



— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION

# **Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

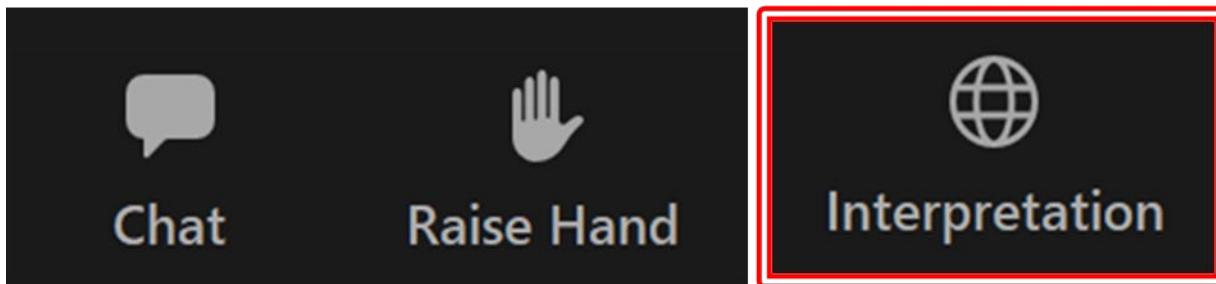
## **Virtual Public Meetings – January 29 and February 10, 2026**

The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m., MST on January 29 and 5:30 p.m., MST on February 10  
*La interpretación en vivo será disponible en español.* Live interpretation will be available in Spanish.

Dial In: (888) 475-4499; Webinar ID: 994 4482 1801

# Live Spanish Interpretation

La interpretación en vivo esta disponible en español



Live language interpretation is available in Spanish



# Public Meeting Agenda

- Introductory Remarks and Welcome
- Presentation
- Public Comment
- Closing Remarks



# Zoom Etiquette



Presentation is being recorded



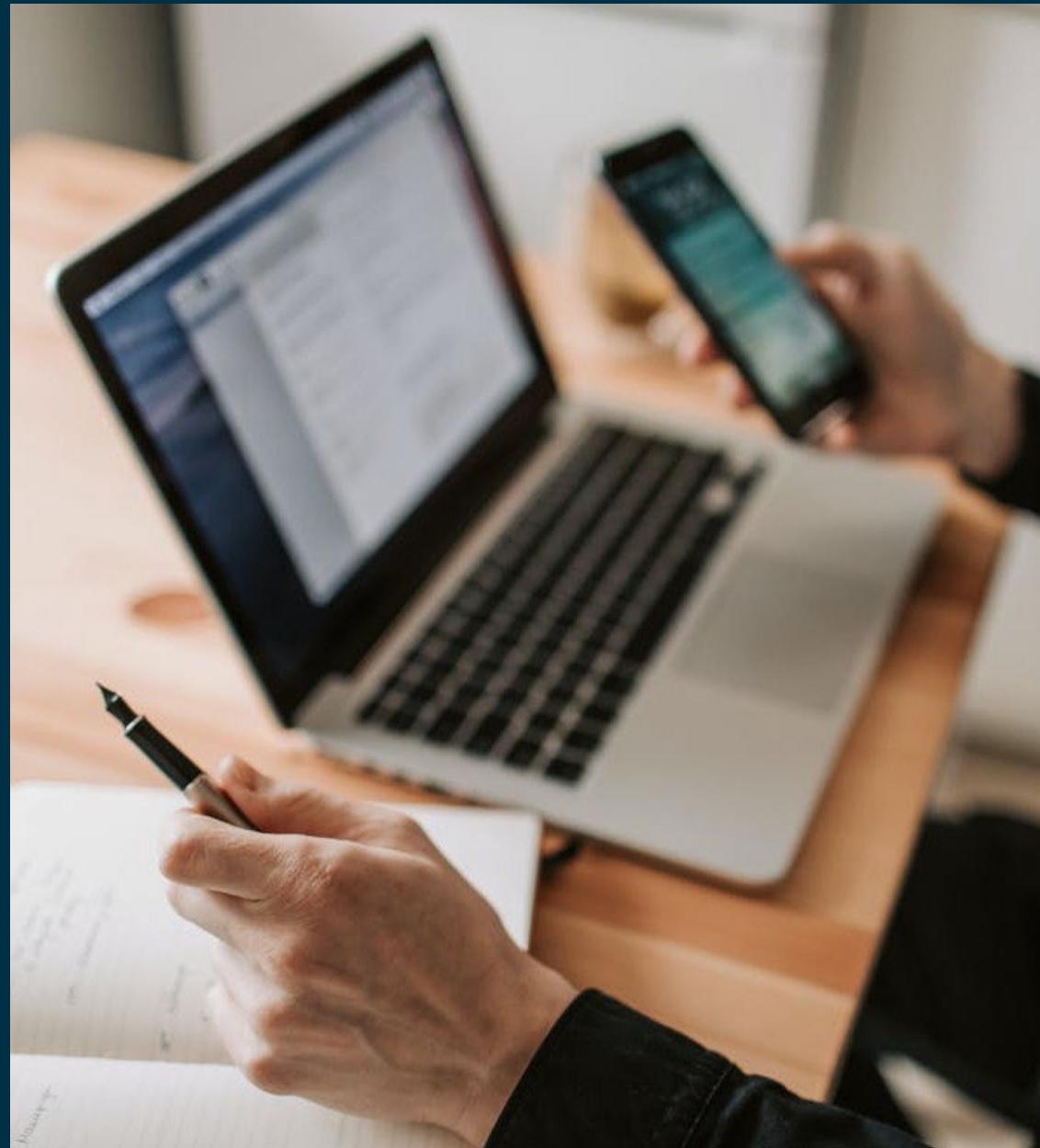
Microphones are muted



Chat feature will be used to share key details for your reference



Share verbal comments for the record after the presentations via the raise hand feature





