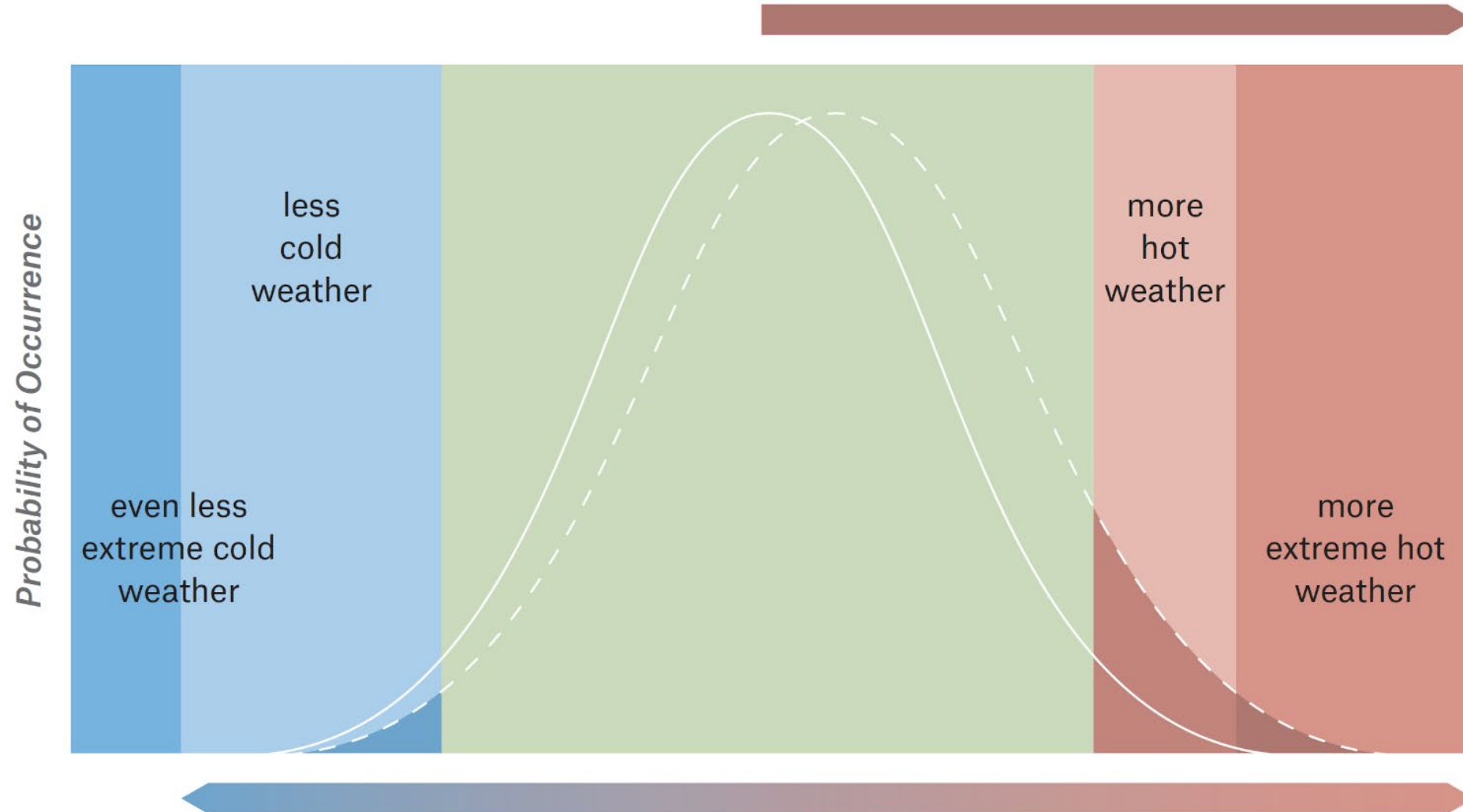


A stylized, flat-design illustration of a desert landscape. The background features a warm orange and yellow sky with several soft, white, rounded clouds. Below the sky, there are layers of mountains and hills in various shades of orange, red, and brown. In the foreground, a prominent mountain range is depicted in a darker blue-purple hue. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern, with a focus on bold colors and simple shapes.

