

Form Letter 1

Dear Bureau of Reclamation BOR,

I use and recreate on public lands and waters. As water levels have decreased in the recent past in reservoirs in the Colorado Basin I am concerned with the future of Lake Powell, Lake Mead and communities that rely on the economic opportunity recreation brings.

I support BOR adopting the lower basin states proposal as the preferred alternative. I believe there are many factors BOR needs to consider when adopting plans such as hydrology, water consumption, recreation, economies and agriculture. The lower basin states is a good alternative and compromise for low water years until the post 2026 guidelines can be completed.

I do believe this plan could be improved if BOR used more than a 24 month analysis to predict water levels for the balancing tiers and releases. Because we had a great water year in 2022-2023, this does not mean Lake Powell and Lake Mead aren't still at critical levels. BRC recommends a 5 year analysis. Hydrology reports also are from September 2022 and June 2023. BOR should be using a 5 year average for hydrology analyses. Using best available science is crucial for NEPA and using a longer study will give more accurate data points.

BOR should always consider economic values of recreation in any decisions regarding Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Glen Canyon National Recreation Area is a significant national treasure as well as a spectacular generator of economic growth. GCNRA averages \$250 million to \$450 million in annual revenue. It gives rise to over 5000 jobs. Its economic multiplier is 10, giving rise to somewhere between \$2 - \$4 billion in direct economic value to its surrounding and regional areas. The latest economic impact report from the National Park Service shows that Glen Canyon lost \$207 million in economic activity during low water years of 2022 and 2023. Lake Mead lost \$114 million to low water levels.

These are not inconsequential losses, and they suggest that outdoor recreation on these reservoirs is one of the other important interests that needs to be a stakeholder in this process.