

A PRIMER

Interstate Water Resource Management Agreements and Organizations

Introduction

Interstate, watershed-based management organizations have flourished over the past seventy years, and the role of these organizations has evolved considerably. These organizations address problems that transcend state, federal, tribal and local political boundaries and functional responsibilities. Similar organizations have been formed to address U.S. transboundary issues with Canada and Mexico. Water supply crises and disagreements, complex point- and non-point source pollution problems, ecological restoration, public health threats, protection of commercially significant resources, and climate change are among the growing number of cross-boundary challenges that suggest a growing role for interstate organizations. Authority for the creation of interstate compacts and resulting commissions is provided in Article 1, Section 10, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

At their most basic level, these institutions provide an opportunity to overcome the parochialism and jurisdictional boundaries that can inhibit traditional agencies whose responsibilities are more narrowly defined and limited by geo-political boundaries and a “stovepipe” approach to the assignment of resource management issues. Whether national policies or priorities are clear or ill-defined for a given issue, watershed and interstate organizations typically follow a collaborative, basin-wide approach that infuses local values and innovative methods, along with additional sources of funding.

A variety of widely divergent forms, functions and authorities have evolved to meet specific needs, including interstate compacts, interstate associations, federal-state partnerships, and federal-interstate compacts. The interstate and watershed organizations in existence today range from low budget, *ad hoc* arrangements without regulatory authority, to treaty- or legislative-based commissions with large staffs, significant funding, and a range of planning, regulatory and financing authorities. They represent an adaptive, cost-effective means for facilitating and ensuring cooperative action among the states.

ICWP developed this primer as a complement to the updated *Interstate Water Solutions: Lessons from the Past and Recommendations for the Future—A Look toward 2050* (Report)¹ and is intended to give those unfamiliar with interstate water management a high-level overview of the types of river basin commissions and organizations found throughout the nation. This primer provides an overview of five types of interstate arrangements that are organized according to levels of

¹ Report can be found on ICWP's website at www.icwp.org.



authority and defined purposes specific to water resource management between signatory states:

1. Interstate Compacts: Water Supply
2. Interstate Compacts: Water Quality
3. International Organizations: Interstate Water Resource Issues
4. Interstate Successor Organizations
5. Interstate Organizations: Resource Recovery

Nationwide, there are currently 46 interstate agreements dealing with various aspects of water management.

Nationwide, there are currently 46 interstate agreements dealing with various aspects of water management (see Figure 1) — twenty-seven focused on water apportionment, thirteen centered on flood control and water resource management, and six dedicated to water pollution abatement. See the Appendix for a full listing of interstate compact agreements in the United States.

