

## 2023 Colorado River Annual Operating Plan

Colorado River Management Work Group Second Consultation August 2, 2022

# 2023 Colorado River AOP Second Consultation Meeting

- > Welcome and Introductions
  - **→** Chris Cutler & Daniel Bunk
- ➤ Upper Basin Hydrology and Operations
  - ➤ Nathaniel Todea
- ➤ Lower Basin Hydrology and Operations
  - > Alexander Pivarnik
- ≥ 2023 AOP Review Process
  - > Chris Cutler & Daniel Bunk
- ➤ Review of Draft 2023 AOP
  - > Chris Cutler & Noe Santos with CRMWG
- ➤ Wrap-up and Next Steps
  - > Chris Cutler & Daniel Bunk
- > Reminder of Future Meeting Dates





#### **Upper Colorado Basin**

#### Water Year 2022 Hydrology



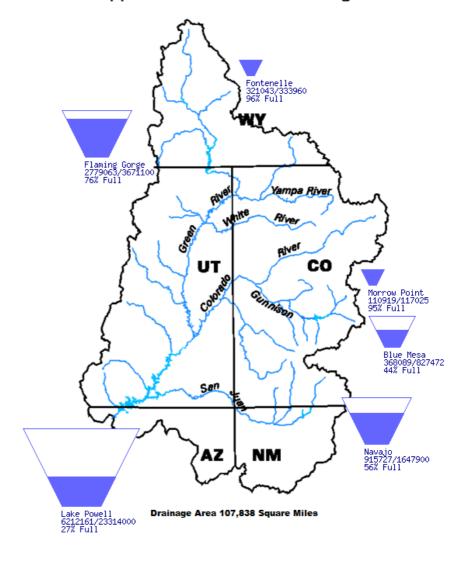


#### Upper Basin Storage (as of July 31, 2022)

Data Current as of: 07/31/2022

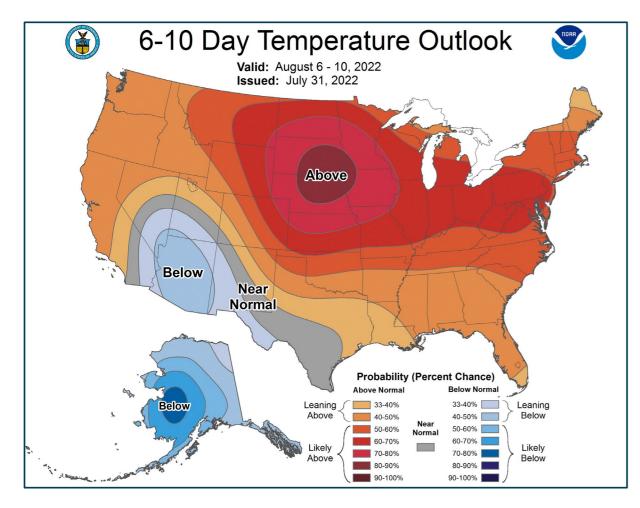
#### Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin

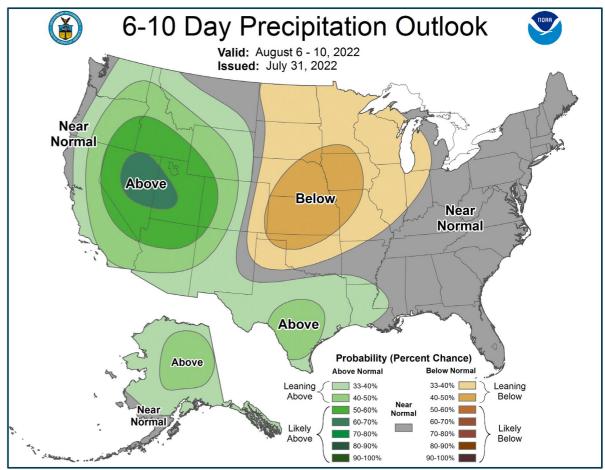
Reservoir	Percent Current Live Storage	Current Live Storage (maf)	Live Storage Capacity (maf)	Elevation (feet)
Fontenelle	96	0.32	0.33	6,504.34
Flaming Gorge	76	2.78	3.67	6,016.07
Blue Mesa	44	0.37	0.83	7,460.15
Navajo	56	0.92	1.65	6,025.41
Lake Powell	26	6.21	24.32	3,536.20
UC System Storage	34	10.60	30.80	





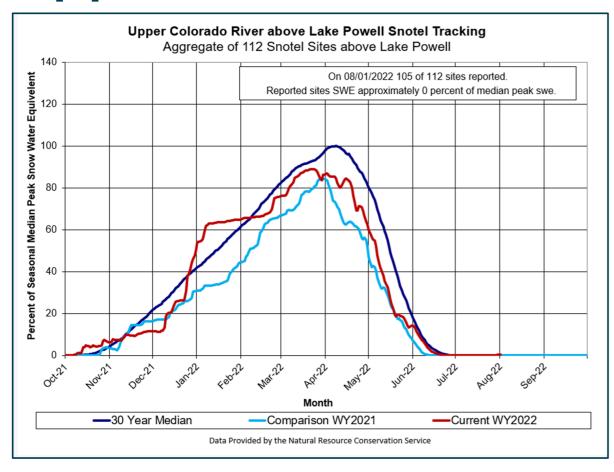
#### Precipitation and Temperature Outlook