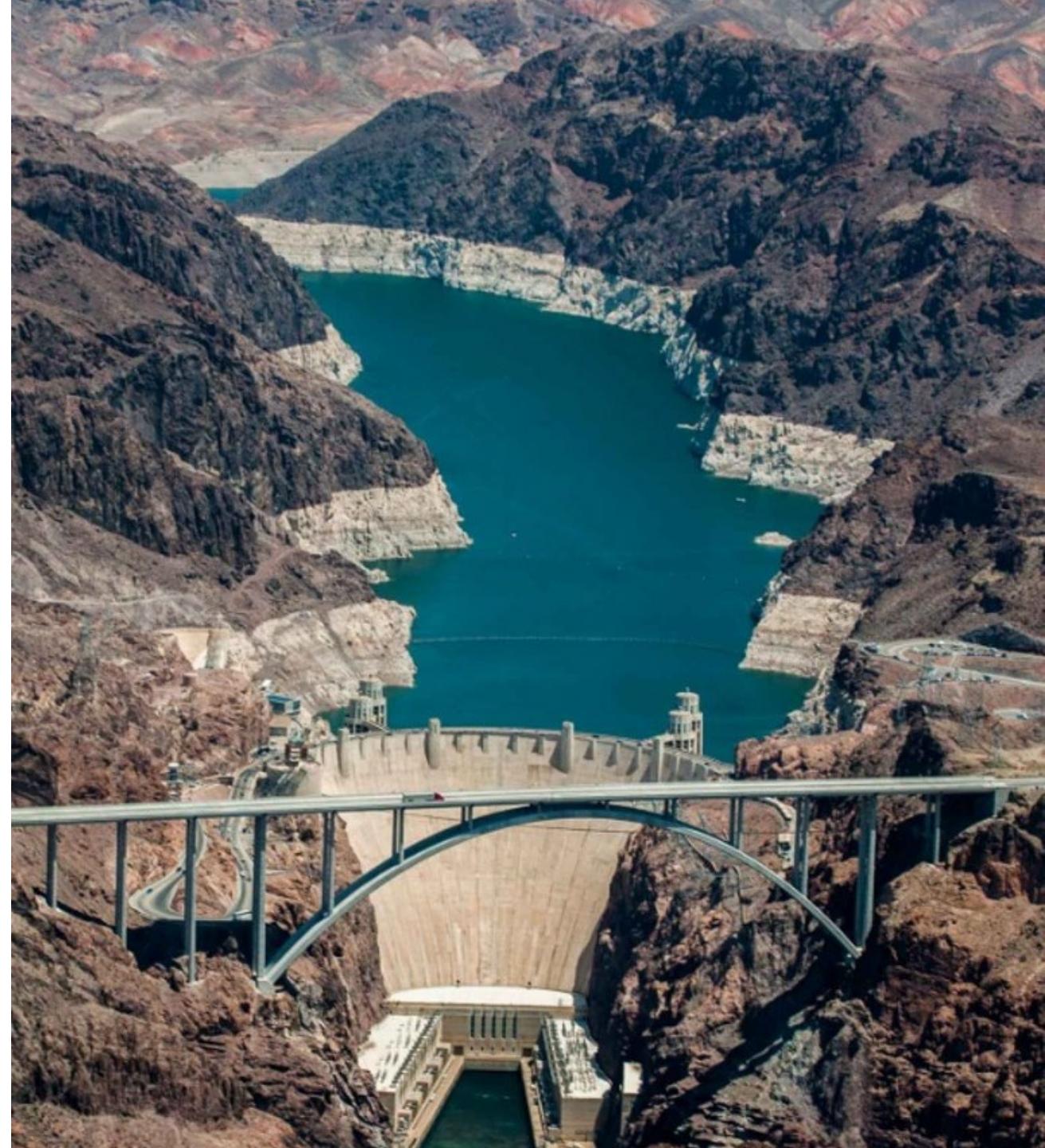
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# Welcome



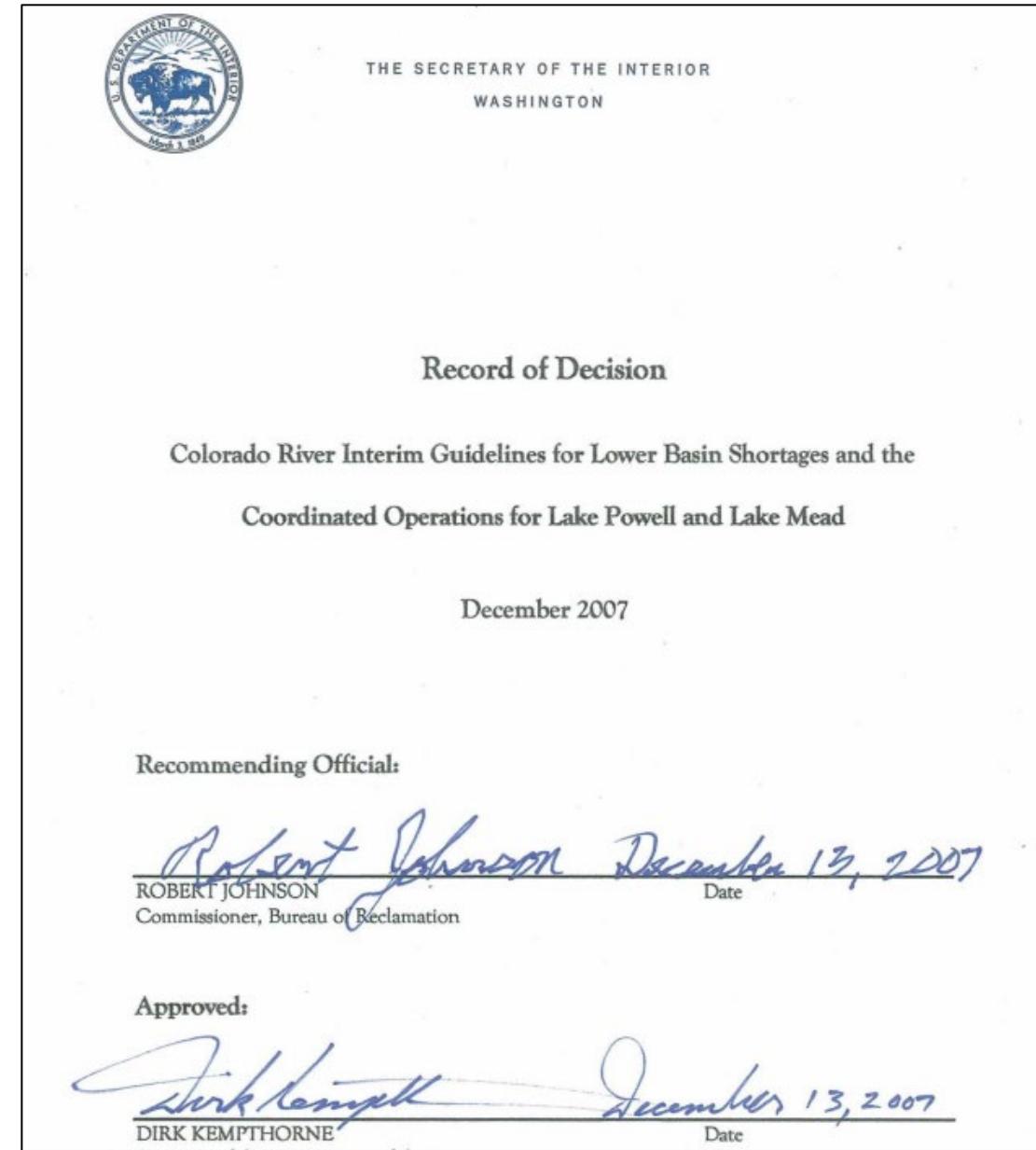
# Presentation Overview

- Background
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process overview
- Purpose and need for action
- Partner and stakeholder engagement
- Alternatives evaluated in the Draft EIS
- Draft EIS approach to analysis
- Environmental consequences
- Responses to submitted questions
- Ways to comment on Draft EIS
- Public comment
- Closing remarks



