

# 2021 Colorado River Annual Operating Plan

Colorado River Management Work Group Final Consultation September 3, 2020

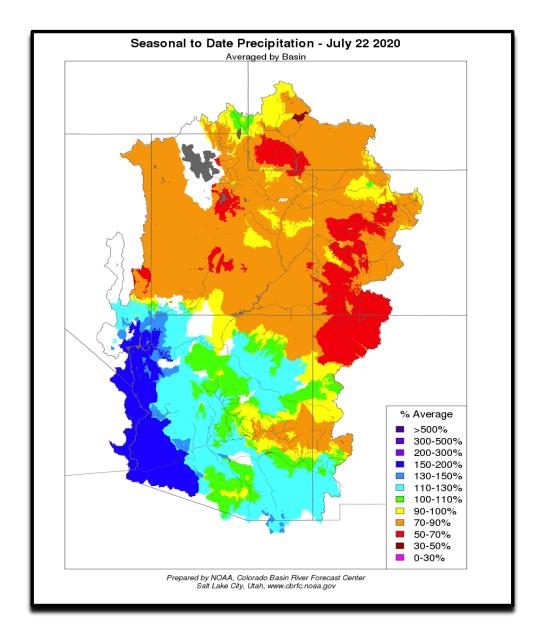
### **Upper Colorado Basin**

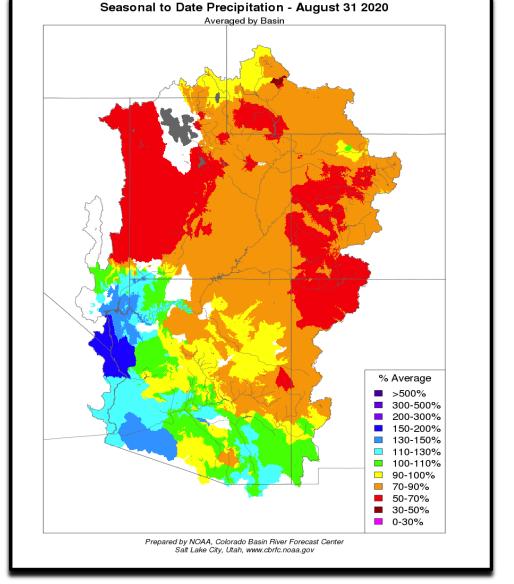
### Water Year 2020 Hydrology





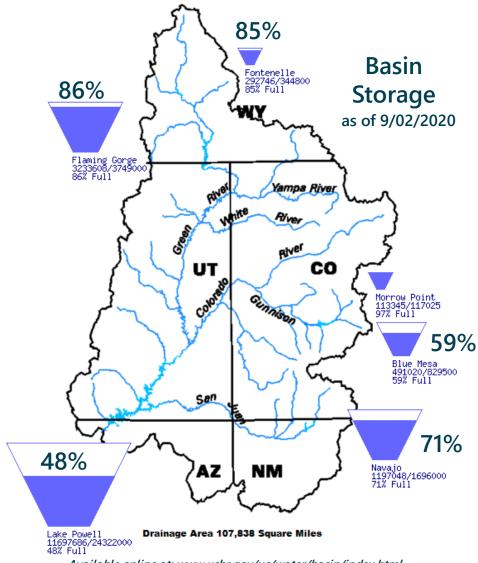
### **Basin Precipitation**







#### **Upper Basin Storage**



Available online at: www.usbr.gov/uc/water/basin/index.html

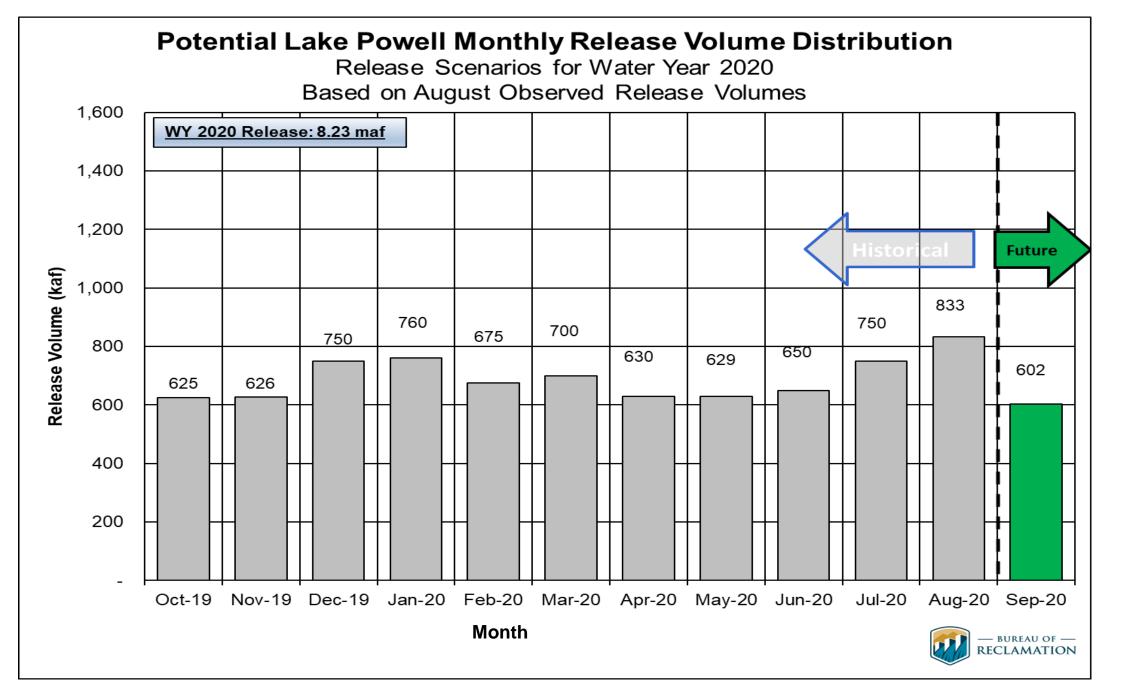
### Observed 2020 April – July Unregulated Inflow

as of September 1, 2020

Reservoir	Unregulated Inflow (kaf)	Percent of Average <sup>1</sup>		
Fontenelle	677	93		
Flaming Gorge	833	85		
Blue Mesa	388	57		
Navajo	347	47		
Powell	3,758	52		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Percent of average based on the period of record from 1981-2010.





