Attachment A

Summary of 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan

1. Current (as of April 2026) and Projected Hydrological Information:

1.1 Insert current and projected elevations at Lake Powell, including graphic representation from the Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) multi-year projections;

The April forecast for water year 2026 (October 2025-September 2026) ranges from a minimum probable of 2.78 million acre-feet (maf) (29 percent of average[1]) to a maximum probable of 5.73 maf (60 percent of average) with the most probable forecast for water year 2026 of 3.88 maf (40 percent of average) (Figure 1). There is a 10 percent chance that inflows could be higher than the current maximum probable forecast and a 10 percent chance that inflows could be lower than the minimum probable forecast.

Based on the April 2026 most probable forecast of 3.88 maf unregulated inflow for water year 2026, the Colorado River Mid-term Modeling System 24-Month Study (24-Month Study) Most Probable scenario projects Lake Powell will end water year 2026 near elevation XXX feet with approximately XXX maf in storage (XX percent of capacity). Note that projections of elevation and storage for water year 2026 have considerable uncertainty at this point in the season. Projections of end of water year 2026 Powell elevations using the April 2026 24-Month Study Minimum Probable and Maximum Probable inflow forecast results model runs are XXX feet (XX percent of capacity) and XXX feet (XX percent of capacity), respectively (Figure 2). The annual release volume from Lake Powell during water year 2026 is 7.48 maf as determined under Section 6.C.1 of the 2007 Interim Guidelines and may be adjusted in accordance with the 2024 Record of Decision for the Supplement to the 2007 Interim Guidelines (2024 SEIS).

Powell elevation as of April 10, 2026, is 3526.82feet (24 percent of capacity). The projected elevation based on the April 2026 24-Month Study for December 2026 is XXX feet (XX percent of capacity) under the Most Probable scenario and XXX feet (XX percent of capacity) under the Minimum Probable projection.

[1] Percent of average is based on the historical unregulated inflow for the period of record between October 1, 1990 through September 30, 2020 comprising the 1991 through 2020 water years.

