

**April 24-Month Study**  
**Date: April 20<sup>th</sup> 2023**

**From:** Water Resources Group, Salt Lake City  
**To:** All Colorado River Annual Operating Plan (AOP) Recipients

**Current Reservoir Status**

	March Inflow (unregulated) (acre-feet)	Percent of Average (percent)	April 19 Midnight Elevation (feet)	April 19, Midnight Reservoir Storage (acre-feet)
Fontenelle	29,328	51	6,468.61	106,000
Flaming Gorge	48,568	46	6,008.57	2,539,500
Blue Mesa	24,579	65	7,453.11	326,600
Navajo	71,300	87	6,038.56	1,045,600
Powell	572,764	96	3,522.89	5,424,300

**Expected Operations**

The operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead in the April 2023 24-Month Study is pursuant to the December 2007 Record of Decision on Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the Coordinated Operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead (Interim Guidelines) and reflects the 2023 Annual Operating Plan (AOP). Pursuant to the Interim Guidelines, the August 2022 24-Month Study projections of the January 1, 2023, system storage and reservoir water surface elevations set the operational tier for the coordinated operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead during 2023.

The August 2022 24-Month Study projected the January 1, 2023 Lake Powell elevation to be less than 3,525 feet. Consistent with Section 6.D.1 of the Interim Guidelines, Lake Powell’s operation in WY 2023 is governed by the Lower Elevation Balancing Tier with an initial projected WY release volume of 7.00 million acre-feet (maf). Based on hydrologic conditions as of April 2023, in which the most probable inflow into Lake Powell is projected to be 11.30 maf (177 percent of average) during the 2023 April-July runoff period, Reclamation has determined that conditions are sufficient to release up to 9.50 maf from Lake Powell in WY 2023 consistent with Section 6.D.1 of the Interim Guidelines. In addition, Reclamation has removed the operational neutrality of the 0.480 maf that was retained in Lake Powell under the May 2022 action,<sup>1</sup> such that balancing releases are based on physical elevations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead, but could be as low as 7.00 maf consistent with the Interim Guidelines and to protect Lake Powell from declining below elevation 3,525 feet at the end of December 2023. Further, Lower Basin projections for Lake Mead take into consideration: updated water orders to reflect additional conservation efforts; new completed system conservation agreements under the Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program (LC Conservation Program); and updated Lower Basin tributary inflow projections (reflecting current conditions) above Lake Mead, for the Bill Williams and for the Gila River.

Consistent with this operating approach and based on the most probable inflow forecast, the April 2023 24-Month Study projects a balancing release of 9.50 maf from Lake Powell in WY 2023; however, the actual release in WY 2023 will range between 7.00 and 9.50 maf and will depend on actual hydrology and reservoir conditions at Lake Powell and Lake Mead during the remainder of the water year. The projected

release from Lake Powell in WY 2023 will be updated each month throughout the remainder of the water year. The modeling approach for 2024 and beyond will be consistent with the Interim Guidelines, based on projected physical elevations at Lake Powell and Lake Mead, and assume the 0.480 maf retained in Lake Powell under the May 2022 action was released as part of the WY 2023 balancing release only if the release volume is 7.48 maf or greater.

The 2022 Drought Response Operations Agreement (DROA) Plan<sup>2</sup> for May 2022 through April 2023 has been amended to suspend 2022 DROA Plan releases for the remainder of April 2023. The suspension of 2022 DROA Plan releases occurred on March 7, 2023. A total DROA release of approximately 463 thousand acre-feet (kaf) occurred under the 2022 DROA Plan. Reclamation will attempt to maximize DROA recovery in the Upper Initial Units in WY 2023 and through April 2024. Reclamation will provide monthly DROA accounting, including DROA releases and recovery, which can be found online at:

<https://www.usbr.gov/dcp/DROSummarySheet.pdf>.

Reclamation continues to consult with the DROA Parties and to consult with the Lower Division States and others in accordance with the DROA on the implementation of the Drought Response Operations Plans and consideration of 2023 DROA Plan.

