and in the atmosphere.

I

impoundment Body of water created by a dam.

Indian Trust Assets Legal assets associated with the rights or property held in trust by the United States for the benefit of federally recognized Indian tribes or individuals.

inflow Water flowing into a lake or reservoir from a river and/or its tributaries; or water entering a river from its tributaries.

interflow The flow of water through the upper soil zones to a stream.

irretrievable commitment Loss of production or use of resources as a result of a decision. This represents opportunities forgone for the period of time that a resource cannot be used. Irretrievable refers to the permanent loss of a resource including production, harvest, or use of natural resources. For example, production or loss of agricultural lands can be irretrievable, while the action itself may not be irreversible.

irreversible commitments Decisions affecting renewable resources such as soils, wetlands and waterfowl habitat. Such decisions are considered irreversible because their implementation would affect a resource that has deteriorated to the point that renewal can occur only over a long period of time or at great expense, or because they would cause the resource to be destroyed or removed.

J-K

jeopardy opinion United States Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service opinion that an action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.

L

Law of the River	As applied to the Colorado River, a combination of federal and state statutes, interstate compacts, court decisions and decrees, federal contracts, an international treaty with Mexico, and formally determined operating criteria.
lead agency	The agency initiating and overseeing the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement or other NEPA compliance document.
Lower Basin	The part of the Colorado River watershed below Lee Ferry, Arizona, including portions of Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah.
Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Plan	A regional partnership along the lower Colorado River that encompasses Arizona, Nevada, and California, which is developing a multi-species conservation program aimed at protecting sensitive, threatened and endangered species of fish, wildlife and their habitat.

M

Main Outlet Drain (MOD)	A Bureau of Reclamation drain that begins at the western end of the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District and flows along the south side of the Gila and Colorado Rivers, ending at Yuma.
Main Outlet Drain Extension (MODE)	A Bureau of Reclamation drain that begins at the end of the Main Outlet Drain (MOD) on the north side of Yuma and runs west and south along the Colorado River corridor past the Yuma Desalting Plant, ending near Morelos Dam.
Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)	A written agreement between two willing parties that expresses the explicit intent of the agreed upon action.
Mexican Water Treaty	United States-Mexico Water Treaty of February 3, 1944, which specifies Mexico's apportionment of Colorado River water.

milligram per liter	Equivalent to one part per million.
multiple cropping	Planting of more than one crop per year on the same land.

N

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (P.L. 91-190, 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347)	A law enacted by Congress to establish a national policy for the environment, to provide for the establishment of a Council on Environmental Quality, and for other purposes.
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National Historical Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (P.L. 89-665, 16 U.S.C. 470)	A law enacted by Congress to establish a program for the preservation of additional historic properties throughout the nation, and for other purposes.
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National Performance Review	A federal government review enacted by President Bill Clinton that was designed to review federal procedures and operations, and to ultimately create a government that works better and costs less.
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O

off-peak energy	Electric energy supplied during periods of relatively low system demand.
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on-peak energy	Electric energy supplied during periods of relatively high system demand.
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P

peak load	Maximum electrical demand in a stated period of time.
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permeability (soil)	Ease with which water flows through a layer of soil.
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PM ₁₀	Particulate matter less than 10 microns in mean diameter.
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PM _{2.5}	Particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in mean diameter.
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prime agricultural land	Land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, fiber, forage, oilseed, and other agricultural crops with minimum inputs (7U.S.C. 4201(c)(1)(A)).
public domain lands	Refers to lands that have never left federal ownership under the jurisdiction of the BLM. Public domain lands are also known as public lands. Public lands is a term used for the federal land of the western United States, much of which is administered by the BLM.
public involvement	Process of obtaining citizen input into each stage of development of planning documents.
public lands	See <i>public domain lands</i> .

Q

quitclaim deed	A written instrument that transfers a party's rights concerning particular property to another party.
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R

reach	A specified segment of a stream, channel, or other water conveyance.
recognized environmental condition	A recognized environmental condition is defined as the presence or likely presence of any hazardous substance or petroleum product on a property under conditions that indicate an existing release, a past release, or a material threat of a release of a hazardous substance or petroleum product into structures on the property or into the ground, groundwater, or surface water of the property. The term includes hazardous substances or petroleum products even under conditions in compliance with laws.
Reclamation	The United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation.