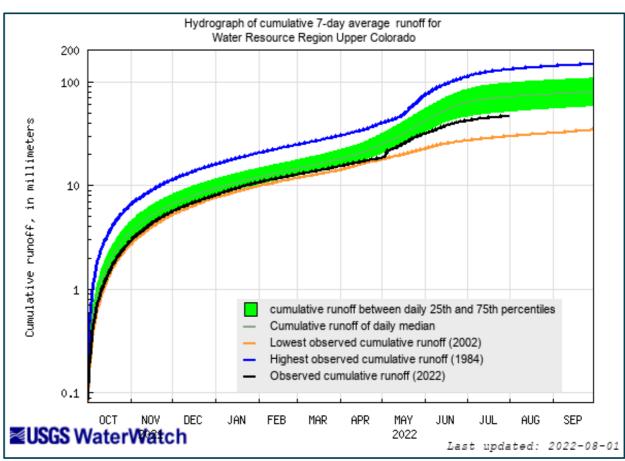






### **Upper Colorado SWE and Observed Inflows**





https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/index.php



## Most Probable July Forecast Water Year 2022

April – July 2022 Forecasted Unregulated Inflow as of July 5, 2022

Reservoir	Unregulated Inflow (kaf)	Percent of Avg <sup>1</sup>		
Fontenelle	450	61		
Flaming Gorge	540	56		
Blue Mesa	425	67		
Navajo	355	56		
Powell	3,600	56		

Mid-Month Forecast<sup>2</sup> = 3,690 kaf (58%)

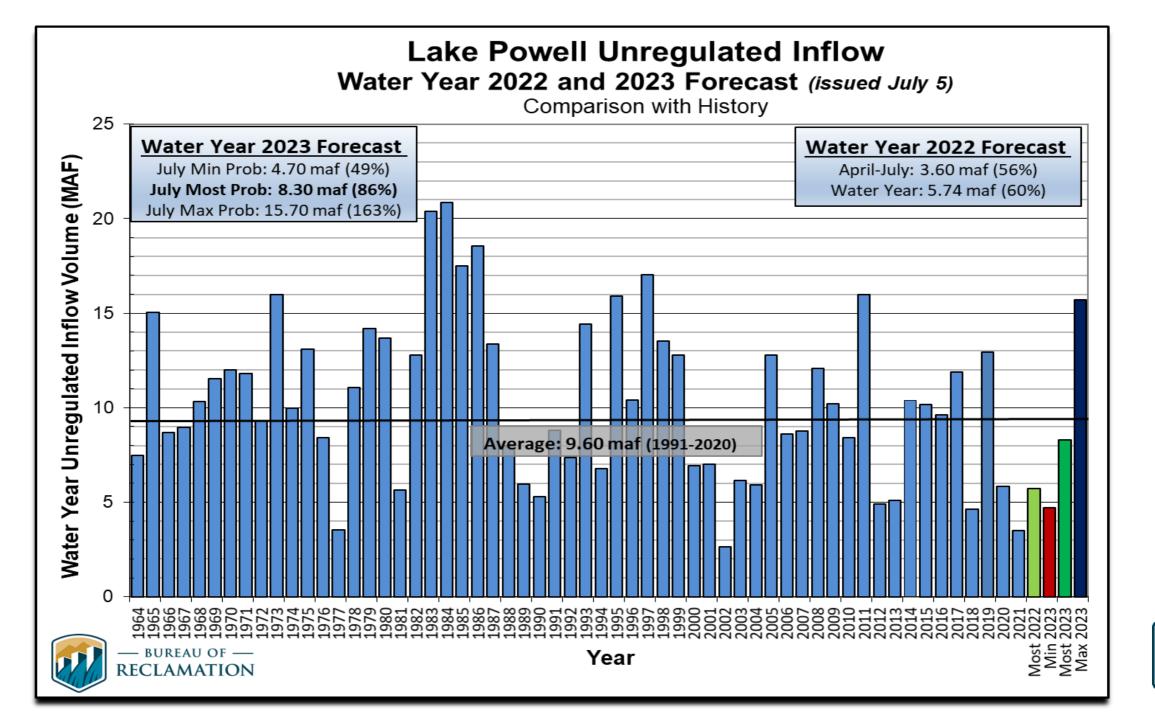
Water Year 2022 Forecasted Unregulated Inflow as of July 5, 2022

Reservoir	Unregulated Inflow (kaf)	Percent of Avg <sup>1</sup>		
Fontenelle	730	68		
Flaming Gorge	878	62		
Blue Mesa	634	70		
Navajo	514	56		
Powell	5,736	60		