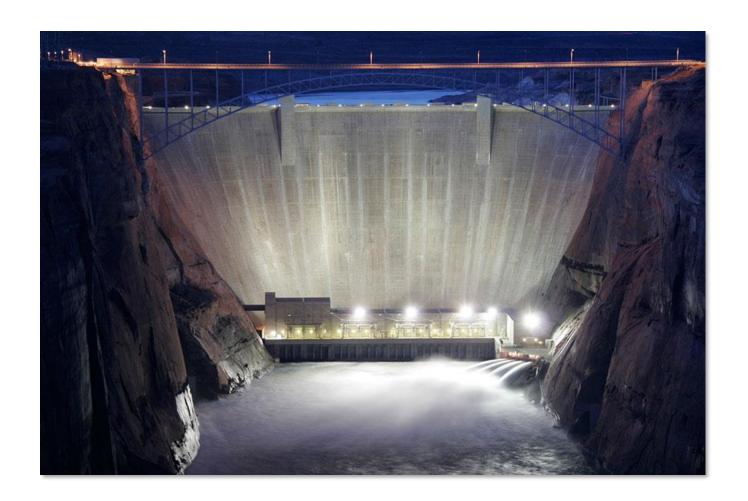


### **Upper Colorado Basin**

# Projected Operations for Water Year 2021







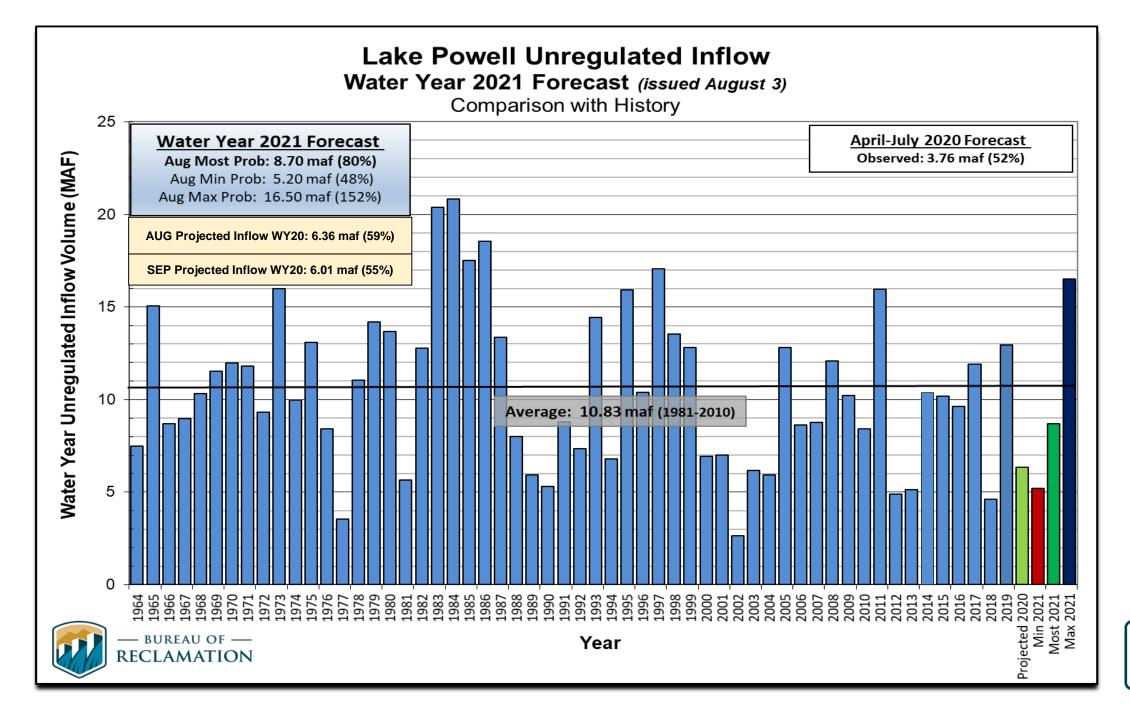
### CBRFC Unregulated Inflow Forecast Issued August 3, 2020

#### Water Year 2021 Inflow Forecast

Reservoir	Unregulated Inflow (kaf)	Percent of Average <sup>1</sup>		
Fontenelle	970	90		
Flaming Gorge	1,275	88		
Blue Mesa	820	89		
Navajo	850	81		
Powell	8,700	80		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Percent of average based on the period of record from 1981-2010.







### **Timing of Operational Decisions**

- August 24-Month Study projections of January 1 elevations sets the operating tiers for Lake Powell and Lake Mead
- When Lake Powell is in Upper Elevation Balancing Tier, <u>April 24-Month Study</u> projections of September 30 elevations may result in an adjustment to Powell's operations



