

# Running Dry

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GEOGRAPHIC

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# RUNNING DRY

A Journey From Source to Sea  
Down the Colorado River

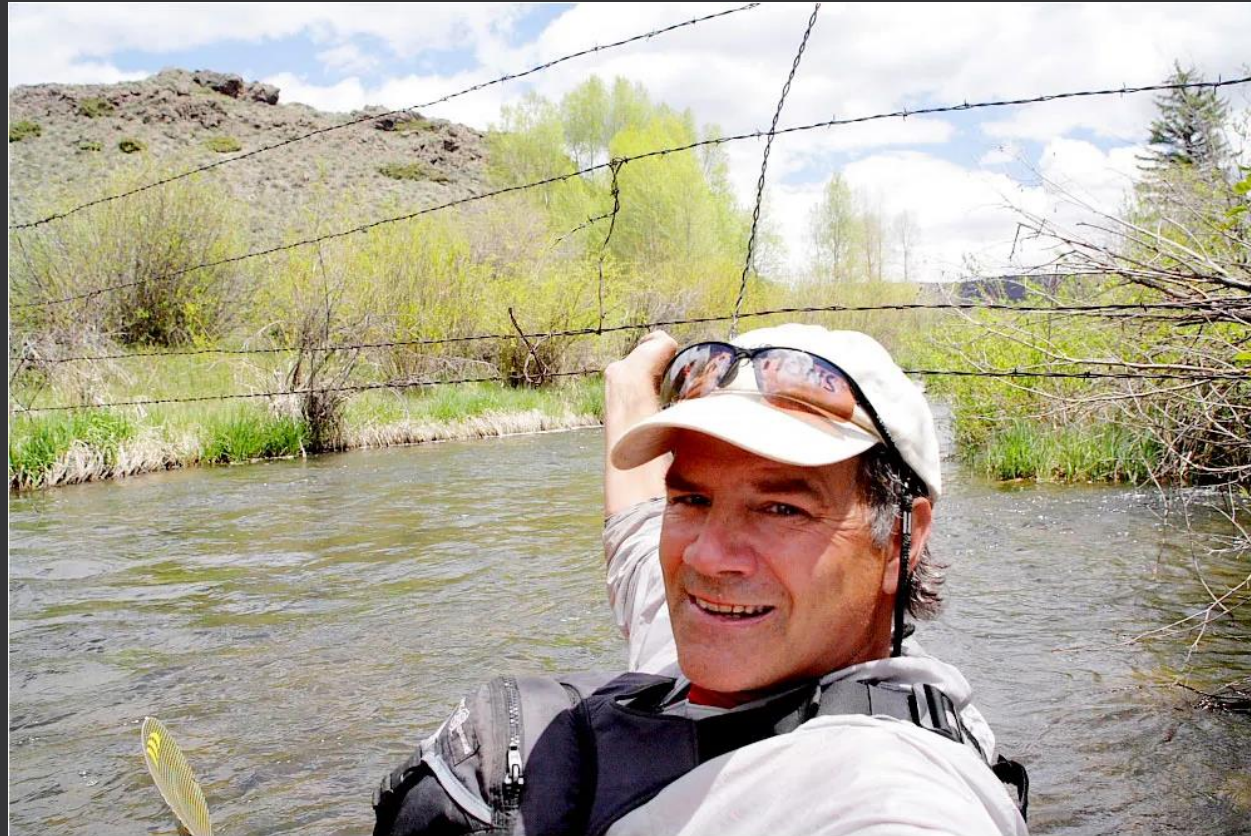
Jonathan Waterman

INSIDE

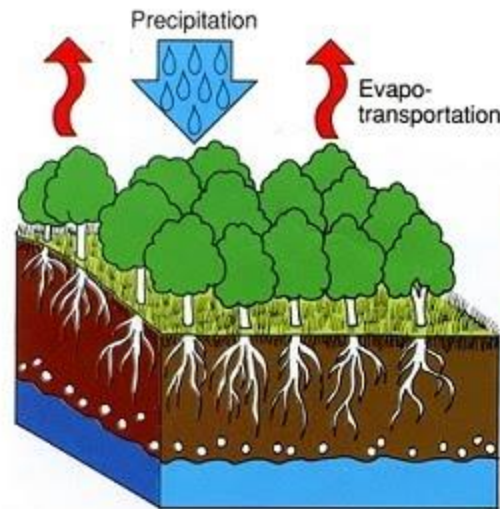
REMOVABLE WALL MAP  
of the Colorado River Basin



# Public vs. Private

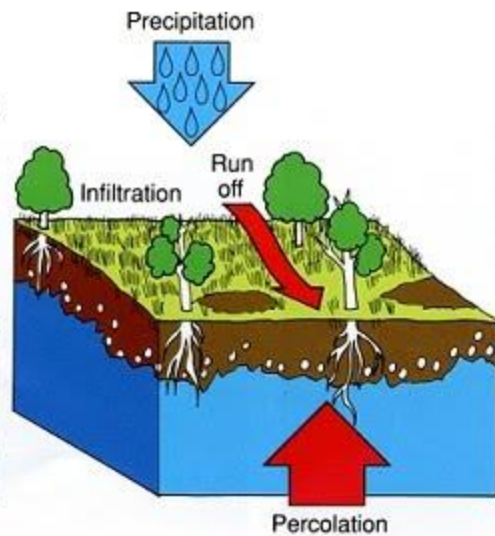


# Salination



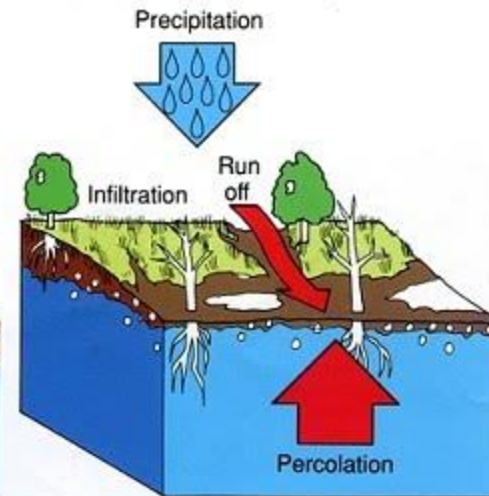
## Before clearing

Most water is used where it falls. The system is in balance.



## After clearing

Saline groundwater rises and is concentrated at the surface by evaporation. Vegetation growth is affected.



## Later

Accumulation of salt at the surface kills protective plant cover. The land is open to erosion.



# Tamarisk (Salt Cedar) Trees



# Fish



Bonytail Chub



Humpback Chub



Pike Minnow

# Fun Facts

- The Colorado River Reservoirs are large enough to hold 4 times the annual flow of the river.
- The Mississippi and Mackenzie River (CA) have nearly 20 times the amount of water of the Colorado River.
- The CBT power plants sell 759 million kilowatt hours of electricity a year, powering 58,000 homes.
- Only 3% of the nations 80,000 dams generate hydroelectric power.
- Denver Water's annual budget is \$250M dollars, they employ over a 1,000 people and serve over 1.2M urban customers.



# Fun Facts

- Mining of oil shale consumes up to 5 barrels (220 gallons) of water for each 1 barrel (44 gallons) of oil produced.
- Most rivers rapids are assigned an international roman numeral scale of I to VI ratings, however, the Grand Canyon rapids are rated from 1 to 10 with a hyphenated range of numbers to show changes according to fluctuating dam releases.
- Las Vegas has a turf replacement program paying \$2/sqft. In the first 10 years they replaced 100M square feet of turf saving approximately 55,000 acre feet or 18B gallons of water.