# Colorado River Operating Agreements

- Several agreements governing the operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead expire at the end of 2026
  - 2007 Interim Guidelines (adopted in 2007, amended in 2024)
  - Minute 323 to the 1944 Water Treaty with Mexico (adopted in 2017)
  - 2019 Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plans (adopted in 2019)
- Agreements were adopted in sequence in response to changing hydrologic conditions
- The “Post-2026” process is intended to develop successor domestic agreements prior to preparation of the 2027 Annual Operating Plan (anticipated mid-2026)



# Post-2026 NEPA Process Overview

## Opportunities for Public Input

Public Scoping Period – opportunity for public to provide input on scope of EIS and Purpose and Need for Proposed Action

Development of NEPA Alternatives by Reclamation, partners, and stakeholders

Publication of Draft EIS and public comment period

JUNE – AUGUST 2023

FALL 2023 – SUMMER 2025

WINTER 2025

JUNE 2023

AUGUST – OCTOBER 2023

JANUARY 2026

SPRING – SUMMER 2026

Notice of Intent to Prepare EIS - initiates NEPA Process - Begins public Scoping Period

Scoping Summary Report published with anticipated Purpose and Need

Draft EIS prepared and published

Final EIS prepared and published  
Record of Decision (ROD) issued

## NEPA Milestones



# Purpose and Need for Action

- Key operating agreements for Lake Powell and Lake Mead expire in 2026
- Federal law requires the Secretary of the Interior to coordinate reservoir operations
- Low reservoir levels have persisted due to long-term drought and increasing aridity
- Current guidelines have not been sufficient to protect water supplies, hydropower, and infrastructure
- New interim guidelines are needed to improve predictability, flexibility, and system resilience
- The Draft EIS evaluates options to balance water deliveries and the protection of critical reservoir elevations



# Proposed Federal Action

- Reclamation proposes new operational guidelines for Lake Powell and Lake Mead starting in 2027
- The focus is Glen Canyon Dam and Hoover Dam operations across all reservoir conditions - but may include actions upstream and downstream of these facilities to protect critical reservoir elevations
- The action is designed to improve predictability for water users while protecting critical reservoir elevations
- Includes tools to store and deliver conserved water, in Lake Mead and/or Lake Powell, to increase flexibility to meet water use needs
- Guidelines are intended to be interim, to gain operational experience, for approximately 20 years. May be shorter in duration or phased as part of longer-term framework



# Partner and Stakeholder Engagement

- Early input was gathered through a pre-scoping effort starting in 2022
- Publication of Pre-Scoping and Scoping Summary Report
- Launched public web-based Post-2026 Operations Exploration Web Tool
- Worked extensively with Basin entities who submitted proposed alternatives to refine, analyze, and incorporate concepts into a broad range of alternatives
- Engagement with Cooperating Agencies
  - Fish and Wildlife Service, Western Area Power Administration, National Park Service, International Boundary and Water Commission, Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Consultation and coordination with Basin Tribes through existing forums and as requested (e.g., government-to-government consultation)



# Draft EIS Alternatives

- No Action: required by NEPA, signifies a return to annual decision-making absent objective criteria, a mode of operation purposefully avoided since the late 1990s
- Basic Coordination: designed to provide an environmental compliance option for a set of operations that Reclamation could implement in Water Year (WY) 2027 if no new agreements among relevant entities in the Basin are developed
- Enhanced Coordination: designed to achieve protection of critical infrastructure and benefit key resources. Developed in close coordination with the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service; reflects concepts developed with Basin Tribes and principles put forth by hydropower interests (Western Area Power Administration and Colorado River Energy Distributors Association)
- Maximum Operational Flexibility: informed by a proposal submitted by a consortium of conservation organizations; includes operational concepts that promote maximum flexibility in water use
- Supply Driven: includes Lake Powell operations based solely on recent hydrologic conditions
- *Continued Current Strategies Comparative Baseline*: not an alternative but represents a continuation of current operations for comparative analysis



# Draft EIS Alternatives: No Action

	Shortage Guidelines to Reduce Deliveries from Lake Mead	Coordinated Reservoir Operations (Lake Powell and Lake Mead)	Storage and Delivery of Conserved System and Non-system Water (Lake Mead and/or Lake Powell)	Surplus Guidelines to Increase Deliveries/Releases from Lake Mead	Additional Activities Above Lake Powell
No Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shortages determined based on Lake Mead elevation</li> <li>Shortage volume of 400, 500, and 600 thousand acre-feet (kaf) at elevations 1,075, 1,050, and 1,025 feet, respectively</li> <li>Shortages distributed based on priority</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lake Powell release of 8.23 million acre-feet (maf) unless more is required for equalization releases</li> <li>Releases less than 8.23 maf below elevation 3,490 feet due to Glen Canyon Dam infrastructure limitations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No new storage and delivery mechanism to replace Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS)</li> <li>Delivery of existing ICS in accordance with existing agreements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surplus determinations limited to 70R (spill avoidance strategy) and Flood Control conditions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No specific additional activities above Lake Powell defined</li> </ul>

These operational elements contain modeling assumptions for water deliveries to Mexico. Shortage volumes include assumptions related to reductions in water deliveries to Mexico. Lake Mead storage volumes for the Storage and Delivery of Conserved System and Non-system Water include assumptions related to storage available to Mexico. Surplus Guidelines include assumptions related to increased deliveries to Mexico. Reclamation's modeling assumptions are not intended to constitute an interpretation or application of the 1944 Water Treaty or to represent current U.S. policy or a determination of future U.S. policy regarding deliveries to Mexico. The United States will conduct all necessary and appropriate discussions regarding the proposed federal action and implementation of the 1944 Water Treaty with Mexico through the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) in consultation with the Department of State.



# Draft EIS Alternatives: Basic Coordination

	Shortage Guidelines to Reduce Deliveries from Lake Mead	Coordinated Reservoir Operations (Lake Powell and Lake Mead)	Storage and Delivery of Conserved System and Non-system Water (Lake Mead and/or Lake Powell)	Surplus Guidelines to Increase Deliveries/Releases from Lake Mead	Additional Activities Above Lake Powell
Basic Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shortages based on Lake Mead elevation up to 1.48 maf</li> <li>Shortages distributed based on priority</li> <li>Identify conditions when additional reductions may be needed to avoid reaching critically low elevations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lake Powell releases are determined based on Lake Powell elevation unless equalization releases are required</li> <li>Releases range from 9.5 to 7.0 maf, unless more is required for equalization releases</li> <li>Identify conditions when additional action may be needed for infrastructure protection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No new storage and delivery mechanism to replace ICS</li> <li>Delivery of existing ICS in accordance with existing agreements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surplus determinations limited to 70R (spill avoidance strategy) and Flood Control conditions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Releases from Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) Upper Initial Units within their respective RODs and contingent on hydrologic conditions to protect infrastructure at Glen Canyon Dam</li> <li>Identify conditions when additional Upper Basin actions may be needed for infrastructure protection</li> </ul>

These operational elements contain modeling assumptions for water deliveries to Mexico. Shortage volumes include assumptions related to reductions in water deliveries to Mexico. Lake Mead storage volumes for the Storage and Delivery of Conserved System and Non-system Water include assumptions related to storage available to Mexico. Surplus Guidelines include assumptions related to increased deliveries to Mexico. Reclamation's modeling assumptions are not intended to constitute an interpretation or application of the 1944 Water Treaty or to represent current U.S. policy or a determination of future U.S. policy regarding deliveries to Mexico. The United States will conduct all necessary and appropriate discussions regarding the proposed federal action and implementation of the 1944 Water Treaty with Mexico through the IBWC in consultation with the Department of State.