#### B. Upper Elevation Balancing Tier

- In Water Years when the projected January 1 Lake Powell elevation is below the elevation stated in the Lake Powell Equalization Elevation Table and at or above 3,575 feet, the Secretary shall release 8.23 maf from Lake Powell if the projected January 1 Lake Mead elevation is at or above 1,075 feet.
- 2. If the projected January 1 Lake Powell elevation is below the elevation stated in the Lake Powell Equalization Elevation Table and at or above 3,575 feet and the projected January 1 Lake Mead elevation is below 1,075 feet, the Secretary shall balance the contents of Lake Mead and Lake Powell, but shall release not more than 9.0 maf and not less than 7.0 maf from Lake Powell in the Water Year.
- 3. When operating in the Upper Elevation Balancing Tier, if the April 24-Month Study projects the September 30 Lake Powell elevation to be greater than the elevation in the Lake Powell Equalization Elevation Table, the Equalization Tier will govern the operation of Lake Powell for the remainder of the Water Year (through September).
- 4. When operating under Section 6.B.1, if the April 24-Month Study projects the September 30 Lake Mead elevation to be below 1,075 feet and the September 30 Lake Powell elevation to be at or above 3,575 feet, the Secretary shall balance the contents of Lake Mead and Lake Powell, but shall release not more than 9.0 maf and not less than 8.23 maf from Lake Powell in the Water Year.
- 5. When Lake Powell is projected to be operating under Section 6.B.2. and more than 8.23 maf is projected to be released from Lake Powell during the upcoming Water Year, the Secretary shall recalculate the August 24-Month Study projection of the January 1 Lake Mead elevation to include releases above 8.23 maf that are scheduled to be released from Lake Powell during the months of October, November, and December of the upcoming Water Year, for the purposes of determining Normal or Shortage conditions pursuant to Sections 2.A. or 2.D. of these Guidelines.

### **August Determination**

### April Determination



### Lake Powell & Lake Mead Operational Table

Operational Tiers for Water/Calendar Year 2021<sup>1</sup>

	Lake Powell		Lake Mead					
Elevation (feet)	Operation According to the Interim Guidelines	Live Storage (maf) <sup>1</sup>	Elevation (feet)	Operation According to the Interim Guidelines	Live Storage (maf) <sup>1</sup>			
3,700	Equalization Tier Equalize, avoid spills or release 8.23 maf	24.3	1,220	Flood Control Surplus or Quantified Surplus Condition Deliver > 7.5 maf	25.9			
<b>3,636 - 3,666</b> (2008-2026)	Upper Elevation Balancing Tier <sup>3</sup> Release 8.23 maf;	15.5 - 19.3 (2008-2026)	(approx.) <sup>2</sup>	Domestic Surplus or ICS Surplus Condition Deliver > 7.5 maf	(approx.) <sup>2</sup>			
	Jan 1, 2021 if Lake Mead < 1,075 feet, balance contents with a min/max release of 7.0 and 9.0 maf		1,145 1,105	Normal or ICS Surplus Condition Deliver ≥ 7.5 maf <b>1,085.28 ft</b>	15.9 11.9			
3,575	3,575 Mid-Elevation		1,075	Jan 1, 2021 projection	9.4			
	Release Tier Release 7.48 maf; if Lake Mead < 1,025 feet,		1,050	Shortage Condition Deliver 7.167 <sup>4</sup> maf	7.5			
3,525	release 8.23 maf	5.9		Shortage Condition Deliver 7.083 <sup>5</sup> maf				
	Lower Elevation Balancing Tier		1,025	Shortage Condition	5.8			
3,490	Balance contents with	4.0	1,000	Deliver 7.0° maf Further measures may be undertaken <sup>7</sup>	4.3			
3,370		0	895		0			

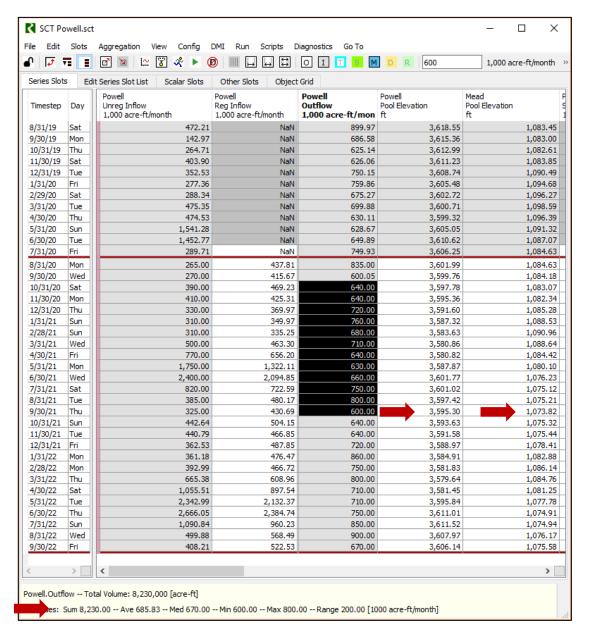
#### Diagram not to scale

- Acronym for million acre-feet
- This elevation is shown as approximate as it is determined each year by considering several factors including Lake Powell and Lake Mead storage, projected Upper Basin and Lower Basin demands, and an assumed inflow.
- <sup>3</sup> Subject to April adjustments which may result in a release according to the Equalization Tier
- Of which 2.48 maf is apportioned to Arizona, 4.4 maf to California, and 0.287 maf to Nevada
- Of which 2.40 maf is apportioned to Arizona, 4.4 maf to California, and 0.283 maf to Nevada
- Of which 2.32 maf is apportioned to Arizona, 4.4 maf to California, and 0.280 maf to Nevada

Whenever Lake Mead is below elevation 1,025 feet, the Secretary shall consider whether hydrologic conditions together with anticipated deliveries to the Lower Division States and Mexico is likely to cause the elevation at Lake Mead to fall below 1,000 feet. Such consideration, in consultation with the Basin States, may result in the undertaking of further measures, consistent with applicable Federal law.



