

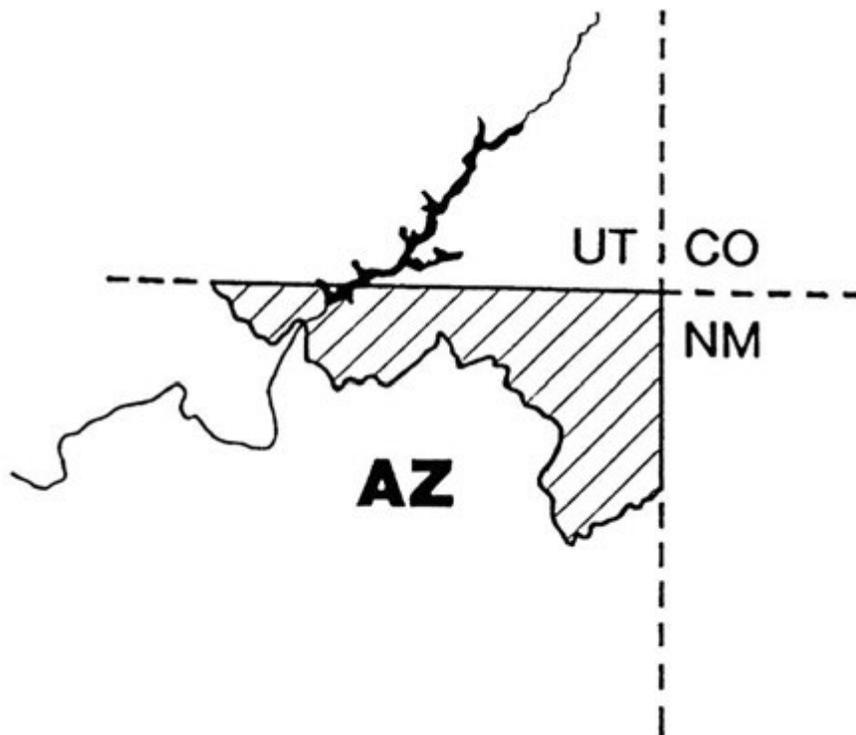
RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Consumptive Uses and Losses: Provisional Estimate

Arizona Portion of the Upper Colorado River Basin
Calendar Year 2019

Provisional Version dated: July 1, 2020



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Denver, Colorado

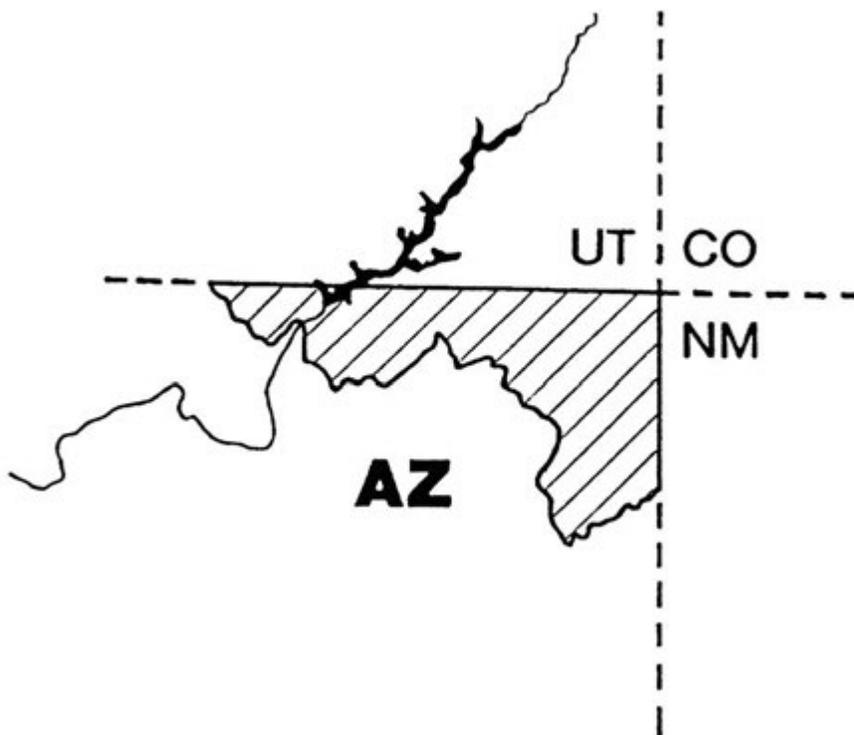
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Calendar Year 2019



Prepared by: Alan Harrison – July 1, 2020



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Denver, Colorado

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CONSUMPTIVE USES AND LOSSES Provisional Estimates (07/20)