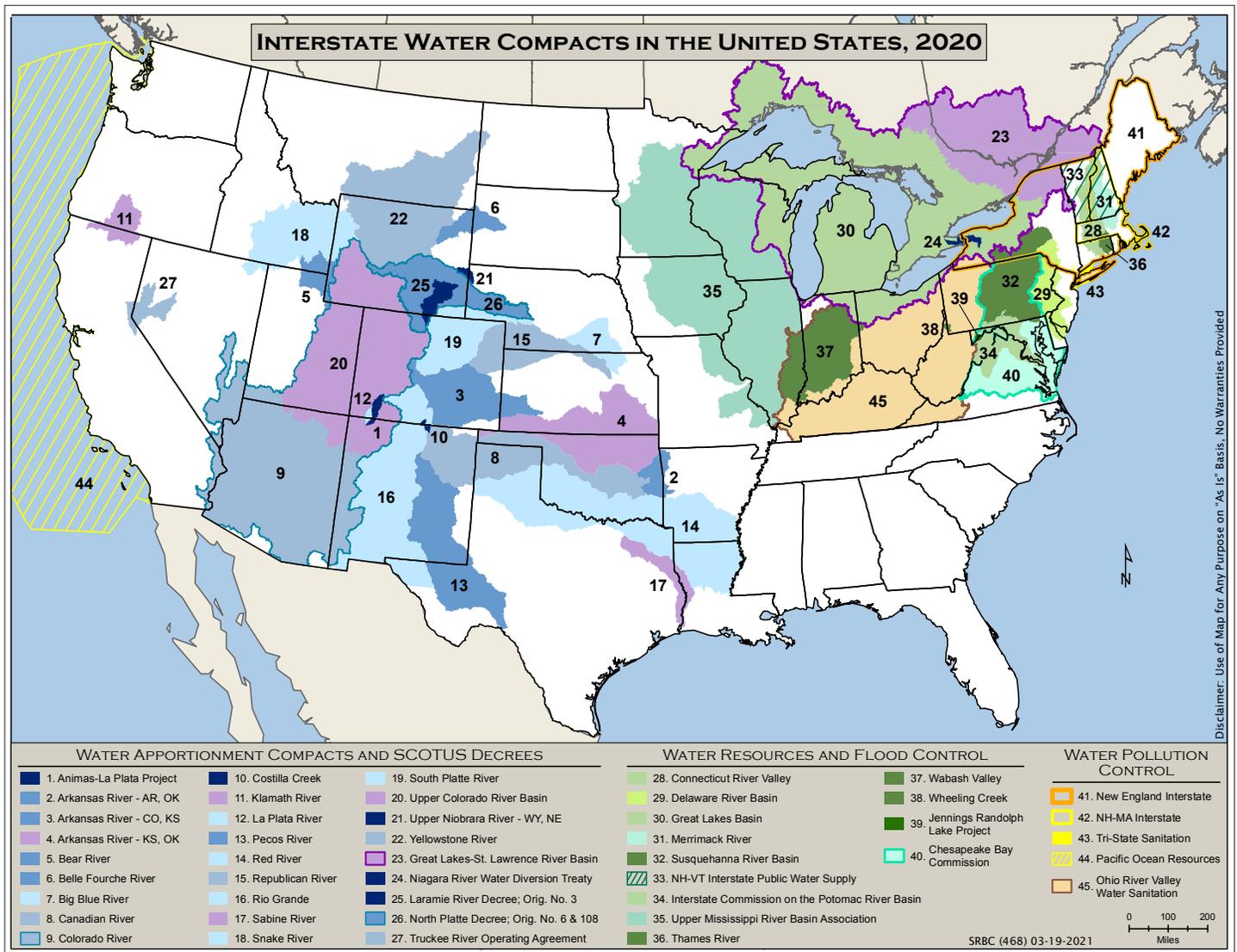


Figure 1. Map of interstate agreements in the United States.

Interstate Compacts

Interstate compacts are contracts between two or more states creating an agreement on a particular issue, adopting a certain standard or cooperating on regional or national matters. They are the most powerful, durable, and adaptive tools for ensuring cooperative action among the states.

Interstate compacts require Congressional approval and are highly formal, legal constructs that are based in law or official action by the respective jurisdictions. Powers and authorities range widely — some compacts exercise limited planning, coordination and advisory responsibilities, while others hold extensive decision making and regulatory authorities. Organizations established by an interstate compact tend to deal with water rights and resource allocation, water quality control, hydropower infrastructure and operations, flood control, habitat protection and restoration, and other needs.

Interstate water compacts usually establish a commission, which is responsible for negotiating and administering water allocations. The commission also can provide a forum for ongoing collaboration and negotiation and allow its parties to adapt to changing water needs and political and social concerns.

Water Supply

In eastern regions of the United States that follow riparian doctrine or practice regulated riparianism, it is generally the case that there is ample water, distributed in both space and time (occasional widespread droughts notwithstanding). Conflicts over quantity and quality nevertheless arise between states that share large rivers. Either to address potential conflicts or to resolve existing disputes or both, many eastern states have entered agreements that enable them to define equitable treatment for themselves rather than submitting to the authority of federal judges to do so. The Susquehanna River Basin Commission is one example; the construction of large diverting pipelines from the lower River to Baltimore, Maryland and to Chester, Pennsylvania, along with plans for multiple highly consumptive nuclear power plants prompted the states of New York, Maryland and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to draft what became the Susquehanna River Basin Compact, eventually adopted by each state along with the federal government as a full and equal member. The defined mission of SRBC is to enhance public welfare through reduction of flood damage, development of sustainable water supplies for all sectors, restoration of aquatic habitat and impaired streams, protection of instream uses, and ensuring flows to the Chesapeake Bay.

The Delaware River Basin Commission, which predates the SRBC by 10 years, arose in part as a result of legal conflicts over the diversion of water from the upper Delaware River to support New York City's growing population and water supply needs, and in recognition of the need for a cooperative approach to reducing pollution in the Delaware River Estuary. The Commission has the power to allocate the Delaware River among the competing (now cooperating) states and the City of New York as long as all four states and the City agree. It also provides the mechanism by which the four basin states and the federal government jointly manage the quality of shared interstate waters.

Several of the eastern U.S. commissions have full time staff and provide a variety of coordination and regulatory functions. The DRBC, for example, meets quarterly with public hearings on dockets/permits. Occasionally, special hearings and/or

Institution-building for water resource management is as much an art as it is a science. While lessons learned from past experience are exceedingly valuable, there exists no single prototype or formula that can be universally applied to any given watershed and its associated management needs. Rather, the focus must be placed upon rules of thumb that provide general guidance while recognizing the unique nature of every watershed.

meetings are convened to deal with special issues, such as drought declarations or controversial projects. At the end of each business meeting, DRBC holds a public comment session as a venue for stakeholders to state their concerns about a variety of topics to the Commissioners.

In the American West, there are more than twenty interstate and regional river basin compacts, most of which have authority for the allocation of water between states. Many of the western compacts create Commissions that may only meet one or two times per year and do not have staff. Many commissions are chaired by a Federal, non-voting representative, but the annual meetings and work of the commission throughout the year is primarily carried out by staff from the member states. Two exceptions to this are the Bear River Commission and the Upper Colorado River Commission, which do have paid staff.

Allocations of water resources between states in some river basins has been via U.S. Supreme Court Original jurisdiction decrees. The Laramie River decree of 1922 (Orig. No. 3) which divides water between Colorado and Wyoming, and the North Platte Decree of 1945 (Orig. No. 8) dividing water between Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska are two such examples. U.S. Supreme Court decrees are a means of last resort for equitable apportionment when states were not able to agree on compact terms.

Water Quality

Some interstate organizations created as a result of a compact have a mandate to help states protect the quality of their water resources; they do not address water allocation issues. These organizations commonly provide services in water quality monitoring and research, compliance monitoring, public education, and outreach.

