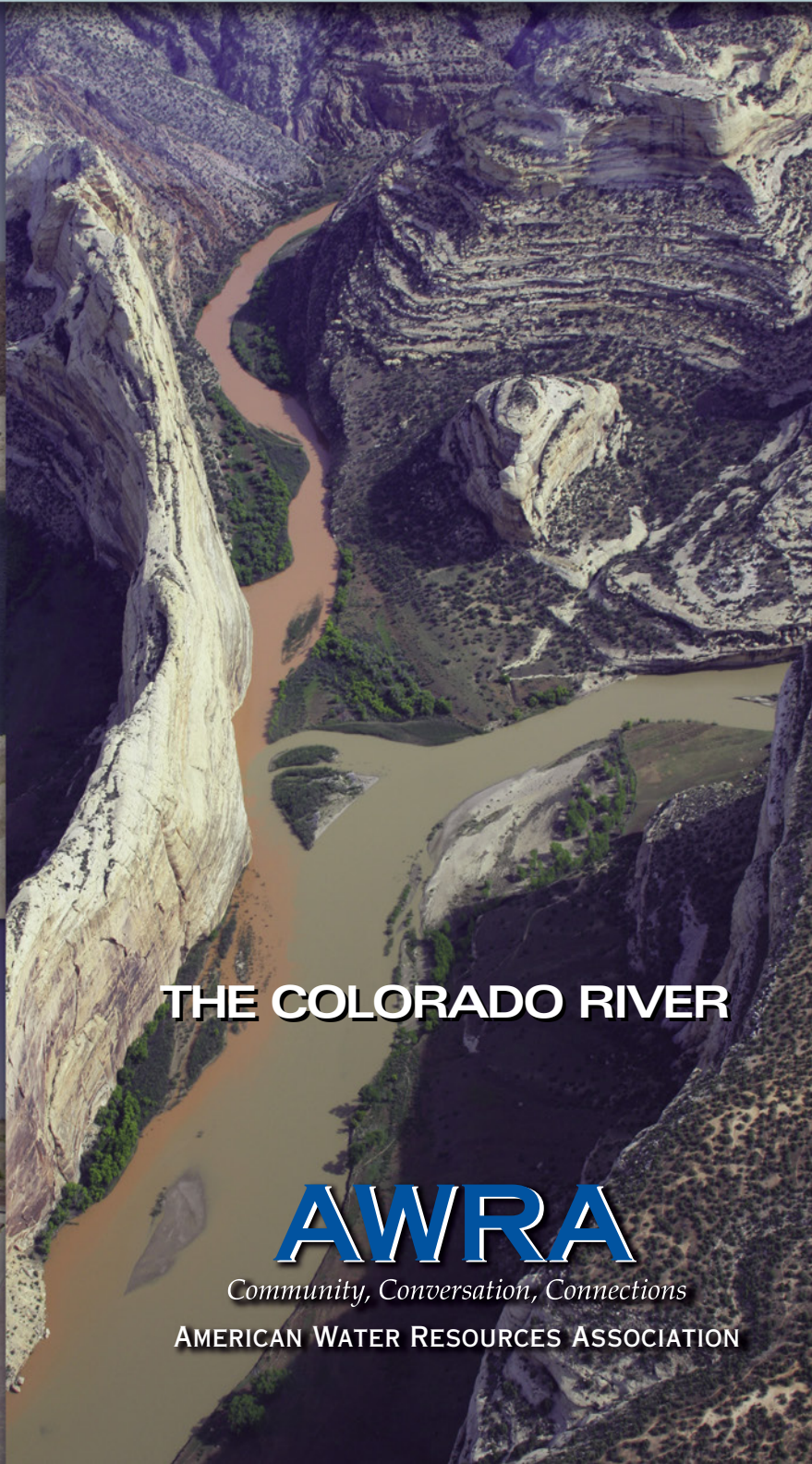


W A T E R R E S O U R C E S

IMPACT

September 2013 | Volume 15 | Number 5



THE COLORADO RIVER

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AMERICAN WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION



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- Doctorate
- Other _____

THE COLORADO RIVER

JACKSON REED

Guest Associate Editor ~ reed@waterexchange.com

Considered the lifeblood of the American West, the Colorado River and its tributaries supply water for almost 40 million people and approximately 5.5 million acres of farmland. However, recent supply and demand projections by the Bureau of Reclamation indicate that shortages throughout the basin may be looming. This issue of *Water Resources IMPACT* highlights the current and future challenges facing the basin and explores creative solutions that entities throughout the basin have identified. The discussion begins with the river's delta before moving upstream, and ultimately concluding with strategies that can be implemented from outside the basin.

FEATURE ARTICLES

3 **Dynamic Delta: Policies, Partnerships, and Water for the Colorado River Delta ... Karen Schlatter**

The Colorado River's Delta, once teeming with life, became a forgotten ecosystem when the river no longer reached the sea. But when floods brought substantial portions back to life, researchers realized that the Delta is a resilient ecosystem with great potential for restoration.

6 **Supply and Demand Study Projects Water Imbalance ... Carly Jerla and Alan Butler**

When the waters of the Colorado River were apportioned in the 1922 Colorado River Compact, the basin had experienced many high-flow years in the previous decade. With limited supplies and increasing demands, the ability of the river to meet those demands is called into question.

9 **Building an Integrated Water Resources Plan ... Klint Reedy and Chris Kurtz**

By 2060, water imbalances in the Colorado River could reach more than 3.2 million acre-feet. Mitigating this imbalance through one single strategy may be possible, but a diverse set of integrated solutions can have significantly better results by creating synergies and increasing resiliency.

12 **Inspiring Action to Achieve Water Initiatives ... Taylor Hawes**

Any successful integrated water resources plan will consider the needs of various stakeholders. But to meet these initiatives, a water resources plan must also inspire communities and organizations to take action.

16 **The Role of Water Transfers in the Western States ... Carlee Brown**

Water transfers have the potential to reallocate water resources to emerging high value. Recognizing the ancillary effects of these transfers is essential in determining the role that water transfers should play in alleviating water imbalance.

COVER PHOTO: (Left, top) Lake Mead from the Hoover Dam. (Left, bottom) An abandoned water park in the Mojave Desert. Courtesy of Jackson Reed. (Right) Confluence of the Green and Yampa Rivers. Courtesy of Taylor Hawes (ironically the Green River is the one running red and the rock formation is called Steamboat Rock.

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