ARIZONA PORTION OF THE UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN

**CALENDAR YEAR
2019**

AUTHORITY

This report was prepared in compliance with Public Law 90-537, Section 601 (b)(1), dated September 30, 1968, which directs the Secretary of the Interior to “make reports as to the annual consumptive uses and losses of water from the Colorado River System. . . starting on October 1, 1970. Such reports shall include a detailed breakdown of the beneficial consumptive use of water on a state-by-state basis.” Additionally, this report is in compliance with Section 49 of the Navajo Project Participation Agreement dated September 30, 1969, which states in part: “The Secretary of the Interior further agrees to make the reports required by Section 601 (b)(1) of Public Law 90-537 as they pertain to Arizona’s Upper Basin uses annually rather than every five years. Within fifteen days following the completion of said reports, the Secretary of the Interior shall furnish copies of such reports to the Co-Tenants, the Navajo Tribe, each of the Upper Basin States, and the Upper Colorado River Commission.”

SUMMARY

Based upon data made available for preparation of this document, the total consumptive use and loss value for the Arizona portion of the Upper Colorado River Basin for calendar year 2019 was 29,768 ($\pm 1,217$) acre-feet. Reclamation prepares this estimate annually, final annual values for consumptive uses and losses for the northern Arizona portion of the Colorado River basin are published in the 5-year summary documents for the Upper Colorado River Basin

STUDY AREA DESCRIPTION

The Arizona portion of the Upper Colorado River Basin covers approximately 6,900 square miles in the north-east corner of Arizona, as shown on the location maps on pages 19 and 20 (Drawings 1246-406-1, 1246-406-2). The climate of the 5,900 square mile area to the west of the Chuska and Carrizo Mountains is largely arid to semiarid, with mean annual precipitation ranging from 6 to 12 inches and with summertime

temperatures often reaching 100 degrees Fahrenheit (°F). The potential evaporation rate is high and exceeds mean annual precipitation, with gross lake evaporation values of up to 55 inches per year or more. Elevations in the western portion range from 3,200 feet on the Colorado River at Lee Ferry to over 8,000 feet on the northern edge of the Black Mesa and across the Zilnez and Skeleton Mesas, back down to 5,280 feet in the Chinle Valley, and back up to about 6,500 feet on the western edge of the Chuska Mountains. Much of the western part of the study area is starkly beautiful southwestern desert country with mesas and canyons intertwined across a pastoral landscape. By contrast, the eastern 1,000 square miles is largely mountainous, with elevations rising to nearly 10,000 feet and mean annual precipitation reaching 30 inches. The mountainous land responds with grass meadows interspersed with conifer forest of mostly ponderosa pine.

Except for Page, Arizona; a small area around Lee Ferry; and a portion of the Paria Plateau administered by the Bureau of Land Management; the study area lies entirely within the Navajo Nation. According to 2010 United States Census data, 47,791 persons were living within that portion of the Navajo Nation in 2010, and of these 40,018 resided within the Upper Colorado River Basin.

The largest cities are Page and Kayenta, with 2010 United States Census populations of 7,247 and 5,189, respectively. Other major communities and their populations include Dennehotso (746), Kaibeto (1,522), Chinle (4,518), LeChee (1,443), Lukachukai (1,701), Many Farms (1,348), Rock Point (642), Teec Nos Pos (730), and Tsaile (1,205). Subsistence in the region is derived principally from livestock grazing, farming, tourist-related industries, employment at the Navajo Generating Station (NGS), which consumes approximately 61 percent of the water used or lost in the study area on average every year. Agriculture accounts for about 10 percent of the total water use; municipal and industrial (including the Navajo Generating Station) about 77 percent; recreation, fish and wildlife, about 4 percent; and reservoir evaporation, about 9 percent in an average year.

AGRICULTURAL CONSUMPTIVE USE

Agricultural consumptive use is divided into three categories: irrigation, stock pond, and livestock. Irrigation use includes all use related to irrigating crops including the incidental losses. Stock pond use is the evaporation that occurs from stock ponds and livestock use is the water consumed by livestock.

IRRIGATION USES

Within the Arizona portion of the Upper Colorado River Basin, historically 23 irrigated areas were scattered across the Navajo Nation plus a small amount of land near Lee Ferry irrigated by the National Park Service. Currently, only 16 irrigated areas are in production. An accurate assessment of consumptive use on the irrigated land is difficult due to poor quality of information, such as the exact number of acres under irrigation, the cropping pattern for each irrigated area, site climatological conditions, and the amount of water actually diverted. In many cases, during the latter part of the irrigation season, farmers have to rely on dry land farming since there is little water available in the streams. This means that the crops do not receive their full water requirement.