# Draft EIS Alternatives: Enhanced Coordination

	Shortage Guidelines to Reduce Deliveries from Lake Mead	Coordinated Reservoir Operations (Lake Powell and Lake Mead)	Storage and Delivery of Conserved System and Non-system Water (Lake Mead and/or Lake Powell)	Surplus Guidelines to Increase Deliveries/Releases from Lake Mead	Additional Activities Above Lake Powell
Enhanced Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shortages determined based on combined storage in Lake Powell and Lake Mead</li> <li>Shortages begin at 60% full at a volume of 1.3 maf, then increase linearly, reaching a maximum of 3.0 maf at 30% full and below</li> <li>Shortages distributed pro rata</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lake Powell releases determined based on a combination of Lake Powell and Lake Mead elevations, 10-year running-average hydrology, and Lower Basin deliveries</li> <li>Releases range from 10.8 to 4.7 maf</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Storage up to 5.0 maf in Lake Mead with additional 2.0 maf Protection Pool; included for purposes of determining Lake Powell releases and shortages</li> <li>Storage up to 2.0 maf in Lake Powell; included for purposes of determining Lake Powell releases but excluded from shortage determinations</li> <li>Existing ICS converted to new mechanism immediately</li> <li>Extensive flexibilities for all users: intra- and inter-state transactions within each basin</li> <li>Tribal water (both conserved consumptive use and unused in Lake Powell conservation pool and Lake Mead Protection Pool)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surplus determinations limited to 70R (spill avoidance strategy) and Flood Control conditions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upper Basin conservation contributed to the Lake Powell conservation pool based on hydrologic conditions: up to 200 kaf per year for first 5 years, up to 275 kaf per year for second 5 years, up to 350 kaf starting in year 11</li> </ul>

These operational elements contain modeling assumptions for water deliveries to Mexico. Shortage volumes include assumptions related to reductions in water deliveries to Mexico. Lake Mead storage volumes for the Storage and Delivery of Conserved System and Non-system Water include assumptions related to storage available to Mexico. Surplus Guidelines include assumptions related to increased deliveries to Mexico. Reclamation's modeling assumptions are not intended to constitute an interpretation or application of the 1944 Water Treaty or to represent current U.S. policy or a determination of future U.S. policy regarding deliveries to Mexico. The United States will conduct all necessary and appropriate discussions regarding the proposed federal action and implementation of the 1944 Water Treaty with Mexico through the IBWC in consultation with the Department of State.



# Draft EIS Alternatives: Maximum Operational Flexibility

	Shortage Guidelines to Reduce Deliveries from Lake Mead	Coordinated Reservoir Operations (Lake Powell and Lake Mead)	Storage and Delivery of Conserved System and Non-system Water (Lake Mead and/or Lake Powell)	Surplus Guidelines to Increase Deliveries/Releases from Lake Mead	Additional Activities Above Lake Powell
Maximum Operational Flexibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shortages determined based on combined seven-reservoir storage and recent hydrology</li> <li>Shortages start at 80% full and increase linearly, subject to upward adjustment based on hydrology, reaching a maximum of 4.0 maf</li> <li>Shortages distributed based on priority, as described in Approach 1 of the Supply-Driven Alternative</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lake Powell releases determined based on total Upper Basin system storage and recent hydrology</li> <li>Releases subject to downward adjustment based on hydrology and range from 11.0 to 5.0 maf</li> <li>Releases switch to “run-of-river” when Lake Powell is at elevation 3,510 feet or lower</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Storage up to 8.0 maf in either Lake Powell or Lake Mead; excluded for purposes of determining Lake Powell releases and shortages</li> <li>Existing ICS converted to new mechanism over 5 years</li> <li>Extensive flexibilities for all users: transactions within and across basins, including inter-state and inter-basin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surplus determinations limited to Flood Control conditions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Average of 200 kaf of Upper Basin annual conservation based on hydrologic conditions contributed to the Lake Powell conservation pool</li> </ul>

These operational elements contain modeling assumptions for water deliveries to Mexico. Shortage volumes include assumptions related to reductions in water deliveries to Mexico. Lake Mead storage volumes for the Storage and Delivery of Conserved System and Non-system Water include assumptions related to storage available to Mexico. Surplus Guidelines include assumptions related to increased deliveries to Mexico. Reclamation's modeling assumptions are not intended to constitute an interpretation or application of the 1944 Water Treaty or to represent current U.S. policy or a determination of future U.S. policy regarding deliveries to Mexico. The United States will conduct all necessary and appropriate discussions regarding the proposed federal action and implementation of the 1944 Water Treaty with Mexico through the IBWC in consultation with the Department of State.



# Draft EIS Alternatives: Supply Driven

	Shortage Guidelines to Reduce Deliveries from Lake Mead	Coordinated Reservoir Operations (Lake Powell and Lake Mead)	Storage and Delivery of Conserved System and Non-system Water (Lake Mead and/or Lake Powell)	Surplus Guidelines to Increase Deliveries/Releases from Lake Mead	Additional Activities Above Lake Powell
Supply Driven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shortages determined based on Lake Mead elevation</li> <li>Shortages start at 1,145 feet and reach a maximum of 2.1 maf at 1,000 feet and below</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lake Powell releases determined primarily based on 65% of 3-year natural flows at Lees Ferry</li> <li>Releases range from 12.0 to 4.7 maf</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Storage up to 8.0 maf in Lake Mead; excluded for purposes of determining shortages</li> <li>Storage up to 3.0 maf at Lake Powell; included for purposes of determining Lake Powell releases</li> <li>Existing ICS converted to new mechanism over 10 years</li> <li>Expanded flexibilities: interstate exchanges within each basin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surplus determinations based on Lake Mead elevation at or above 1,165 feet, 70R (spill avoidance strategy) or Flood Control conditions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased releases from CRSP Upper Initial Units by up to 500 kaf per year within their respective RODs and contingent on hydrologic conditions to protect infrastructure at Glen Canyon Dam</li> <li>Up to 200 kaf of Upper Basin annual conservation based on hydrologic conditions contributed to the Lake Powell conservation pool</li> <li>In years when Lake Powell cannot meet its required water year release because of low elevation, additional “gap water” is introduced into the system and tracked to be released in subsequent years</li> </ul>

These operational elements contain modeling assumptions for water deliveries to Mexico. Shortage volumes include assumptions related to reductions in water deliveries to Mexico. Lake Mead storage volumes for the Storage and Delivery of Conserved System and Non-system Water include assumptions related to storage available to Mexico. Surplus Guidelines include assumptions related to increased deliveries to Mexico. Reclamation's modeling assumptions are not intended to constitute an interpretation or application of the 1944 Water Treaty or to represent current U.S. policy or a determination of future U.S. policy regarding deliveries to Mexico. The United States will conduct all necessary and appropriate discussions regarding the proposed federal action and implementation of the 1944 Water Treaty with Mexico through the IBWC in consultation with the Department of State.