For instance, the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission was founded in 1947 by Congress and is governed by seven member states: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. High priorities include facilitating dialogue and leading regional efforts on impacts from climate change, harmful algal blooms, nutrient impairment of waterways, and intense storm events. Similarly, the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) was originally authorized in 1940 in response to extreme pollution levels that required a regional, cooperative response by all the jurisdictions. It wasn't until 1970 that amendments to the compact empowered ICPRB to address not just pollution issues, but water resources and related land issues by two or more jurisdictions.

Among the strongest and most effective interstate agencies in the field of water quality has been the Delaware River Basin Commission. The Delaware River Basin Commission was formed in 1961 by a federal-state compact among the basin states of Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York with broad authorities to address water quality issues. The establishment of basin wide water quality standards, and a project approval process for significant wastewater facilities, has led to a major restoration over the last 60 years of what was once one of the nation's most challenged waterways. Currently, the DRBC is involved in re-evaluating designated uses in the estuary for fish propagation and recreation.

The Great Lakes Commission (GLC) was established by the eight Great Lakes states through the Great Lakes Basin Compact and ratified by Congress in 1962. The GLC is a non-regulatory, advisory commission focused on the conservation of the water resources of the Basin through balanced development and advancing the economic prosperity of the region. Priorities for the GLC include fostering dialogue and developing consensus on water quality and fisheries issues, improving maritime and port facilities, and advising on shared law, policy, and regulation of the Basin's water resources.

The Interstate Environmental Commission (IEC), established through the Tri-State Sanitation Compact in 1936, is a water and air pollution control agency committed to protecting, conserving, and restoring the environment, particularly in the area of water quality for parts of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. With a long history in wastewater management, the IEC's role expanded over the years to coordinate and plan for air quality control in the region as well.

The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO), established through the Ohio Valley River Sanitation Compact in 1948, represents eight states and the federal government to improve water quality in the Ohio River Basin. ORSANCO operates programs to improve water quality in the Ohio River and its tributaries, including setting waste water discharge standards, performing biological assessments, monitoring for chemical and physical properties of the waterways, and conducting special surveys and studies. ORSANCO also coordinates emergency response activities for spills or accidental discharges to the river and promotes public participation in programs, such as the Ohio River Sweep.

International Organizations: Interstate Water Resource Issues

International agreements offer similar benefits as interstate compacts and foster broader approaches to dealing with international water issues. The U.S. Constitution (Art. II, § 2, Cl. 2) grants power to the President to make treaties with the “advice and consent” of two-thirds of the U.S. Senate. International agreements regarding shared watercourses are negotiated by the U.S. Department of State, often in consultation with affected states, tribes, and stakeholders. Once ratified by the U.S. Senate, a treaty has the force of federal law and overrides any relevant state law.

Typically, an international water treaty establishes a new commission or other entity to resolve issues that arise and refine the details of the broad agreement. Two prominent international bodies include the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC)(U.S.-Mexico) and the International Joint Commission (IJC)(US- Canada). The IJC is a prominent body not only in Western waters but also the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin. The IBWC is an international body created by the United States and Mexico in 1889 to apply the rules for determining the location of their international boundary when meandering rivers transferred tracts of land from one bank to the other. During the 20 years of prolonged recent drought in the Colorado River basin, the IBWC has been instrumental in exploring innovative management options between the U.S. and Mexico, which are articulated as minutes to the treaty between the two countries.

The US-Canada Columbia River Treaty is jointly administered by two bodies: a “U.S. Entity” defined in the treaty as the Bonneville Power Authority and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and a Canadian Entity (British Columbia Hydro). Through this treaty, the U.S. and Canada jointly manage the Columbia River system. This is one of the largest river systems and has the largest hydropower system in North America, with numerous large dams and reservoirs in both countries. About 15 percent of the river basin is in the Province of British Columbia, Canada, and about 30 percent of average river flows come from Canada. Complex, detailed agreements cover dams, reservoirs, river flows, power purchases, power system operations, and flood control.

Another international water treaty between the U.S. and Canada is the Niagara River water diversion treaty which was created because of the concern of the uses of the waters of the Niagara River. The treaty was signed on February 27, 1950 and came into force October 10, 1950. Its purpose is to preserve and enhance the scenic beauty of Niagara Falls and the Niagara River, while providing for the most beneficial use of the river waters. Limitations on the amount of water diverted from the Niagara River for power generation purposes initially established by the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 were terminated and replaced by the 1950 treaty. The Niagara River Water Treaty of 1950 established new limitations of water diversion for power generation and limited the amount of water available for diversion to ensure the scenic beauty of the falls.

Mentioned previously, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council and Regional Body was established through a parallel interstate compact between the eight Great Lakes states and a companion international agreement between the eight Great Lakes states and the Canadian Provinces of Ontario and Quebec. This international agreement seeks to reduce future water resource conflicts between the jurisdictions and allows for standardization of water management program components in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence

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states and provinces to provide for the effective regulation of water withdrawals, consumptive uses, and diversions of water from out of the Basin.