For this report, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service's (SCS) Modified Blaney-Criddle evapotranspiration, without an elevation adjustment, estimation formula was used for computing irrigated crop consumptive use. This model, along with appropriate crop-growth stage coefficients and the method for computing effective precipitation, is described in SCS's *Irrigation Water Requirements Technical Release No. 21* (TR 21). Information required for applying this model includes mean monthly temperature and monthly total precipitation values, growing season data for each crop type, and the total number of acres planted by crop at each site. With the exception of Teec Nos Pos, Canyon de Chelly, Lukachukai, and Lee Ferry, no climatological data exist for the irrigation sites, and site values must be generated from data collected at surrounding established weather stations. Growing season dates depend largely on the judgment of the local inhabitants and are, therefore, not known. Although data are available from the National Agricultural Statistics Service and the Cropland Data Layer, with values for irrigated acres, it is unclear if these values represent actual acres currently under irrigation.

The crop acreage used to estimate consumptive use by irrigated crops for the year 2019 is shown in table 1. These values were estimated from previous direct field examination by a party composed of representatives from the State of Arizona and the Navajo Nation. It has been some time since these acreage numbers were updated by Navajo Nation representatives, other than to indicate that the acreages very minimally from year to year. In addition, Navajo Nation representatives indicated that the Many Farms area, significantly reduced in acreage in 2006 due to construction activities on the dam, is expected to see slight growth as the reservoir refills and become available again.

Table 1.—Total irrigated acreage, 2019

PROJECT	CORN (ACRES)	ALFALFA (ACRES)	GRASS PASTURE (ACRES)	SPRING GRAINS (ACRES)	SMALL VEGETABLES (ACRES)	ORCHARD (ACRES)	TOTAL (ACRES)
CHINLE AGENCY							
Canyon de Chelly	0.36	0.00	0.00	3.03	2.26	0.00	5.65
Lukachukai	39.09	7.69	0.00	7.50	5.98	2.07	62.33
Many Farms	203.86	34.01	125.89	3.32	34.01	0.00	401.09
Nazlini	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.79	0.74	2.53
Rough Rock	30.00	0.00	11.87	0.00	12.43	0.00	54.30
Tsaile	23.72	5.27	15.67	5.73	5.42	0.00	55.81
Wheatfields	0.00	60.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	60.80
TOTAL	297.03	107.77	153.43	19.58	61.89	2.81	642.51
SHIPROCK AGENCY							
Red Rock Valley	26.22	0.00	10.19	5.12	10.22	0.00	51.75
Teec Nos Pos	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.67	0.00	23.67
Toh Chin Lini	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.90	13.67	17.57
Totacon	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00
TOTAL	46.22	0.00	10.19	5.12	18.79	13.67	93.99
WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY							
Dennehotso	1.82	0.00	38.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.52
Lees Ferry	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	3.00
Marsh Pass	7.02	3.31	0.00	0.00	1.99	0.00	12.32
Navajo Canyon	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.50	3.50
Paiute Canyon	2.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.86	0.00	6.50
TOTAL	11.48	3.31	39.70	0.00	5.85	5.50	65.84
GRAND TOTAL	354.73	111.08	203.32	24.70	86.53	21.98	802.34

Several factors complicate the modeling of irrigation consumptive use. For example, the Modified Blaney-Criddle computer program used to model consumptive use assumes a full water supply; if shortages exist, as they often do in this semiarid study area, adjustments must be made. These adjustments are complicated because some of the projects have no storage water and may only have a reliable irrigation water supply during spring runoff. After spring runoff, farming becomes essentially dry land until rains in July and August provide intermittent flows for irrigation. Finally, no ditch diversion records are available to help estimate irrigation water supplies and shortages.

A full irrigation supply seldom exists at many of the projects. Generally, a full supply is available for Lee Ferry, Navajo Canyon, Tsaile, and Wheatfields projects because of adequate stream flows or because of available storage water. In years with average precipitation, it is estimated that Chinle Wash provides approximately 75 percent of the irrigation requirement. Precipitation in the area averages approximately 10.5 inches per year using meteorological data provided by the National Weather Service COOP network stations Betatakin (AZ0750) and Canyon De Chelly (AZ1248) 1971-2019. Based on this information, it would require approximately 12.67 inches of precipitation to provide 100 percent of the irrigation requirement. The percent of crop water requirement met was computed as a ratio of annual precipitation to 12.67 inches. These values are found in table 2.

The percentage of crop water requirement met was multiplied by the total net crop water requirement to determine the amount of crop consumptive use. Incidental irrigation losses, evaporation, and phreatophyte consumptive use along supply canals are estimated to be 5 percent of the consumptive use of the irrigated area and are added to the crop consumptive use value to develop a total consumptive use value.

A portion of the water used for irrigation at these sites may not be contributing to the Colorado River System since evaporation rates in the area are high and the nature of most of the drainage enhances evapotranspiration. A good example of such a drainage is Chinle Wash, which after leaving Canyon de Chelly, becomes wide and sandy and is lined with willows, cottonwoods, and other phreatophytes.

