# Article information:

The Colorado River water crisis: Its origin and the future - Schmidt - 2023 - WIREs Water - Wiley Online Library  
<https://wires.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/wat2.1672>

# Article summary:

1. The Colorado River basin is facing a water crisis due to the overuse of water exceeding the natural supply throughout the 21st century, leading to significant draining of reservoir storage in Lake Mead and Lake Powell.

2. The crisis has been exacerbated by low runoff levels in recent years, with the combined contents of Lake Mead and Lake Powell declining by 33.5 million acre-feet between January 2000 and April 2023, reaching only 30% of capacity.

3. Water users in the Upper Basin primarily consist of agricultural sectors, while users in the Lower Basin and Mexico include Native American and non-Indian irrigation districts, as well as metropolitan areas like Phoenix, Tucson, and Las Vegas.

# Article rating:

May be slightly imbalanced: The article presents the information in a generally reliable way, but there are minor points of consideration that could be explored further or claims that are not fully backed by appropriate evidence. Some perspectives may also be omitted, and you are encouraged to use the research topics section to explore the topic further.

# Article analysis:

The article provides a comprehensive overview of the water crisis in the Colorado River basin, detailing its origins, current state, and potential future implications. However, there are several points of concern that warrant critical analysis.

1. Bias: The article seems to focus primarily on the quantitative aspects of the water crisis, such as flow rates, consumption levels, and reservoir storage. While these are important metrics to consider, there is a lack of discussion on the social and environmental impacts of the crisis. For example, how are local communities being affected by water scarcity? What are the implications for wildlife and ecosystems in the region? By not addressing these aspects, the article may be biased towards a purely technical perspective.

2. One-sided reporting: The article predominantly presents data and analysis from a single source (USGS and Bureau of Reclamation). While these are reputable sources, it would have been beneficial to include perspectives from other stakeholders such as local communities, environmental organizations, or indigenous groups who may have different insights into the crisis.

3. Unsupported claims: The article mentions that "average Basin-wide consumptive uses exceeded the natural supply throughout the 21st century." While this statement is likely accurate based on the data provided, there is no further explanation or evidence provided to support this claim. Including more detailed analysis or references to studies that corroborate this assertion would strengthen the argument.

4. Missing points of consideration: The article briefly touches on trans-basin diversions but does not delve into their impact on water availability in the Colorado River basin. Exploring how these diversions contribute to water scarcity or conflict among states could provide a more holistic understanding of the crisis.

5. Unexplored counterarguments: The article does not address potential counterarguments or alternative solutions to managing the water crisis. Including a discussion on different perspectives or approaches could enrich the analysis and provide readers with a more nuanced view of the issue.

6. Partiality: The article focuses heavily on technical data and statistics related to water supply and consumption but lacks a human-centered approach to storytelling. By incorporating personal narratives or case studies of individuals impacted by the crisis, the article could make a stronger emotional appeal to readers.

In conclusion, while the article provides valuable insights into the Colorado River water crisis, there are areas where it could benefit from a more balanced presentation of information, consideration of diverse perspectives, and deeper exploration of social and environmental implications. Addressing these shortcomings would enhance the overall credibility and impact of the analysis presented.

# Topics for further research:

* Social impacts of Colorado River water crisis on local communities
* Environmental effects of water scarcity in the Colorado River basin
* Perspectives of indigenous groups on water management in the region
* Studies on trans-basin diversions and their impact on water availability
* Alternative solutions to managing the Colorado River water crisis
* Personal stories of individuals affected by water scarcity in the basin

# Report location:

<https://www.fullpicture.app/item/94c619717491f1bb961387c340efb2e9>