# Draft EIS Alternatives: Continued Current Strategies Comparative Baseline

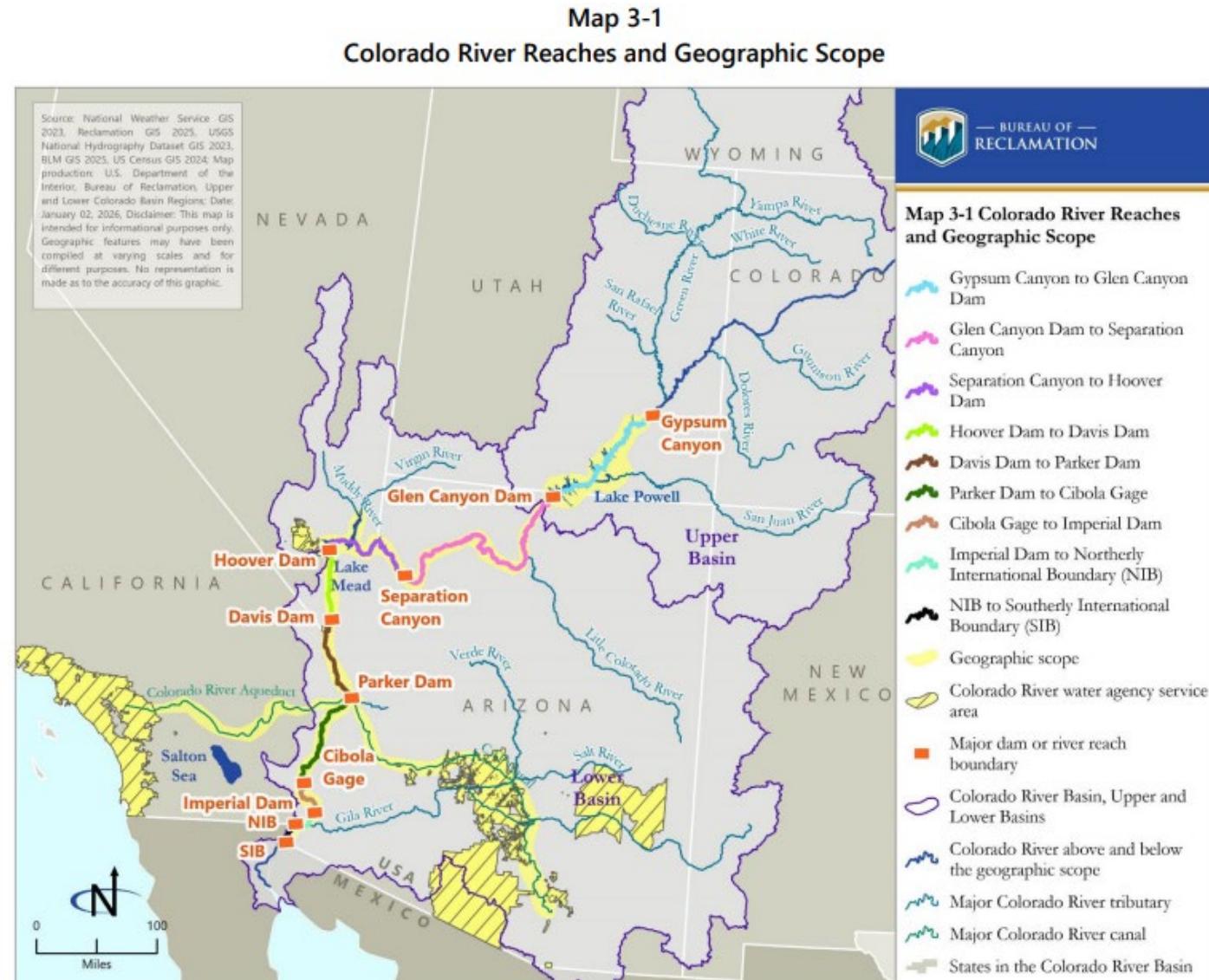
	Shortage Guidelines to Reduce Deliveries from Lake Mead	Coordinated Reservoir Operations (Lake Powell and Lake Mead)	Storage and Delivery of Conserved System and Non-system Water (Lake Mead and/or Lake Powell)	Surplus Guidelines to Increase Deliveries/Releases from Lake Mead	Additional Activities Above Lake Powell
Continued Current Strategies Comparative Baseline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shortages determined based on Lake Mead elevation</li> <li>Shortage volume of 400, 500, and 600 kaf at elevations 1,075, 1,050, and 1,025 feet, respectively</li> <li>Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) and Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan contributions ranging from 241 kaf at elevation 1,090 feet to 750 kaf at elevation 1,025 feet</li> <li>Shortages and DCP contributions distributed based on existing agreements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lake Powell releases are determined based on Lake Powell and Lake Mead elevations</li> <li>3 tiers of releases ranging from 9.5 to 7.0 maf with potential adjustments down to 6.0 maf for infrastructure protection</li> <li>Equalization tier with higher releases possible at higher Lake Powell elevations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Storage up to 4.2 maf in Lake Mead</li> <li>Delivery of existing ICS assumed to continue through the analysis period (2027-2060) in accordance with existing agreements designed to reflect the historical range of use of the ICS mechanism</li> <li>Creation of ICS assumed to continue through the analysis period (2027-2060) in accordance with existing agreements designed to reflect the historical range of use of the ICS mechanism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surplus determinations based on Lake Mead elevation at or above 1,145 feet: Domestic Surplus, 70R (spill avoidance strategy), Flood Control Conditions, and increases in deliveries to Mexico in accordance with Minute 323</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Releases from CRSP Upper Initial Units within their respective RODs and contingent on hydrologic conditions to protect infrastructure at Glen Canyon Dam</li> </ul>

These operational elements contain modeling assumptions for water deliveries to Mexico. Shortage volumes include assumptions related to reductions in water deliveries to Mexico. Lake Mead storage volumes for the Storage and Delivery of Conserved System and Non-system Water include assumptions related to storage available to Mexico. Surplus Guidelines include assumptions related to increased deliveries to Mexico. Reclamation's modeling assumptions are not intended to constitute an interpretation or application of the 1944 Water Treaty or to represent current U.S. policy or a determination of future U.S. policy regarding deliveries to Mexico. The United States will conduct all necessary and appropriate discussions regarding the proposed federal action and implementation of the 1944 Water Treaty with Mexico through the IBWC in consultation with the Department of State.



