

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [As the Colorado River Shrinks, Washington Prepares to Spread the Pain](#)

Article Link: <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/27/climate/colorado-river-biden-cuts.html>

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Tweet: The Colorado's River's flow has averaged less than 10M acre-feet a year in the past three years vs. a long-term average of under 15M. The reduced flows may force the Federal government to impose water use restrictions affecting 40M Americans. @Cflav

Summary: The states that rely on water from the shrinking Colorado River are unlikely to agree to voluntarily make deep reductions in their water use which would force the federal government to impose cuts for the first time in the water supply for 40 million Americans. The Colorado River Compact apportioned the water among two groups of states. The so-called upper basin states would get 7.5 million acre-feet a year. The lower basin got a total of 8.5 million acre-feet. A later treaty guaranteed Mexico, where the river reaches the sea, 1.5 million acre-feet. The premise that the river's flow would average 17.5 million acre-feet each year turned out to be faulty. Over the past century, the river's actual flow has averaged less than 15 million acre-feet each year. From 2000 through 2022, the river's annual flow averaged just over 12 million acre-feet; in each of the past three years, the total flow was less than 10 million.

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