



**Colorado River Basin  
SALINITY  
CONTROL FORUM**

**Facts Sheet**

**COLORADO RIVER BASIN SALINITY CONTROL PROGRAM**

**Colorado River Facts**

Length: 1450 miles long<sup>1</sup>  
 Drainage area: 242,000 sq-miles (155 million acres)<sup>2</sup>  
 Relative Size: 1/12<sup>th</sup> continental U.S.<sup>3</sup>  
 Average Annual Natural? Flow<sup>4</sup> (1940-2010):  
     Below Hoover:  
     Below Parker:  
     At Imperial:



**Colorado River Usage**

Irrigation:  
     Within the U.S.: 4 million acres<sup>5</sup>  
     Within Mexico: 500,000 acres<sup>6</sup>  
 Municipal and Industrial:  
     Within the U.S.: 33 million people<sup>7</sup>  
         Within Basin: 7.5 million people  
         Outside Basin: 25.4 million people  
     Within Mexico: 3 million people<sup>8</sup>  
 The Colorado River has more exports than any other river in the world.<sup>9</sup>



**Salinity Facts**

Annual salt load<sup>10</sup>:  
     Period/location?

	Pre-Program 1940-1972	Post-Program 1973-2009
Gage	(mg/L)	(mg/L)
below Hoover	9,818,000	8,570,000
below Parker	9,000,000	7,000,000
at Imperial	9,000,000	7,000,000

**Sources of Salinity<sup>11</sup>**

Source	% of Load	% of Concentration
Natural Diffuse	40%	39%
Natural Point	25%	8%
Irrigation Loading		26%
Irrigation Consumption	0%	11%

% from identified springs:

**Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program  
Controls**

**Table 2  
Measures in Place**

	<b>Tons/Year</b>		<b>Tons/Year</b>
<b>Agricultural Measures</b>	<b>932,000</b>	<b>Other Measures</b>	<b>274,000</b>
Big Sandy	68,000	Paradox Valley Unit	113,000
Grand Valley	271,000	Meeker Dome	48,000
Green River	0	Las Vegas Wash	4,000
Lower Gunnison	167,000	Ashley Valley WWTP	9,000
Mancos	4,000	Nonpoint Sources	85,000
Manila	13,000	Well-Plugging	15,000
McElmo	50,000		
Muddy Creek	0		
Price-San Rafael	126,000		
Silt	4,000		
Uinta	179,000		
<b>Non-project areas</b>	<b>50,000</b>		
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1,206,000</b>

**Funding**

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<sup>1</sup> Progress Report 23, page ??

<sup>2</sup> Progress Report 23, page ??

<sup>3</sup> Wikapedea???

<sup>4</sup> Reclamation: Nick Williams 2/15/12

<sup>5</sup> Progress Report 23, page 1 (based on 2000 census???)

<sup>6</sup> Progress Report 23, page 1

<sup>7</sup> Progress Report 23, page 1

<sup>8</sup> Progress Report 23, page 1

<sup>9</sup> Anne Castle, 2012

<sup>10</sup> Reclamation: Salt Model Spreadsheet, revised 2/15/12

<sup>11</sup> EPA, The Mineral Quality Problem in the Colorado River Basin, Summary Report (1971)