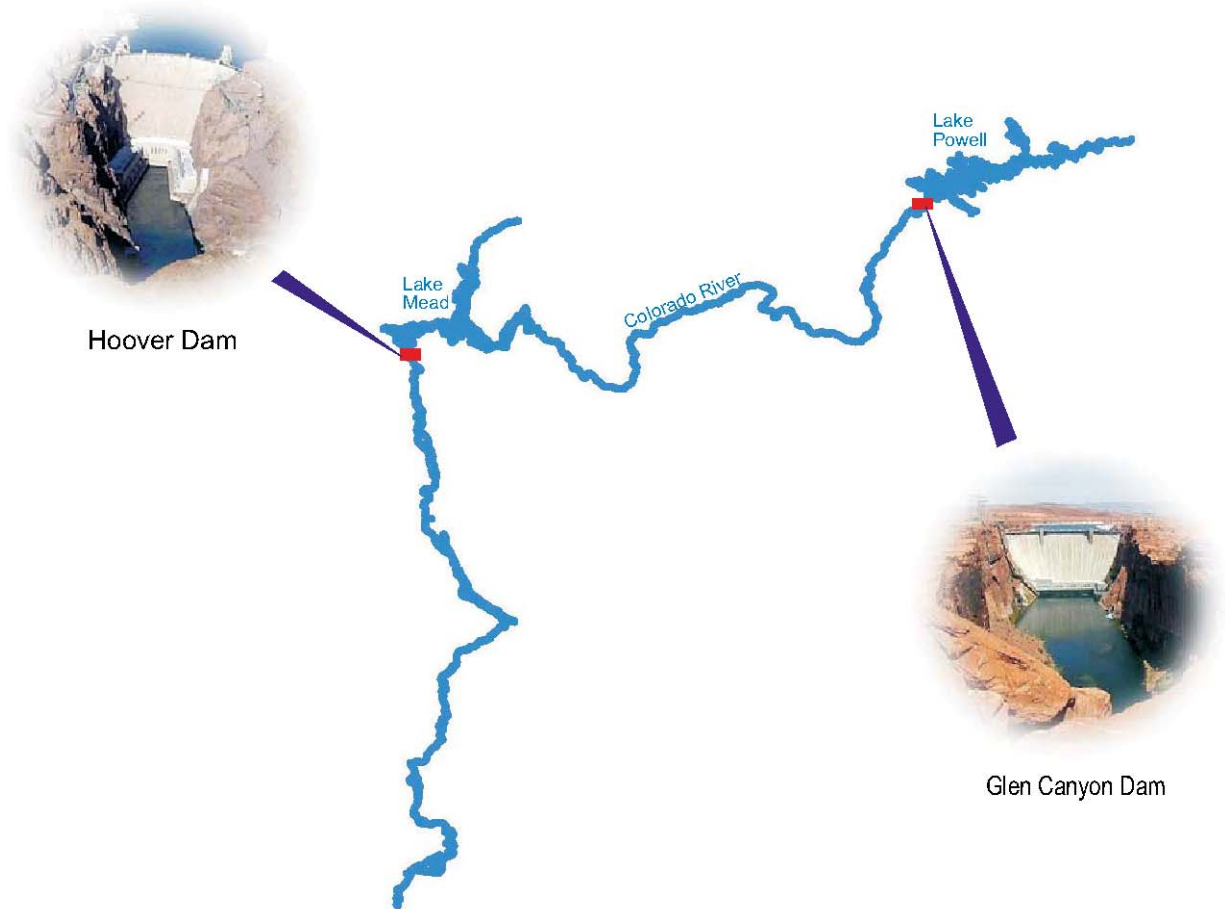


RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Final

Environmental Impact Statement



Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead

Volume I



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

October 2007

Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead

**Final
Environmental Impact Statement**

Volume I

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Upper and Lower Colorado Regions
October 2007

Mission Statement

The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to Indian Tribes and our commitments to island communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead Final Environmental Impact Statement

Lead Agency:

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Upper and Lower Colorado Regions

Cooperating Agencies:

Bureau of Indian Affairs
National Park Service
Western Area Power Administration
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission

Abstract:

The Secretary of the Department of the Interior (Department), acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, proposes adoption of specific Colorado River Lower Basin (Lower Basin) shortage guidelines and coordinated reservoir management strategies to address operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead, particularly under drought and low reservoir conditions. This action is proposed in order to provide a greater degree of certainty to United States Colorado River water users and managers of the Colorado River Basin by providing detailed and objective guidelines for the operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead, thereby allowing water users in the Lower Basin to know when, and by how much, water deliveries will be reduced in drought and other low reservoir conditions. The Department proposes that these guidelines be interim in duration and extend through 2026.

This Final EIS has been prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act to address the formulation and evaluation of specific interim criteria and to identify the potential environmental impacts of implementing such criteria.

For further information regarding this Final EIS, contact:

Bureau of Reclamation
Attention: BCOO-1000
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, Nevada 89006-1470
Fax number: (702) 293-8156
Phone number: (702) 293-8500
E-mail: strategies@lc.usbr.gov (e-mail account available through January 30, 2008)

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