# Attachment B

## 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan

## Operational Adjustments at Glen Canyon Dam

1. Glen Canyon Dam Operations Without Drought Response

The 2007 Interim Guidelines, as supplemented, control annual release volumes. Any monthly adjustments to Glen Canyon Dam releases cannot and do not change annual release volumes. Monthly releases from Glen Canyon Dam are determined by the 2016 Record of Decision for the Glen Canyon Dam Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP), as supplemented, which addresses hourly, daily, monthly, and experimental releases from Glen Canyon Dam and a variety of resources below Lake Powell in accordance with the Grand Canyon Protection Act of 1992. These operational parameters determine the flexibility for any Drought Response Operation.

2. Current Hydrology

The April forecast for water year 2026 ranges from a minimum probable of 2.78 maf 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 elevation will end water year 2026 near XX 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). Under these scenarios, there is a 10 percent chance that inflows will be higher, resulting in higher elevation, and a 10 percent chance that inflows will be lower, resulting in lower elevation. Under Section 6.C.1 of the 2007 Interim Guidelines, the annual release volume from Lake Powell during water year 2026 will be 7.48 maf, unless adjusted in accordance with the 2024 SEIS.

[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.

Powell elevation as of April 10, 2026, is 3,526.86 feet (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.

Based upon the April 2026 24-Month Study, Powell elevations, under the Most Probable scenario, are expected to decrease below the Target Elevation beginning June 2026 before rebounding above the Target Elevation in June 2027.

Powell elevations based on the Minimum Probable April 2026 24-Month Study decrease below the Target Elevation in April 2026 and remain below the Target Elevation through the end of the model run. The elevation decreases below minimum power pool in August 2026 and is projected to remain below minimum power pool through the remainder of the model run.

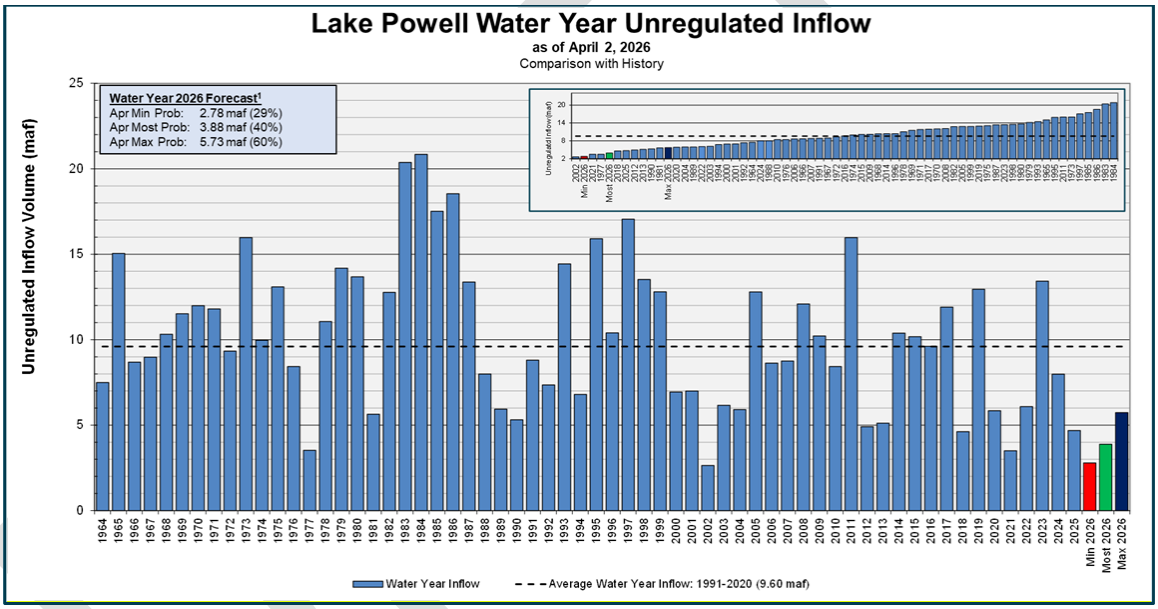


Figure 1. Lake Powell unregulated inflow for Water Year 2026 with the forecast issued April 2, 2026, for minimum, maximum, and most probable forecasts as compared against chronological historical water year unregulated inflow forecasts.