The uncertainties in the irrigation consumptive use values displayed in table 2 are very large and are estimated as 40 percent of the total consumptive use. This estimate of possible error only reflects the uncertainty of consumptive use and does not account for any possible errors in the acreage estimates. The effective consumptive use for irrigation for 2019 was estimated to equal 1,269 acre-feet. Including 5 percent for incidental losses, the irrigation related consumptive use is 1,333 (± 533) acre-feet.

Table 2.—Net consumptive use values, 2019

PROJECT	CROP WATER REQUIREMENT (INCHES)	TOTAL IRRIGATED (ACRES)	TOTAL WATER REQUIRED (ACRE-FEET)	CROP WATER REQUIREMENT MET (%)	CROP WATER REQUIREMENT MET (ACRE-FEET)	TOTAL CONSUMPTIVE USE (ACRE-FEET) ¹
CHINLE AGENCY						
Canyon de Chelly	27.97	5.65	13	67%	9	9.3
Lukachukai	28.69	62.33	149	67%	100	104.7
Many Farms	28.36	401.09	948	67%	634	666.0
Nazlini	25.76	2.53	5	67%	4	3.8
Rough Rock	23.36	54.30	106	74%	78	81.8
Tsaile	29.01	55.81	135	67%	90	94.8
Wheatfields	35.80	60.80	181	67%	121	127.4
TOTAL	198.95	642.51	1,538		1,036	1,087.8
SHIPROCK AGENCY						
Red Rock Valley	29.96	51.75	129	69%	89	93.5
Teec Nos Pos	31.80	23.67	63	71%	44	46.7
Toh Chin Lini	38.24	17.57	56	35%	20	20.8
Totacon	28.14	1.00	2	35%	1	0.8
TOTAL	126.14	93.99	250		154	161.8
WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY						
Dennehotso	35.38	40.52	119	33%	40	42.0
Lee Ferry	42.31	3.00	11	100%	11	11.1
Marsh Pass	24.17	12.32	25	60%	15	15.7
Navajo Canyon	39.56	3.50	12	67%	8	8.1
Paiute Canyon	27.12	6.50	15	40%	6	6.2
TOTAL	168.54	65.84	181		79	83.1
GRAND TOTAL	493.84	802.34	1,969		1,269	1,332.7

¹ Total includes 5% addition for incidental losses.

STOCK POND EVAPORATION

Stock pond consumptive use is assumed to be the evaporation from area stock ponds. It is also assumed that any consumptive use by natural vegetation prior to the construction of the stock ponds is limited to precipitation which is subtracted from the evaporation losses.

A compilation of the stock ponds in the study area, including their locations and the water surface areas when ponds are full, was obtained from a previous Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) report entitled “1985 Survey of Irrigated Land in the Arizona Portion of the Upper Colorado River” and are shown in table 3. For average year conditions, the stock pond evaporative surface area was estimated as one-third the water surface area that occurs when the ponds are full. The surface area used was computed by multiplying the percentage of water supply available (the ratio of the current year precipitation to the average annual precipitation) by the average water surface area. These values are found in table 3.

Table 3.—Stock pond evaporation, 2019

COUNTY	SURFACE AREA FULL (ACRES)	SURFACE AREA USED (ACRES)	WATER SUPPLY AVAILABLE (%)	LAKE EVAPORATION (INCHES)	PRECIPITATION (INCHES)	NET EVAPORATION (INCHES)	NET EVAPORATION (ACRE-FEET)
Coconino	80	26	99%	57	6.65	50.35	110.4
Navajo	40	12	97%	55	8.50	46.50	45.1
Apache	646	213	99%	53	8.73	44.27	787.5
TOTAL	766	251					943.0

This method of evaporation estimation was used because continuous useful water level records for all stock ponds from which surface area could be accurately computed were not available. Another factor complicating the estimating procedure is that evaporation rates are not known at the individual stock ponds. For this report, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Technical Report National Weather Service (NWS) 33 “Evaporation Atlas for the Contiguous 48 United States,” June 1982, was used to determine the amount of lake evaporation. It was assumed that any consumptive use by natural vegetation prior to construction of the stock ponds is limited to precipitation which is subtracted from reservoir evaporation losses.

The computed values for stock pond evaporation for calendar year 2019 are shown in table 3. The total evaporative losses in 2019 are 943 (± 283) acre-feet with the stock pond evaporation uncertainty being estimated as 30 percent.

LIVESTOCK WATER

The source of most livestock water in the study area is from wells, with windmill-operated pumps developed and maintained by Navajo Water Operations and Maintenance, and water collected in small surface ponds. The estimated number of livestock in the area was estimated based on previous livestock tallies and current-year estimates from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agriculture Statistics Service. It was estimated that horses and cattle consume 12 gallons per day; sheep and goats consume 2 gallons per day.