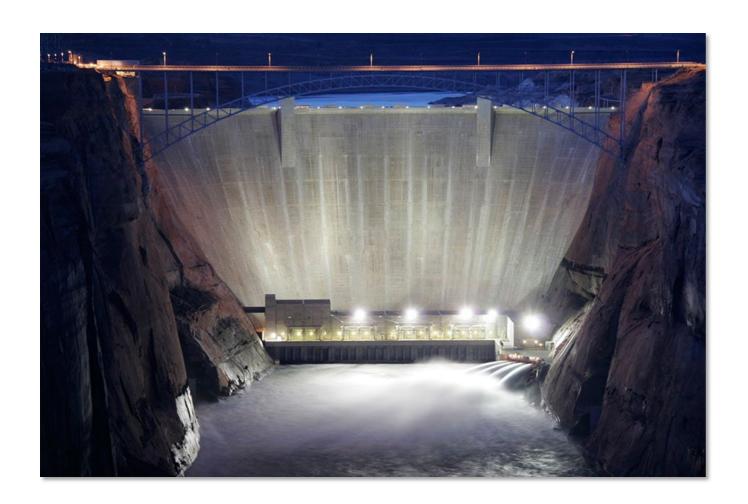
Mid-Month Forecast<sup>2</sup> = 5,826 kaf (61%)



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Averages are based on the 1991 through 2020 period of record. <sup>2</sup>Mid-Month Forecast dated July 18, 2022





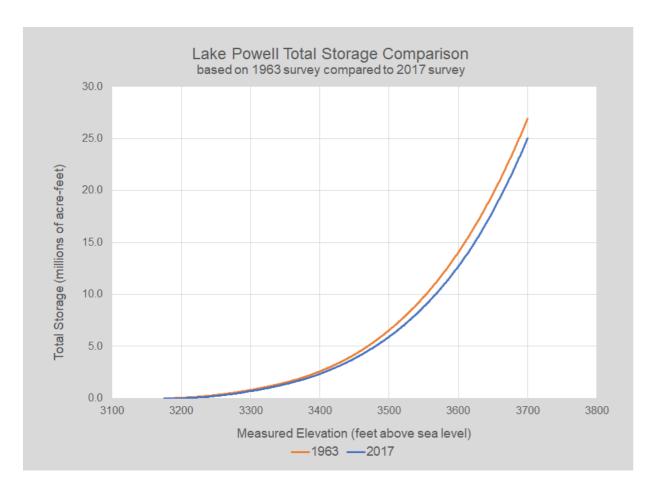


#### **Upper Colorado Basin**

Projected Operations for Water Year 2022 and 2023 Based on July 2022 Modeling



### 2017 Powell Elevation-Volume Relationship



#### Reduced Reservoir Storage

Elevation (ft)	New 2017 Table Storage (kaf)	Old 1986 Table Storage (kaf)	Change in Volume (kaf)	% Change
3,700	23,314	24,322	-1,008	-4%
3,666	18,361	19,291	-930	-5%
3,575	8,901	9,517	-616	-6%
3,539.78	6,435	6,878	-443	-6%
3,525	5,545	5,927	-382	-6%
3,490	3,743	3,997	-254	-6%

Powell is a "Skinnier Bucket"

### **Bathymetric Sensitivity Analysis Summary**

- The bathymetry change results in less Powell storage, where change in volume varies by elevation
- Generally, forecasting higher Powell and lower Mead elevation and storage
- Bathymetry change effects differ for balancing verse tier determination.
  - Balancing and storage reduced balancing releases from Powell due to less storage
  - Tier determination and lake elevations move through tiers more quickly, less storage loss/gain required to change tiers
- Powell benefits from the 2022 Actions remain with the bathymetry update



#### Lake Powell & Lake Mead Operational Table

#### Operating Determinations for Water Year/Calendar Year 2022

	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>				
	if Lake Mead < 1,075 feet,		1,145		15.9				
	balance contents with a min/max release of 7.0 and 9.0 maf		1,105	Normal or ICS Surplus Condition Deliver ≥ 7.5 maf	11.9				
3,575	Mid-Elevation	9.5	1,075	1,065.85ft	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  Projection	7.5				
	3,535.40 ft release 8.23 maf  Jan 1, 2022			Shortage Condition Deliver 7.083 <sup>8</sup> maf					
3,525	Projection  Lower Elevation	5.9	1,025		5.8				
3,490	Balancing Tier Balance contents with a min/max release of 7.0 and 9.5 maf	4.0	1,000	Shortage Condition Deliver 7.0° mat Further measures may be undertaken <sup>7</sup>	4.3				
3,370		0	895		0				

#### Diagram not to scale

- 1 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
- <sup>6</sup> Of which 2,32 maf is apportioned to Arizona, 4,4 maf to California, and 0,280 maf to Nevada