Interstate Successor Organizations

The dismantling in 1981 of Water Resources Planning Act institutions, via Executive Order of the President, signaled the beginning of the end of the River Basin Era that began in 1940 and was characterized by unprecedented institution building at the river basin level. Soon after 1981, however, numerous states in regions throughout the nation took it upon themselves to “resurrect” the Title II commissions (minus the federal participation) to maintain basic planning and coordination services.

Interstate organizations serving as successors to compact organizations include member states who join of their own volition. Federal agencies participate as non-voting, advisory members.

As an example, the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association was formed as a successor to the former federally authorized Upper Mississippi River Basin Commission. When that Commission was terminated by a Presidential Executive Order in 1981, the Governors of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin signed a joint resolution calling for “the continuation of an interstate organization to maintain communication and cooperation among the states on matters related to water planning and management.”

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International Organizations: State Impacts

The same notion of communication, coordination and collaboration is found at the international level through institutions such as the Commission on Environmental Cooperation (US-Canada-Mexico), the International Boundary and Water Commission (US-Mexico), and the International Joint Commission and Great Lakes Fishery Commission (US-Canada). Such commissions apply the rights and obligations under numerous water treaties and related agreements, such as distribution and storage of waters in shared watersheds, flood control, and water quality protection.

International commissions tend to have a solid legal basis (i.e., treaty, convention or other formal agreement), generally broad planning and management functions, long term stability, and professional staff and significant institutional resources. International commissions, however, generally tend to concentrate authority within the federal governments of each nation, thereby limiting the role of sub-national entities such as state governments.

Interstate Organizations: Resource Recovery

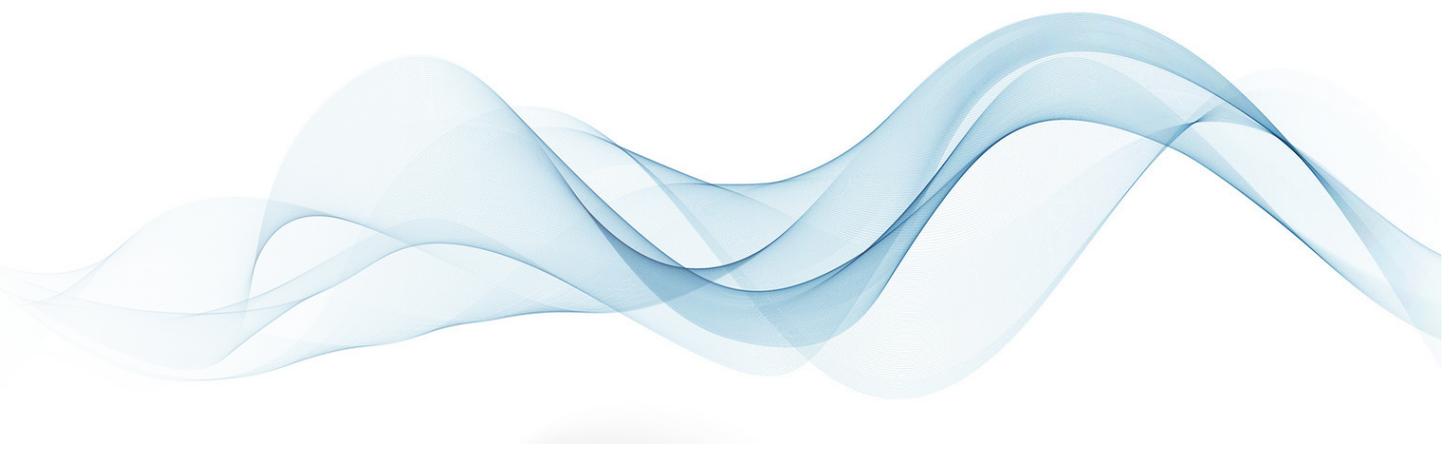
States often form interstate, river basin management groups to help member states achieve goals laid out by specific recovery programs. Such goals may include the recovery of vulnerable endemic species within the watershed or the attainment of discrete water quality goals. Often these management agreements are independent of (though coordinated with) compacts or other legal agreements on water allocation.

Several contemporary groups focus on water-dependent species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Upper Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery Program was created in 1988 to resolve potential conflicts between water supply management and endangered species protection in the Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah portions of the Upper Colorado River Basin. The program was established by a Cooperative Agreement signed by the Secretary of Interior, three state governors and other officials in January 1988. It is implemented by a governing committee that includes the signatory agencies and states, as well as representatives of the water and environmental communities, and operates by unanimous consensus.

The Platte River Recovery Implementation Program brings together the states of Wyoming, Colorado, and Nebraska, federal agencies, water users, and environmental groups to work collaboratively to improve and maintain habitats for designated species: the endangered whooping crane, interior least tern and pallid sturgeon, and the threatened piping plover. Rather than engaging in years of courtroom battles over limited water supplies and individual river species, the governors of the three basin states joined with the Secretary of Interior in July 1997 to sign a cooperative agreement. A Governance Committee consists of representatives of the three basin states, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, water users from each of the three basin states, and environmental groups. The secretary of the interior and the governors of Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska all signed a Final Program Agreement to benefit the four target species on the river in Nebraska and the program commenced on January 1, 2007. The Agreement and the Governance Committee are separate from the North Platte Amended Decree and its Decree Committee which sets the fundamental water allocation scheme on which the endangered species habitat work is built.

The Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) serves as a forum where stakeholders with diverse interests in the Missouri River basin can collaborate on recommendations for implementing the Missouri River Recovery Program. MRRIC was authorized by Congress in Section 5018 of the 2007 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). The Missouri River Recovery Program has a number of elements to the program to include flow management, habitat creation, adaptive management, hatchery support, and research. This program is funded annually to support these activities as well as the activities of the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee.

Members of the Chesapeake Bay Commission lead legislative and policy actions to restore the environmental health of the 64,000 square-mile Chesapeake Bay watershed for the benefit of its living resources and its 18 million citizens. Since its inception in 1980, the Commission has been a catalyst for the positive restoration signs we are now seeing. As a formal signatory to every interstate Bay agreement, the Commission serves as the legislative voice in the multi-jurisdictional Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership and as a liaison to the U.S. Congress on policy and budgetary matters related to the restoration of the Bay and its watershed.



Conclusion

Interstate and transboundary water compacts, agreements and treaties provide solid framework for reaching coordinated and comprehensive solutions to challenging water resource management issues. ICWP strongly supports that ample resources be directed to these commissions and other river basin organizations. Although the prospect for the development of many new basin organizations is low, there are remaining areas of the United States which could benefit from a negotiated compact arrangement to address current water allocation and water quality concerns. ICWP offers the insights gained from the formation and work of the myriad interstate organizations across the nation as a Primer to the complexities of multi-jurisdictional water management. We encourage those wishing to dive more deeply into the examples offered here to contact the ICWP (www.icwp.org).

More Information and Suggested Readings

Embracing Watershed Politics, by Edella Schlager and William Blomquist (Univ Press of Colo, 2008).

Western Water Rights and the U.S. Supreme Court; James H. Davenport Copyright Date: 2020. pISBN: 978-1-4766-8120-7. eISBN: 978-1-4766-4147-8; McFarland Books.

Sadoff, C. W., & Grey, D. (2002). Beyond the River: The Benefits of Cooperation on International Rivers. *Water Policy*, 4(5), 389–403. DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1366-7017\(02\)00035-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1366-7017(02)00035-1).

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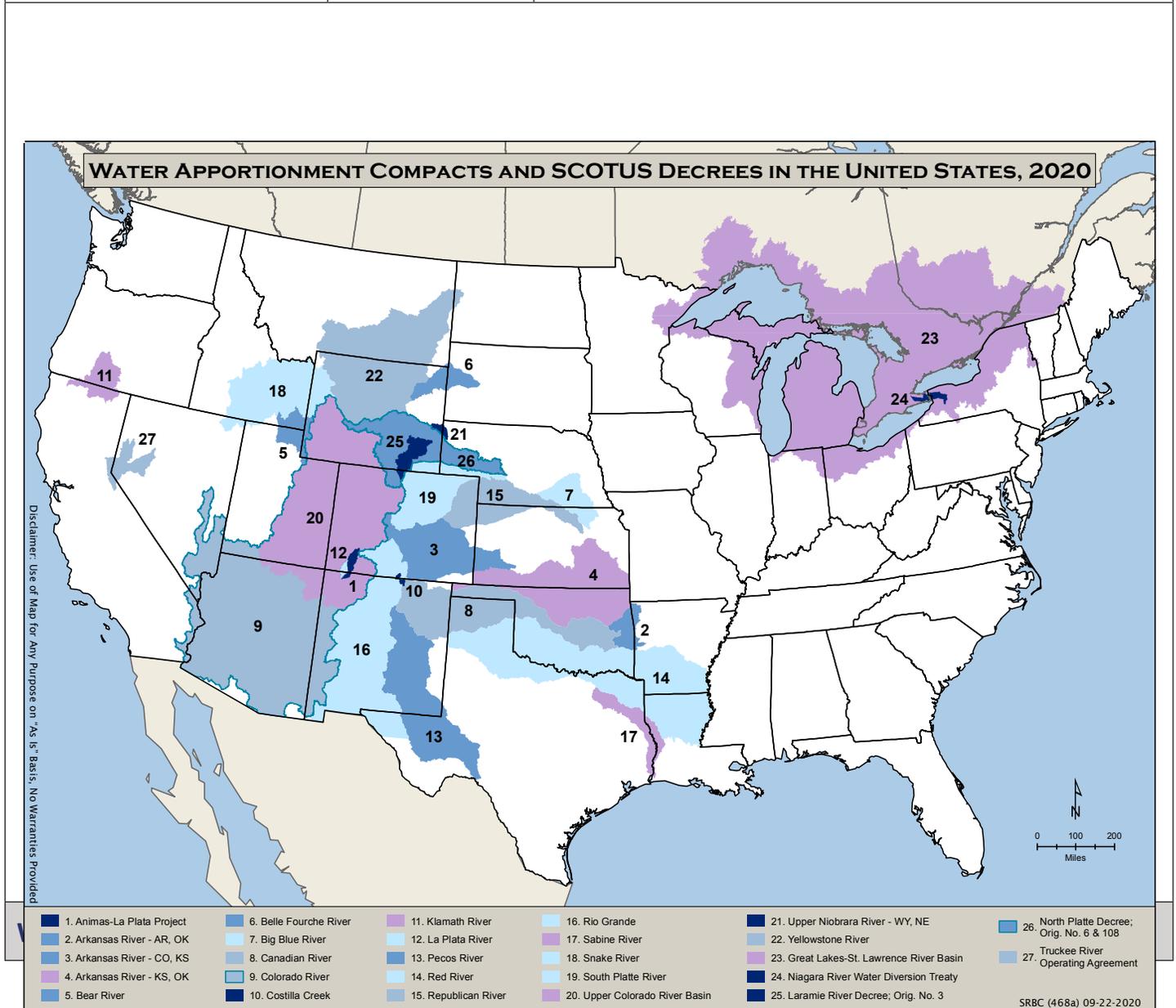
Soliev, I., & Theesfeld, I. (2017). Reframing for Sustainability: Exploring Transformative Power of Benefit Sharing. *Sustainability*, 9(8), 1486. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3390/su9081486>.