### Official WY 2021 Operations Run



#### Water Year 2021

Based on Tier Determination Run: Start with Powell Release = 8.23 maf

Operating under Upper Elevation Balancing Tier

August run shows an April adjustment to Balancing (6.B.4)

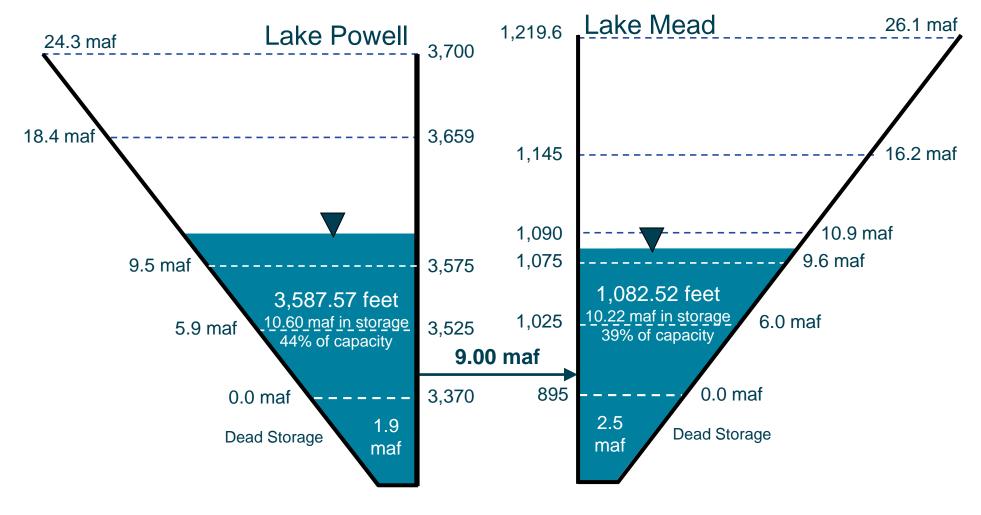
WY 2021 Projected Release = 9.0 maf



### **End of Water Year 2021 Projections**

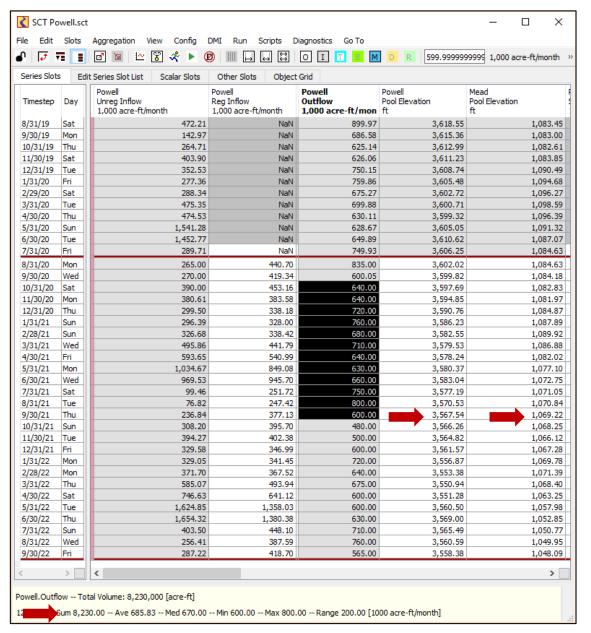
#### August 2020 24-Month Study Most Probable Inflow Scenario<sup>1</sup>

Based on a Lake Powell Unregulated Inflow Forecast of 8.70 maf (80% of average)





### Minimum Probable WY 2021 Operations Run



#### Water Year 2021

Based on Tier Determination Run: Start with Powell Release = 8.23 maf

Operating under Upper Elevation Balancing Tier

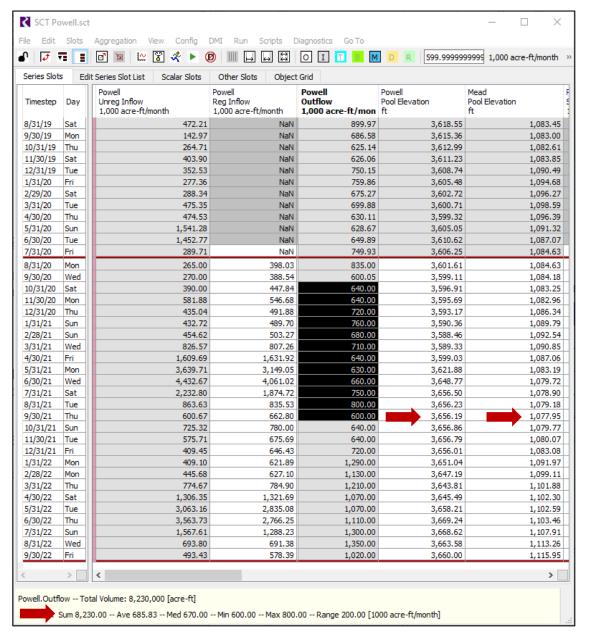
August run shows Powell elevation on September 30, 2021 below 3,575 ft and Mead below 1,075 ft.

No April adjustment to Balancing (6.B.1)

WY 2021 Minimum Projected Release = 8.23 maf



### Maximum Probable WY 2021 Operations Run



#### Water Year 2021

Based on Tier Determination Run: Start with Powell Release = 8.23 maf

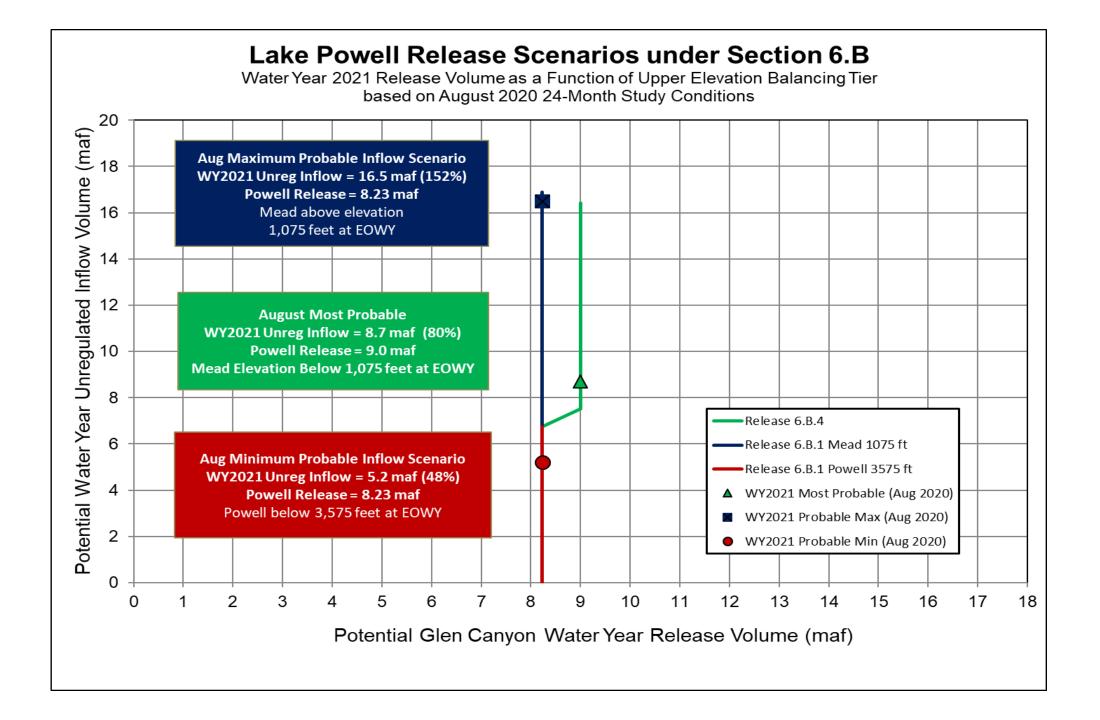
Operating under Upper Elevation Balancing Tier

