

UTAH DEMAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



Colorado River
Authority of Utah

*Working together, we can conserve water,
sustain our agricultural heritage, and build a
more resilient future for Utah.*



What is the Utah Demand Management Program

The Utah Demand Management Program (DMP) is a water conservation initiative implemented by the Colorado River Authority of Utah (Authority), pursuant to its 5-year management plan.

Implemented in 2025 through a \$5 million state appropriation, the program is designed to focus on voluntary, market-based mechanisms for conserving water in the Upper Colorado River Basin. The program compensates water users who contribute water to the program by reducing their demand.

How it Works

Water users with a history of beneficial consumptive water use in Utah can apply for compensation for specific conservation projects such as temporarily resting crop land, storage forbearance, irrigation system improvements or other innovative ways to reduce demand.



Core Purposes

The program operates under Utah Code 73-3-30(4) to achieve three key objectives:

- 1. Protect Utah's Right to Use Water from the Colorado River System:** Voluntary water contribution programs form a core element of the Upper Division States' strategy in post-2026 activities.
- 2. Build Resilience to Drought:** Compensation paid to participating agricultural producers is reinvested into farmland improvements, advanced water-saving irrigation infrastructure, and resilient, conservation-minded farming practices.
- 3. Establish Credit for Utah Water Users:** Under a 2024 Memorandum of Understanding with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), conserved water delivered to Utah's DMP is measured and tracked in route to Lake Powell. Utah is seeking credit for these and future savings through a subsequent agreement with BOR to buffer against the possibility of future mandatory curtailment.

Next Phase

\$100M awarded to the Upper Division States will enable Utah to scale up the program for 2027 and beyond.

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