

Parched soils spell trouble for the Colorado

Low soil moisture levels have plagued the Upper Colorado River Basin states of Utah, Colorado and Wyoming for several years, and the percentages of moisture in the soils remained low there as of Thursday. Because of that, much of the mountains' melting snowpack is soaked up by soils rather than running off into the river. That significantly reduces spring/summer runoff from the Upper Basin into Lake Powell and ultimately Lake Mead, which stores drinking and irrigation water for Arizona, Nevada, California and Mexico.