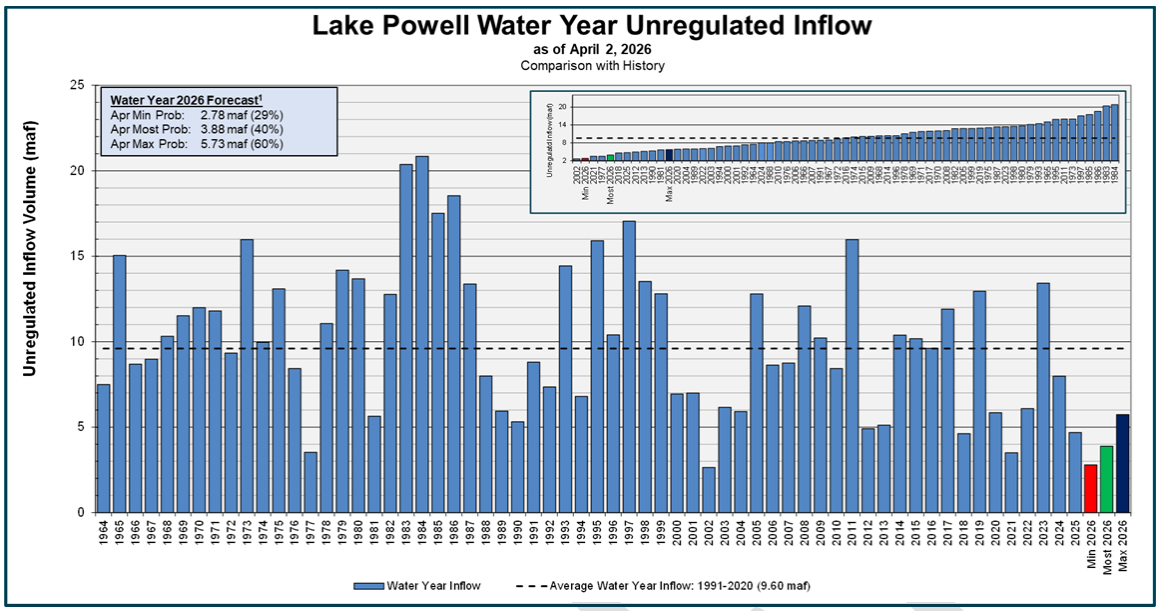
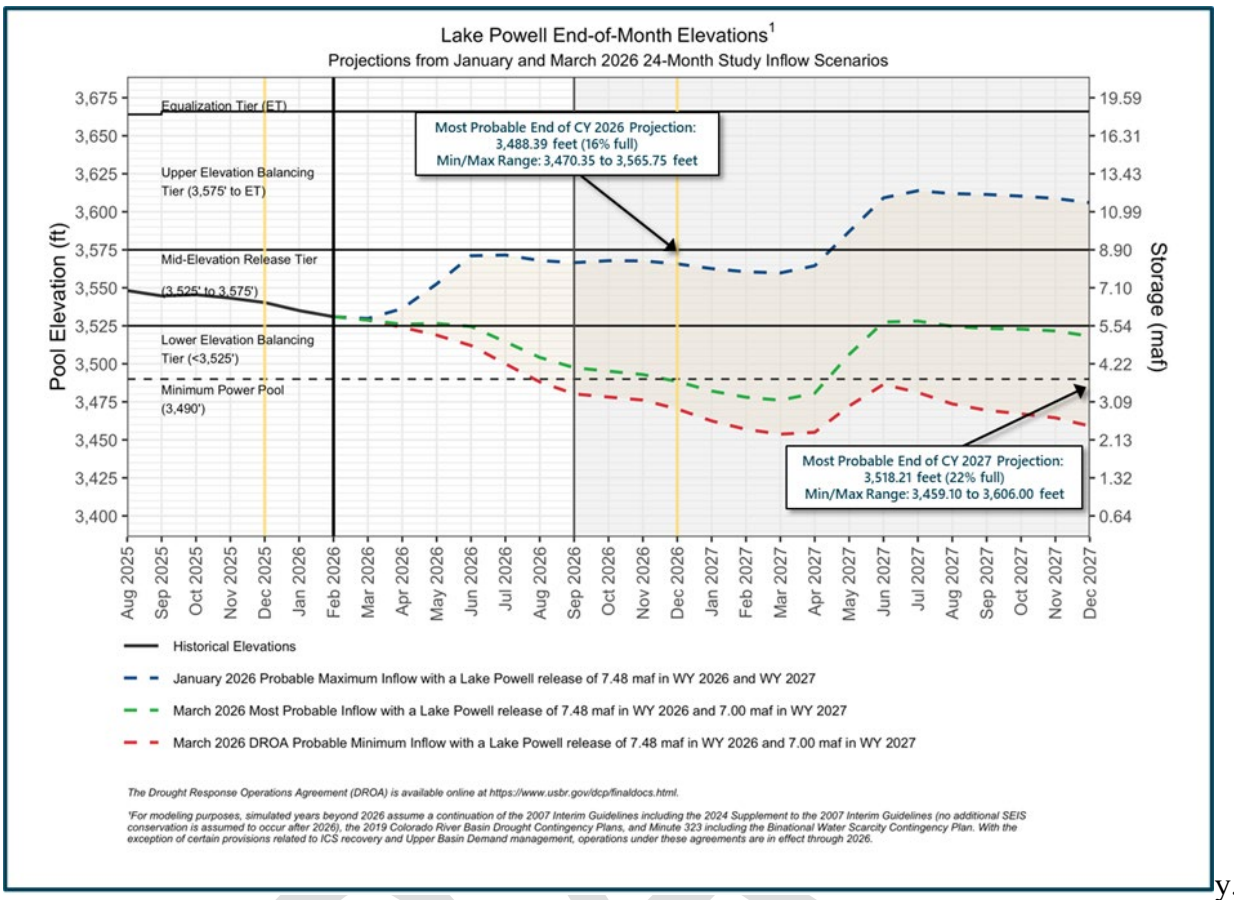


Figure 1. Lake Powell unregulated inflow for Water Year 2026 with the forecast issued April 2, 2026, for minimum, maximum and most probable forecasts as compared against chronological historical water year unregulated inflow forecasts.

Figure 2. Lake Powell historical and projected end of month elevations using the Maximum, Minimum and Most Probable forecasts from the April 2026 24-Month Study.



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1.2 Insert Reclamation's most recent Colorado River Mid-term Modeling System 24-Month Study (24-Month Study);

Reclamation's April 2026 24-Month Study Most Probable scenario can be found using this hyperlink:

Reclamation's April 2026 24-Month Study Minimum Probable scenario can be found using this hyperlink:

Reclamation's April 2026 24-Month Study Maximum Probable scenario can be found using this hyperlink:

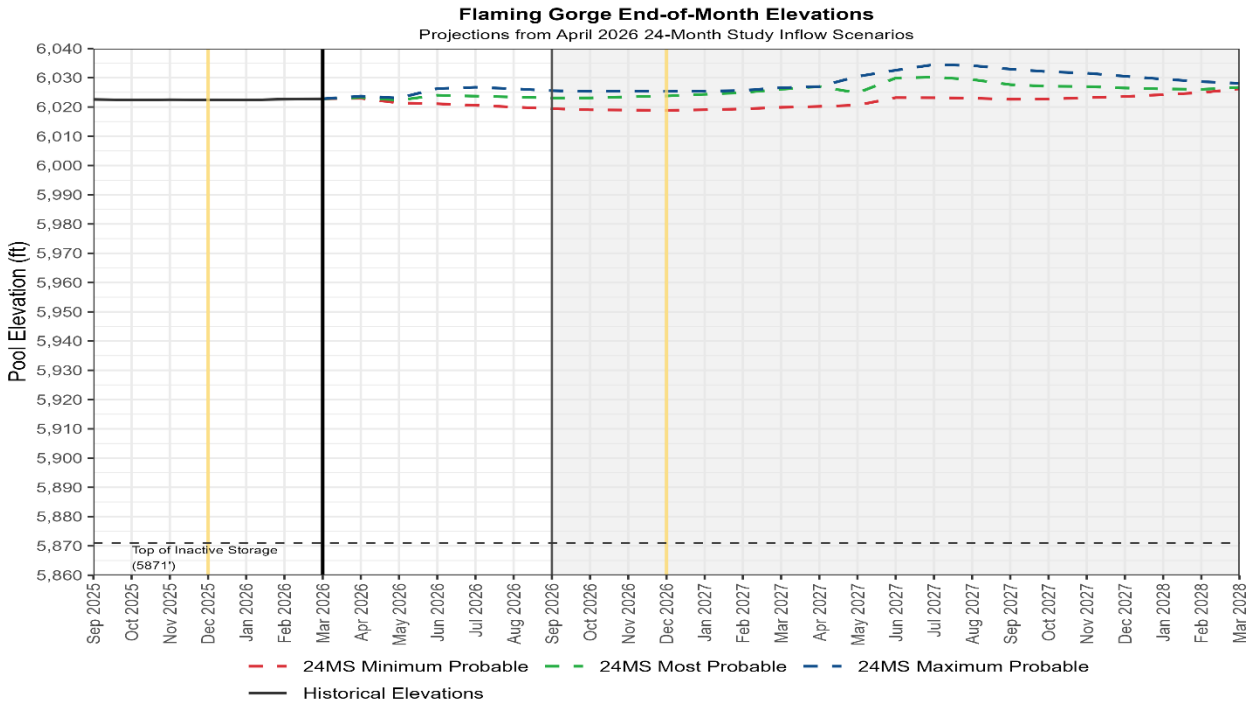
1.3 Insert identification of months when the 24-Month Study Minimum Probable inflow and the Most Probable inflow each projected Lake Powell to be at an elevation below the Target Elevation;

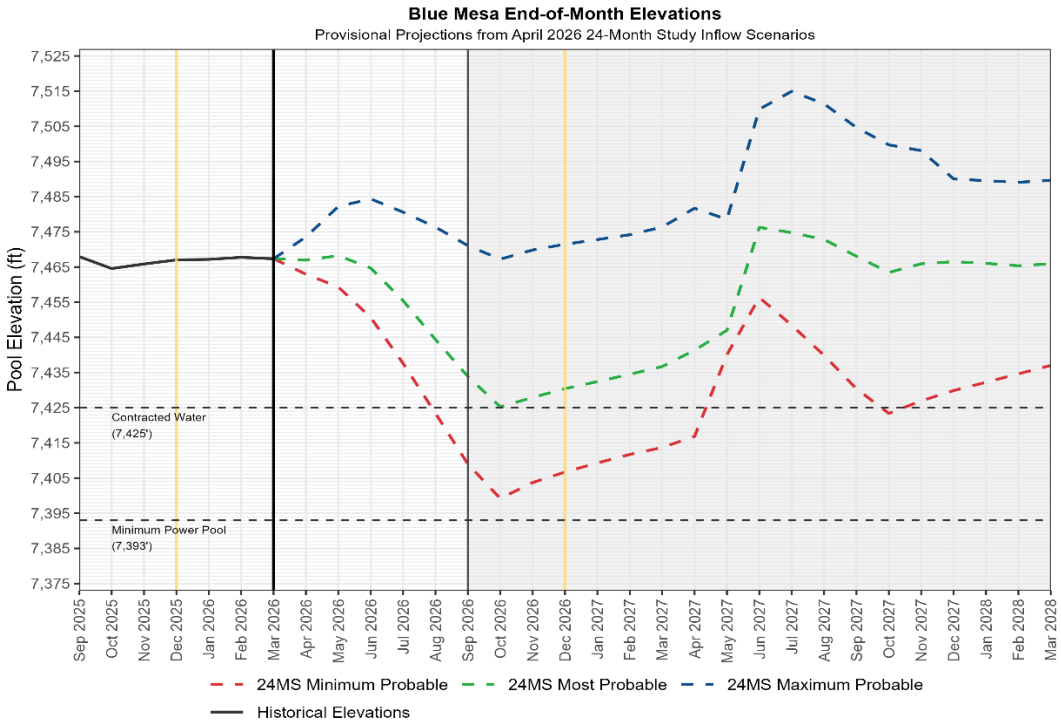
Monthly 24-Month Study Reports present hydrological descriptions and projected operations for the Colorado River system reservoirs for the next two years. The 24-Month Study computer model projects future reservoir conditions and potential dam operations for the system reservoirs given existing reservoir conditions; inflow

forecasts and projections; and a variety of operational policies and guidelines. Monthly reservoir inflow forecasts and projections are produced by the National Weather Service, Colorado Basin River Forecast Center.