The number of animals for the Upper Colorado portion of each district is shown in table 4. The computed value for livestock consumptive use is 619 acre-feet. The uncertainty in this number is estimated as 30 percent of the total or ± 186 acre-feet.

Table 4.—Number of livestock, 2019

AGENCY	CATTLE	HORSES	SHEEP	GOATS
Western Navajo District No. 1	0	0	930	2
Western Navajo District No. 2	1,833	74	1,414	2,314
Western Navajo District No. 8	9,642	2,013	15,248	9,852
Shiprock District No. 9	1,240	0	4,361	4,228
Chinle District No. 10	4,316	1,140	7,449	3,820
Chinle District No. 11	2,755	415	3,374	3,053
Shiprock District No. 12	7,765	1,448	12,306	6,465
Fort Defiance District No. 17	0	149	1,286	1,212
Fort Defiance District No. 18	0	223	929	0
TOTAL	27,551	5,462	47,297	30,946

TOTAL AGRICULTURAL CONSUMPTIVE USE

The total agricultural consumptive use, displayed in table 5, is the sum of the individual components discussed in the previous sections. Agricultural water consumption represents approximately 10 percent of the total use in the study area. Total degree of uncertainty was computed by taking the square root of the sum of the individual uncertainties squared; known as the quadratic sum. This method and nomenclature is used throughout this report. This method was used because a simple sum does not account for the partial cancellation of errors occurring when calculating the total uncertainty derived from individual values that are random and independent of each other. As previously discussed, the individual uncertainties were set as a percent of the consumptive use value.

Table 5.—Total agricultural consumptive use, 2019

CATEGORY	CONSUMPTIVE USE (ACRE-FEET)	ESTIMATED UNCERTAINTY (ACRE-FEET)
Irrigation	1,333	533
Stock Ponds	943	283
Livestock	619	186
TOTAL	2,895	631

MUNICIPAL AND INDUSTRIAL CONSUMPTIVE USE

Municipal and industrial consumptive use is divided into three categories: mineral resources, thermal electric power, and other. Mineral resources consumptive use includes water used for mineral production. No mineral resources consumptive use is reported in the study area. Thermal electric power consumptive use includes the water used at the power plants, and that used to transport material to the power plant (such as a coal slurry pipeline). Other consumptive use includes urban, rural, and industrial uses.

THERMAL ELECTRIC POWER

Thermal electric power consumptive use includes the water used in the power plant and the water used to transport material to the plant.

Navajo Generating Station (NGS)

The water used by the NGS is pumped directly from Lake Powell and comprises approximately 61 percent of the total consumption in the study area. Since all NGS water use is metered, this quantity is among those most precisely known, with the maximum uncertainty in the metered quantities believed to be less than 3 percent. The actual quantity consumed, along with the estimated uncertainty for the calendar year 2019, was 18,147 (± 544) acre-feet. During the Retirement Period of the Navajo Generating Station (which began on December 23rd, 2019 and continues through December 22nd, 2024), the water usage will be no more than 1,500 acre-feet per calendar year.

OTHER

The other consumptive use category includes the remaining use by urban, rural, and industries.

Page, AZ and Vicinity

City of Page, AZ. – The city of Page pumps its domestic water directly from Lake Powell. The water pumped is metered, and the uncertainty of the pumped quantities was assumed to be less than 3 percent. A portion of the water pumped and treated by the City of Page, is supplied to the community of Le Chee on the Navajo Nation and is accounted for separately. The quantity supplied to the City of Page and its associated uncertainty for the calendar year 2019 was 2,121 (± 64) acre-feet. Water returning to the waste water treatment plant is metered as well. The waste water for the City of Page is treated and is either evaporated from lined ponds or applied to the golf course, with a portion being returned to the Colorado River. The return flow is estimated to be 686 acre-feet. The net consumptive use is estimated to be 1,435 acre-feet (± 67).

Le Chee – The community of Le Chee is supplied and metered by the City of Page. Total water supplied for 2019 was 82 (± 2) acre-feet. The uncertainty was estimated to be 3 percent.

Greenhaven Water Company – The Greenhaven Water Company derives its domestic water supply from wells. Well pumping records are available. According to these records, the total water pumped for 2019 was 121 (± 8) acre-feet. The uncertainty was estimated to be 7 percent.

Arizona Department of Transportation Housing – The Arizona Department of Transportation operates a housing, maintenance, and administrative facility located on US Hwy 89, north of Page, AZ. This facility is supplied from wells that have no meters installed. It is estimated that the total water pumped for 2019 was 7 acre-feet with an uncertainty of 30 percent of this value or ± 2 acre-feet.