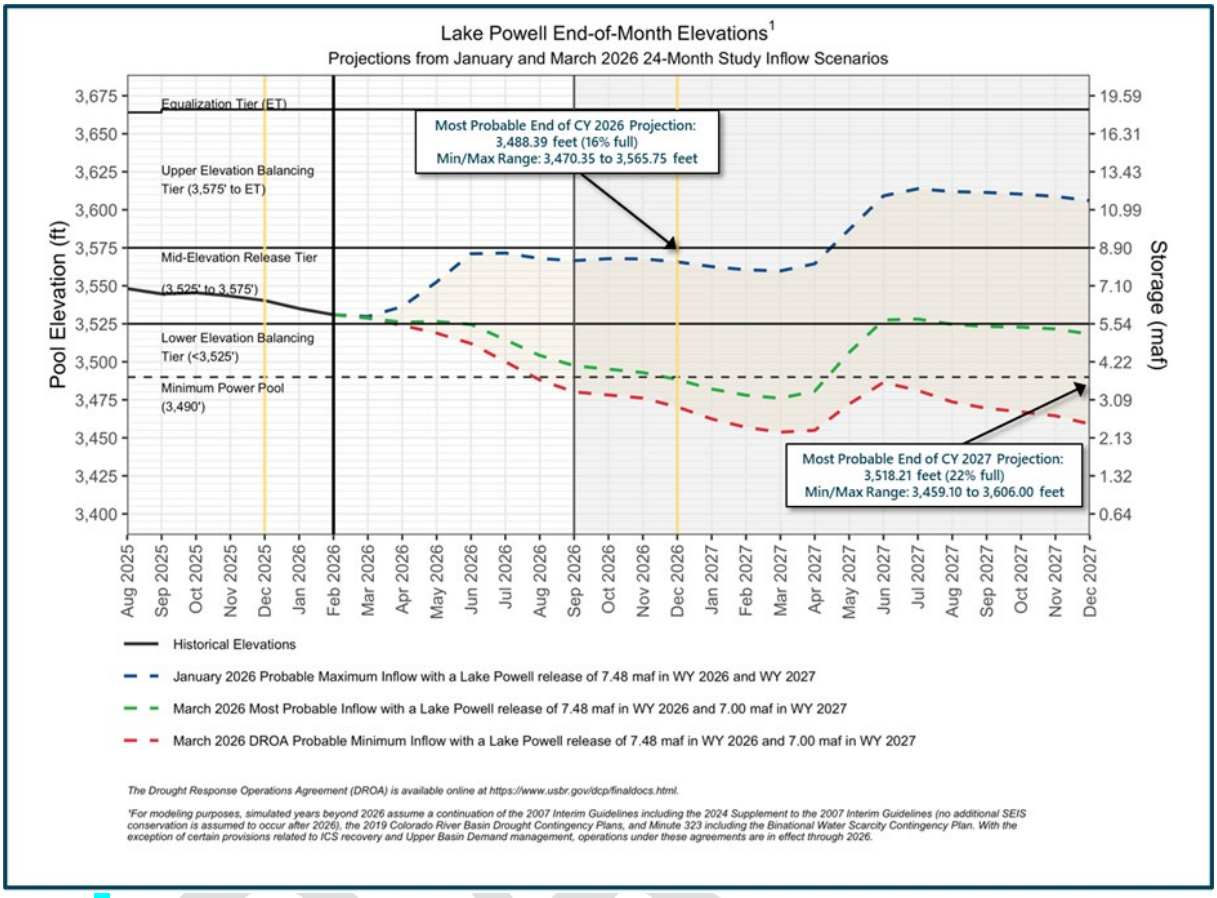


Figure 2. Lake Powell historical and projected end of month elevations using the Maximum, Minimum and Most Probable forecasts from the April 2026 24-Month Study.

3. Glen Canyon Dam without Drought Response during Plan year

The operation of Lake Powell in the April 2026 24-Month Study is pursuant to the Interim Guidelines and reflects the 2026 Annual Operating Plan (AOP). Pursuant to the Interim Guidelines, the August 2025 24-Month Study projections of the January 1,2026, system storage and reservoir water surface elevations set the operational tier for the coordinated operation of Lake Powell during 2026.

The August 2025 24-Month study projected the January 1, 2026, Lake Powell elevation to be less than 3,575 feet and at or above 3,525 feet. Consistent with Section 6.C.1 of the Interim Guidelines the operational tier for Lake Powell in water year 2026 is the Mid-Elevation Release Tier and the water year release volume from Lake Powell is 7.48 maf, unless adjusted to as low as 6.0 MAF, consistent with authorities under the 2007 Interim Guidelines, as supplemented by the 2024 SEIS (6E reduction).