Powell elevations based on the Most Probable April 2026 24-Month Study decrease below the Target Elevation in May and remain below the Target Elevation through March 2028. Powell elevations based on the Minimum Probable April 2026 24-Month Study decrease below the Target Elevation in May 2026 and remain below the Target Elevation through March 2028. The elevation decreases below minimum power pool in July ending the Minimum Probable April 2026 24-Month Study model run at elevation XXX feet at the end of XXX.

1.4 Insert current and projected elevations at each of the Initial Units for the following 24 months;





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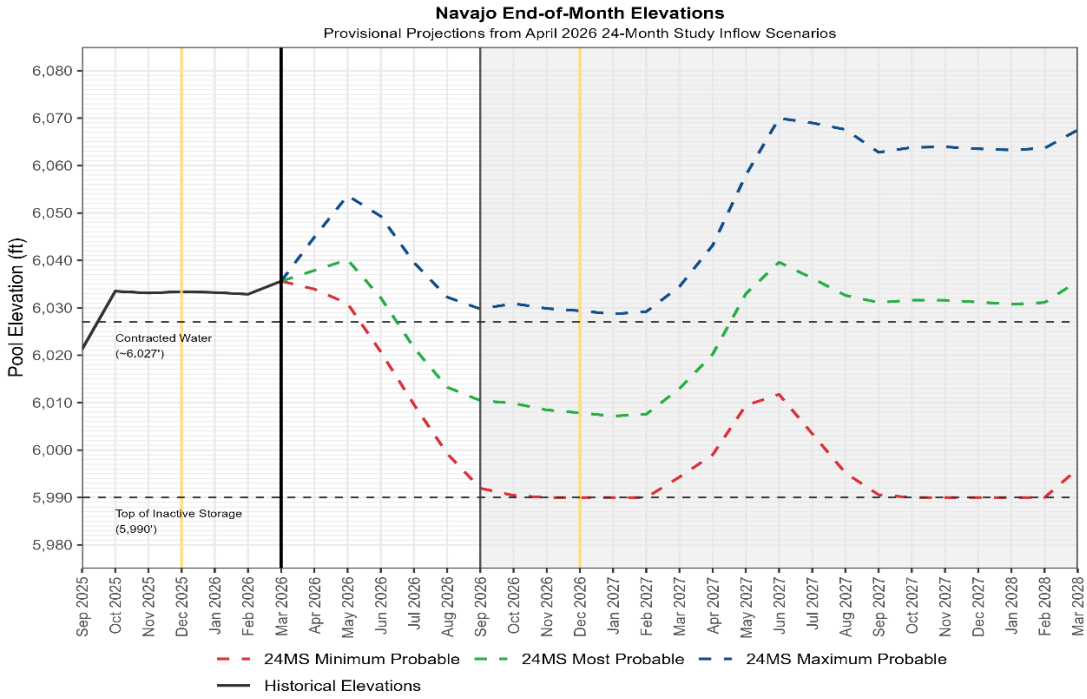

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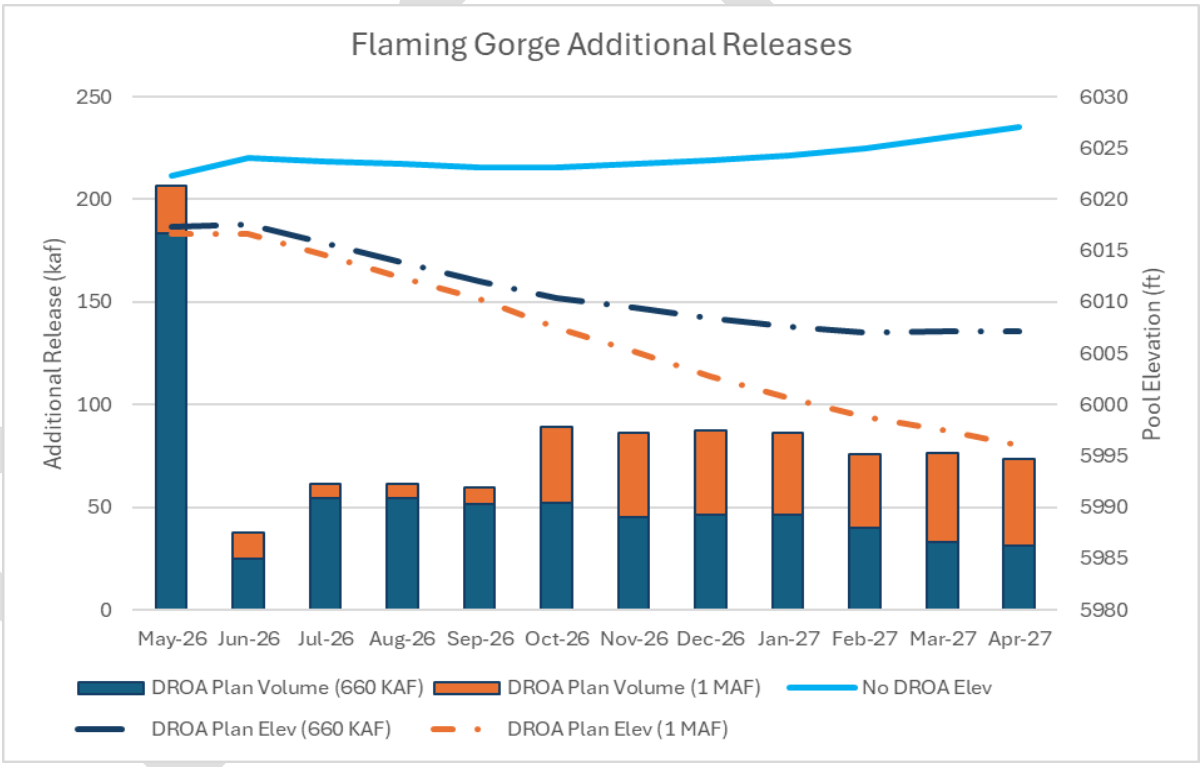
1.5 Insert availability of water for Drought Response Operations at each of the Initial Units and the timing of such water availability;

