



24-Month Study Inflow Scenarios

Explanation of Hydrologic Scenarios

In addition to the October 2026 24-Month Study based on the Most Probable inflow scenario, Reclamation has conducted additional model runs in October 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.

October 2026 Probable Minimum 24-Month Study

The water year (WY) 2027 unregulated inflow into Lake Powell in the Probable Minimum inflow scenario is 4.07 million acre-feet (maf), or 42% of average. The Probable Minimum 24-Month Study includes a release volume from Glen Canyon Dam of 6.00 maf in WY 2027 and WY 2028. Under the Probable Minimum scenario, Lake Powell's elevation is projected to be 3,497.03 feet on September 30, 2027. With intervening flows between Lake Powell and Lake Mead of 0.474 maf in calendar year (CY) 2026, Lake Mead's elevation is projected to be 1,034.15 feet on December 31, 2026.

October 2026 Most Probable 24-Month Study (6 maf release)

The WY 2027 unregulated inflow into Lake Powell in the Most Probable inflow scenario is 7.80 maf, or 81% of average. The Most Probable 24-Month Study includes a release volume from Glen Canyon Dam of 6.00 maf in WY 2027 and 8.00 maf in WY 2028. Under the Most Probable scenario, Lake Powell's elevation is projected to be 3,540.65 feet on September 30, 2027. With intervening flows between Lake Powell and Lake Mead of 0.480 maf in CY 2026, Lake Mead's elevation is projected to be 1,034.52 feet on December 31, 2026.

October 2026 Most Probable 24-Month Study (7 maf release)

The WY 2027 unregulated inflow into Lake Powell in the Most Probable inflow scenario is 7.80 maf, or 81% of average. The Most Probable 24-Month Study includes a release volume from Glen Canyon Dam of 7.00 maf in WY 2027 and WY 2028. Under this Most Probable scenario, Lake Powell's elevation is projected to be 3,525.48 feet on September 30, 2027. With intervening flows between Lake Powell and Lake Mead of 0.480 maf in CY 2026, Lake Mead's elevation is projected to be 1,034.52 feet on December 31, 2026.

October 2026 Probable Maximum 24-Month

The WY 2027 unregulated inflow into Lake Powell in the Probable Maximum inflow scenario is 15.10 maf, or 157% of average. The Probable Maximum 24-Month Study includes a release volume from Glen Canyon Dam of 7.00 maf in WY 2027 and 11.50 maf in WY 2028. Under the Probable Maximum scenario, Lake Powell's elevation is projected to be 3,606.39 feet on September 30, 2027. With intervening flows between Lake Powell and Lake Mead of 0.498 maf in CY 2026, Lake Mead's elevation is projected to be 1,035.36 feet on December 31, 2026.

References

Referenced documents and data sources are available at the links below.

