

Brave Blue World & A Journey Upstream – What’s Next

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Understanding Water Scarcity & Quality

- In the last century, global demand for water has increased twice as fast as the population. The majority of this water is used by the agricultural and industrial sectors.
- Currently, over 2 billion people live in water scarce areas, which are defined as areas with a “lack of sufficient available water resources to meet the demands of water usage” (sciencedaily). Within a decade, this number is predicted to rise to nearly 3 billion people.
- Climate change will worsen water shortages across the world. As precipitation patterns shift, droughts will become more intense and more frequent. Floods can also reduce water availability by damaging infrastructure and contaminating freshwater sources.
- The biggest contributor to the Colorado River’s water quality issues are salinity due to the saline soils found in the Colorado Plateau and agricultural irrigation flowing into the river.

How to Take Action in Your Community

Water quality and conservation is an important component of [Eagle County’s climate resilience objectives](#). The Community Resilience Plan aims to improve water efficiency and quality in preparation for future population growth and improved ecosystem health. There are many ways that you can help support these goals.

- Install low flow appliances and faucet aerators to conserve water in your home.
- Consider xeriscaping, a landscaping style which features native vegetation and requires no irrigation.
- Check for leaks in your pipes, faucets and toilets. A faucet that drips once per second can waste over 3,000 gallons of water in a year.
- Install a rainwater harvesting system to lower your water bill, reduce erosion during stormwater events, and even help firefighters if a wildfire threatens your property.
- Get involved with the Eagle River Watershed Council to support water quality and conservation here in the Valley. Check them out: erwc.org/
- **Project Drawdown:** Interested in learning more about Drawdown Solutions? Check out Project Drawdown’s website: drawdown.org