i. Glen Canyon: Glen Canyon Dam operational adjustments during fall 2026 through spring 2027 will be evaluated pursuant to 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan Section 5.2.2, Lake Powell Monthly Operations Adjustments.

ii. Flaming Gorge: After consideration of potential Drought Response Operations release scenarios by the Flaming Gorge Technical Working Group and the Flaming Gorge Working Group, the volume of Drought Response Operations releases from Flaming Gorge under current conditions will be from approximately 660,000 acre-feet up to approximately 1 million acre-feet as follows:



iii. Aspinall: Based on the current conditions, inflow forecast, existing contractual and release obligations, no Drought Response Operations Release will occur in Water Year 2026. In early water year 2027, the DROA Parties will reconsider Drought Release Operations based on conditions at that time.

iv. Navajo: Based on the current conditions, inflow forecast, existing contractual and release obligations, and the potential for the reservoir to fall into inactive pool without additional Drought Response Operations Releases, no Drought Response Operations Release will occur in water year 2026. In early water year 2027, the DROA Parties will reconsider Drought Release Operations based on conditions at that time.

1.6 Insert summary of previous Drought Response Operations at each Initial Unit Glen Canyon, Flaming Gorge, Aspinall, Navajo), if any. The summary will include:

1.6.1 Previous Drought Response Operation Agreement Actions Prior to Current Plan

1.6.1.1 Previous Drought Response Operation Agreement Actions Prior to current plan at Glen Canyon Dam

Reclamation began monthly adjustments at Glen Canyon Dam on December 1, 2025, taking initial steps to protect Lake Powell dropping below the Target Elevation. The monthly volume of water released from Glen Canyon Dam was adjusted to hold back 598 thousand acre-feet (kaf) of water in Lake Powell from December 2025 to April 2026. These actions are further addressed in Attachment B.

1.6.1.2 Previous Drought Response Operation Agreement Actions prior to current plan at upstream Initial Units

Previous DROA Plan releases can be found here:

https://usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/dcp/droa.html

1.6.2 Estimated effect on Lake Powell from Drought Response Operation Releases based upon best available information

Reclamation estimates, based on its existing models, for 2026, the total estimated increase is up to approximately 19 feet by the end of the DROA Plan. Additional analysis will continue that could improve estimates of the effect of Drought Response Operations releases on Lake Powell.