Operational & Policy Documents

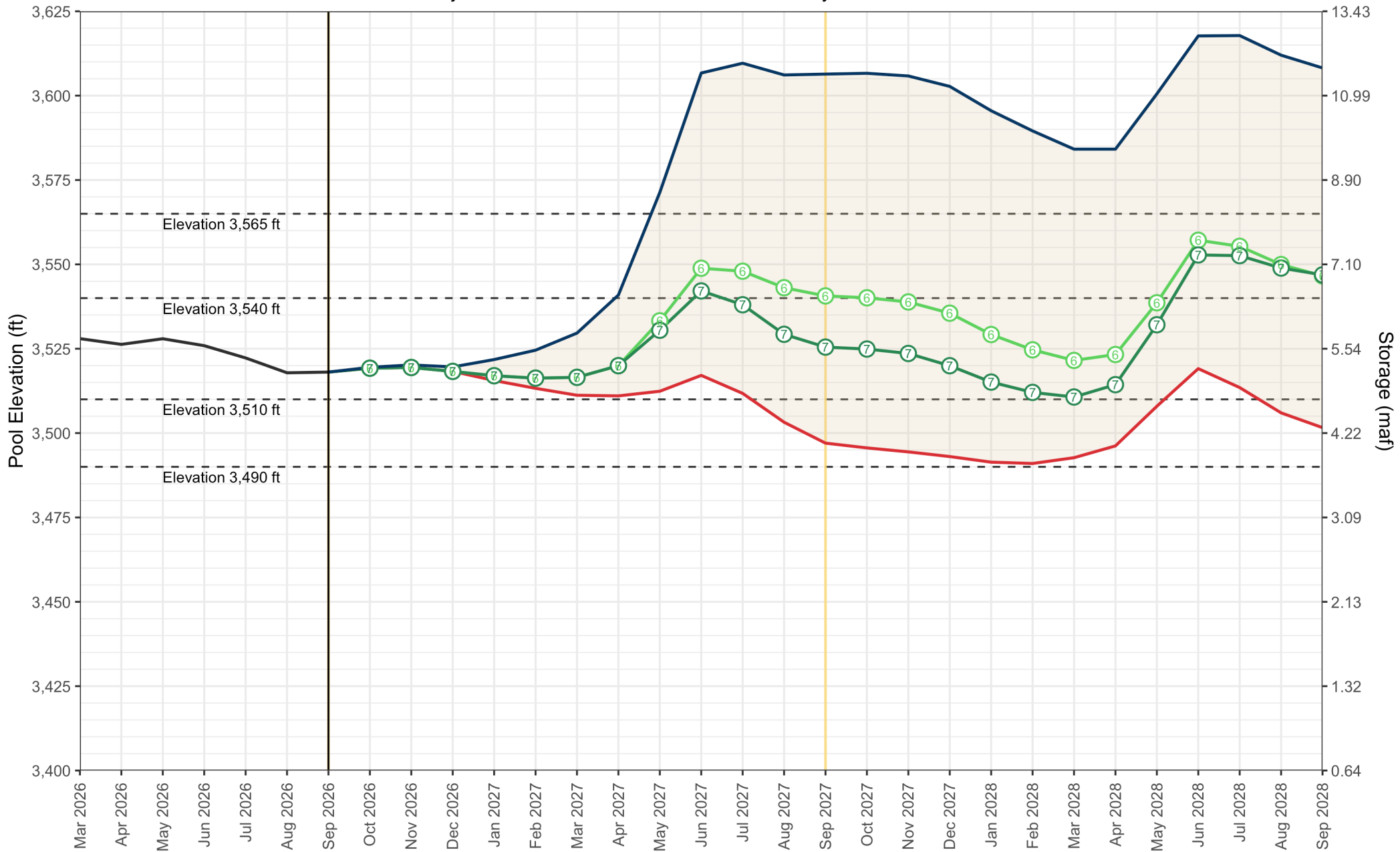
Document	Link
IBWC Minute No. 334	https://www.ibwc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/334English2Sided.pdf
2027-2028 Operating Guidelines	https://www.usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/post2026/decision-doc/2027-2028OperatingGuidelines_Final.pdf
2026 ROD	https://www.usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/post2026/decision-doc/P26_RecordofDecision_Final.pdf
2026 AOP	https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/aop/AOP26.pdf
2026 Drought Response Operations Plan	https://www.usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/dcp/droa.html
2024 Interim Guidelines SEIS ROD	https://www.usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/interimguidelines/seis/index.html
2019 Colorado River Drought Contingency Plans	https://www.usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/dcp/finaldocs.html
2007 Interim Guidelines ROD	https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/strategies/RecordofDecision.pdf
LCB Conservation Program	https://www.usbr.gov/lc/LCBConservation.html

Hydrology & Forecast Information

Document	Link
Upper Basin Hydrology Summary	https://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/crsp/studies/24Month_10_ucb.pdf
Reservoir Inflow Observations & Forecasts	https://www.cbrfc.noaa.gov/product/hydrofcst/hydrofcst.php

Lake Powell End-of-Month Elevations

Projections from October 2026 24-Month Study Inflow Scenarios



— Historical Elevations

— October 2026 Probable Minimum (6.0 maf release)

— October 2026 Most Probable (6.0 maf release)

— October 2026 Most Probable (7.0 maf release)