# Geographic Scope of the Analysis

- Full pool of Lake Powell at Gypsum Canyon downstream along the mainstream Colorado River floodplain to the Southerly International Boundary (SIB) with Mexico
- Analysis includes service areas in Lower Division States that extend beyond the Colorado River floodplain that may be affected due to water delivery reductions



# Approach to Analyzing Alternatives

- Alternatives were analyzed using a Decision Making under Deep Uncertainty (DMDU) framework
  - DMDU is well established in the field of decision science
  - Adopted after >10 years of research into long-term planning approaches
  - Needed due to extreme uncertainty in future hydrology and the desire to avoid overconfidence in probabilistic predictions
  - Tests alternatives in a wide range of conditions without locking in assumptions about most likely future at the beginning of the analysis
  - Focuses on key concepts of robustness and vulnerability

**Robustness:**  
Do alternatives meet key performance metrics in a wide range of potential future conditions?

**Vulnerability:**  
What hydrologic conditions are associated with failures to meet key performance metrics?

*See Chapter 3, Section 2.6 and Appendix E for more information about the background and implementation of DMDU*



# Modeling Approach

## Alternatives were simulated using a range of model inputs for important factors

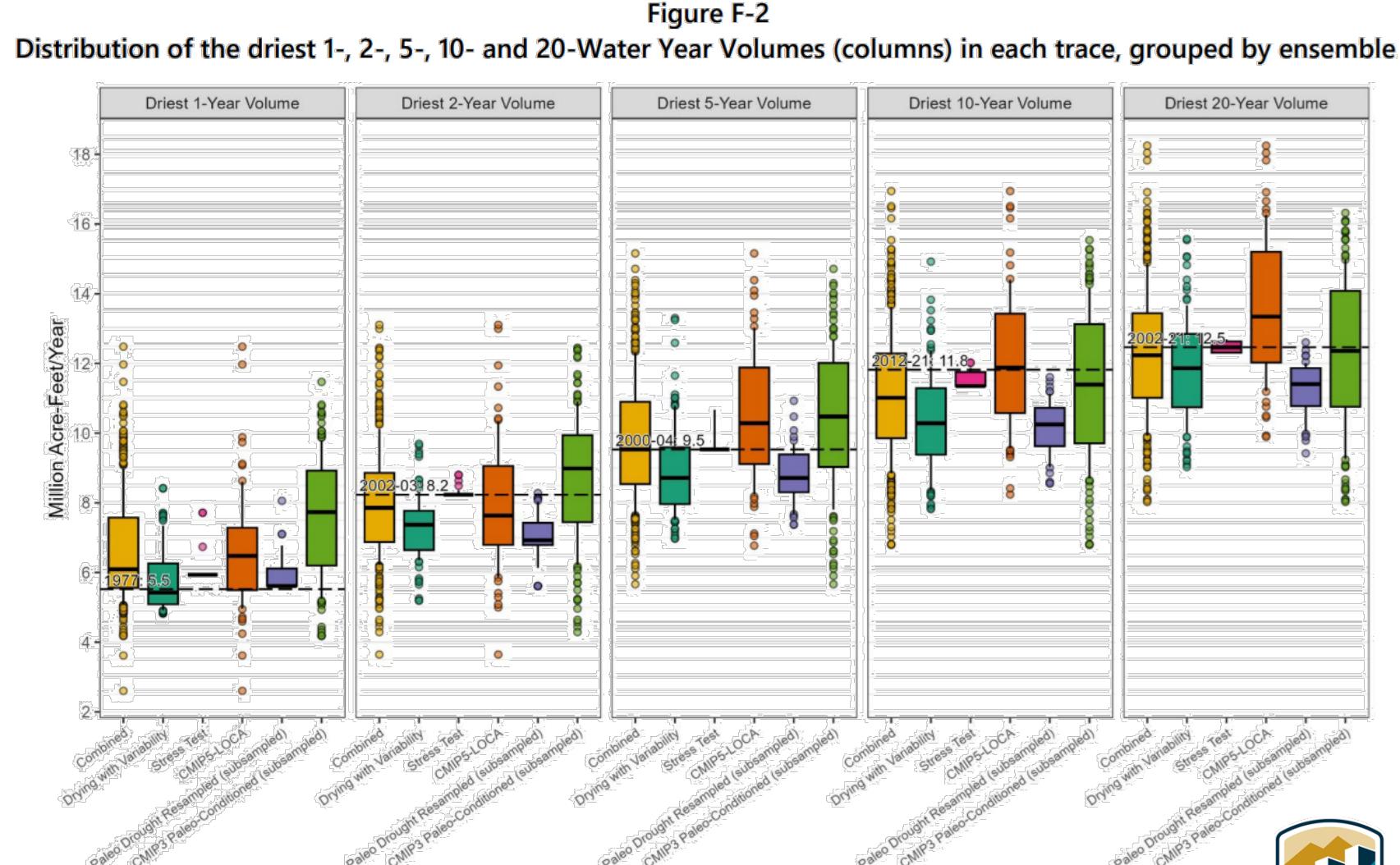
- Initial reservoir conditions: Three sets of starting elevations (high, mid, and low)
  - Taken from October and November 2025 system projections
  - Current reservoir elevations and most of the projections for starting conditions in 2027 are between the mid and low starting elevations
- Future hydrology: 400 sequences (traces) that cover a wide range and variety of conditions to thoroughly test the system (severe droughts, wet periods, and more moderate hydrology)
- Future water demands
  - Upper Basin: single demand sequence developed by the Upper Basin States in main analysis; modeled use varies due to hydrologic conditions and conservation mechanism
  - Lower Basin: full allocation/apportionment of 9 maf; modeled use varies due to shortage assumptions and conservation mechanism
- Long-term simulations: full modeling period is 2027-2060 (34 years long)

See Appendix G for more information about initial conditions



# Approach to Hydrologic Uncertainty

- Alternatives were modeled using 400 hydrology traces from five different hydrology ensembles
- Ensembles incorporate multiple important data sources
- Selection of traces was designed to capture a wide variety of wet and dry statistics, including conditions drier than anything observed
- Output from alternatives modeling can be organized based on different hydrologic conditions



