

# SCIENCE

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## INTERNATIONAL AND INTERSTATE ASPECTS OF THE COLORADO RIVER PROBLEM<sup>1</sup>

THE Colorado River has a drainage basin 244,000 square miles in extent. Parts of seven states and a small section of Mexico are embraced within this watershed. But the amount of water contributed to the discharge of the river by the several states and by Mexico bears no definite relation to the extent of watershed in each. This will be seen from the following figures compiled from records of the United States Geological Survey:

Political Subdivision	Watershed Area
	sq. miles
Colorado	39,000
Wyoming	19,000
Utah	40,000
Nevada	12,000
New Mexico	23,000
Arizona	103,000
California	6,000
Total United States	242,000
Mexico	2,000
Total	244,000

The mean annual discharge of Colorado River and its tributaries is indicated by the following figures:

Name of Stream	Drainage Area square miles	Discharge acre-feet
Green River	44,000	5,510,000
Grand River (Upper Colorado)	26,000	6,940,000
San Juan River	26,000	2,700,000
Other tributaries, not including the Gila	91,000	1,560,000
Gila River	47,000	1,070,000
Colorado River at Laguna Dam		16,400,000

<sup>1</sup>Symposium on "The Problems of the Colorado River," American Association for the Advancement of Science, Salt Lake City.