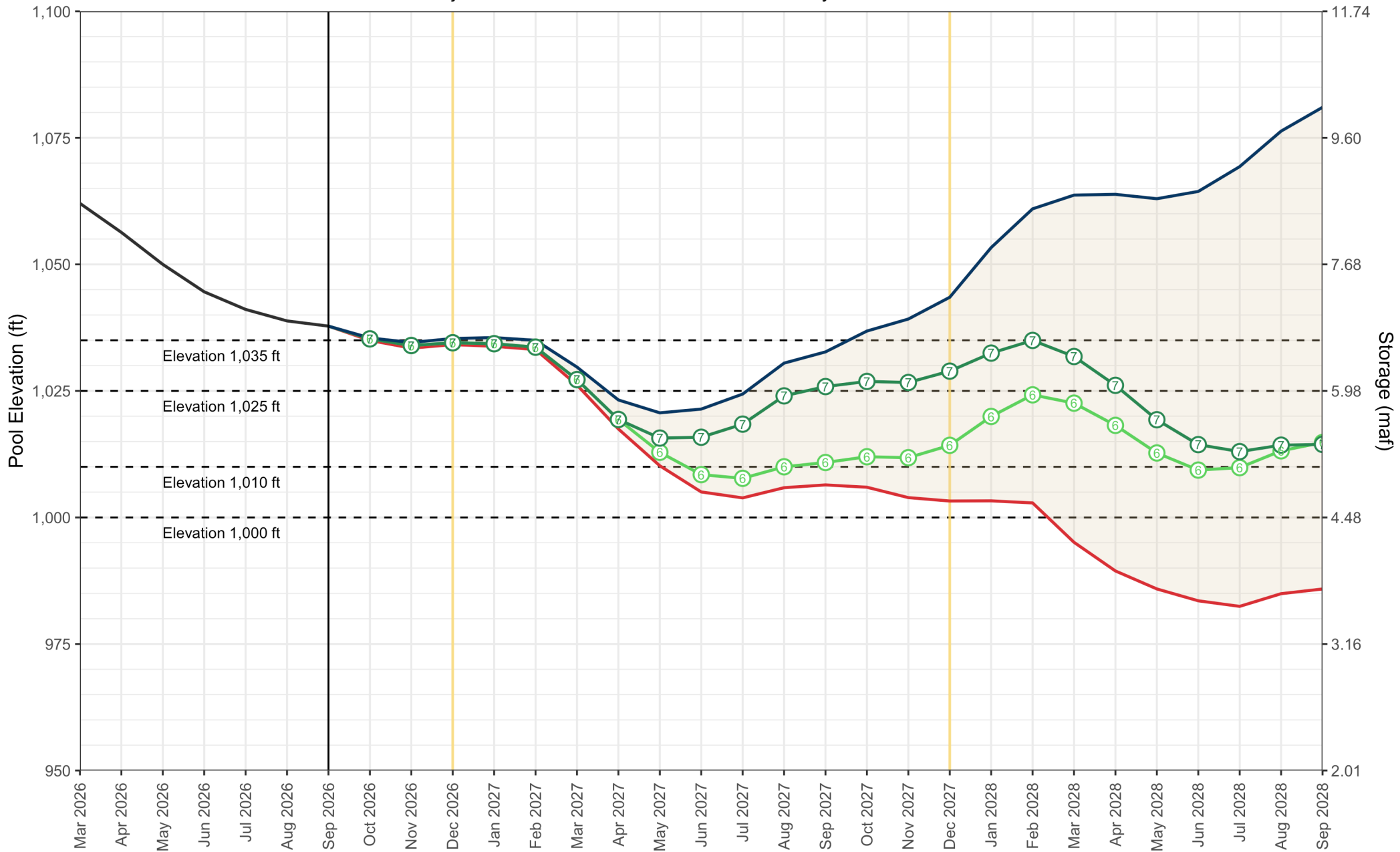
— October 2026 Probable Maximum (7.0 maf release)



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Lake Mead End-of-Month Elevations

Projections from October 2026 24-Month Study Inflow Scenarios



— Historical Elevations

— October 2026 Probable Minimum (6.0 maf release)

○ October 2026 Most Probable (6.0 maf release)

○ October 2026 Most Probable (7.0 maf release)

— October 2026 Probable Maximum (7.0 maf release)



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