See Appendix F for more information about the approach to hydrologic uncertainty

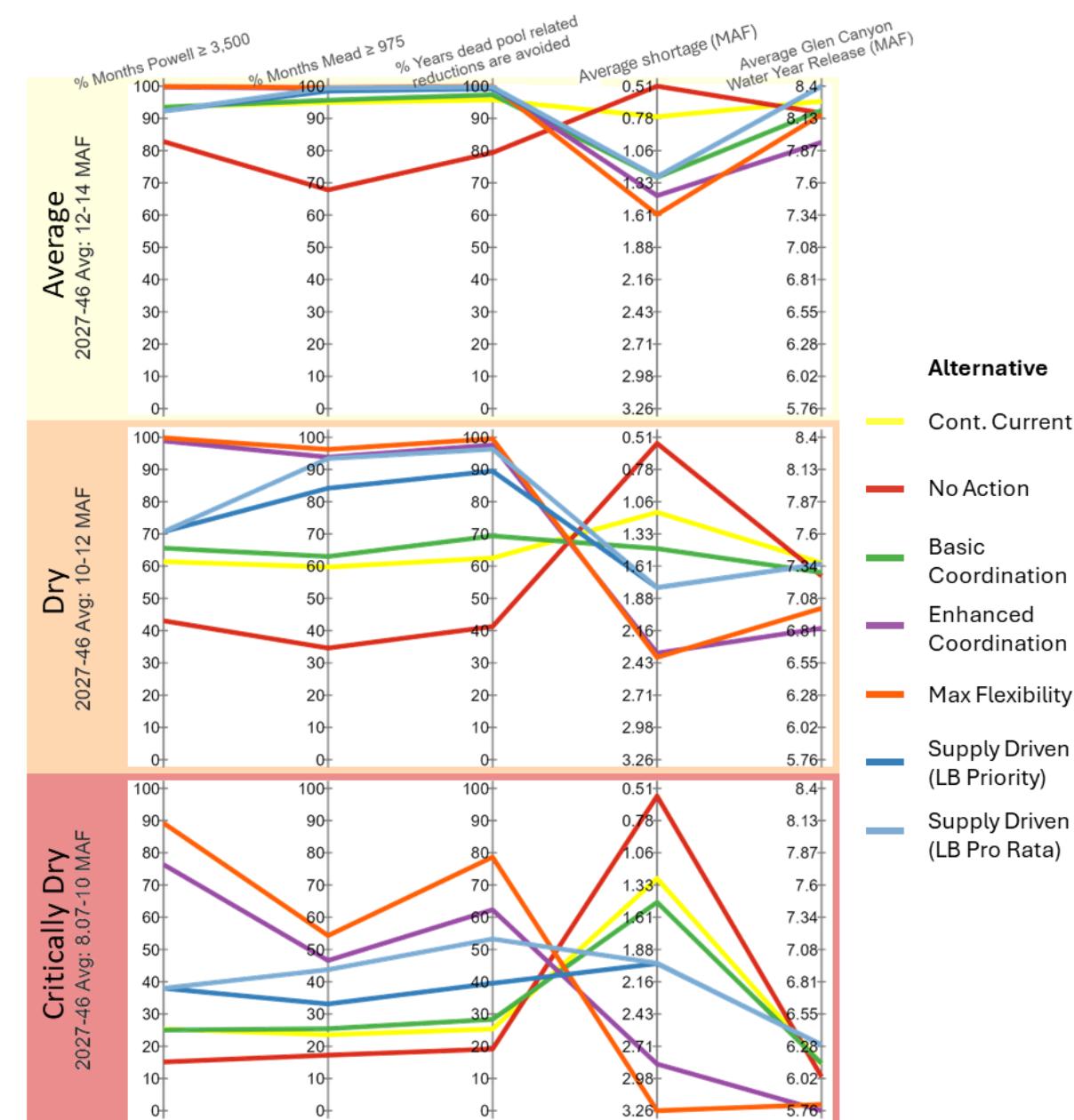


# Key Tradeoffs: Elevations, Reductions, and Releases

- The key tradeoff is between reservoir storage and delivery reductions
- Avoiding dead pool-related reductions at Lake Mead (3rd axis) requires larger planned reductions (4th axis)
- If hydrology for the next 20 years is “Average”,\* the tradeoff is not extreme, but the tradeoff becomes more dramatic when assuming a drier long-term future
- Under Critically Dry long-term hydrology, even large planned reductions cannot prevent dead pool-related reductions due to low releases from Lake Powell

\*The 20-year average Lees Ferry natural flow is 12.7 maf in 2025. Since 2004, the 20-year running average has been in the Average hydrologic category in 21 out of 22 years, with one year slightly above 14 maf. Since 2018, the 20-year averages have been predominantly between 12 and 13 maf.

Figure ES-5  
Key Performance Tradeoffs in Different Hydrologic Conditions



# Near-Term Vulnerability of Lake Powell and Lake Mead under Different Alternatives

- What hydrologic conditions over the next 5 years could cause Lake Powell and Lake Mead to fall to critical elevations?
- Red arrows indicate alternatives/operations that are susceptible to conditions that have already been observed
- Analysis uses only the “low” initial reservoir conditions\*
  - Lake Powell: 3,511 feet
  - Lake Mead: 1,038 feet
- In 2025, the 5-year average Lees Ferry natural flow was 11.1 maf

\*The January 2026 24-Month Study “Most Probable” end-of-calendar year projections show Lake Powell at 3,514 feet and Lake Mead at 1,060 feet

Table ES-6  
Vulnerability to Lake Powell Falling Below Elevation 3,500 Feet at Least Once in the First Five Years and Comparison to Historical Conditions