August run shows Powell elevation on September 30, 2021 above 3,575 ft and below Equalization elevation of 3,659 ft (2021), and Mead above 1,075 ft.

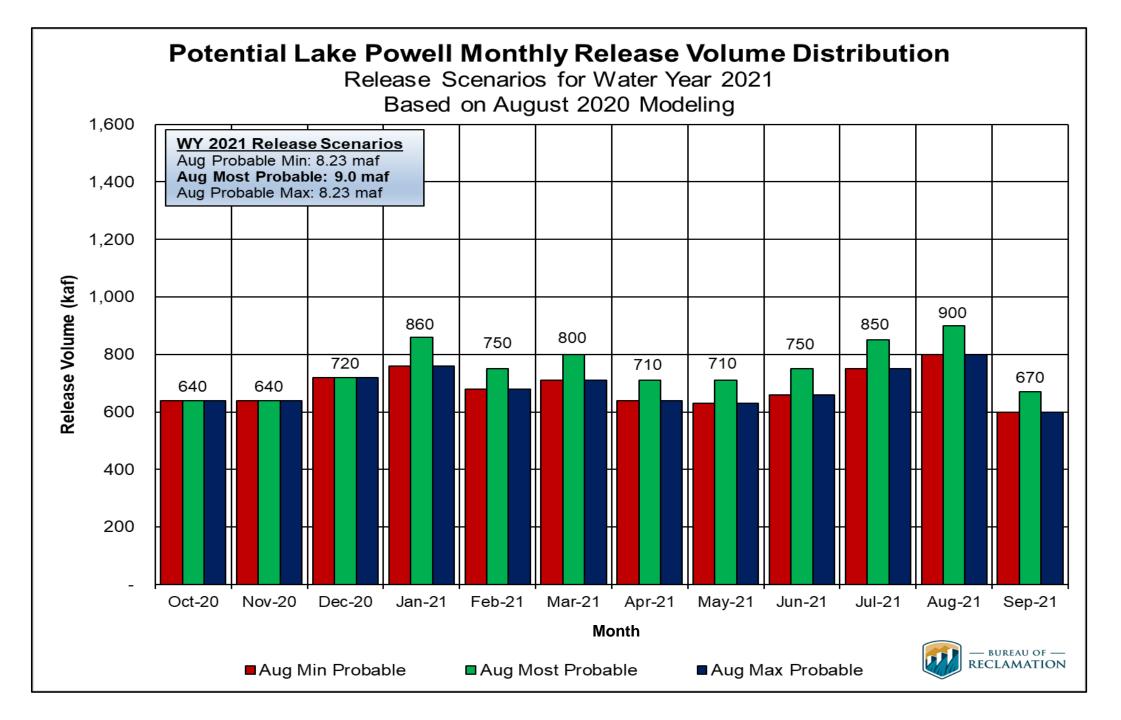
No April adjustment to Balancing (6.B.1)