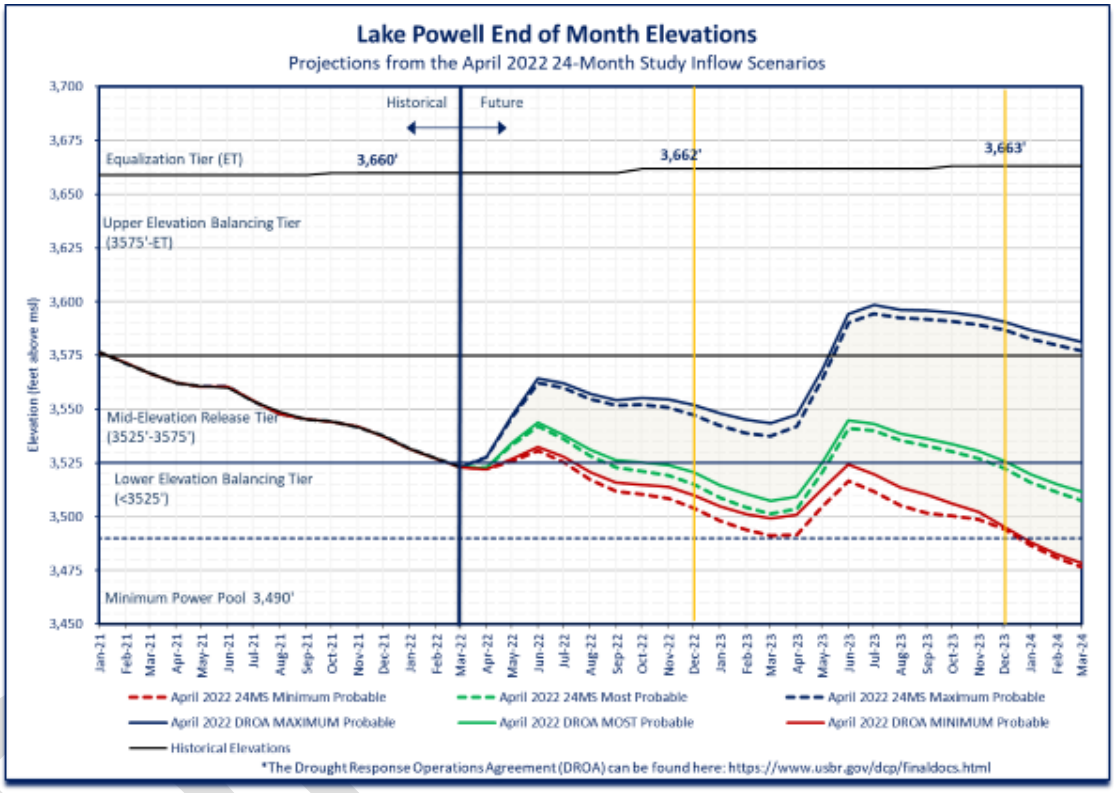
1.6.3 Status of Recovery from previous Drought Response Operation Releases, including any releases pursuant to Emergency Actions

To date, prior DROA releases have been fully recovered. Previous DROA Plan recovery can be found here:

https://usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/dcp/droa.html

2. Insert summary of 2026 Drought Response Operations. This summary will include the following:

2.1 Projections for the Drought Response Operations incorporated for the Minimum, Maximum, and Most Probable inflow traces.



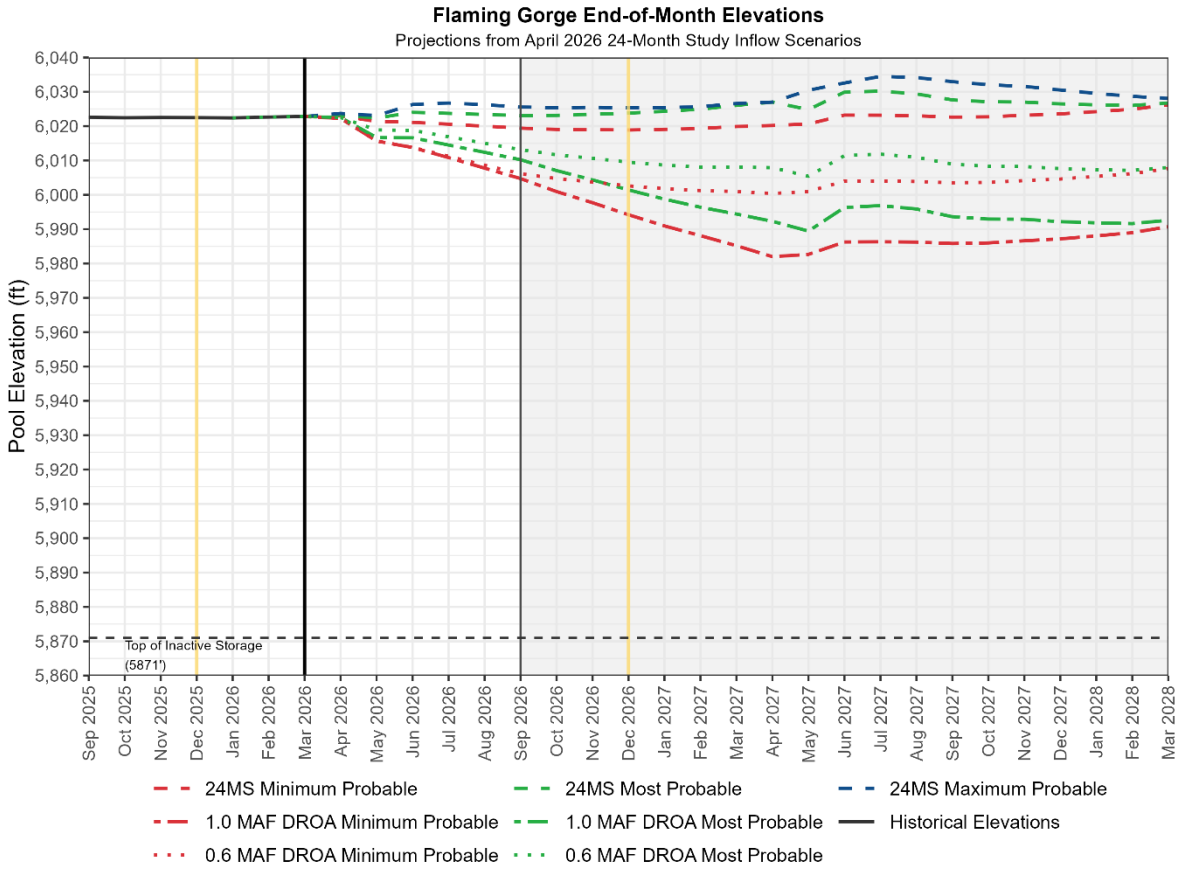
2.2 A description of operational adjustments at Glen Canyon Dam, if any, which will include a comparison of such operational adjustments to operations when no adjustments are made. This comparison may be provided through text, tables, figures, and graphs as needed.