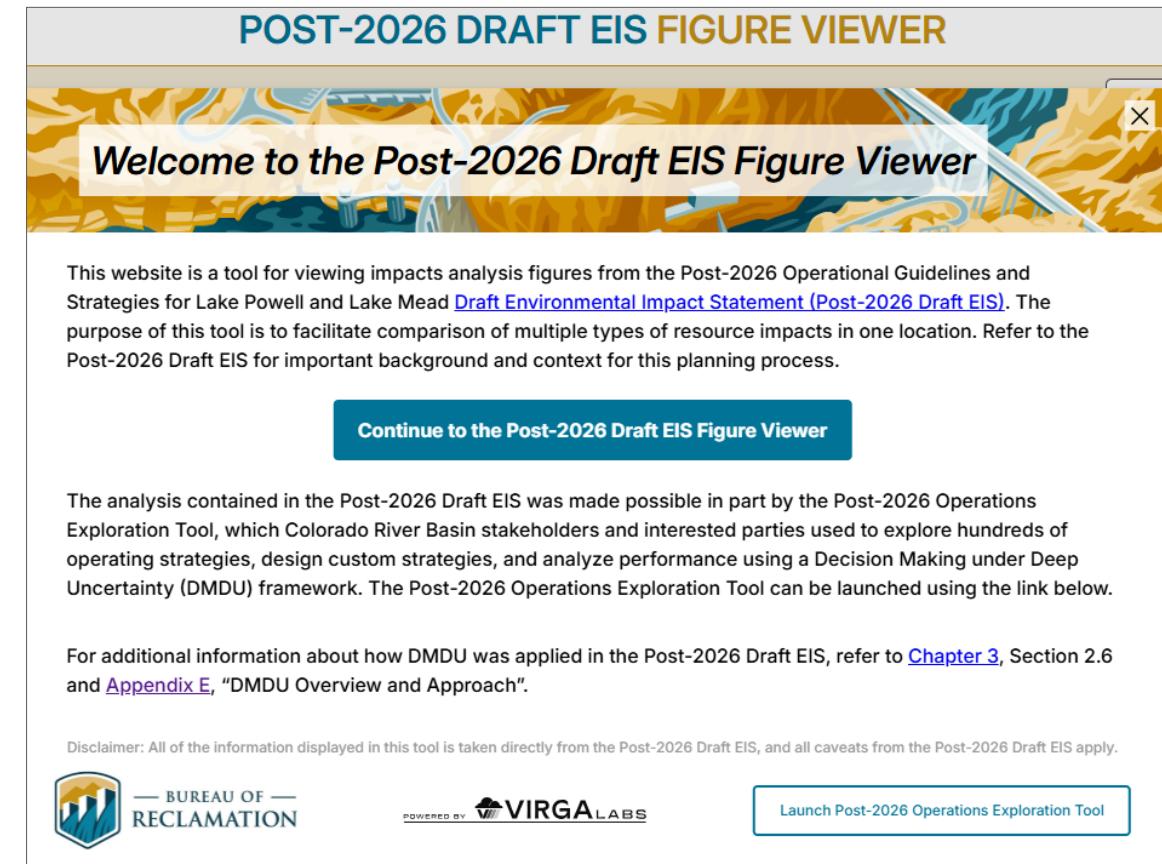
Alternative	Water Year 2027-2031 Average Natural Flow that Could Cause Vulnerability (maf/yr)	Number of Years Below Threshold 2000-2024 (Historical Data)	Number of Years Below Threshold 1906-2024 (Historical Data)
Cont. Current	≤10.9	4	5
No Action	≤12.9	13	29
Basic Coordination	≤11.3	6	7
Enhanced Coordination	≤8.6	0	0
Max Flexibility	≤8.2	0	0
Supply Driven (LB Priority)	≤11.3	6	7
Supply Driven (LB Pro Rata)	≤11.3	6	7

Table ES-7  
Vulnerability to Lake Mead Falling Below Elevation 975 Feet at Least Once in the First Five Years and Comparison to Historical Conditions

Alternative	Water Year 2027-2031 Average Natural Flow that Could Cause Vulnerability (maf/yr)	Number of Years Below Threshold 2000-2024 (Historical Data)	Number of Years Below Threshold 1906-2024 (Historical Data)
Cont. Current Strategies	≤10.9	3	5
No Action	≤12.5	11	25
Basic Coordination	≤10.2	1	1
Enhanced Coordination	≤9.2	0	0
Max Flexibility	≤9.1	0	0
Supply Driven (LB Priority)	≤10.0	1	1
Supply Driven (LB Pro Rata)	≤8.7	0	0

# Post-2026 Online Draft EIS Figure Viewer

- All content taken directly from the Draft EIS document
- View up to nine figures in one window and easily access figure descriptions
- Compare results across different resources and metrics
- Convenient access to supporting materials:
  - Summary descriptions of alternatives
  - Guidance for interpreting DMDU figures



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Post-2026 Draft EIS Figure Viewer. At the top, a banner reads "POST-2026 DRAFT EIS FIGURE VIEWER". Below it, a large image of a Colorado River landscape is overlaid with a white box containing the text "Welcome to the Post-2026 Draft EIS Figure Viewer". A "Continue to the Post-2026 Draft EIS Figure Viewer" button is located in the lower right of this box. The main content area contains text about the tool's purpose and the DMDU framework, along with links to "Chapter 3" and "Appendix E". At the bottom, there are logos for the Bureau of Reclamation and Virga Labs, and a "Launch Post-2026 Operations Exploration Tool" button.

*Draft EIS Figure Viewer available at [www.eisviewer.crbpost2026dmdu.org](http://eisviewer.crbpost2026dmdu.org)*



# Submitted Questions

- How is public input being handled and used?
- How does the Draft EIS address the need to reduce water use?
- Does the Draft EIS address assumptions about how water users could adapt to water delivery reductions, e.g., through compensated adjustments to agricultural activities, municipal conservation programs, or desalination plants?
- Most alternatives result in Lake Powell and Lake Mead falling below critical thresholds under some future conditions. How will Reclamation manage the reservoirs under these conditions?
- Will the Final EIS include analysis of a preferred alternative, specifically a consensus-based States' proposal?
- Do any of the Draft EIS alternatives include constraints on new Upper Basin uses or require reductions in Upper Basin use?



# Ways to Comment

- During public meetings
- Send an email: [crbpost2026@usbr.gov](mailto:crbpost2026@usbr.gov)
- Telephone hotline: (602) 789-3889
- By mail to:

Bureau of Reclamation  
Attn: BCOO-1000  
P.O. Box 61470  
Boulder City, Nevada 89006

## Additional resources:

- Project Website: [www.usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/Post2026](http://www.usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/Post2026)
- Draft EIS Figure Viewer: [www.eisviewer.crbpost2026dmdu.org](http://www.eisviewer.crbpost2026dmdu.org)

45-day comment  
period closes  
**March 2, 2026**





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RECLAMATION

# Public Comments Section



# Public Comment Guidelines

- Comments provided during this meeting will go on record just like written comments and should focus on the Draft EIS.
- Comments should be directed to the Reclamation, not to other commenters.
- Comments will be limited to 3 minutes, so we have time to hear from as many commenters as possible. Comments longer than 3 minutes can be submitted in writing.
- This virtual event is designed to be viewed in homes across the country in real time. Profanity is not acceptable.



# Public Comments

- Click the raise hand button
- Facilitator will call your name
- Click unmute to speak
- Please state and spell your name when you begin
- You will have 3 minutes to comment
- Please submit comments longer than 3 minutes in writing



Raise Hand



# Standing by for Comments

- The team is standing by to receive public comments until the meeting concludes at 3:00 p.m. MST.
- Please click the “Raise Hand” button in Zoom if you wish to submit a verbal comment.



Raise Hand

# Reminder: Ways to Comment

45-day comment period closes  
**March 2, 2026**

- During public meetings
- Send an email: [crbpost2026@usbr.gov](mailto:crbpost2026@usbr.gov)
- Telephone hotline: (602) 789-3889
- By mail to:

Bureau of Reclamation  
Attn: BCOO-1000  
P.O. Box 61470  
Boulder City, Nevada 89006

## Additional resources:

- Project Website: [www.usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/Post2026](http://www.usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/Post2026)
- Draft EIS Figure Viewer: [www.eisviewer.crbpost2026dmdu.org](http://www.eisviewer.crbpost2026dmdu.org)





— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION

# Closing Remarks