

April 2018 24-Month Study Projections Lake Mead End of Month Elevation Chart



Explanation of Hydrologic Scenarios

In addition to the April 2018 24-Month Study based on the Most Probable inflow scenario, Reclamation conducted model runs to determine a possible range of reservoir elevations under Probable Minimum and Probable Maximum inflow scenarios. The Probable Minimum inflow scenario reflects a dry hydrologic condition which statistically would be exceeded 90% of the time. The Most Probable inflow scenario reflects a median hydrologic condition which statistically would be exceeded 50% of the time. The Probable Maximum inflow scenario reflects a wet hydrologic condition which statistically would be exceeded 10% of the time. There is approximately an 80% probability that a future elevation will fall inside the range of the minimum and maximum inflow scenarios. There are possible inflow scenarios that would result in reservoir elevations falling outside the ranges indicated in these reports.

Consistent with Section 6.B of the Interim Guidelines, Lake Powell's operations in water year 2018 are governed by the Upper Elevation Balancing Tier. In accordance with Section 6.B.4 of the Interim Guidelines, Lake Powell operations will shift to balancing releases for the remainder of water year 2018. Based on the most probable inflow forecast, this April 24-Month Study projects a balancing release of 9.0 maf in water year 2018; however, the actual release in water year 2018 will depend on hydrology in the remainder of water year and will range from 8.23 to 9.0 maf.

Consistent with Section 2.B.5 of the Interim Guidelines, the Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) Surplus Condition is the criterion governing the operation of Lake Mead for calendar year 2018.

The Interim Guidelines are available for download at: https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/strategies/RecordofDecision.pdf. The 2018 AOP is available for download at https://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/rsvrs/ops/aop/AOP18.pdf.

April 2018 Probable Minimum Inflow Scenario

The water year 2018 unregulated inflow into Lake Powell under the April Probable Minimum inflow scenario is 4.32 maf, or 40 percent of average. Consistent with the Interim Guidelines, the Most Probable 24-Month Study set an April adjustment to balancing releases at Glen Canyon Dam for the remainder of water year 2018. With the Probable Minimum inflow forecast, the Probable Minimum 24-Month Study results in a projected annual release volume from Glen Canyon Dam of 9.00 maf in water year 2018 and an 8.81 maf release in water year 2019. With intervening flows between Lake Powell and Lake Mead of 0.69 maf in water year 2018, Lake Mead's elevation is projected to be 1077.81 feet on September 30, 2018.

April 2018 Most Probable Inflow Scenario

The water year 2018 unregulated inflow into Lake Powell under the April Most Probable inflow scenario is 5.62 maf, or 52 percent of average. Consistent with the Interim Guidelines, the Most Probable 24-Month Study set an April adjustment to balancing releases at Glen Canyon Dam for the remainder of water year 2018. With the Most Probable inflow forecast, the Most Probable 24-Month Study results in a projected water year release volume from Glen Canyon Dam of 9.00 maf in water years 2018 and 2019. With intervening flows between Lake Powell and Lake Mead of 0.73 maf in water year 2018, Lake Mead's elevation is projected to be 1,078.94 feet on September 30, 2018.

April 2018 Probable Maximum Inflow Scenario

The water year 2018 unregulated inflow into Lake Powell under the April Probable Maximum inflow scenario is 7.76 maf, or 72 percent of average. Consistent with the Interim Guidelines, the Most Probable 24-Month Study set an April adjustment to balancing releases at Glen Canyon Dam for the remainder of water year 2018. With the Probable Maximum inflow forecast, the Probable Maximum 24-Month Study results in a projected annual release volume from Glen Canyon Dam of 9.00 maf in water years 2018 and 2019. With intervening flows between Lake Powell and Lake Mead of 0.75 maf in water year 2018, Lake Mead's elevation is projected to be 1079.25 feet on September 30, 2018.