Glen Canyon Dam operational adjustments during fall 2026 will be evaluated pursuant to 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan Section 5.2.2[2], Lake Powell Monthly Operations Adjustments. These operational adjustments will be based on projections of the Target Elevation at Lake Powell during winter and spring 2027.

2.3 A description of Drought Response Operations releases and recovery at affected Initial Units, as applicable, as set forth in Attachments C through E. This will include the amount of water involved (rate, volume, and timing), a description of each

[2] The 2007 Interim Guidelines and 2019 Drought Contingency Plans expire at end of calendar year 2026. A NEPA process is underway to analyze potential annual operations at Lake Powell (beginning October 1, 2026) and Lake Mead (beginning January 1, 2027).

reservoir's water level over the following 24 months.



3. *Summary of the application of the effectiveness criteria described at Section 5.3. These criteria include, without limitation:*

The Parties have analyzed the effectiveness of the 2026 DROA Plan pursuant to the terms described in Section 5.3. Due to uncertainty regarding water year 2027 operations, the Upper Division States have determined they are currently unable to analyze the effectiveness of the 2026 DROA Plan beyond water year 2026. Additionally, the Upper Division States have analyzed the 2026 DROA Plan consistent with the September 2023 Resolution[3]. This analysis used the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center's (Forecast Center) April 1, 2026, minimum probable and most probable forecasts consistent with Reclamation's April 2026 24-Month Study projections. The evaluation of effectiveness considers the DROA Target Elevation of

[3] Resolution of the Upper Colorado River Commission, *Clarifying Principles for Future Releases from Upstream Initial Units Under the 2019 Drought Response Operations Agreement*, dated September 21, 2023.

3,525' at Lake Powell and also the critical infrastructure elevation of 3,490' at Lake Powell. The DROA identified the target elevation of 3,525' as the level at which to begin to take proactive measures to protect Lake Powell from declining below elevation 3,490'. There are increasing risks to water management, infrastructure and hydropower resources as Lake Powell declines towards 3490'. Reclamation has identified 3,500' as the operational elevation to provide protection from declining to 3,490'[4]. Accordingly, the analysis considered the reduction in risk of Lake Powell declining below elevation 3,525' and 3,500' in order to protect critical infrastructure at 3,490' with contemplated release volumes ranging from approximately 660,000 acre-feet up to approximately 1 million acre-feet from the Upstream Initial Units[5]. The DROA Parties will consider additional potential Drought Response Operations during the course of their monitoring activities.

Moreover, the overall effectiveness of the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan may benefit from operational actions the Secretary of the Interior may take at Lake Powell during water year 2026, in particular reducing Glen Canyon Dam releases from 7.48 MAF to as low as 6.0 MAF, consistent with his authorities under the 2007 Interim Guidelines, as supplemented by the 2024 SEIS (6E reduction). Taken together, the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan and the Secretary's proposed 6E reduction in release volumes from Lake Powell during water year 2026 will delay or avoid the operational uncertainties associated with Lake Powell elevations declining below 3,490'. In addition, Reclamation's operation of Glen Canyon Dam in WY 2027 will impact the effectiveness of operations under the 2026 DROA Plan which will be evaluated by the Parties when Water Year 2027 operations are determined.

Analyses of the effectiveness of the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan are based on Reclamation's 2026 April 24-Month Study and Reclamation's operational plan for Lake Powell through water year 2026. The analyses are limited to the effectiveness of the proposed 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan based on the 2026 April 24-Month Study and do not create precedent for future DROA Plan effectiveness determinations.