Appendix: Interstate Compacts/Agreements in the United States

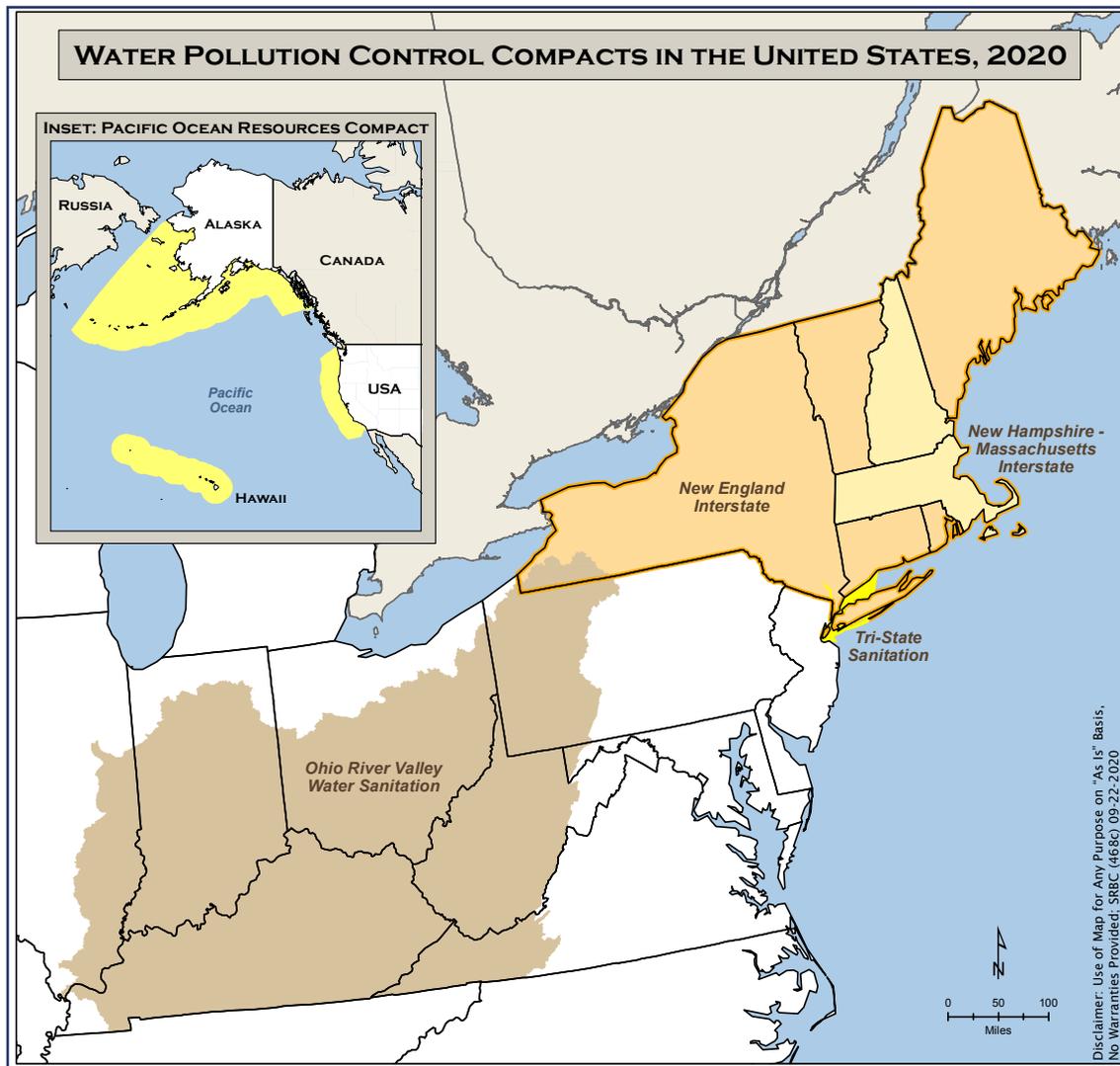
Organization	Congressional Approval	Roles of Organization
WATER APPORTIONMENT		
Animas-La Plata Project Compact	1968	Provides for storage and diversion of water from the Animas and La Plata River systems in Colorado and New Mexico for utilization in the Animas-La Plata Federal Reclamation Project.
Arkansas River Compact - Arkansas and Oklahoma	1970	Apportions the waters of the Arkansas River Basin. Creates the Arkansas-Oklahoma Arkansas River Compact Commission to administer the apportionment agreement, encourages pollution abatement programs, and facilitates cooperation for total development and management of water resources in the river basin. Commission advises a 100-member citizens organization known as the Arkhoma Association.
Arkansas River Compact - Kansas and Oklahoma	1965	
Arkansas River Compact - Kansas and Colorado	1948	
Bear River Compact	1958	Apportions the waters of the Bear River and establishes a commission to administer the compact among Idaho, Utah and Wyoming. Amended in 1980 to increase the storage allowance and establish a depletion level of 28,000 acre-feet annually. Also allocated new blocks of water for future development in Idaho and Utah.
Belle Fourche River Compact	1944	Apportions the waters of the Belle Fourche River with particular emphasis on administering public water supplies in South Dakota and Wyoming.
Big Blue River Compact	1971	Establishes a commission to promote interstate (Kansas/Nebraska) comity and equitably apportion the waters in the Big Blue River basin to promote orderly development of water resources and to continue active water pollution abatement programs in the party states. Provisions of the compact are administered by existing agencies in signatory states.
Canadian River Compact	1950	Establishes a commission to allocate and apportion waters of the Canadian River in New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas and to perform all functions required by the compact either independently or in cooperation with appropriate government agencies and to make and transmit annual reports to the governors and to the President on the commission's activities for the preceding year.
Colorado River Compact	1928	Apportions the waters of the Colorado River Basin. Congress authorized seven states in 1921 to negotiate the compact. Six of them ratified the compact promptly, but Arizona did not join until 1944. An amendment was adopted in 1925 to waive the requirement that all seven states approve. Congress accepted the revision in the 1928 Boulder Canyon Project Act, which however, required California's approval. California approved the amended compact in 1929.
Costilla Creek Compact	1946	Apportions the waters of Costilla Creek in Colorado and New Mexico and creates the necessary administrative structure. In 1963 both states and Congress approved an amendment perfecting further utilization of the interstate waters.

