

# DROUGHT AND THE STATE OF THE COLORADO RIVER

## Urgency, Solutions, Opportunities

**Urgency**

Western Drought Has Lasted Longer Than the Dustbowl - E&E News July 2021

Climate change is erasing 'flammability barrier' that protects high-elevation forests - NBC News May 2021

Reservoirs are drying up as consequences of the Western drought worsen - Washington Post July 2021

Worst Drought in Decades Escalates Threats Across U.S. West - Bloomberg June 2021

State hits 126-year lows for rainfall this year - SF Chronicle July 2021

Reduce, reuse, re-water?



**First Tier 1 Shortage in History:** Lake Mead is projected to fall below 1,075 ft for the first time in 80+ years. Arizona, Nevada and Mexico water deliveries will be reduced to retain 613 thousand acre feet of additional storage.

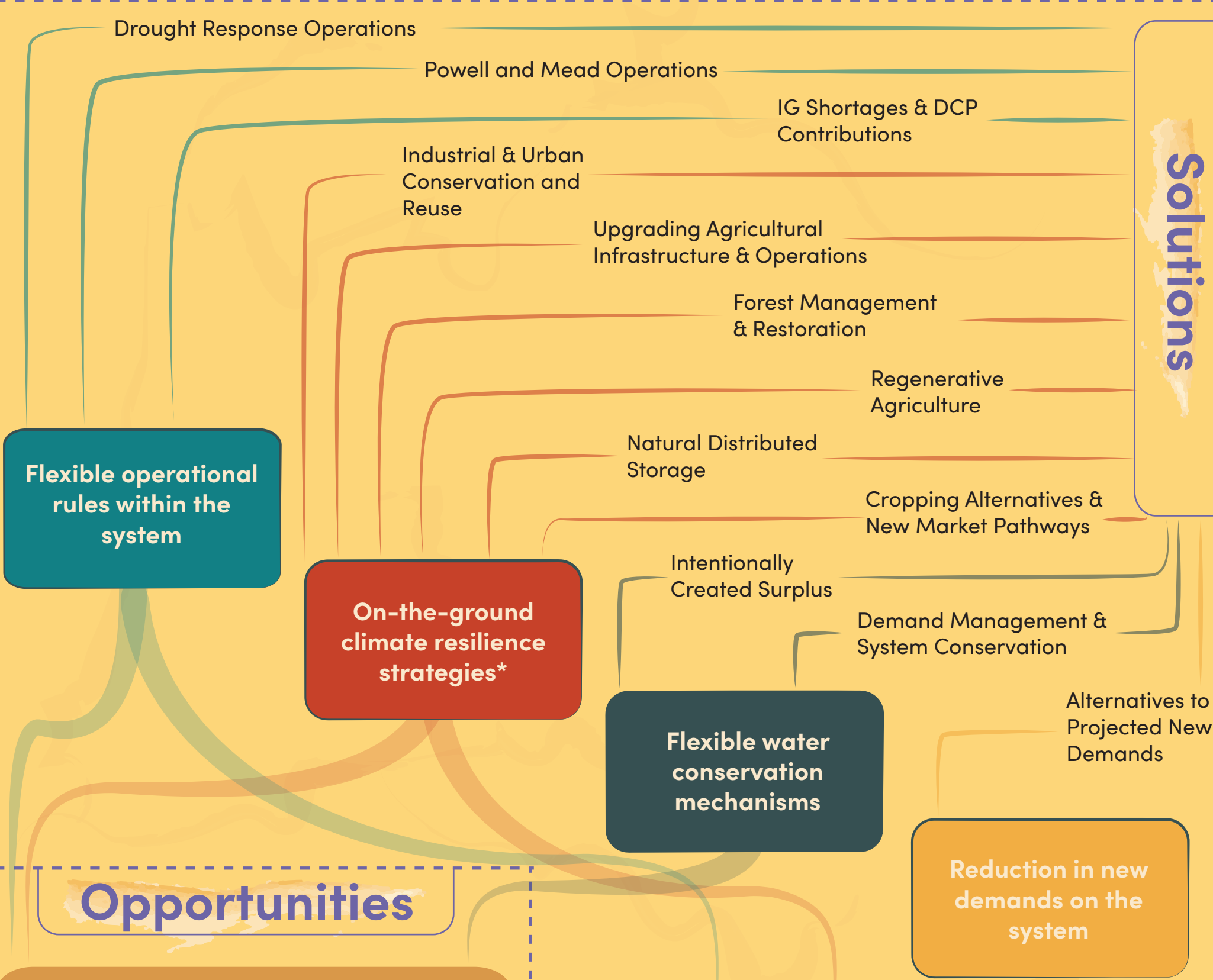


**First Upper Basin Emergency Declaration in History:** Sharp declines in Lake Powell storage prompted the Secretary of the Interior to move available storage from Flaming Gorge, Aspinall Unit and Navajo Reservoirs to help maintain hydropower production and to help ensure continued compact compliance releases from Lake Powell.



**90% of the Western United States is in Drought:** The American West has been in the grips of a historic drought. All time record highs were recorded this year in California, Nevada and Colorado, and extended days of 100+ degree weather were felt throughout the basin.

## Unprecedented Risks to River Flow



**Opportunities**

**Bipartisan Infrastructure & Jobs Act**

The bipartisan infrastructure bill, which has passed the Senate, provides extremely important funding for water reuse and recycling, improving agricultural infrastructure, investing in nature-based solutions for healthier watersheds, and other items that are critical to a resilient Colorado River Basin for people and nature.

**Basin States Water Plans**

Water plans for each of the Basin States illustrate opportunities to increase climate resilience in critical watersheds by investing in nature-based solutions, forest management, urban communities, and agricultural water systems. Each state has funding programs to support these vital investments.

## Opportunities to Accelerate Solutions for a Healthy Colorado River

Designed by:



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