# **TEN STRATEGIES FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN**

# Climate Change in the Colorado River Basin

*Progressive Climate Change Shifts the Mean Away from Historic and Expected Conditions*



*Extreme Events Extend the Bounds of Possible Conditions*

# Ten Strategies for Climate Resilience

Urban Conservation & Re-Use	Upgrading Agricultural Infrastructure & Operations	Forest Management & Restoration	Natural Distributed Storage	Covering Reservoirs & Canals
EXPERIENCED		EMERGING		THEORETICAL
Industrial Conservation & Re-Use	Cropping Alternatives & New Market Pathways	Regenerative Agriculture	Coal Plant Retirement Water	Reducing Dust on Snow

# Resilience Questions

Could the investment help the Basin  
**adapt to on -going  
climate shifts?**

To what extent would the investment  
**reduce pressure on  
existing water supplies?**

Would the investment help  
**mitigate climate  
change?**

Could the investments  
**strengthen economic  
resilience in  
communities?**



adapt  
mitigate  
strengthen

# Forest Management & Restoration

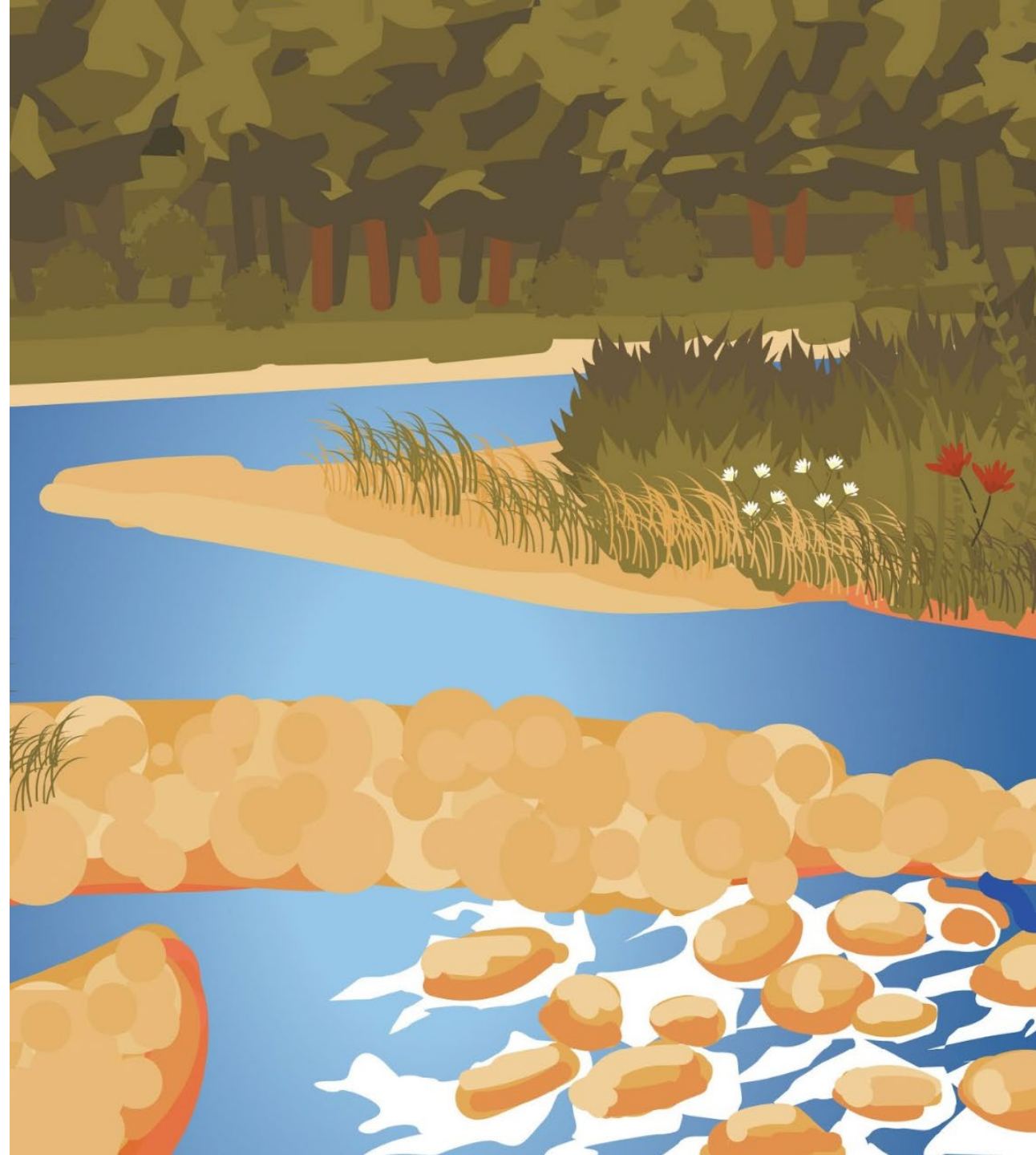
Prioritizing forest management and restoration to maintain system functionality and biodiversity



