

Colorado River Hydrology Work Group Charter

The Colorado River Hydrology Work Group (Work Group), initiated by Reclamation's Lower Colorado (LC) Region, seeks to position the LC Region as a leader in water management and planning through the integration of quantitative climate variability and change in both mid-term operations and long-term planning for the Colorado River Basin. This will be achieved by fostering and pursuing research that supports creative and effective means to understanding changing climate's impact on water availability in the Colorado River Basin. The Work Group will interact with other Federal entities pursuing climate change research to ensure research supported by the Work Group is original and aligned with Federal government priorities.

The research and development goals under this Work Group shall be:

- Guided initially by the recommendations of the Climate Technical Work Group Final Report dated August 2007
- Pertinent to the Colorado River Basin
- Geared towards seeking the best available and most cost-efficient technology for mid-term operations and long-term planning studies
- Brought into operations and long-term planning within a 1 to 3 year timeframe

Two entities including the Work Group will be formed to accomplish these goals. In addition to the Work Group, a Review Committee will support Work Group efforts. The Review Committee will be comprised of experts in atmospheric science, hydrologic science, stakeholder outreach, regional downscaling, hydroclimatology, drought analysis, and river basin operations and planning studies. The primary purpose of the Review Committee is to provide expert viewpoints concerning the research efforts of the Work Group and act as a liaison between the Work Group, peer reviewers outside the Work Group and others in the science community. Peer reviewers outside the Work Group and Review Committee will provide expert review of research projects as requested by the Work Group. Requested peer reviews will enhance the expertise covered by the Review Committee and provides further expert scientific review.

Current members [add hyperlink to membership list] of the Work Group include Reclamation staff from the Lower Colorado and Upper Colorado Regions, researchers funded by Reclamation, and two affiliated organizations (i.e., the Western Water Assessment and the Colorado River Basin River Forecasting Center). The research groups carrying out projects for Reclamation originate from University based teams, private consultants, and federal science agencies outside Reclamation. Work Group membership will change based on currently funded research and affiliated organizations interested in participating with the group. Affiliated organizations are not advisory and only provide viewpoints or technical input.

The Work Group will designate a Group Leader from Reclamation with the following responsibilities:

- Act as a liaison between the Work Group and Reclamation management
- Provide funding recommendations to Reclamation management
- Serve as the point of contact for researchers
- Designate tasks to other Work Group members, i.e. agendas, scheduling meetings, meeting notes

Coordination and outreach efforts will be promoted through:

- Bi-annual meetings at which funded researchers provide project status updates

- A website to exchange information and progress with the public
- Coordination with Reclamation's Climate Change and Western Water R&D Group (CCAWWG) to ensure supported research is aligned with the priorities of resource managers
- Outreach to researchers doing relevant work under independent funding and seeking coordination opportunities with other entities as appropriate

The Work Group will produce an annual report describing research efforts and their status, lessons learned, and future direction. Additionally, the annual report will describe the progress made towards the primary goal of the Work Group which is to incorporate climate science into mid-term operations and long-term planning. The annual report will be reviewed as appropriate.