WY 2021 Maximum Projected Release = 8.23 maf





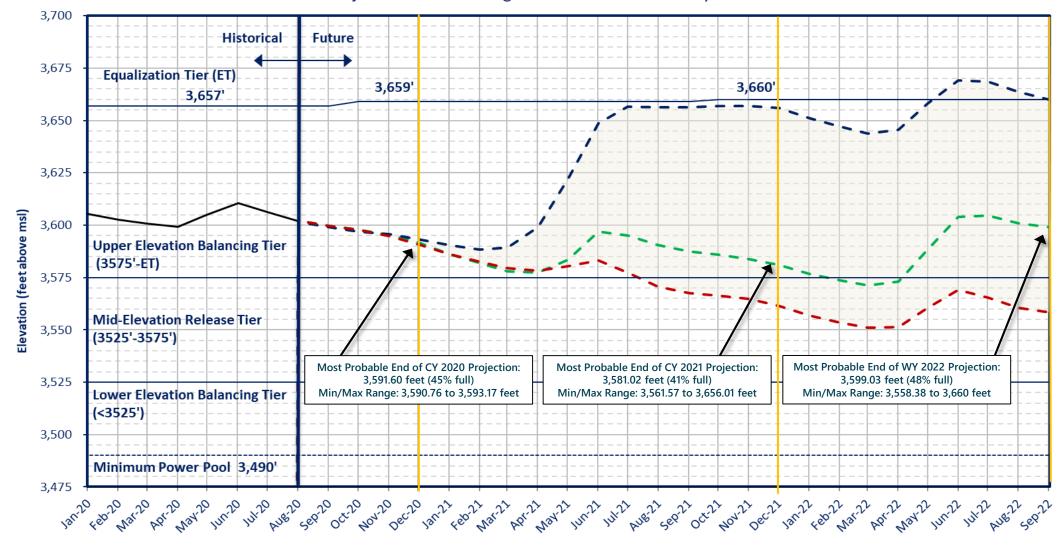






#### **Lake Powell End of Month Elevations**

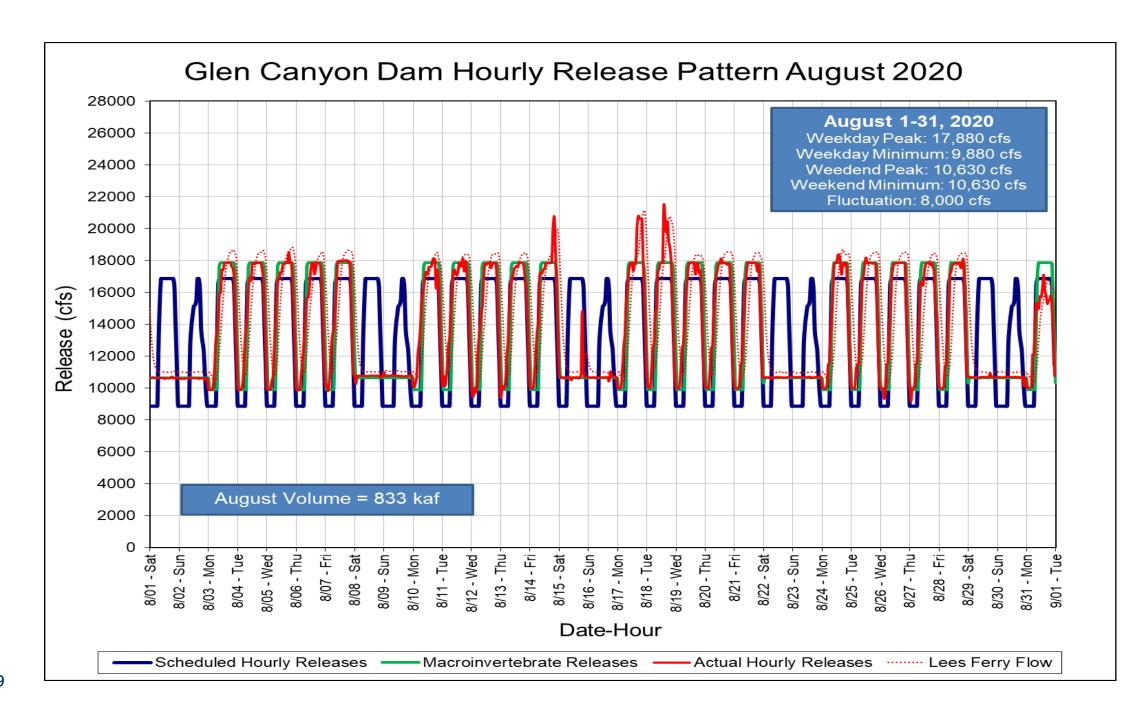
Historic and Projected based on August 2020 24-Month Study Inflow Scenarios



- Aug 2020 Most Probable Lake Powell release of 8.23 maf in WY2020, 9.0 maf in WY2021 and 9.0 maf in WY2022
- Aug 2020 Max Probable Lake Powell release of 8.23 maf in WY2020, 8.23 maf in WY2021 and 12.55 maf in WY2022
- Aug 2020 Min Probable Lake Powell release of 8.23 maf in WY2020, 8.23 maf in WY2021 and 7.48 maf in WY2022
- Historical Elevations