adapt  
mitigate  
strengthen

# Natural Distributed Storage

Restoring highly degraded natural meadow systems to improve local aquifer recharge, water retention, reconnect historic floodplains, and support productive meadows and riparian ecosystems





adapt  
reduce  
mitigate  
strengthen

# Regenerative Agriculture

Promoting voluntary farming and ranching practices that enrich soils, enhance biodiversity, restore watershed health, and improve overall ecosystem function and community health



adapt  
reduce  
mitigate  
strengthen

# Upgrading Agricultural Infrastructure & Operations

Upgrading diversion, delivery and on-farm infrastructure and operations, including irrigation systems, to improve water conservation





adapt  
reduce  
mitigate  
strengthen

# Cropping Alternatives & New Market Pathways

Developing on-farm operational shifts and market and supply chain interventions to incentivize water conservation, e.g. shifting to lower water - use crops



adapt  
reduce  
mitigate  
strengthen

# Urban Conservation & Re-Use

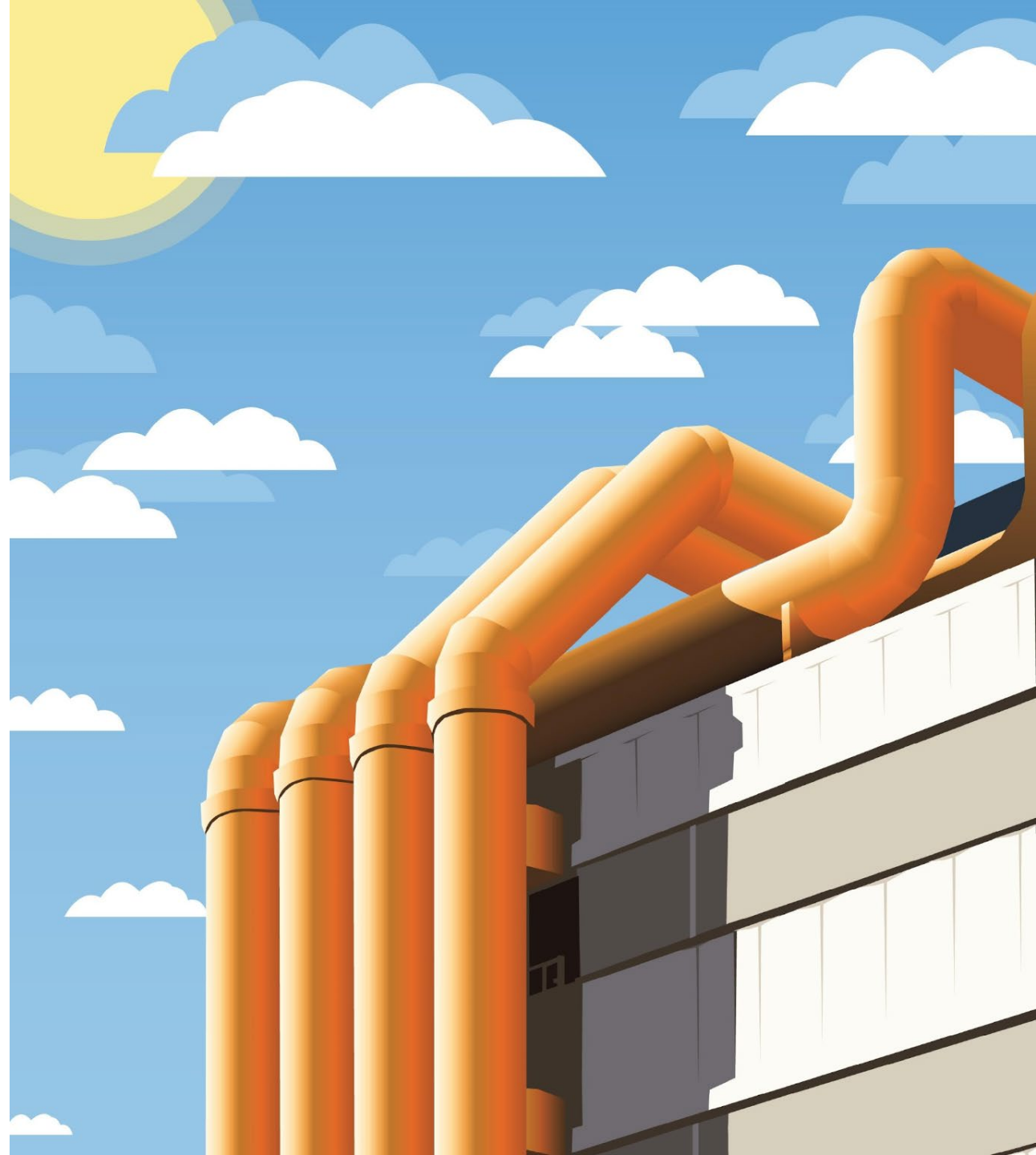
Incentivizing conservation technologies, indoor and outdoor conservation programs, and direct and indirect potable reuse without negatively impacting downstream fish, wildlife, or ecosystem functions



adapt  
reduce  
mitigate  
strengthen

# Industrial Conservation & Re-Use

Incentivizing modifications and upgrades to reduce water use and increase energy efficiencies





