U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Upper and Lower Colorado Basin Regions

# 24-Month Study Inflow Scenarios

## Explanation of Hydrologic Scenarios

In addition to the April 2026 24-Month Study based on the Most Probable inflow scenario, and in accordance with the Upper Basin Drought Response Operations Agreement (DROA), Reclamation has conducted additional model runs in April to determine a possible range of reservoir elevations. Probable minimum and probable maximum model runs are conducted in January, April, August, and October, or when necessary to incorporate changing conditions. 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. Additionally, there are possible inflow scenarios that would result in reservoir elevations falling outside the ranges indicated in these reports.

### April 2026 Probable Minimum 24-Month Study

The water year (WY) 2026 unregulated inflow into Lake Powell in the Probable Minimum inflow scenario is 3.01 million acre-feet (maf), or 31% of average. The Probable Minimum 24-Month Study includes a release volume from Glen Canyon Dam of 7.48 maf in WY 2026 and 7.00 maf in WY 2027. Under the Probable Minimum scenario, Lake Powell's elevation is projected to be 3,464.07 feet on December 31, 2026. With intervening flows between Lake Powell and Lake Mead of 0.559 maf in calendar year (CY) 2026, Lake Mead's elevation is projected to be 1,054.00 feet on December 31, 2026.

### April 2026 Most Probable 24-Month Study

The WY 2026 unregulated inflow into Lake Powell in the Most Probable inflow scenario is 3.87 maf, or 40% of average. The Most Probable 24-Month Study includes a release volume from Glen Canyon Dam of 7.48 maf in WY 2026 and 7.00 maf in WY 2027. Under the Most Probable scenario, Lake Powell's elevation is projected to be 3,471.06 feet on December 31, 2026. With intervening flows between Lake Powell and Lake Mead of 0.720 maf in CY 2026, Lake Mead's elevation is projected to be 1,056.36 feet on December 31, 2026.

### April 2026 Probable Maximum 24-Month Study

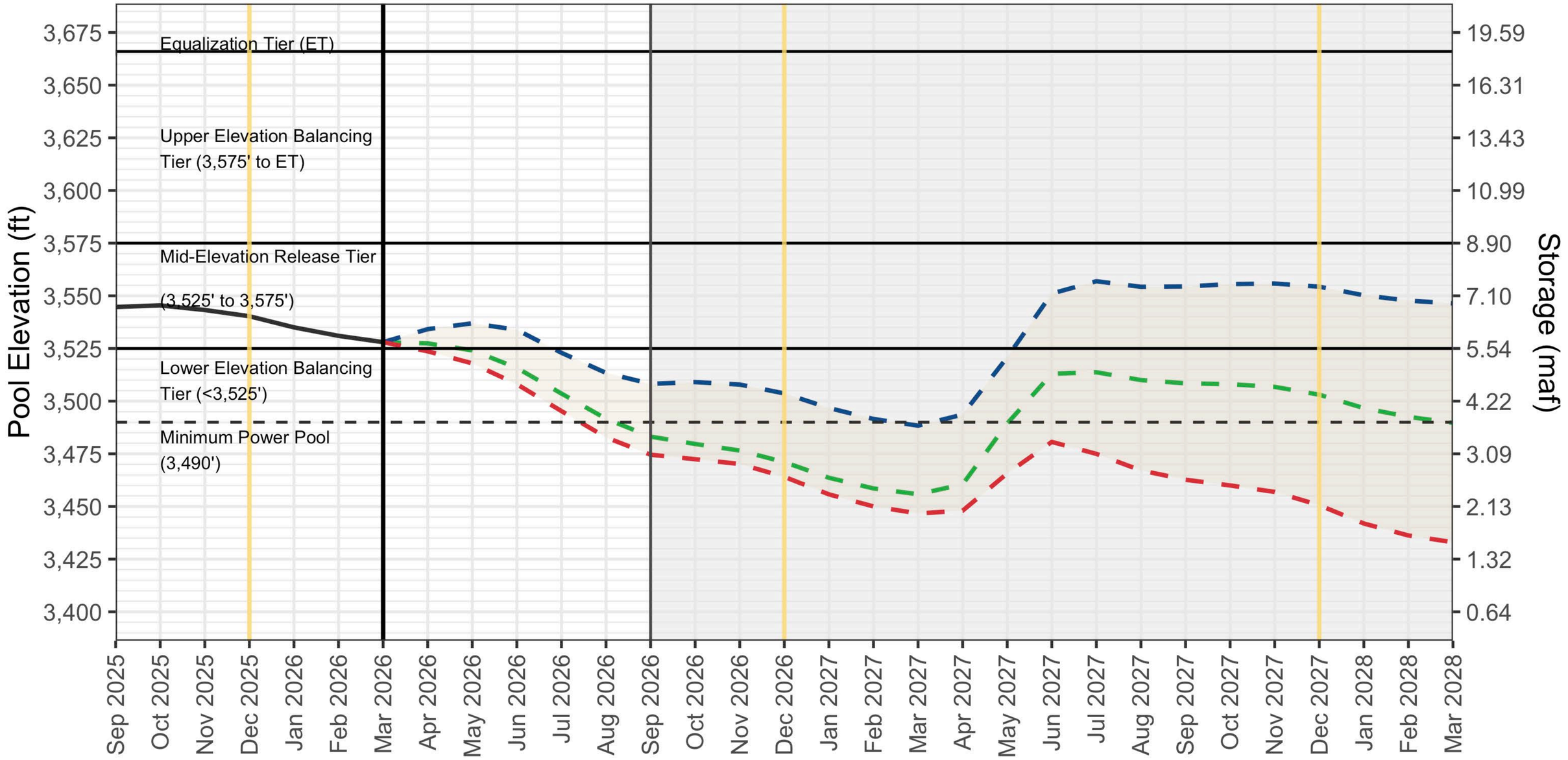
The WY 2026 unregulated inflow into Lake Powell in the Probable Maximum inflow scenario is 5.69 maf, or 59% of average. The Probable Maximum 24-Month Study includes a release volume from Glen Canyon Dam of 7.48 maf in WY 2026 and 7.69 maf in WY 2027. Under the Probable Maximum scenario, Lake Powell's elevation is projected to be 3,503.67 feet on December 31, 2026. With intervening flows between Lake Powell and Lake Mead of 0.936 maf in CY 2026, Lake Mead's elevation is projected to be 1,060.04 feet on December 31, 2026.

