

# THEORY OF CHANGE

COLORADO RIVER BASIN



Even as climate change intensifies droughts and wildfires across the Colorado River Basin, the Walton Family Foundation believes there are practical reasons to be *hopeful and take action* to protect and conserve water resources in the West. **Through conservation, collaboration and engaging communities closest to the challenges at hand, we work to find solutions so that nature and people can thrive together.**

## WHAT



### Inclusion

Engage, empower and learn from a diverse set of communities, governments, leaders and funders to drive impact

- ▶ Support tribal-led institutions to permanently elevate tribal interests in water decision-making
- ▶ Empower communities to collaboratively manage their rivers
- ▶ Collaborate with other funders and leverage government funding programs to drive investment in better water outcomes



### Innovation

Develop and drive adoption of nature-based and technological solutions

- ▶ Test nature-based approaches to water management
- ▶ Build champions for innovation through knowledge-sharing and storytelling
- ▶ Use research, technology and data to make better water management decisions that benefit water users as well as rivers



### Supply Chain

Scale effective practices by building supply and demand for goods that use less water

- ▶ Adapt agricultural systems to the changing climate while improving producer incomes
- ▶ Grow the demand and supply of sustainable products



### Policy

Promote state and federal policies that make the Basin more resilient to climate change

- ▶ Incentivize river management rules that prioritize conservation and water for the environment
- ▶ Encourage groundwater management reforms in Arizona that protect water supply and the last remaining rivers in the desert Southwest
- ▶ Support binational agreements that protect a healthy water future for the Colorado River Delta
- ▶ Encourage nature-based approaches and watershed health in state policies

## WHO

### Farmers and Ranchers

Adapt agricultural systems to the changing climate



### Communities, tribes and all levels of government

Implement nature-based approaches for climate resilience and advocate for better water management



## WHERE



## WHY

Dedicate more water to the environment

Use less water

Improve watershed health