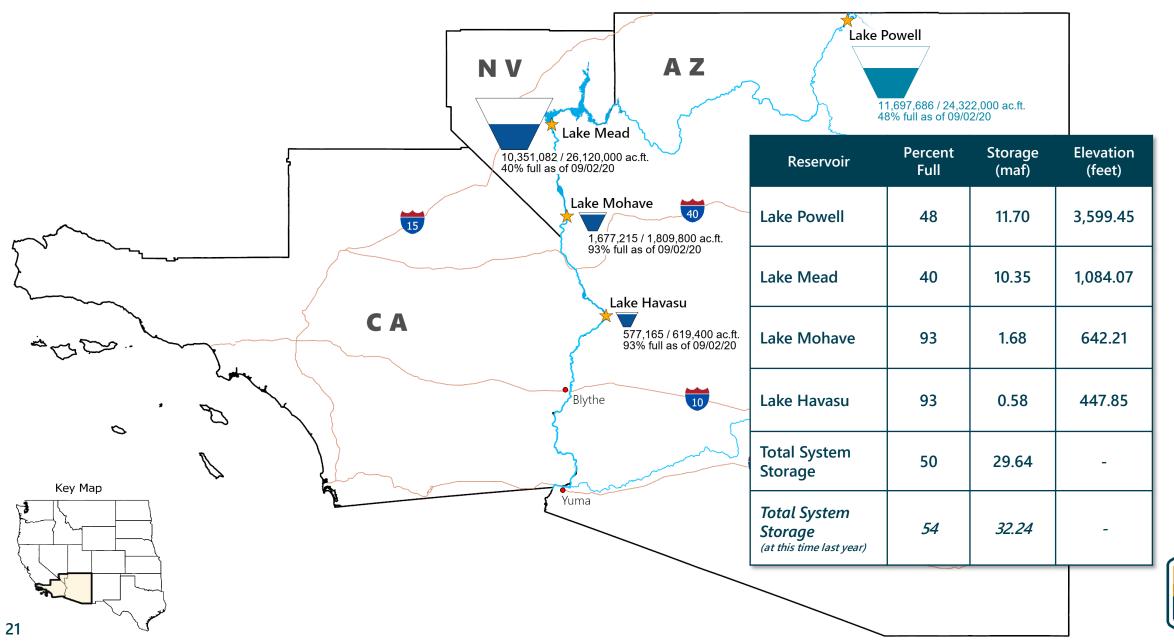


### **Lower Colorado Basin**

# System Conditions and Operations Update



### Colorado River System Conditions (as of September 2, 2020)





## Lower Basin Side Inflows – WY/CY 2020<sup>1,2</sup> Intervening Flow from Glen Canyon to Hoover Dam

	Month	5-Year Average Intervening Flow (kaf)	Observed Intervening Flow (kaf)	Observed Intervening Flow (% of Average)	Difference From 5-Year Average (kaf)	
	October 2019	75	34	45%	-41	
	November 2019	68	116	169%	47	
	December 2019	64	118	184%	54	
	January 2020	95	75	79%	-20	
cal	February 2020	101	68	67%	-33	
Historical	March 2020	91	156	171%	65	
Į žį	April 2020 69		83	120%	14	
	May 2020 49		33	68%	-15	
	June 2020	June 2020 28		68%	-9	
	July 2020 73		35	48%	-38	
	August 2020	August 2020 91 70		77%	-21	
	September 2020	75	75			
Future	October 2020	October 2020 75				
Fut	November 2020 68		68			
	December 2020	64	64			
	WY 2020 Totals	878	881	100%	3	
	CY 2020 Totals	878	821	93%	-57	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Values were computed with the LC's gain-loss model for the most recent 24-month study.

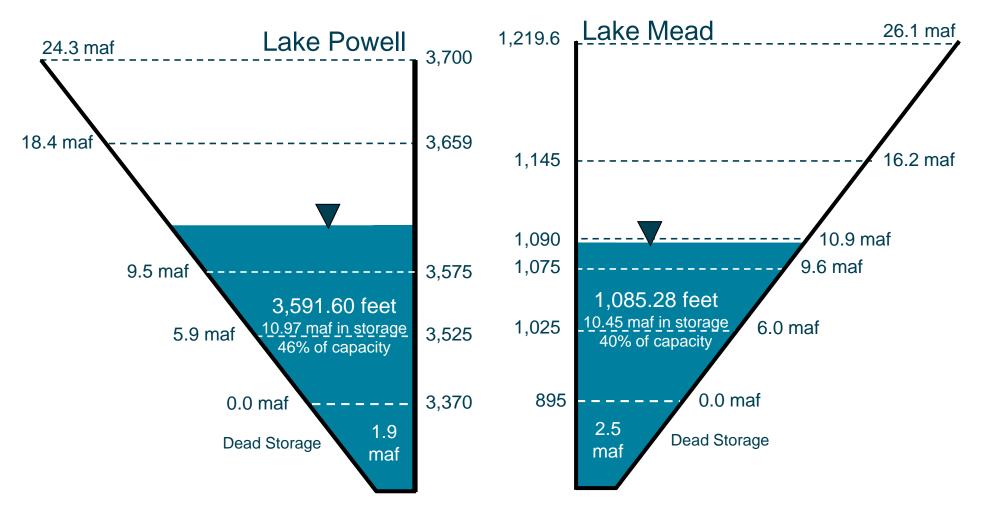


 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 2}$  Percents of average are based on the 5-year mean from 2015-2019.

### **End of Calendar Year 2020 Projections**

#### August 2020 24-Month Study Most Probable Inflow Scenario<sup>1</sup>

Based on a Lake Powell release of 8.23 maf in WY 2020 and 9.00 maf in WY 2021





### Lake Powell & Lake Mead Operational Table

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# Lower Basin Reservoir Operations Calendar Year 2021

- Lake Mead operated consistent with the 2007 Interim Guidelines, the Lower Basin DCP, and Minute 323
  - Lake Mead will operate in a Normal/ICS Surplus Condition in CY 2021 with Lower Basin DCP and Minute 323 water savings contributions
  - ICS and system conservation water are also projected to be created
- Lakes Mohave and Havasu will operate consistent with each reservoir's respective elevation guide curves



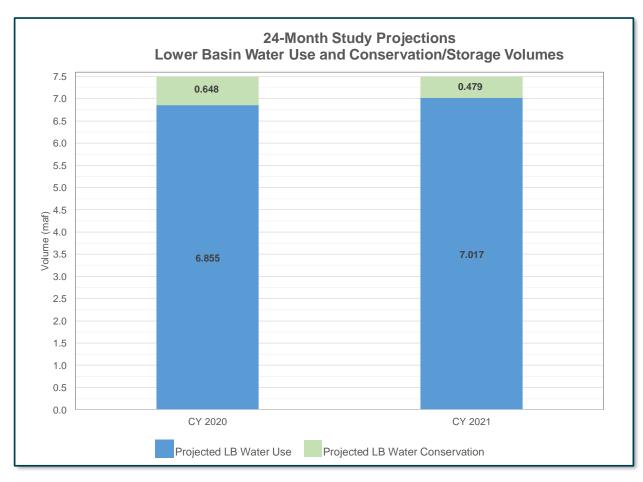
# 2007 Interim Guidelines, Minute 323, Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan, and Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan Total Volumes (kaf)