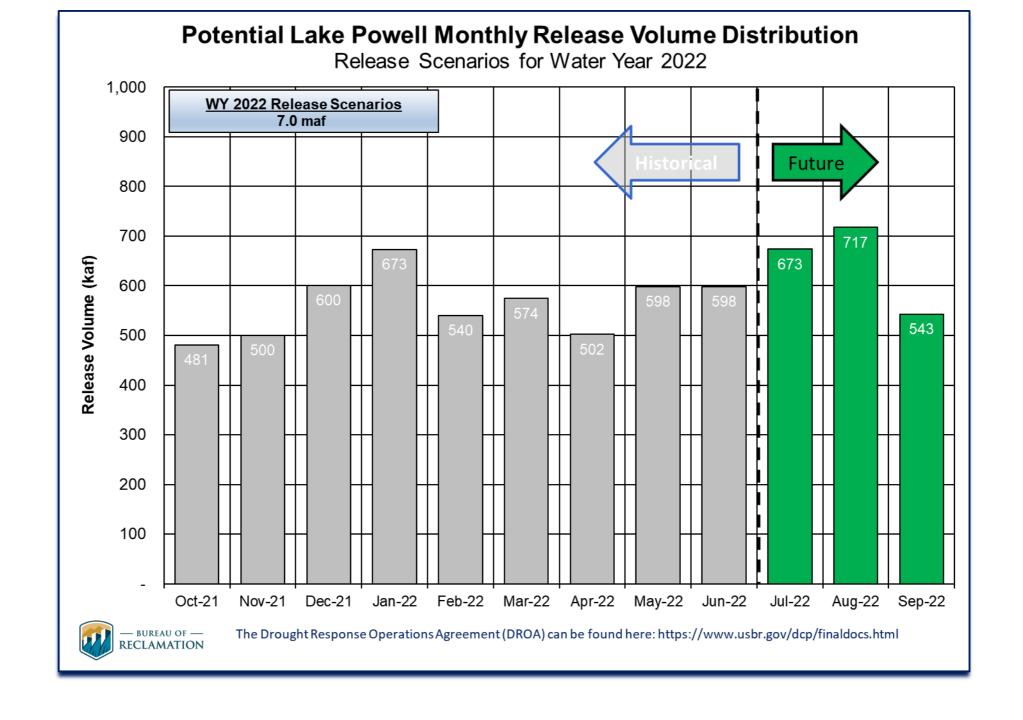
Whenever Lake Mead is below elevation 1,025 feet, the Secretary shall consider whether hydrologic conditions together with anticipated deliveries to the Lower Division States and Mexico is likely to cause the elevation at Lake Mead to fall below 1,000 feet. Such consideration, in consultation with the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





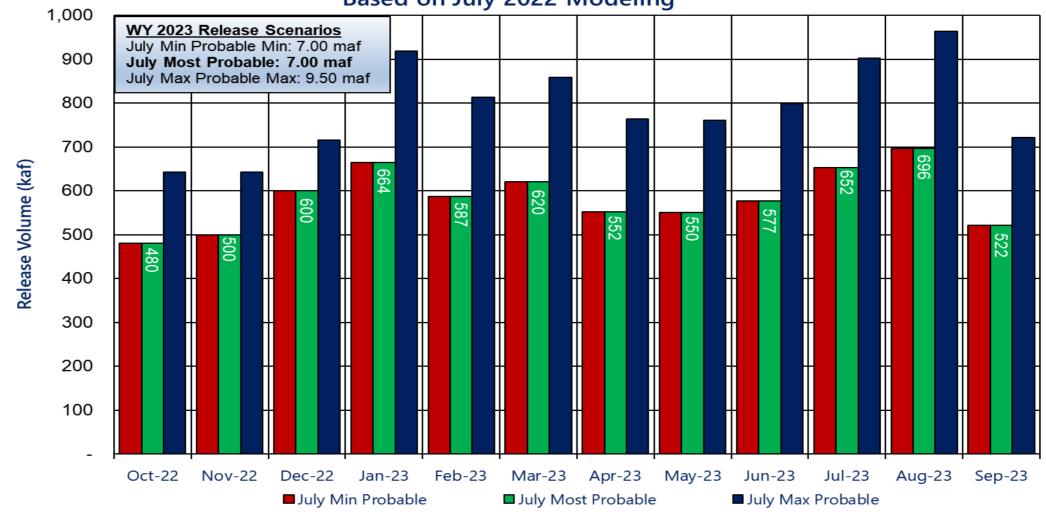
### **Upper Basin Drought Response Actions**

- The Bureau of Reclamation announced on May 3, 2022, two separate urgent drought response actions that will help prop up Lake Powell by nearly 1 million acre-feet (maf) of water over the next 12 months (May 2022 through April 2023). To protect Lake Powell, more water will flow into the lake from upstream reservoirs and less water will be released downstream:
  - Under a Drought Contingency Plan adopted in 2022, approximately 500 thousand acre-feet (kaf) of water will come from Flaming Gorge Reservoir, located approximately 455 river miles upstream of Lake Powell (2022 Plan).
    - For more information: <a href="https://www.usbr.gov/uc/DocLibrary/Plans/20220429-2022DroughtResponseOperationsPlan-ApprovalMemo-508-DOI.pdf">https://www.usbr.gov/uc/DocLibrary/Plans/20220429-2022DroughtResponseOperationsPlan-ApprovalMemo-508-DOI.pdf</a>.
  - Another 480 kaf will be left in Lake Powell by reducing Glen Canyon Dam's annual release volume from 7.48 maf to 7.00 maf (GC Operational Adjustment), in accordance with Sections 6 and 7.D of the 2007 Interim Guidelines.
    - For more information: <a href="https://www.usbr.gov/uc/DocLibrary/Plans/20220503-2022DROA-GlenCanyonDamOperationsDecisionLetter-508-DOI.pdf">https://www.usbr.gov/uc/DocLibrary/Plans/20220503-2022DROA-GlenCanyonDamOperationsDecisionLetter-508-DOI.pdf</a>