# References

The 2026 Annual Operating Plan is available online at:
https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/aop/AOP26.pdf.
The Interim Guidelines are available online at:
https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/strategies/RecordofDecision.pdf.
The Colorado River Drought Contingency Plans are available online at:
https://www.usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/dcp/finaldocs.html.
The Upper Basin Hydrology Summary is available online at:
https://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/crsp/studies/24Month_04_ucb.pdf.
Information on the Lower Colorado Basin (LCB) Conservation Program is available online at:
https://www.usbr.gov/lc/LCBConservation.html.
Information on the 2024 Interim Guidelines SEIS is available online at:
https://www.usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/interimguidelines/seis/index.html.
Information on reservoir inflow forecasts is available online at:
https://www.cbrfc.noaa.gov/product/hydrofcst/hydrofcst.php.

# Lake Powell End-of-Month Elevations[1]

## Projections from April 2026 24-Month Study Inflow Scenarios




Historical Elevations

April 2026 Probable Maximum Inflow with a Lake Powell release of 7.48 maf in WY 2026 and 7.69 maf in WY 2027

April 2026 Most Probable Inflow with a Lake Powell release of 7.48 maf in WY 2026 and 7.00 maf in WY 2027

April 2026 Probable Minimum Inflow with a Lake Powell release of 7.48 maf in WY 2026 and 7.00 maf in WY 2027

*The Drought Response Operations Agreement (DROA) is available online at https://www.usbr.gov/dcp/finaldocs.html.*

*[1]For modeling purposes, simulated years beyond 2026 assume a continuation of the 2007 Interim Guidelines including the 2024 Supplement to the 2007 Interim Guidelines (no additional SEIS conservation is assumed to occur after 2026), the 2019 Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plans, and Minute 323 including the Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan. With the exception of certain provisions related to ICS recovery and Upper Basin Demand management, operations under these agreements are in effect through 2026.*