The Parties analyzed the effectiveness of the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan based on the following criteria, without limitation:

3.1 The likelihood that the Drought Response Operation will increase the risk of a net decrease in the elevation at Lake Powell over any consecutive 12-month period based on the most recent 24-Month Study;

[4] Elevation 3,500' is identified as the elevation to "maintain" in Section 6(E) of the 2024 Near-Term Operations SEIS.

[5] End of Water Year 2026 DROA release volume is approximately 650,000 acre-feet to 750,000 acre-feet.

Analyses of the April 2026 24-Month Study shows that the inclusion of the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan will not cause a net decrease to Lake Powell elevations through the end of water year 2026. Analyses of risk of net decrease in elevation in water year 2027 will be evaluated when Reclamation determines water year 2027 operations.

3.2 The extent to which conducting a Drought Response Operation for certain durations and at certain times during the water year might affect the ability of the released water to reach Lake Powell;

The operations under the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan are coincident with the timing of the 2026 runoff period and extended baseflow releases for Recovery Implementation Program experiments, thereby increasing the proportion of the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan releases reaching Lake Powell. Downstream uses from the mainstem Green River are satisfied by baseflows, even under minimum baseflow conditions under the Flaming Gorge Record of Decision.

3.3 The extent to which a Drought Response Operation changes the risk of Reclamation being unable to meet obligations related to an Upstream Initial Unit in future years at times after the 12-month period when a Drought Response Operation would occur;

The DROA Parties, in the development of the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan, considered the necessity of maintaining appropriate storage such that the Upstream Initial Units can continue to meet operational requirements and commitments. Reclamation has determined that it can continue to meet its contractual and operational requirements after the 12-month period concluding the 2026 DROA Plan. These commitments are further described in Attachment C. The 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan does not increase the risk of the Upstream Initial Units failing to meet their operating requirements and commitments by maintaining sufficient storage at the end of the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan through April 30, 2027.

3.4 The degree to which a Drought Response Operation minimizes, to the extent practicable, impacts of the Drought Response Operation to natural resource conditions;

TBD

The 2022 Drought Response Operations Plan provides natural resource benefits by facilitating enhanced experimental flows from Flaming Gorge in accordance with the 2005 Biological Opinion and 2006 Record of Decision for the reservoir. Without the 2022 Drought Response Operations Plan, experimental flows from Flaming Gorge would be limited to Larval Trigger Study Plan experiments and smallmouth bass spike releases, along with baseflow transition periods. However,

with the 2022 Drought Response Operations Plan, additional experimental flows, including experimental Colorado pikeminnow base flows, are coincident with and facilitated by the 2022 Drought Response Operations Plan, thus providing an additional natural resource benefit. Additionally, impacts to river flows and Flaming Gorge reservoir water levels related to recreation were considered, along with potential downstream flooding risks.

3.5 The degree to which a Drought Response Operation minimizes, to the extent practicable, impacts to the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund and impacts to the reliability of the Western Interconnected Bulk Electrical System;

TBD

The 2022 Drought Response Operations Plan will provide releases from Flaming Gorge, and the potential for releases from Aspinall Unit (Blue Mesa), and thus an incremental increase in hydropower generation. However, this increase may be offset by a seven-day bypass release from Flaming Gorge as part of the 2022 Drought Response Operations Plan. Consequently, there is the potential for a negative impact to the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund due to reduced power revenues resulting from the bypass operation. Navajo Reservoir was not considered in this analysis because it does not generate CRSP hydropower.

The potential negative impacts to hydropower production at Flaming Gorge are offset by reduction of risk to interruption in hydropower production at Glen Canyon Dam. Analysis of the full range of hydrologic scenarios using the April 24 Month Study model ensemble demonstrates that the Plan reduces the risk of falling below elevation 3,490 ft. by approximately 10%, increasing the likelihood of Lake Powell maintaining hydropower generation capability throughout the period of the Plan to over 80%. Hydropower operations at Glen Canyon Dam are a significant resource in protecting the stability of the Western Interconnected Bulk Electrical System.

3.6 The extent to which a Drought Response Operation minimizes adverse effects to resources and infrastructure in the Upper Basin and provides additional certainty on Colorado River water management, including but not limited to associated economic implications;

TBD
The 2022 Drought Response Operations Plan minimizes potential adverse impacts to resources and ultimately protects infrastructure in the upstream Initial Units. The DROA Parties note that the 2022 Drought Response Operations Plan provides additional certainty to Colorado River water management by reducing the risks of

Lake Powell declining below critical operating elevations, which would result in reservoir releases conducted solely through the Glen Canyon Dam river outlet works. There is a risk to Colorado River water management operations and critical infrastructure at Glen Canyon Dam resulting from the exclusive use of the river outlet works for releases.

3.7 The extent to which a Drought Response Operation recovery at a particular Initial Unit will occur or has occurred.

The 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan does not contemplate recovery of DROA release volumes through the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan year. The required recovery volumes from the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan will be based on analysis of Operations Without Drought Response.