The operating determination for upcoming years will be based on a projected "tier" elevation in the August 2022 24-Month Study. Based on July 2022 24-Month Study modeling, Lake Powell's operating condition for water year 2023 is projected to be within the Lower Elevation Balancing Tier. The Department of Interior and Reclamation will work with the Basin States to determine the manner in which to operate Glen Canyon Dam to ensure the benefits of the drought actions are preserved.



#### **Timing of Operational Decisions**

 August 24-Month Study projections of January 1 elevations sets the operating tiers for Lake Powell and Lake Mead

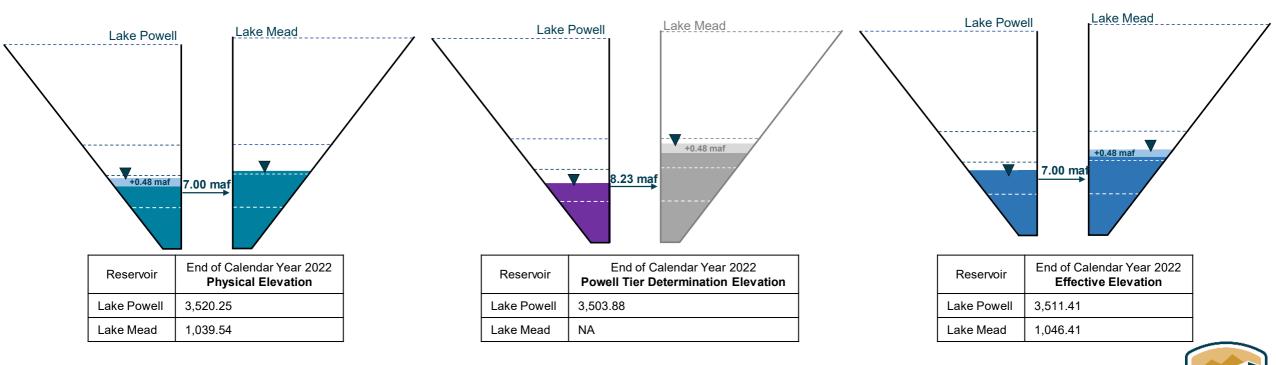


## End of Calendar Year 2022 Lake Powell and Lake Mead Elevations Based on July 2022 24-Month Study<sup>1,2,3</sup>

**Physical Elevations:** Real-time or projected elevations based on a 7.00 maf release from Lake Powell in WY 2022 and 7.00 maf in WY 2023.

**Powell Tier Determination:** Projected elevation "as if" the additional 0.48 maf were released from Powell in WY 2022 and with an 8.23 maf WY 2023 Powell release.

**Effective Elevation & Mead Operating Condition Determination:** Projected elevation "as if" the additional 0.48 maf were released from Powell in WY 2022, with an adjusted WY 2023 Powell release of 7.00 maf.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For more information: https://www.usbr.gov/uc/DocLibrary/Plans/20220503-2022DROA-GlenCanyonDamOperationsDecisionLetter-508-DOI.pdf.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Both the Powell Tier Determination and Effective Elevations are "as if" the additional 0.48 maf were released from Powell in WY 2022. Powell's Tier Determination elevation is used to set the WY 2023 operating tier. For Mead, the Effective Elevation is used to set the CY 2023 operating condition. The Department of Interior and Reclamation will work to determine the manner in which to operate Glen Canyon Dam to ensure the benefits of these actions are preserved.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Images are **not** to scale.

#### Lake Powell & Lake Mead Operational Table

Projected Tiers for Water/Calendar Year 2023 based on the July 2022 24-Month Study

	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	<b>Equalization Tier</b> 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>
	if Lake Mead < 1,075 feet,		1,145		15.9
3,575	balance contents with a min/max release of 7.0 and 9.0 maf	9.5	1,105	Normal or ICS Surplus Condition Deliver ≥ 7.5 maf	11.9
3,575	Mid-Elevation Release Tier Release 7.48 maf; if Lake Mead < 1,025 feet,	9.5	1,075		9.4
				Shortage Condition Deliver 7.167 <sup>4</sup> maf	
	release 8.23 maf		1,050		7.5
3,525		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 a min/max release of 7.0 and 9.5 maf	4.0	1,000	Deliver 7.0 <sup>6</sup> maf Further measures may be undertaken <sup>7</sup>	4.3
3,370		0	895		0

1,046.41 ft Jan 1, 2023 Projection

3,503.88 ft Jan 1, 2023 Projection

#### Diagram not to scale

Acronym for million acre-fe



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 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.