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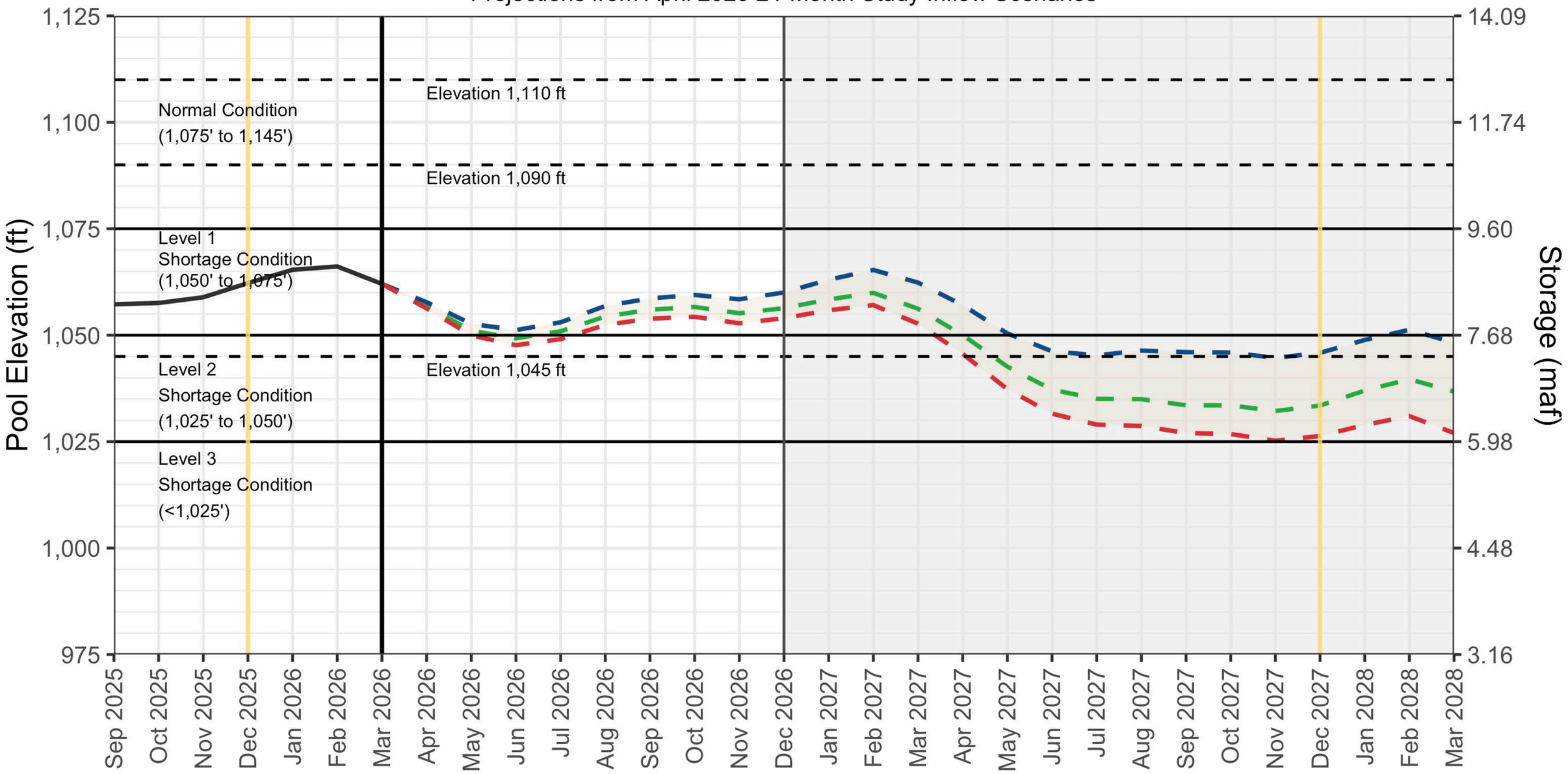
# Lake Mead End-of-Month Elevations[1]

## Projections from April 2026 24-Month Study Inflow Scenarios




Historical Elevations

April 2026 Probable Maximum Inflow with a Lake Powell release of 7.48 maf in WY 2026 and 7.69 maf in WY 2027

April 2026 Most Probable Inflow with a Lake Powell release of 7.48 maf in WY 2026 and 7.00 maf in WY 2027

April 2026 Probable Minimum Inflow with a Lake Powell release of 7.48 maf in WY 2026 and 7.00 maf in WY 2027

*The Drought Response Operations Agreement (DROA) is available online at https://www.usbr.gov/dcp/finaldocs.html.*

*[1]For modeling purposes, simulated years beyond 2026 assume a continuation of the 2007 Interim Guidelines including the 2024 Supplement to the 2007 Interim Guidelines (no additional SEIS conservation is assumed to occur after 2026), the 2019 Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plans, and Minute 323 including the Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan. With the exception of certain provisions related to ICS recovery and Upper Basin Demand management, operations under these agreements are in effect through 2026.*

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