

Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS)

On December 13, 2007, the *Record of Decision for the Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead* (Interim Guidelines) was implemented. Among other things, the Interim Guidelines create a framework to authorize entitlement holders who meet established criteria to develop ICS to augment Colorado River system reservoir storage. The purposes of ICS include:

- ◆ Encourage the efficient use and management of Colorado River water, and to increase the water supply in Colorado River system reservoirs through the creation, and delivery, of ICS.
- ◆ Assure any contractor that invests in conservation or augmentation to create ICS that no other contractor will lay claim to the ICS.
- ◆ Increase the surface elevations of both Lake Powell and Lake Mead to higher levels than would have otherwise occurred, benefiting storage.
- ◆ Help minimize or avoid shortages to water users in the lower basin.

There are four categories of ICS. These include:

- ◆ Extraordinary Conservation – ICS created through the implementation of extraordinary conservation measures such as fallowing, canal lining programs, and desalination programs.
- ◆ Tributary Conservation – ICS created by leasing or purchasing pre-1929 documented water rights on the Colorado River System tributaries within the entitlement holder's state.
- ◆ Imported – ICS created by introducing non-Colorado River System water in that entitlement holder's state into the mainstream.
- ◆ System Efficiency – ICS created when an entitlement holder makes a capital contribution to the Secretary of the Interior for use in funding projects designed to realize system efficiencies that save water that would otherwise be lost from the mainstream of the United States.



Warren H. Brock Reservoir, a System Efficiency ICS project funded by the Central Arizona Water Conservation District, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

The table below lists the entitlement holders that currently have ICS in storage in Lake Mead, the total amount of ICS stored by each, and the planned creation amounts for calendar years 2013 and 2014. At the end of 2012, approximately 1,196,000 acre-feet of ICS credits were stored in Lake Mead. Actual ICS creation amounts for 2013 and 2014 will be reported in Reclamation's annual Water Accounting Report.

Entitlement Holder	2012 End-of-Year ICS Balance ¹ (acre-feet)	2013 Planned ICS Creation ² (acre-feet)	2014 Planned ICS Creation ² (acre-feet)
Central Arizona Water Conservation District	103,000	0	0
Imperial Irrigation District	0	up to 25,000	up to 25,000
Metropolitan Water District	580,000	up to 200,000	up to 200,000
Southern Nevada Water Authority	513,000	up to 46,000	up to 46,000

¹ Values rounded to the nearest thousand acre-feet.

² Per entitlement holder's approved 2013 and 2014 Plan(s) of Creation.