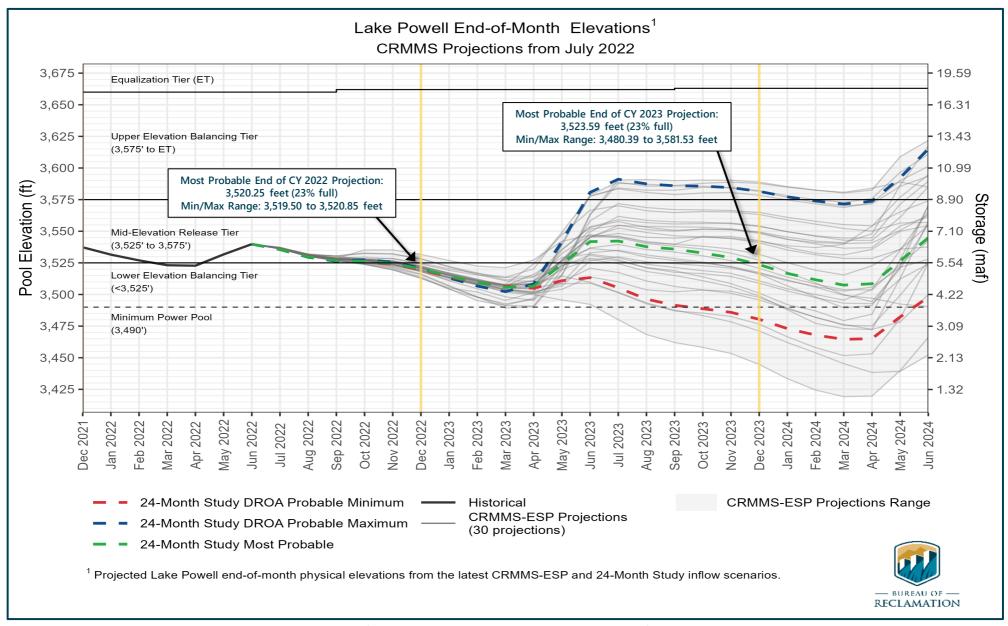
Subject to April adjustments which may result in a release according to the Equalization Tier

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.



The chart above displays projected "physical" elevations for Lake Powell. The operating determination for upcoming years, however, will be based on a projected "tier" elevation in the August 2022 24-Month Study. Based on July 2022 24-Month Study modeling, Lake Powell's operating condition for water year 2023 is projected to be within the Lower Elevation Balancing Tier. The Department of Interior and Reclamation will work to determine the manner in which to operate Glen Canyon Dam to ensure the benefits of the drought actions are preserved.

#### Lake Powell WY 2023 Operating Tier Scenarios

Based on July 2022 24-Month Study Inflow Scenarios

Inflow Scenario	Operating Tier/ Release Volume					
July DROA* Minimum Probable	Lower Elevation Balancing 7.00 maf					
July Most Probable	Lower Elevation Balancing 7.00 maf					
July DROA* Maximum Probable	Lower Elevation Balancing 9.50 maf					

\*The Drought Response Operations Agreement (DROA) can be found online at: https://www.usbr.gov/dcp/finaldocs.html.





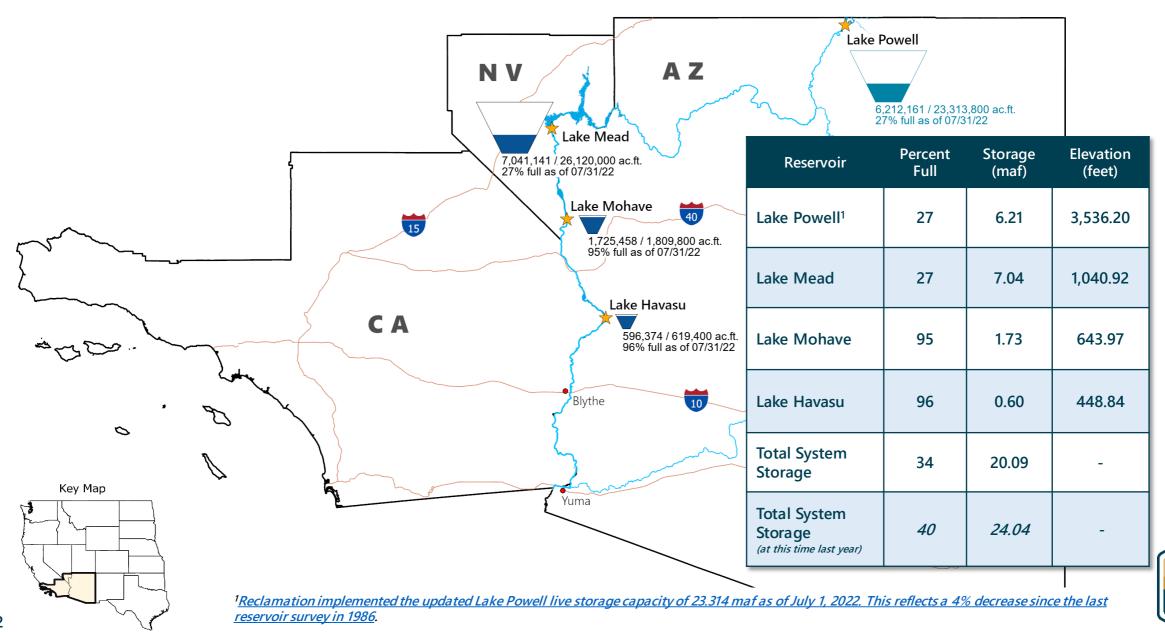
#### **Lower Colorado Basin**

### Calendar Year 2022 Operations Update



#### Lower Colorado Basin System Conditions

(as of July 31, 2022)



