

Abstract for USDA-NIFA PI Meeting  
July 22, 2013  
Reno, NV

## **Addressing Water for Agriculture in the Colorado River Basin**

**Presenter:** Reagan Waskom (PI), Colorado Water Institute

### **Additional Authors:**

- **MaryLou Smith**, Colorado Water Institute
- **Peter Taylor**, Colorado State University
- **Julie Kallenberger**, Colorado Water Institute
- **Faith Sternlieb**, Colorado Water Institute
- **Melinda Laituri**, Colorado State University
- **Sharon Megdal**, Water Resources Research Center
- **Sam Fernald**, New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute
- **Dave Kreamer**, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- **Mac McKee**, Utah Center for Water Resources Research
- **Ginger Paige**, University of Wyoming
- **Doug Parker**, California Institute for Water Resources

The Colorado Water Institute at Colorado State University spearheaded a USDA-NIFA funded regional planning grant focused on understanding agriculture water challenges in the Colorado River Basin (CRB). Carried out in partnership with the seven CRB land-grant universities (Colorado State University, University of Arizona, University of California, University of Nevada, New Mexico State University, Utah State University, and University of Wyoming), the Planning Grant Team studied:

- What farmers, ranchers, and water managers are thinking about the current and future status of their agricultural water, what pressures they are facing, and how they are dealing with these pressures.
- Farmers and ranchers' beliefs towards the permanent and temporary transfer of water out of agriculture, the role of storage, and how to best work with other stakeholders to address the challenges associated with limited water supplies.
- Agricultural water users' preferences for meeting future water demands, changes in water law and policy they think are needed, and how land-grant universities can best assist with the challenges they are facing, or will be facing with regard to their agricultural water.

This presentation will briefly report on results from our in-depth exploratory interviews, a survey of agricultural water users throughout the CRB, and the development of geospatial layers for multi-level, multi-purpose agricultural water governance.