adapt  
reduce  
mitigate

# Coal Plant Retirement Water

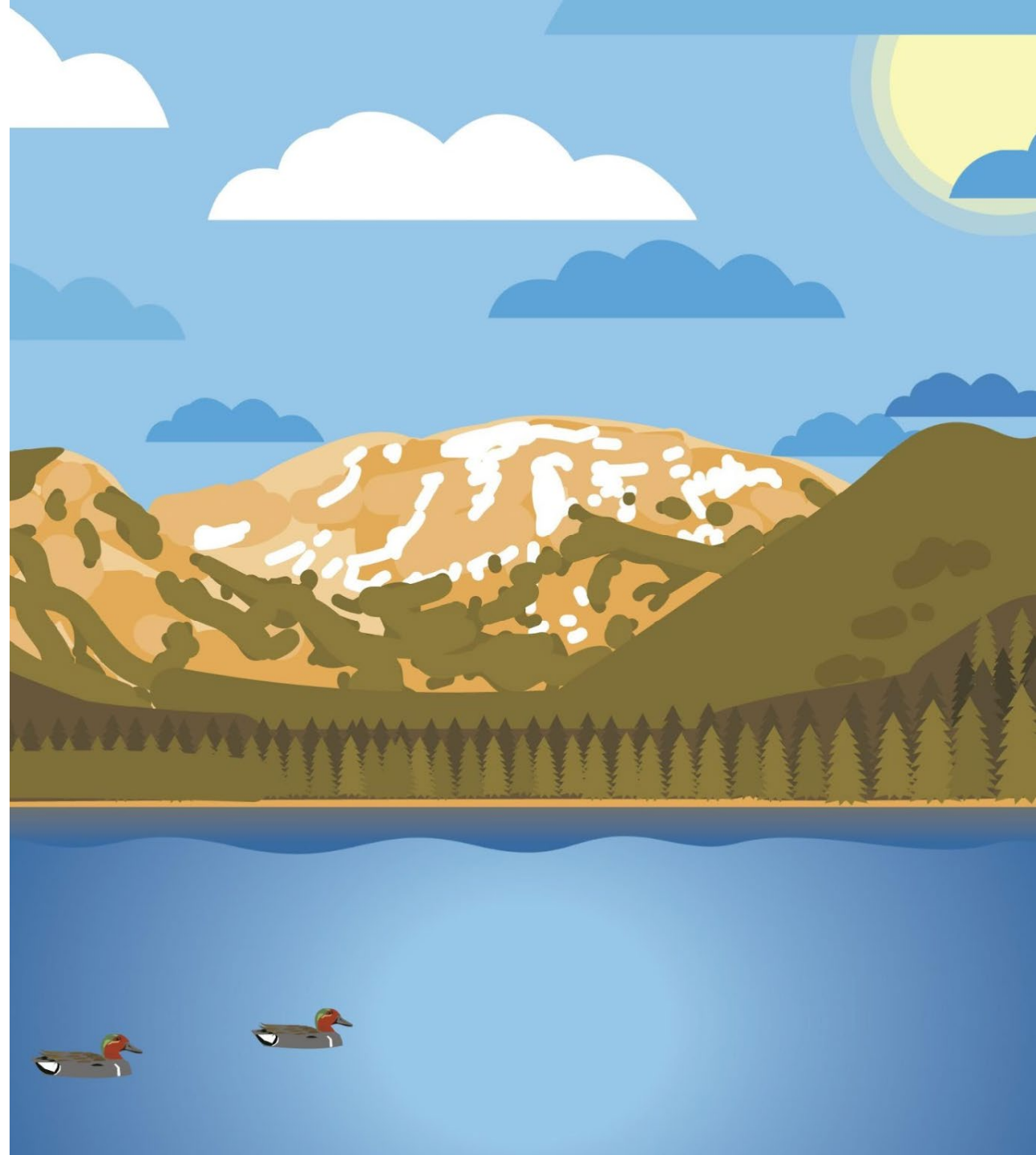
Purchasing or reallocating water rights from closed or retiring coal plants to be used for system or environmental benefits, or other uses



adapt  
reduce

# Reducing Dust on Snow

Improving land management practices to reduce the dust on snow effect -- which controls the pace of spring snowmelt that feeds the headwaters of the Colorado River



adapt  
reduce  
strengthen

# Covering Reservoirs & Canals

Implementing solutions to reduce evaporation from reservoirs and conveyance systems





# Next Steps

## **Demonstration Projects & Investments**

Identifying and implementing demonstration projects and shovel-ready investments that generate place-based and regional benefits and build knowledge on the applicability, scalability and co-benefits of each investment.

**Financing.** Designing a financing strategy for a diversified and coordinated project portfolio to support the implementation and monitoring of on-the-ground projects within each of the strategies.

**Research.** Developing an action-oriented research scope that monitors and tracks pilot projects to explore outcomes for the ten strategies including water supply gains, adaptation benefits, and climate mitigation potential.



New resource: Fact sheets and data base of all IIJA programs that could fund water-related climate resilience strategies.

[www.tenstrategies.net/newfederalfunding](http://www.tenstrategies.net/newfederalfunding)



# TEN STRATEGIES FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN

[www.tenstrategies.net](http://www.tenstrategies.net)