Navajo Nation

Community Water Systems – 1980 statistics from the Division of Community Development of the Navajo Nation reveal that various community water systems served 26,086, or about 83 percent of the 31,429 people residing within the study area at that time. These 1980 statistics have not been updated therefore, the same percentage (83 percent) was applied to the 2019 Navajo Nation population projection calculated using the 2010 United States Census data. This resulted in an estimate of 31,748 out of 38,251 people being served by community water systems in 2019. These systems include those operated by the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA), the BIA, and the Water Operations and Maintenance Department of the Navajo Nation, and some privately developed community water systems.

Table 6 shows the source of water and estimated population served by each source of water for people living on the Navajo Nation during 2019. All of the communities obtain their water supply from ground water.

Table 6.—Domestic water sources, 2019

SOURCE	PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION SERVED	NUMBER OF POPULATION SERVED ¹
Community Water Systems	83	31,748
Navajo Tribal Utility Authority	² (60)	19,049
Bureau of Indian Affairs	² (25)	7,937
Navajo Water Operations and Maintenance Department	² (13)	4,127
Private	² (2)	635
Individual Wells	17	6,503
TOTAL	100	38,251

¹ Total population within the Upper Colorado River Basin portion of the Navajo Nation, estimated from 2010 US Census.

² These numbers are a percentage of the Community Water Systems.

Navajo Tribal Utility Authority Water Systems – The cities and surrounding communities of Oak Springs, Red Valley, Sweetwater, Chinle, Rough Rock, Round Rock, Rock Point, Wheatfields, Lukachukai, Kayenta, Chilchibeto, Dennehotso, and Kaibeto derive most of their domestic water supply from wells operated by NTUA. Well pumping records are available. According to these records, the total water pumped for 2019 was 1,596 acre-feet with an uncertainty estimated to be 7 percent of this value or ± 113 acre-feet.

The NTUA manages the raw waste water; portions of which flow to individual septic tanks, some to evaporation ponds, and some, such as for the cities of Chinle and Kayenta, flow to waste water treatment plants. Very little water, if any, is returned to the ground water system through leakage from the evaporation ponds, but there are losses from the main collection system. Effluent from the Chinle and Kayenta waste water treatment plants is metered. Under normal conditions, the effluent returns to the Colorado River System and is subtracted from the pumping totals to determine a net consumptive use. For 2019, Chinle's treatment plant effluent was 13.6 (± 1.0) acre-feet, and Kayenta's effluent was 9.7 (± 0.7) acre-feet. An estimated uncertainty of 7 percent was used for the effluent of these two plants. The total effluent of 23.3 acre-feet is subtracted from the NTUA pumping total of 1,619 acre-feet to arrive at a net consumptive use of 1,596 (± 113) acre-feet.

Bureau of Indian Affairs Water Systems – Wells developed and operated by the BIA serve numerous Navajo communities. These systems also serve BIA schools, hospitals, agency offices, and some housing on the Navajo Nation. Metered records for total amounts of water pumped from BIA wells were available for a portion of the Shiprock Agency, the Western Navajo Agency, and the Chinle Agency. Drawing 1246-406-2 shows the agency boundaries within the Upper Colorado River Basin. The uncertainty was estimated to be about 7 percent for all three agencies.

The BIA systems include sewage disposal units terminating in lined evaporation ponds with very little or no return water returning to the ground water system. Undoubtedly,

some losses occur in distribution, but insufficient data currently exist to estimate these losses. The losses are probably less than the uncertainties for each of the reported values.

The BIA well data available for the Shiprock Agency include: Cove, Red Rock, and Teec Nos Pos. Total consumptive use values are 11 (± 1) acre-feet.

Pumping records for the Western Navajo Agency include data for the following schools: Chilchinbeto Day School, Dennehotso Boarding School, Kaibeto Boarding School, and Kayenta Boarding School. Total consumptive use for the Western Navajo Agency was 172 (± 12) acre-feet.

Well pumping records for the Chinle Agency include data for the following schools: Cottonwood Day School, Lukachukai School, and Rock Point School. Rough Rock School maintains its own records, but the data was included with the Chinle Agency data. Total consumptive use for the Chinle Agency was 69 (± 5) acre-feet.

Navajo Water Operations and Maintenance Department Water Systems

– Water use in 2019 by the Navajo Water Operations and Maintenance Department (WOM) service areas was based on an assumed consumption rate of 110 gallons per capita per day (gpcd). For a 2019 estimated service area population of 4,127, the estimated annual water use was 509 (± 153) acre-feet. The uncertainty is estimated as 30 percent of the total.

Private Water Systems – The estimated 2019 population served by private water systems on the Navajo Nation was 635. Assuming a consumptive use rate of 110 gpcd, the annual water use for 2019 was 78 (± 23) acre-feet. The uncertainty is estimated as 30 percent of the total.

Individual Wells – According to census data from the Division of Community Development of the Navajo Nation, approximately 17 percent of the study area's population on the reservation (about 6,503 persons in 2019) receives a domestic water supply from individual wells. A consumptive use of 110 gpcd was derived as being a reasonable water use rate. Based on these figures, the annual consumptive use was 801 (± 240) acre-feet for 2019.