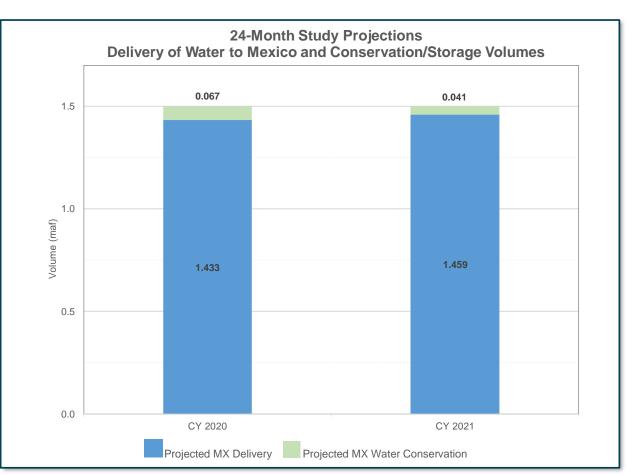
Lake Mead Elevation (feet msl)	Guid	Interim delines rtages	Minute 323 Delivery Reductions	Total Combined Reductions	DCP Water Savings Contributions		Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan Savings	Combined Volumes by Country US: (2007 Interim Guidelines Shortages + DCP Contributions) Mexico: (Minute 323 Delivery Reductions + Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan Savings)					Total Combined Volumes	
(leet msi)	AZ	NV	Mexico	Lower Basin States + Mexico	AZ	NV	CA	Mexico	AZ Total	NV Total	CA Total	Lower Basin States Total	Mexico Total	Lower Basin States + Mexico
1,090 - 1,075	0	0	0	0	192	8	0	41	192	8	0	200	41	241
1,075 - 1050	320	13	50	383	192	8	0	30	512	21	0	533	80	613
1,050 - 1,045	400	17	70	487	192	8	0	34	592	25	0	617	104	721
1,045 - 1,040	400	17	70	487	240	10	200	76	640	27	200	867	146	1,013
1,040 - 1,035	400	17	70	487	240	10	250	84	640	27	250	917	154	1,071
1,035 - 1,030	400	17	70	487	240	10	300	92	640	27	300	967	162	1,129
1,030 - 1,025	400	17	70	487	240	10	350	101	640	27	350	1,017	171	1,188
<1,025	480	20	125	625	240	10	350	150	720	30	350	1,100	275	1,375





### Projected Lower Basin Water Use<sup>1</sup> and Delivery to Mexico<sup>2</sup> As modeled in the August 2020 24-Month Study





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Projected LB water conservation in 2020 and 2021 includes DCP contributions, system conservation, and ICS creation. <sup>2</sup> Projected Mexico water conservation includes water reserve in 2020 and recoverable water savings in 2021.



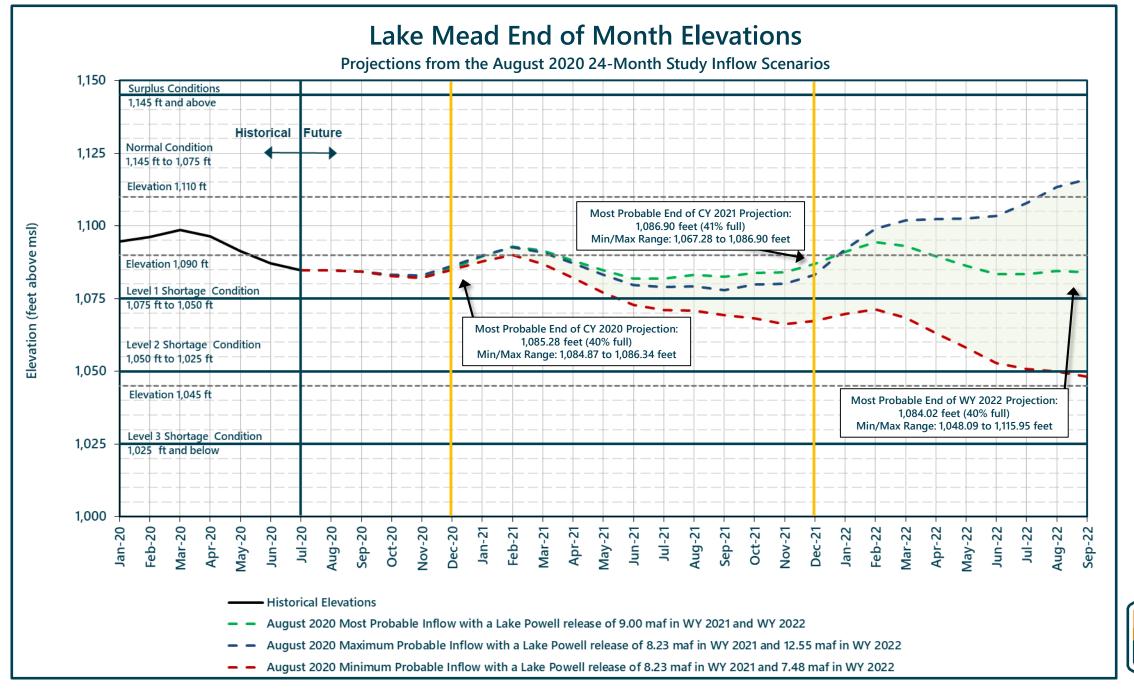
### **Projected Lake Mead Operational Tiers**

Based on August 2020 24-Month Study Inflow Scenarios

Inflow Scenario	CY 2021 Jan 1, 2021 Projection	CY 2022 Jan 1, 2022 Projections
Probable Maximum	Normal - ICS Surplus Condition	Normal - ICS Surplus Condition + Water Savings Contributions <sup>1</sup> Elevation 1,083.08 ft
Most Probable	+ Water Savings Contributions <sup>1</sup>	Normal - ICS Surplus Condition + Water Savings Contributions <sup>1</sup> Elevation 1,086.90 ft
Probable Minimum	Elevation 1,085.28 ft	Level 1 Shortage Condition+ Water Savings Contributions <sup>1</sup> Elevation 1,067.28 ft

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Water savings contributions consistent with the 2019 Colorado River Drought Contingency Plans and Section IV of IBWC Minute No. 323.







### Additional Operational Data

Provisional 2020 Year-to-Date Totals

- Mexico Excess Flows
  →49,544 af (through 9/2)
- Brock Reservoir Total Storage
   ▶92,913 af (through 8/28)
- Senator Wash Total Storage ➤ 52,274 af (through 8/28)









### **YAO Operations Update**

- Pumped drainage return flows from the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District
  - Flow at station 0+00 on the Main Outlet
     Drain from January through July 2020 was
     55,902 ac-ft at 2,670 ppm
- Provisional drainage flows to the Colorado River
  - From the South Gila Drainage Wells
     January through July 2020 was
     16,147 ac-ft at 1,664 ppm
  - From the Yuma Mesa Conduit January through July 2020 was 0 ac-ft



