

Demand Management Stakeholder Workshop

Sponsored by the Upper Division States

BACKGROUND

The Colorado River Basin has been experiencing persistently dry hydrology since the turn of the 21st century. Given these conditions, the Upper Division States (States) have coordinated with the Department of the Interior and stakeholders throughout the Basin to evaluate proactive options for protecting critical elevations at Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Collectively, these activities have been termed the Drought Contingency Plans (DCP). Lake Powell is the Upper Basin's primary storage facility to help assure continued compliance with the Colorado River and Upper Colorado River Basin Compacts and assists the States in allowing the continued use and development of Colorado River water. One element of the Upper Basin DCP is the Demand Management Storage Agreement (DMSA).

The DMSA authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to make available to the States unfilled storage capacity at the Initial Units of the Colorado River Storage Project Act (Powell, Navajo, the Aspinall Unit and Flaming Gorge). The DMSA neither establishes nor mandates the development of a DM program. Storage would become available only if the States were able to design and implement a Demand Management (DM) program in the Upper Basin. If the States do establish a DM program, the DMSA allows for storage of up to 500,000 acre-feet of water conserved in the Upper Colorado River Basin for the purpose of helping to assure compliance with the 1922 Colorado River Compact.

No DM program can be created and implemented unless and until the States and Upper Colorado River Commission determine it is feasible consistent with the terms of the DMSA. To begin assessing the feasibility of a DM program, the States and Commission are focused on evaluating whether a mechanism can be established to allow for the temporary, voluntary, and compensated reduction in consumptive uses of Upper Basin Colorado River system water under certain circumstances. Such water could then be stored at the CRSPA Initial Units consistent with the DMSA to help assure continued compact compliance without impairing existing water rights in any of the States. If, after study, the States collectively agree through the Commission that a DM program is feasible consistent with the terms of the DMSA, they may then finalize and implement a program. A DM program can only be implemented if approved independently by each State Upper Division State Commissioner to the UCRC and the Commission as a whole.

DM PROGRAM FEASIBILITY INVESTIGATION

Determining the feasibility of an Upper Basin DM program will require assessment of many outstanding issues; some internally to each State and some regionally throughout the Upper Basin. The overarching, foundational question to be considered with each state's stakeholders is whether a DM program should be developed. Secondarily are the questions surrounding the

feasibility of program development, including (1) whether a DM program is possible given the technical, legal, and policy challenges to address in each State and within the Basin; (2) if possible, what would be the best way to implement, operate, and administer such a program in the Upper Basin? Outreach to and input from interested water users and stakeholders will be essential to helping the States and Commission fully understand and answer these questions considering the impacts, opportunities, options, and concerns regarding any DM program.

At this stage, the States are working to identify priority issues that will need to be developed to inform thorough evaluation regarding feasibility of a DM program. The June 21 Upper Basin Workshop is the initial step at the regional level to engage stakeholders throughout the Basin in the identification and assessment of issues relevant to this concept.

This workshop's two primary objectives are to:

- (1) Inform water users and stakeholders of the current status of the Colorado River DCP and discuss proposed next steps to examine the feasibility of an Upper Basin DM program within each State as well as regionally within the Upper Basin.
- (2) Receive comment and input from interested water users and stakeholders on possible considerations in evaluating the feasibility of a successful DM program. What opportunities, impacts, options, challenges, or concerns should be considered as part of the investigation? What elements should be a priority for assessment?

WORKSHOP LOGISTICS

When/Where

Friday, 21 June, 2019; 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Utah Department of Natural Resources
1594 W. North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT

Participation:

Anyone interested in the topic of Demand Management (DM) in the Upper Basin is welcome to attend. However, YOU MUST RSVP to Susan Jenkins at susan.jenkins@wyo.gov or (307) 777-6150 on or before June 14, 2019 if you do plan to attend to enable us to adequately plan for the appropriate number of attendees. Also, when you RSVP, please identify your specific interest in “demand management” and the reason for your desire to attend this workshop.

Workshop Agenda

- 9:00 – 9:15 Welcome & Introductions
- 9:15 – 9:45 Overview and Update on DCP, including the DMSA. Overview of the concept of DM, and efforts to assess the feasibility of developing an operational DM program
- 9:45 – 10:45 Each state to take 15 minutes to overview their in-state DM engagement activities
- 10:45 – 11:00 Break
- 11:00 – noon “Who’s in the Room?”
All attendees will have 30 seconds to tell the group who they are, who they represent, and what his or her interest in DM is.
- Noon – 1:30 – Lunch Break (on your own)
- 1:30 – 1:45 Reconvene for Assignment to Breakout Groups:
- 1:45 – 3:00 Groups meet to hear and discuss specific questions (ask one person to record)
1. What is your interest in the demand management concept?
 2. If a demand management program were to be established in the Upper Basin, what elements of a program would be important to you?
 3. What concerns do you have about demand management?
 4. What other things should we consider? What have we missed?
- 3:00 – 3:15 Break
- 3:15 – 4:00 Report back from groups
- 4:00 – 4:15 Wrap-up from states