

SECURE ARIZONA'S WATER FUTURE



For over a century, Arizona has been a national leader in water stewardship, innovation and planning. Our forefathers, in collaboration with the federal government, built the vast system of dams, reservoirs, canals and more that make life in our rugged, arid landscape possible. Over 100-years ago, landowners in the Phoenix area pledged their land as collateral to fund the construction of the Roosevelt Dam; Arizona's congressional delegation fought for the Central Arizona Project (the CAP") in the 1960's and 1970's; and our state legislators enacted the Groundwater Management Act of 1980 to help ensure sound water use in our state's fastest-growing areas. Arizona even innovated the concept of "water banking" to store millions of acre-feet of water to be used and assist in the event of a sustained drought like we currently face.

The good news? Even as Arizona's population has increased nearly 500% during the past six decades, our total water consumption has actually declined. Our state has become more efficient with every drop while growing a world class economy and protecting our legacy industries of agriculture, ranching, mining and logging. We need leadership with the same ingenuity and long-term thinking today.

I am uniquely qualified to lead this state into the future and to secure and protect Arizona's water. My experience includes decades managing land, water and other natural resource issues, as well as working with government at all levels. These are the skills now required as Arizona faces one of its greatest challenges since statehood.

As Arizona Governor, I refuse to oversee a managed decline. Under my leadership, we will **protect consumers, preserve legacy industries, defend Arizona's way of life and plan for the future** by augmenting supplies and improving efficiency.



WATER PRINCIPLES

These are the principles that will guide my administration's actions on water:

PROTECT ARIZONA CONSUMERS

Arizonans must have access to a safe, reliable and affordable water supply. Anything less is unacceptable.

PRESERVE LEGACY INDUSTRIES

Legacy industries such as agriculture, ranching, mining and logging are critical drivers of jobs and economic activity, as well as inextricably linked to Arizona's Western heritage and culture. We must ensure these legacy industries not only survive but thrive in the future.

DEFEND OUR ARIZONA WAY OF LIFE

Rugged ... independent ... self-reliant. The "Arizona way of life" means something different to everyone. What we have in common is our need for water to support our families and communities.

PLAN FOR ARIZONA'S FUTURE

Our future and that of our children depends on securing an ample water supply to carry Arizona forward into the next 100 years. Perhaps no challenge is greater.

3-TIERED PLAN FOR ARIZONA'S WATER FUTURE

Augmentation

A 20-year plus drought has sapped water supplies across the Rocky Mountain West, including Arizona. In 2021, declining water levels at Lake Mead resulted in the federal government's first-ever declaration of a Tier 1 shortage, which mandates a 30% cut in Colorado River water allocated via CAP to Maricopa, Pima and Pinal counties. In response, the State of Arizona has worked with stakeholders across the state to reduce pressure on the Colorado River and keep more water in Lake Mead. But it's clear that additional supplies must be identified to safeguard against continued drought.

DESALINATION

The concept of removing salt from seawater has been used around the world for decades, especially in Israel and the Middle East where it generates more than half of the region's supply of fresh drinking water. Recent technological advances promise to make the process cheaper and more efficient. I commend Governor Ducey for his efforts to accelerate a large-scale desalination effort for Arizona. Partnering with Mexico on a plant along the Sea of Cortez, for example, has the potential to generate significant additional supply for people on both sides of the border. Making desalination a reality will require a multi-year effort, and it's one I will prioritize as Governor.

CLOUD SEEDING

Developed in the mid-1940s, cloud seeding is an inexpensive, scientifically-proven and widely-used technique to enhance snowfall under the right conditions. Cloud seeding is already extensively employed across the Rocky Mountain states of Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico and Utah, where it's believed the technique boosts snowfall by 5-10%. At a single watershed in Colorado, it's estimated that cloud seeding in 2021 generated an additional 19 billion gallons of runoff. Increased cloud seeding across the Arizona high country could be done at low cost and with the potential to create more desperately-needed snowfall and spring runoff, while reducing fire danger.

Stewardship

For generations, Arizona has been a leader in the responsible management of our natural resources. That heritage of wise stewardship is needed now more than ever when it comes to our precious water supply.

HEALTHY FORESTS

A healthy forest is critical to the watershed – stabilizing the soil, resisting devastating wildfire and facilitating adequate runoff into our lakes and reservoirs. Unfortunately, the federal government – which controls over 42% of Arizona's total acreage – has for decades been a dismal failure in the area of

forest management. As Governor, we will return our state-managed forests to health, while pushing the federal government to finally live up to its promises – most notably with the on-again, off-again Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI).

Innovation

No place in America has more experience with water scarcity than we do. Long before statehood, native populations farmed and flourished here with little access to water. The Ak-Chin tribe is even named for an O’odham word referring to a type of farming that relies on wash-irrigated farming fed by winter snows and summer rains. Modern innovations include everything from laser-leveled fields to irrigation systems that automatically account for weather conditions, soil moisture and more.

WATER REUSE

Arizona has been at the forefront of water reuse for decades. By capturing wastewater or stormwater and cleaning it as necessary, it can be reused or reclaimed for everything from household use to industrial processes, irrigation, aquifer replenishment and more. In central Arizona, it’s already estimated that 95% of wastewater is reclaimed for other uses. As the drought draws on, it will be important to expand the use of reclaimed water across Arizona.

WATER BANKING

Anticipating a time of need just like this, generations of leaders who came before us wisely created a system of water banking that allowed Arizona to inject and safely store approximately 12 million acre feet of water deep underground. We now have the ability to begin using some of this supply, though we must be mindful to recharge our water banks when supplies permit.

EFFICIENCY

Nobody respects the land more than the farm or rancher who earns their living from its soil. Arizona agriculture is not only a \$23.3 billion/year industry, it provides food for our tables and is an essential part of Arizona’s heritage and

culture. That is why I am so committed to protecting agriculture in the face of water shortages that are forcing some farmers to leave their fields fallow or exit the industry entirely. While every farm has unique needs and there is no one-size-fits-all solution, promising recent advances in irrigation now being studied may produce equal or increased crop yields from less water. This is worth considering more closely if we intend, as I do, to protect agriculture as an irreplaceable part of Arizona.

MY COMMITMENT

As Governor, I will bring my decades of experience in land use and my commitment to natural resource stewardship to help position Arizona for the next century. Like those who came before us, my commitment is to protect Arizona's way of life, protect our legacy industries and plan for the future by augmenting our water supplies and utilizing technology to improve our efficient use of this valuable and scarce resource.