Organization	Congressional Approval	Roles of Organization
Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact	2008	The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council and Regional Body was established through a parallel interstate compact between the eight Great Lakes states and a companion international agreement between the eight Great Lakes states and the Canadian Provinces of Ontario and Quebec. This international agreement seeks to reduce future water resource conflicts between the jurisdictions and allows for standardization of water management program components in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence states and provinces to provide for the effective regulation of water withdrawals, consumptive uses, and diversions of water from out of the Basin.
Klamath River Compact	1955	Establishes a commission to promote comprehensive development, conservation and control of the resources of the Klamath River, and to foster interstate comity between California and Oregon.
La Plata River Compact	1925	Apportions the waters of the La Plata River between Colorado and New Mexico, and creates a joint commission to administer the compact.
Niagara River Water Diversion Treaty	1950	The Niagara River Water Diversion Treaty between Canada and the United States was created because of the concern of the uses of the waters of the Niagara River. Its purpose is to preserve and enhance the scenic beauty of Niagara Falls and the Niagara River, while providing for the most beneficial use of the river waters.
Pecos River Compact	1949	Establishes a commission to administer provisions of the compact and apportion the waters of the Pecos River between New Mexico and Texas.
Red River Compact	1955	Congress, in 1955, granted consent to Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas to negotiate a compact providing for an equitable apportionment among them of the waters of the Red River and its tributaries (69 Stat. 654).
Republican River Compact	1943	Establishes an agency to provide for the most efficient use of the waters of the Republican River Basin for multiple purposes and to provide for an equitable division of those waters among the party states. Provisions of the compact are administered by existing agencies of signatory states (Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas).
Rio Grande Compact	1939	Establishes the Rio Grande Commission to administer the compact and to apportion the waters of the Rio Grande River between Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas.
Sabine River Compact	1951	Establishes a commission to apportion the waters of the Sabine River and to plan develop and conserve the water resources of the river basin in Louisiana and Texas.
Snake River Compact	1943	Apportions the waters of the Snake River and directs that the compact be administered through the official in each state (Idaho and Wyoming) who is responsible for public water supplies and the collection of necessary data.

Organization	Congressional Approval	Roles of Organization
South Platte River Compact	1926	Establishes a commission to apportion the waters of the South Platte River between Colorado and Nebraska.
Upper Colorado River Basin Compact	1948	Establishes a commission to administer apportionment of the waters of the Upper Colorado River Basin System and to promote agricultural and industrial development. (Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and New Mexico)
Wyoming-Nebraska Compact on Upper Niobrara River Compact	1969	Apportions the waters of the Upper Niobrara River Basin and the groundwater common to Nebraska and Wyoming.
Yellowstone River Compact	1950	Establishes a commission to apportion the waters of the tributaries of the Yellowstone River among Montana, North Dakota, and Wyoming.



