Letter #: 837

Date Received: 12/19/2022

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Organizations:

Subject: Fwd: Reclamination 2007 interm guidelines SEIS project manager

After attending the CRWUA conference I was disappointed to hear numerous speakers talk about how complicated the issue is to not drain Lake Powell and Lake Mead. I was disappointed. I am not an engineer or attorney but just a farmer that has run our irrigation resevoir. The solution is simple if you don't want the lakes to run dry you don't allow any more water to run out than you have come in. If you want to build the lakes back up you need to not let as much water run out as you have going into the lake.

One presenter showed that on December 15, 2022:
Lake Powell inflow - 4,600 CFS
Lake Powell release - 9,700 CFS

Lake Mead inflow - 10,000 CFS
Lake Mead release - 10,000 CFS

Even I can see that you are intentially draining both Lake Powell and Lake Mead.

I would recommend that at a certain elevation say 3600 ft for Lake Powell, if the water level drops below that level, you do not allow the releases to be greater than what is coming in. If the water level drops below say 3,550, you limit release to 10% less than the inflow. If it drops below say 3500 ft then you limit release to 20% less that the inflow.

I recommend the same type of restrictions for Lake Mead with apporpriate adjustments for elevations. At some designated elevation on each lake you should never have more going out than coming in the lake. I don't know enough about both lakes to know what elevations should be used.

All BOR water contracts should be adjusted to provide for the retrictions.

When you are dealing with shortages the Lower basin should never be allowed to take more water than the upper basin. I believe that if lower basin had been restricted the past 100 years, both Lake Mead and Powell would be close to full.

Evaporation loss must be accounted for both in the Lake Powell and Lake Mead.

You must recognize the the upper basin does not have the storage and therefore are limited to rainfall and snowpack.

Please contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely

Tom Goodwin