Reclamation project	Any irrigation or multiple-purpose project constructed by the Secretary through Reclamation, the purposes of which are authorized by federal Reclamation law (the Act of June 17, 1902 and Acts supplementary to and amendatory thereof).
Reclamation project lands	Real property owned by the United States and administered by the Secretary, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, including all acquired and withdrawn lands and water areas under jurisdiction of Reclamation.
return flow credit	The calculated amount of Colorado River water returned to the Colorado River for diversion and use within the United States within the same year.
riparian	Pertaining to the bank of a river, pond, or lake.
riparian obligate	A species dependent upon riparian habitat.
rural planning area	Under Arizona Revised Statutes, a boundary voluntarily created to aid in providing a sound factual and policy basis for planning. Its creation encourages development of non-regulatory incentives for compliance with a plan and accommodation of traditional rural and agricultural enterprises.

S

Salinity	A term used to refer to the dissolved salts in water.
Salinity Control Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-320)	An Act to authorize the construction, operation, and maintenance of certain works in the Colorado River Basin to control the salinity of water delivered to users in the United States and Mexico.

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Water Rights Settlement Act of 1988 (P.L. 100-512)	An agreement that gave the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community an annual entitlement to 122,400 acre-feet of water plus storage rights behind Bartlett and modified Roosevelt Dams. The parties to the agreement were: Salt River Project, Roosevelt Water Conservation District, Roosevelt Irrigation District, Chandler, Glendale, Mesa, Phoenix, Scottsdale, Tempe, Gilbert, the Central Arizona Water Conservation District, the United States and the State of Arizona.
Santa Clara Slough	See Cienega de Santa Clara.
Secretary	The Secretary of the Interior or a duly authorized representative.
sediment	Unconsolidated solid material that comes from weathering of rock and is carried by, suspended in, or deposited by water or wind.
sediment load	Mass of sediment passing through a stream.
seepage	Relatively slow movement of water through a medium, such as soil.
spillway	Overflow facility at a dam.
stage	Elevation of the water surface.

T

total dissolved solids (TDS)	A measure of the inorganic or mineral content of water.
traditional cultural property	A site or resource that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places because of its association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community.
tributary	River or stream flowing into a larger river or stream.
turbidity	A measure of the clarity or cloudiness of water, measured by how deeply light can penetrate into the water from the surface.

U-V

unique farmland Land other than Prime Farmland that is used for production of specific high-value food and fiber crops. It has the special combination of location, soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high quality or high yields of specific crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. (7 U.S.C. 4201(c)(1)(B))

W-X

watershed The drainage area upstream of a specified point on a stream.

Wellton-Mohawk Transfer Act of June 2000 (P.L. 106-221) An Act enabled by Congress that authorizes the Department of the Interior to convey title to certain works, facilities, and lands of the Gila Project, including the conveyance of designated acquired, public, and withdrawn lands within or adjacent to the Gila Project, to the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District.

Western The Western Area Power Administration of the United States Department of Energy.

Wetlands Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

withdrawn lands Federal lands withheld from settlement, sale, location of minerals, or entry under some or all of the general lands laws for the purpose of limiting activities in order to maintain other public values, reserve the area for a particular public purpose, or transfer jurisdiction of this area from one federal agency to another. When that public purpose is a Reclamation project, withdrawn lands are made available by the United States for project use at no cost to the repayment entity. Withdrawals from the public domain transfer jurisdiction from the BLM to Reclamation; withdrawn lands are not public lands.

works and facilities The works and facilities of the Division, or portions thereof, constructed by the United States for the District pursuant to the Consolidated Contract as more particularly described in Exhibit B of said Contract, of otherwise constructed as Division works and facilities. Works and facilities include acquired lands or withdrawn lands on which the works and facilities have been constructed.

Y-Z

Yuma-Transboundary Area General description given to the region encompassing the greater Yuma, Arizona and San Luis, Sonora, Mexico area.