### Lower Basin Side Inflows – WY/CY 2022<sup>1,2,3</sup> Intervening Flow from Glen Canyon to Hoover Dam

N	Month in WY/CY 2022	5-Year Average Intervening Flow (kaf)	Observed Intervening Flow (kaf)	Observed Intervening Flow (% of Average)	Difference From 5-Year Average (kaf)
	October 2021	69	80	116%	11
	November 2021	68	42	62%	-26
	December 2021	69	64	94%	-4
	January 2022	87	60	69%	-27
Observed	February 2022	88	58	65%	-31
bse	March 2022	107	41	39%	-65
	April 2022	72	30	43%	-41
	May 2022	43	8	18%	-35
	June 2022	22	16	72%	-6
	July 2022	56	71	127%	15
	August 2022	66			
pa	September 2022	62			
Projected	October 2022	69			
Prc	November 2022	68			
	December 2022	69			_
	WY 2022 Totals	810	599	74%	-211
	CY 2022 Totals	810	619	76%	-191

<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>lt;sup>2</sup> Percents of average are based on the 5-year mean from 2017-2021.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Lake Mead's evaporation in the intervening flow mass balance incorporates evaporation coefficients developed by the USGS between 2010-2019. The study report can be found online at: https://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2021/1022/ofr20211022.pdf

#### Lake Powell & Lake Mead Operational Table

#### Operating Determinations for Water Year/Calendar Year 2022

	Lake Powell		Lake Mead							
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<b>3,636 - 3,666</b> (2008-2026)	Upper Elevation Balancing Tier <sup>3</sup>	<b>15.5 - 19.3</b> (2008-2026)	<b>1,200</b> (approx.) <sup>2</sup>	Domestic Surplus or ICS Surplus Condition Deliver > 7.5 maf	<b>22.9</b> (approx.) <sup>2</sup>					
	Release 8.23 maf; if Lake Mead < 1,075 feet,		1,145		15.9					
0.575	balance contents with a min/max release of 7.0 and 9.0 maf	9.5	1,105	Normal or ICS Surplus Condition Deliver ≥ 7.5 maf	11.9					
3,575	Mid-Elevation	9.5	1,075	1,065.85 ft	9.4					
	Release Tier Release 7.48 maf; if Lake Mead < 1,025 feet,		1,050	Shortage Condition Jan 1, 2022  Deliver 7.167 <sup>4</sup> maf Projection	7.5					
	3,535.40 ft release 8.23 maf  Jan 1, 2022		,,,,,,	Shortage Condition						
3,525	Projection	5.9	1,025	Deliver 7.083 <sup>5</sup> maf	5.8					
3,490	Lower Elevation Balancing Tier Balance contents with a min/max release of 7.0 and 9.5 maf	4.0	1,000	Shortage Condition Deliver 7.0 <sup>6</sup> maf Further measures may be undertaken <sup>7</sup>	4.3					
3,370		0	895		0					

#### Diagram not to scale

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.





Acronym for million acre-feet

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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

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

	Lake Mead Elevation (feet msl)	Guio	7 Interim Minute 323 Total idelines Delivery Combined Reductions Reductions			5	CP Wat Savings ntributio		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 mai)	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
2022 Reductions	1,075 – 1,050	320	13	50	383	192	8	0	30	512	21	0	533	80	613
+ Contributions	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

2022 Reductions + Contributions



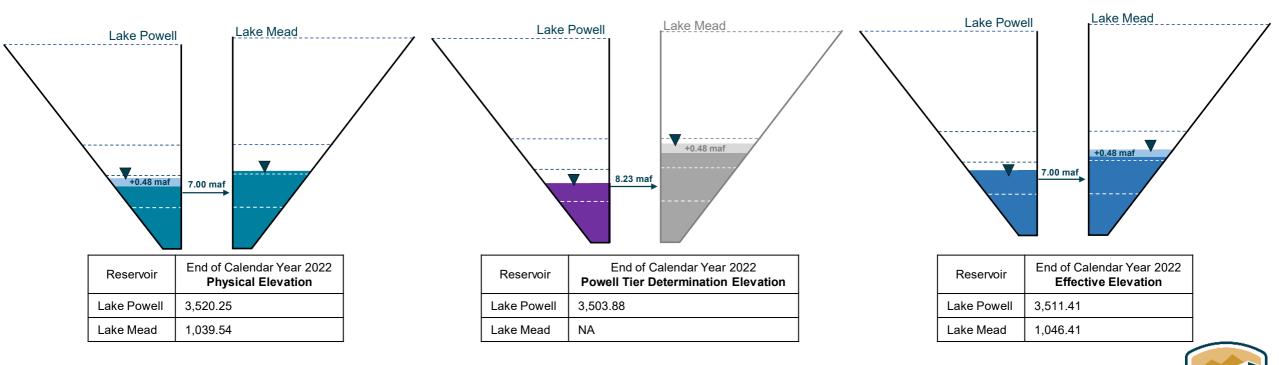
The Secretary of the Interior will take affirmative actions to implement programs designed to create or conserve 100,000 acre-ft per year or more of Colorado River System water to contribute to conservation of water supplies in Lake Mead and other Colorado River reservoirs in the lower basin. All actions taken by the United States shall be subject to applicable law, including availability of appropriations.

