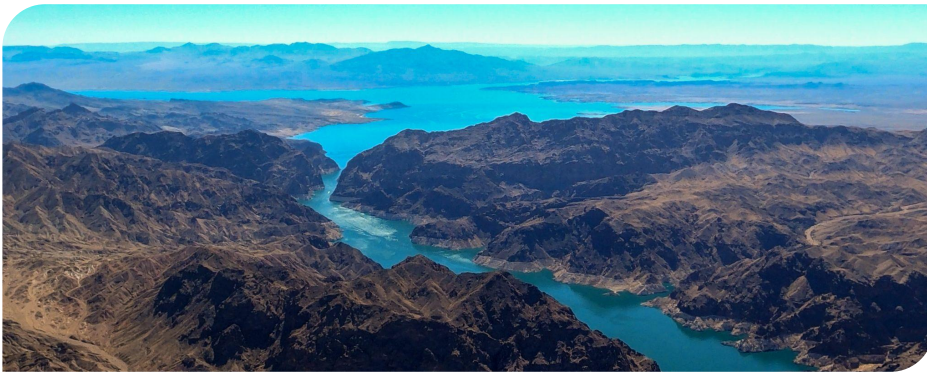


# Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) System Conservation and Canal Lining Projects



Lake Mead: [waterdesk.org](https://www.waterdesk.org)

*“CRIT is proud to play a key role in mitigating water shortfalls facing Arizona. We are able to do so by careful conservation that benefits Arizona while protecting our water rights. The partnerships and alliances that have been forged across all levels of government, as well as corporate and nonprofit entities, demonstrate the level of commitment needed to solve this crisis.”*

—Amelia Fores, Chairwoman, CRIT

## The Challenge

Lake Mead helps supply water for 25 million people in Nevada, Arizona, and California. With the Colorado River experiencing long-term drought conditions, reservoir levels in Lake Mead have reached unprecedentedly low levels. Google has supported two water conservation projects with the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT), in collaboration with other companies, the US Department of the Interior, the US Bureau of Reclamation, all seven Colorado River Basin states, and Mexico.

## Fallowing for Conservation

In exchange for compensation from the Arizona System Conservation Fund, the Mohave, Chemehuevi, Hopi, and Navajo Tribes—collectively the Colorado River Indian Tribes—pledged to forgo irrigation water deliveries and fallow approximately 10,000 acres of farmland, leaving 50,000 acre-feet per year of water in Lake Mead.

Over three years, a total volume of up to 150,000 acre-feet accrued in Lake Mead to help stabilize lake levels, reducing the likelihood that shortages would curtail water deliveries to cities, businesses, and farms in Arizona. Lake Mead is still not in good shape, but without this project, the levels would be up to two feet lower.

## Irrigation Modernization

The CRIT has acquired grants from the Federal WaterSmart Program and matching funds from corporations to help improve water conveyance infrastructure. To reduce seepage, in 2023, the CRIT will line nearly 4,000 feet of earthen canal with a geosynthetic membrane and a shotcrete cover that will last at least 30 years. The Tribes intend for this project to be a first step toward conserving water by reducing seepage in canals.

## Partners

The project partners include the CRIT, the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR), and the Bonneville Environmental Foundation. Google is one of the private sector supporters, with additional funding being provided by the State of Arizona and philanthropic donors.