TOTAL MUNICIPAL AND INDUSTRIAL CONSUMPTIVE USE

The total municipal and industrial consumptive use, displayed in table 7, is the sum of the individual components discussed in the previous sections. Municipal and industrial water consumption, including the Navajo Generating Station, represents approximately 77 percent of the total use in the study area.

Table 7.—Total municipal and industrial consumptive use, 2019

USER	CONSUMPTIVE USE (ACRE-FEET)	ESTIMATED UNCERTAINTY (ACRE-FEET)
THERMAL ELECTRIC POWER		
Navajo Generating Station	18,147	544
OTHER		
Page, AZ and Vicinity		
<i>City of Page</i>	1,435	67
<i>Le Chee</i>	82	2
<i>Greenhaven Water Company</i>	121	8
<i>Arizona Department of Transportation</i>	7	2
Navajo Indian Reservation		
Community Water Systems		
<i>Navajo Tribal Utility Authority Water Systems</i>	1,596	113
<i>Bureau of Indian Affairs Water Systems</i>	252	13
<i>Navajo Water Operations and Maintenance Department</i>	509	153
<i>Private Water Systems</i>	78	23
Individual Wells	801	240
TOTAL	23,028	629

It is questionable whether all the water pumped from wells should be considered a depletion to the Colorado River System; however, it is assumed that 100 percent of the water pumped is considered lost to the system. It is proposed that a future joint study be completed by Reclamation, the State of Arizona, and the Navajo Nation to estimate what percentage of water pumped could actually be attributed to the Colorado River System and would have affected the river flows for a particular year.

RECREATION, FISH AND WILDLIFE

The recreation, fish and wildlife consumptive uses include evaporation from reservoirs used exclusively for fish & wildlife purposes as well as acreages irrigated for wildlife feeding. Consumptive use related to recreation at National parks is also addressed.

GLEN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Colorado River water is used by the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (GCNRA) at Wahweap and Lee Ferry. The recreational area at Wahweap gets its water supply from a series of wells on the shore of Lake Powell. Pumping records for both Wahweap Marina, and Lee Ferry show 205 (±6) acre-feet of water withdrawn during 2019. The uncertainty is estimated at 3 percent. This water was used for domestic purposes at the campgrounds, picnic areas, and trailer parks. It was also used to irrigate approximately 60 acres of Bermuda grass and cottonwood trees. The domestic waste water is treated and the effluent is allowed to evaporate from two lined evaporation ponds with a total surface area of 16.7 acres.

Based on estimates of evaporation and consumptive use by the plants, there is some water which is unaccounted for and is assumed to be leakage from the delivery system, the evaporation pond, or deep percolation from irrigation application. However, since these water losses are difficult to quantify and verify, the losses were charged as consumptive uses. Therefore, net consumptive use of water is estimated to be equal to the quantity of water pumped.

FISH AND WILDLIFE RESERVOIR EVAPORATION

A listing of the reservoirs in the study area, including their locations and normal water surface areas, was obtained from a previous BIA report entitled “1985 Survey of Irrigated Land in the Arizona Portion of the Upper Colorado River” and are shown in table 8.

Table 8. —Recreation, fish and wildlife reservoir evaporation, 2019

RESERVOIR	SURFACE ACRES FULL (ACRES)	SURFACE AREA USED (ACRES)	LAKE EVAPORATION (INCHES)	NET PRECIPITATION (INCHES)	NET EVAPORATION (INCHES)	NET EVAPORATION (ACRE-FEET)
Tsaile	260	260	35	8.48	26.52	574.7
Wheatfields	272	272	32	8.48	23.52	533.2
TOTAL	532	532				1,108

Efforts are made to maintain a nearly full condition and to minimize water surface fluctuations in reservoirs managed for a fishery. Under average operating conditions, the water surface area of a reservoir used primarily for fishing is assumed to be equal to a normal water surface area. It is assumed that, in 2019, these reservoirs filled in the spring and were maintained at the normal pool level.

This method of evaporation estimation was used because continuous useful water level records for all reservoirs from which surface area could be accurately computed were not available. Another factor complicating the estimating procedure is that evaporation rates are not known at the individual reservoirs.

For this report, the NOAA Technical Report NWS 33 “Evaporation Atlas for the Contiguous 48 United States,” June 1982, was used to determine the amount of lake evaporation at each reservoir location. It was assumed that any consumptive use by

natural vegetation prior to construction of the reservoirs is limited to precipitation which is subtracted from reservoir evaporation losses.

The computed values for reservoir evaporation for calendar year 2019 are shown in table 8. The total evaporative losses in 2019 are 1,108 (± 332) acre-feet with the reservoir evaporation uncertainty being estimated as 30 percent.

