

## Panel Overview on Ten Strategies Report Upper Basin Forum

### **Abstract**

Stretching along the spine of the Rocky Mountains, across the Colorado Plateau, and within the Sonoran and Mojave Deserts, the Colorado River Basin has experienced ongoing declines in stream flows, record-setting heat, some of the driest years ever recorded, and previously unimaginable catastrophic fires. The scale and pace of climate-related changes pose an increasing risk to the reliability of water supplies that support humans and the environment. The recently released report Ten Investment Strategies for Climate Resilience in the Colorado River Basin offers an integrated proposal to increase water-related climate resiliency and to spark dialogue about proactive, coordinated, and results-oriented watershed scale projects. The ten investment strategies can help shift from a primary focus on managing water supply and demands in a secondary context of drought and climate change, to implementing actions that directly adapt to, respond to, and mitigate the steady, compounding, and extreme risks of climate change to economies, communities, landscapes, and the water resources that support them. This panel will present an overview of the Ten Strategies Report and offer a deeper discussion of on-the-ground projects within three specific strategies.

### **Presentations**

#### **Overview of the Report**

Main Points: Provide an explanation of progressive/abrupt climate change impacts, the four resiliency questions that anchor the report, and a summary of the ten investment strategies.

#### **Regenerative Agriculture**

Strategy Objective: Agricultural practices that enrich soils, enhance biodiversity, restore watershed health, and improve ecosystem function and community health.

Panel Presentation: Overview of current research avenues or ongoing applications of practices

#### **Forest Management and Restoration**

Strategy Objective: Prioritize forest management and restoration to maintain system functionality and biodiversity.

Panel Presentation: Example of forest restoration projects and proposed benefits

#### **Natural Distributed Storage**

Strategy Objective: Restore highly degraded natural meadow systems to improve local aquifer recharge, water retention, reconnect historic floodplains, and support productive meadows and riparian ecosystems.

Panel Presentation: Discuss multiple benefits of Natural Distributed Storage and current pilot efforts.