As described in the 2019 Drought Response Operations Agreement and the 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan Section 5.2.2, Lake Powell Monthly Operations Adjustments, Lake Powell monthly release volumes are determined by the 2016 Record of Decision for

the Glen Canyon Dam Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP), which addresses hourly, daily, monthly, and experimental releases from Glen Canyon Dam. The standard monthly release volume patterns for a range of annual flows, including for a 7.48 maf water year release volume, is contained in Attachment B of the LTEMP ROD. (Figure 3).

| | Monthly Release Volume (thousand ac-ft)[a] | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Annual | 7,000 | 7,480 | 8,230 | 9,000 | 9,500 | 10,500 | 11,000 | 12,000 | 13,000 | 13,000 |
| October | 480 | 480 | 643 | 643 | 643 | 643 | 643 | 643 | 643 | 643 |
| November | 500 | 500 | 642 | 642 | 642 | 642 | 642 | 642 | 642 | 642 |
| December | 600 | 600 | 716 | 716 | 716 | 716 | 716 | 716 | 716 | 716 |
| January | 664 | 723 | 763 | 857 | 919 | 1,041 | 1,102 | 1,225 | 1,347 | 1,470 |
| February | 587 | 639 | 675 | 758 | 813 | 921 | 975 | 1,083 | 1,192 | 1,300 |
| March | 620 | 675 | 713 | 801 | 858 | 973 | 1,030 | 1,144 | 1,259 | 1,373 |
| April | 552 | 601 | 635 | 713 | 764 | 866 | 917 | 1,019 | 1,121 | 1,223 |
| May | 550 | 599 | 632 | 710 | 761 | 862 | 913 | 1,014 | 1,116 | 1,217 |
| June | 577 | 628 | 663 | 745 | 798 | 905 | 958 | 1,064 | 1,171 | 1,277 |
| July | 652 | 709 | 749 | 842 | 902 | 1,022 | 1,082 | 1,202 | 1,322 | 1,443 |
| August | 696 | 758 | 800 | 899 | 963 | 1,091 | 1,156 | 1,284 | 1,413 | 1,537 |
| September | 522 | 568 | 600 | 674 | 722 | 819 | 867 | 963 | 1,059 | 1,160 |

[a] Release volumes in October, November, and December typically do not vary in years with annual volumes ≥ 8.23 maf because the forecasted annual release volume is not known in the beginning of the water year. In other months, release volumes generally follow the proportions shown in the third column of Table 2, up to the maximum and minimum flow constraints presented in Table 1. Within a year, monthly operations may be increased or decreased based on factors referenced in Section 1.2 and 1.3.

Figure 3. LTEMP Attachment B, Table 3 setting forth the monthly volume releases for each water year release monthly release volume determined under the 2007 Interim Guidelines.

4. Glen Canyon Dam Drought Response Operations

   a. Previous Drought Response Operations Agreement Actions Prior to Current Plan – Spring 2026

Based upon the October 2025 24-Month Study, Powell elevations under the Minimum, and Most Probable scenarios were projected to decrease below the Target Elevation beginning February 2026. Projections in the October 2025 24-Month Study rebounded above the Target Elevation in the Most Probable scenario in May 2026; however, Lake Powell projections did not rebound above the Target Elevation under the Minimum Probable scenario. Accordingly, 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 adjusted releases are designed to help protect the Target Elevation at Lake Powell until spring runoff materializes. The monthly volume of water released from Glen Canyon Dam is being adjusted to hold back 598 thousand acre-feet (kaf) of water in Lake Powell from December to April 2026. Under DROA, the monthly adjustments do not change the annual release volume from Lake Powell. However, for

water year 2026, the Secretary is proposing an annual release volume adjustment under 6E of the 2024 SEIS.

The adjusted monthly release patterns during the December through April 2026 period for Glen Canyon Dam were discussed during the Glen Canyon Dam operational coordination meeting, and the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group hydrology and operations discussion.

Current estimates of Lake Powell elevation below the Target Elevation based on the Most Probable April 2026 24-Month Study is projected to be XXX feet, which corresponds to XXX kaf below the Target Elevation at the end of the calendar year.

b. Drought Response Operations (May 2026-April 2027)

Glen Canyon Dam operational adjustments during spring 2027 will be evaluated pursuant to 2026 Drought Response Operations Plan Section 5.2.2, Lake Powell Monthly Operations Adjustments. These operational adjustments will be based on projections of the Target Elevations at Lake Powell during winter and spring 2027. Operations in water year 2027 are uncertain at this time, and will impact the effectiveness of 2026 DROA Plan, as described in Attachment A, Section 3.

5. Contracts

Existing water supply contracts and agreements at Glen Canyon Dam are described below. Any future contracts which become executed will be described here. Water supply contracts and agreements are not impaired by monthly release volumes.

i. City of Page: 2,740 af/yr.

ii. Navajo Nation – LeChee Chapter (expires 12/23/2049): 950 af/yr.

6. Coordination regarding Glen Canyon operations

LTEMP Attachment B, Section 1.3 resource impacts were analyzed and specifically discussed for water delivery, sediment, hydropower production and WAPA's assessment of the Basin Fund, and Tribal concerns.