## End of Calendar Year 2022 Lake Powell and Lake Mead Elevations Based on July 2022 24-Month Study<sup>1,2,3</sup>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For more information: <a href="https://www.usbr.gov/uc/DocLibrary/Plans/20220503-2022DROA-GlenCanyonDamOperationsDecisionLetter-508-DOI.pdf">https://www.usbr.gov/uc/DocLibrary/Plans/20220503-2022DROA-GlenCanyonDamOperationsDecisionLetter-508-DOI.pdf</a>.

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#### Lake Powell & Lake Mead Operational Table

Projected Tiers for Water/Calendar Year 2023 based on the July 2022 24-Month Study

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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.

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.

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

	Gu		Interim Ielines rtages	Minute 323 Delivery Reductions	Total Combined Reductions				Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan Savings	US: ( Mexid	Combined Volumes by Country US: (2007 Interim Guidelines Shortages + DCP Contributions) Mexico: (Minute 323 Delivery Reductions + Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan Savings)				
	(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 – 1,050	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

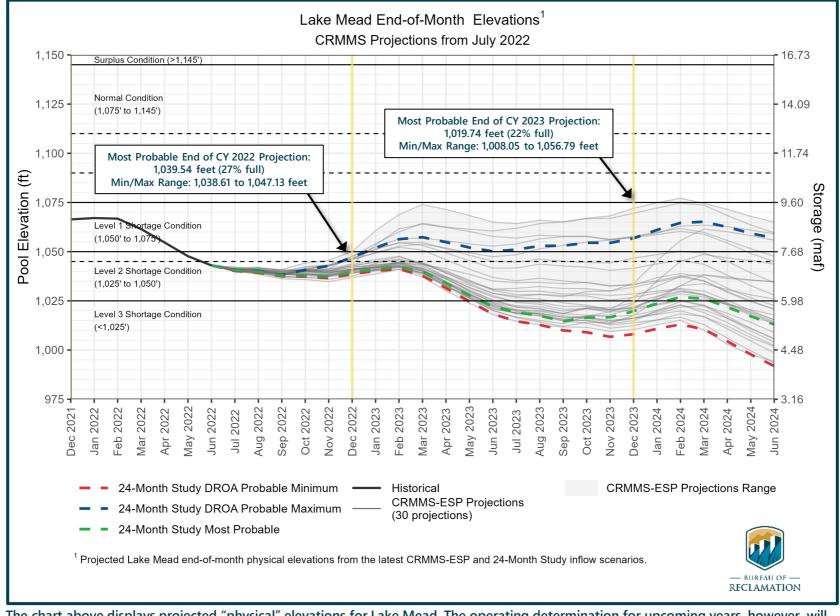
Projected 2023
Reductions +
Contributions

The Secretary of the Interior will take affirmative actions to implement programs designed to create or conserve 100,000 acre-ft per year or more of Colorado River System water to contribute to conservation of water supplies in Lake Mead and other Colorado River reservoirs in the lower basin. All actions taken by the United States shall be subject to applicable law, including availability of appropriations.



Projected 2023

Reductions + Contributions



The chart above displays projected "physical" elevations for Lake Mead. The operating determination for upcoming years, however, will be based on a projected "tier" elevation in the August 2022 24-Month Study. Based on July 2022 24-Month Study modeling, the Lower Basin is projected to operate in a level 2 shortage condition with required DCP and BWSCP contributions in calendar year 2023. The Department of Interior and Reclamation will work to determine the manner in which to operate Glen Canyon Dam to ensure the benefits of the drought actions are preserved.



### Additional Operational Data

- Provisional 2022 Year-to-Date Totals
- Mexico Excess Flows
  ▶1,887 af (through 7/31)
- Brock Reservoir Total Storage
   ▶64,644 af (through 7/28)
- Senator Wash Total Storage ≽48,916 af (through 7/28)









#### **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 June 2022 was
     48, 520 ac-ft at 2,636 ppm
- Provisional drainage flows to the Colorado River
  - From the South Gila Drainage Wells
     January through Jun 2022 was
     1,355 ac-ft at 1,663 ppm
  - From the Yuma Mesa Conduit January through June 2022 was 17,840 ac-ft at 1,238 ppm