Organization	Congressional Approval	Roles of Organization
Mississippi River Interstate Pollution Phase Out Compact	1994	Establishes the Mississippi River Interstate Pollution Control Commission to eliminate water pollution under cooperative leadership between Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, Missouri, Kentucky, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, and the United States.
New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Compact	1947	Establishes a commission to coordinate the water pollution control activities of the signatory states as they pertain to the waters of the compact area. Other activities include the assurance of water quality planning and standards in the compact area improving groundwater program coordination and distributing public oriented information addressing current environmental issues.
New Hampshire-Massachusetts Interstate Sewage and Waste Disposal Facilities Compact	1994	Authorizes local governments and sewage districts in New Hampshire and Vermont to engage in programs for abatement of pollution through joint facilities for the disposal of sewage and other waste products.
Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Compact	1940	Establishes a commission for the purpose of maintaining waters in the river basin in a satisfactory condition, available for use as public and industrial water supply after reasonable treatment, suitable for recreational use, and capable of maintaining healthy aquatic communities, with the guiding principle being that pollution from one state shall not injuriously affect the various uses of the interstate waters.
Pacific Ocean Resources Compact	1994	Establishes an authority to coordinate and protect marine and coastal resources along the Pacific ocean. This includes encouraging uniform regulation of the transportation of oil and hazardous substances, providing a legal mechanism to regulate certain activities within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone, environmental monitoring and management, and ocean resource management. The compact becomes effective when two or more of Alaska, California, Hawaii or Washington ratify the compact and when it receives congressional consent. The Province of British Columbia is also eligible to join.
Tri-State Sanitation Compact	1935	Creates a commission to promote water pollution abatement and control within the tidal and coastal waters in the adjacent portions of Connecticut, New Jersey and New York. Since 1962, the commission has served as the coordinating and planning agency for air quality control Within the tri-state boundary area.



WATER RESOURCES AND FLOOD CONTROL

<p>Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Compact</p>	<p>1953</p>	<p>Establishes a commission to provide for financial reimbursement by downstream states for economic losses to political subdivisions in which flood control reservoirs are located. Commissioners have exercised more responsibility recently in keeping abreast of activities along the river which affect flood control.</p>
<p>Delaware River Basin Compact</p>	<p>1961</p>	<p>Establishes a commission as a regional multipurpose water resources regulatory agency with broad authorities for the planning, conservation, utilization, development, management and control of water resources and the promotion of cooperative and collaborative planning and action by the signatory parties. In addition to the four basin states (DE, NJ, PA, NY), the United States, represented by the USACE, is a party to the compact as well as having granted congressional consent to the agreement among states.</p>

Organization	Congressional Approval	Roles of Organization
Great Lakes Basin Compact	1968	Establishes a commission to advise and make recommendations to the member states concerning regional water resources matters. These including comprehensive water use, economic development, and maintenance of a high-quality environment.
Jennings Randolph Lake Project Compact	1994	Authorizes the West Virginia governor to join with Maryland and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the management, planning, operation and maintenance of the Jennings Randolph Lake Project in Mineral County, West Virginia, and Garrett County, Maryland. Provides for concurrent jurisdiction between West Virginia, Maryland and the Corps to enforce civil and criminal laws of the respective states concerning natural resources, boating and other regulations over the land and waters of the project.
Merrimack River (Basin) Flood Control Compact	1994	Establishes the Merrimack River Valley Flood Control Commission to coordinate flood control planning and water resource management in the basin of the Merrimack River and its tributaries.
New Hampshire-Vermont Interstate Public Water Supply Compact	1996	Agreement whereby joint public water supply facilities are erected and maintained.
Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin	1940 (water quality) 1970 (water resources and land issues)	The Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin is an advisory, non-regulatory interstate compact agency of the Potomac basin states of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The federal government also is a member. ICPRB was authorized by an act Congress in 1940 in response to extreme pollution levels that required a regional, cooperative response by all the jurisdictions. In 1970, amendments to the compact empowered ICPRB to address not just pollution issues, but water resources and related land issues by two or more jurisdictions. In 1979 the Commission created the Section for Cooperative Water Supply Operations on the Potomac (CO-OP), designated to be responsible for coordination of water resources during times of low flow.
Susquehanna River Basin Compact	1970	Establishes a commission as a regional multipurpose water resources regulatory agency with broad authorities for the planning, conservation, utilization, development, management and control of water resources and the promotion of cooperative and collaborative planning and action by the signatory parties. In addition to the three basin states (NY, PA, MD), the United States, represented by the USACE, is a party to the compact as well as having granted congressional consent to the agreement among states. Authorities also include water allocation and water quality monitoring.
Thames River Flood Control Compact	1958	Establishes a commission to administer the compact and promotes the cooperation in flood control and in the use of water resources of the Thames River Basin. (Connecticut and Massachusetts)

Organization	Congressional Approval	Roles of Organization
Tri-State Agreement on the Chesapeake Bay	1980	The Chesapeake Bay Commission is a tri-state legislative advisory group created in 1980 and composed of 21 legislators, executive branch appointees and citizens from Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania. The purpose of the commission is to advise the state legislatures on matters of concern regarding the restoration and management of Chesapeake bay. The commission is also a signatory to the 1987 Chesapeake Bay Agreement along with the governors of Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, the mayor of the District of Columbia and the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. In that capacity, the commission is obligated to move forward initiatives of the multi-jurisdictional Chesapeake Bay Program.
Wabash Valley Compact	1994	Created to promote better development of the natural resources within the Wabash Valley. Areas of focus for this compact's work are the improvement of agricultural function, recreational use and economic success. (Illinois & Indiana)
Wheeling Creek Watershed Protection And Flood Prevention District Compact	1967	Establishes a commission for the purpose of administering programs of flood control and preservation of natural resources and recreational facilities in the Wheeling Creek watershed. (Pennsylvania & West Virginia)