TOTAL RECREATION, FISH AND WILDLIFE

The total recreation, fish and wildlife consumptive use, displayed in table 9, is the sum of the individual components discussed in the previous sections. Recreation, fish and wildlife water consumption represents approximately 4 percent of the total use in the study area.

Table 9.—Total recreation, fish and wildlife consumptive use, 2019

USER	CONSUMPTIVE USE (ACRE-FEET)	ESTIMATED UNCERTAINTY (ACRE-FEET)
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area	205	6
Reservoir Evaporation	1,108	332
TOTAL	1,313	332

IRRIGATION RESERVOIR EVAPORATION

Reservoir evaporation losses make up about 9 percent of the total water uses and losses in the study area. A listing of the reservoirs in the study area, including their locations and normal water surface areas, was obtained from a previous BIA report entitled “1985 Survey of Irrigated Land in the Arizona Portion of the Upper Colorado River” and are shown in table 10. These reservoirs are used primarily for irrigation.

Table 10.—Reservoir evaporation, 2019

RESERVOIR	SURFACE ACRES FULL (ACRES)	SURFACE ACRES USED (ACRES)	WATER SUPPLY AVAILABLE (%)	LAKE EVAPORATION (INCHES)	NET PRECIPITATION (INCHES)	NET EVAPORATION (INCHES)	NET EVAPORATION (ACRE-FEET)
Many Farms	1,800	554	89%	56	8.48	47.52	2,195.9
Marsh Pass	40	17	83%	40	9.35	30.65	42.4
Round Rock	83	41	99%	57	8.73	48.27	165.5
Walker Creek	30	15	100%	59	8.98	50.02	62.5
Others	38	17	91%	55	9.21	45.79	65.9
TOTAL	1,991	644					2,532.2

Reservoirs used primarily for irrigation experience large fluctuations in water levels and, correspondingly, large variations in surface area. Reservoir level records and elevation – area curves were available at Many Farms, but not for the remaining reservoirs in table 10. For the reservoirs with no records from which surface area could be accurately computed, the average evaporative surface area was estimated as one-half the water surface area of a full reservoir. The surface area used was computed by multiplying the percentage of water supply available (the ratio of the current year precipitation to the average annual precipitation) by the average evaporative surface area.

Another factor complicating the estimating procedure is that evaporation rates are not known at the individual reservoirs. For this report, the NOAA Technical Report NWS 33 “Evaporation Atlas for the Contiguous 48 United States,” June 1982, was used to determine the amount of lake evaporation at each reservoir location. It was assumed that any consumptive use by natural vegetation prior to construction of the reservoirs is limited to precipitation which is subtracted from reservoir evaporation losses. The computed values for reservoir evaporation for 2019 are shown in table 10. The total evaporative losses in 2019 are 2,532 (± 760) acre-feet with the reservoir evaporation uncertainty being estimated as 30 percent of the total evaporation.

CONCLUSIONS

This report assesses the total consumptive use of the Arizona portion of the Upper Colorado River surface water systems, depletion of ground water, and evaporative losses. Clearly, the amounts of water used by the Navajo Generating Station, City of Page, and Wahweap and Lee Ferry recreation areas are direct depletions of water from the Upper Colorado River System, but the situation is not as clear for other consumptive uses and losses occurring in other sections of the study area. For example, the source of water used by the Navajo Nation for domestic and municipal purposes is from wells, some exceeding 1,000 feet in depth. For our purposes here, it is considered to be consumed and a depletion to the Colorado River System. But this may not actually result in a reduction of Colorado River stream flows in the same year that the withdrawal occurs, or at all. Little knowledge and information exists of ground water movement and subsurface flow rates in the study area that are accurate descriptions of the effects on river flows.

Although the water diverted for agricultural purposes is considered as consumptive use in this report, a portion of the remaining surface water on the Navajo Nation, excess to needs, does evaporate before reaching the Colorado River. No attempt has been made for this report to quantify these losses.

Uncertainties in estimating uses and losses exist, and the degree of variation in the figures is presented. Fortunately, the areas with the highest degree of uncertainty account for only a small percentage of the total consumptive use. The largest component, use by the Navajo Generating Station, is also the most accurately monitored. The total annual value for estimated consumptive use of water within the Arizona portion of the Upper Colorado River Basin for 2019 was 29,768 acre-feet, as shown in table 11.

Table 11.—Consumptive use for Arizona portion of Upper Colorado River Basin for 2019

USE CATEGORY	TOTAL CONSUMPTIVE USE (ACRE-FEET)	UNCERTAINTY	PERCENT OF TOTAL
Agriculture	2,895	631	9.72%
Municipal & Industrial	23,028	629	77.36%
Recreation, Fish & Wildlife	1,313	332	4.41%
Reservoir Evaporation	2,532	760	8.51%
TOTAL	29,768	1,217	100%