Reclamation will continue to carefully monitor hydrologic and operational conditions and assess the need for additional responsive actions and/or changes to operations. Reclamation will continue to consult with the Basin States, Basin Tribes, Mexico, and other partners on Colorado River operations to consider and determine whether additional measures should be taken to further enhance the preservation of these benefits, as well as recovery protocols, including those of future protective measures for both Lakes Powell and Mead.

The August 2022 24-Month Study projected the January 1, 2023 Lake Mead elevation, determined as if the 0.480 maf had been delivered to Lake Mead in WY 2022, to be below 1,050 feet and above 1,045 feet. Consistent with Section 2.D.1 of the Interim Guidelines, a Shortage Condition consistent with Section 2.D.1.b will govern the operation of Lake Mead for Calendar Year (CY) 2023. In addition, Section III.B of Exhibit 1 to the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) Agreement will govern the operation of Lake Mead for CY 2023. Efforts to conserve additional water in Lake Mead under a 2021 Lower Basin Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to facilitate near-term actions to maintain the water surface elevation of Lake Mead and the LC Conservation Program will also take place in CY 2023.

Current runoff projections into Lake Powell are provided by the National Weather Service's Colorado Basin River Forecast Center and are as follows. The observed unregulated inflow into Lake Powell for the month of March was 0.573 maf or 96 percent of the 30-year average from 1991 to 2020. The April 2023 unregulated inflow forecast for Lake Powell is 1.300 maf or 144 percent of the 30-year average. The 2023 April through July unregulated inflow forecast is 11.30 maf or 177 percent of average.

The 2023 AOP is available online at:

<https://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/rsvrs/ops/aop/AOP23.pdf>.

The Interim Guidelines are available online at:

<https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/strategies/RecordofDecision.pdf>.

The Colorado River DCPs are available online at:

<https://www.usbr.gov/dcp/finaldocs.html>.

The 2021 Lower Basin MOU is available online at:  
[https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/2021\\_MOU.pdf](https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/2021_MOU.pdf).

The Upper Basin DROA is online at:  
<https://www.usbr.gov/dcp/droa.html>.

The Upper Basin Hydrology Summary is available online at:  
[https://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/crsp/studies/24Month\\_03\\_ucb.pdf](https://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/crsp/studies/24Month_03_ucb.pdf).

### **Fontenelle Reservoir**

As of April 10, 2023, the Fontenelle Reservoir pool elevation is 6468.04 feet, which amounts to 31 percent of live storage capacity. Inflows for the month of March totaled approximately 29,238 acre-feet (af) or 51 percent of average. Low March inflows occurred due to lower than average March temperatures.

Winter release has been set at 950 cfs to meet spring elevation targets and are forecasted to remain at this level through winter, subject to hydrology. Ice along the Green River has not thawed at the usual rate so far this spring. Releases from the dam are scheduled to increase to approximately 1,500 cfs once the ice has thawed, which is expected to occur near the end of April. Releases from the dam will increase throughout spring to meet elevation targets, as subject to hydrology.

The April final forecast for unregulated inflows into Fontenelle for the next three months projects average conditions. April, May, and June Most Probable inflow volumes amount to 65,000 af (77 percent of average), 180,000 af (103 percent of average), and 365,000 af (119 percent of average), respectively.

The next Fontenelle Working Group meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at Green River, WY. This meeting will be held in person at the Joint Powers Water Board (2 Telephone Canyon Rd, Green River, WY 82935) as well as virtually. Please contact Dale Hamilton at [dthamilton@usbr.gov](mailto:dthamilton@usbr.gov) for a virtual meeting invite.

Prior Fontenelle Working Group meeting minutes are available online on USBR's website at <https://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/crsp/wg/ft/ftcurrnt.html>. The Fontenelle Working Group is an open public forum for information exchange between Reclamation and other parties associated with the operation of Fontenelle Reservoir.

### **Flaming Gorge**

As of April 13, 2023 (end of day), Flaming Gorge Reservoir pool elevation is 6007.39 feet, which amounts to 68 percent of live storage capacity. Unregulated inflow volume for the month of March is approximately 49,000 acre-feet (af), which is 46 percent of the average March unregulated inflow volume. The current average daily release is 800 cfs.

The 2022 Drought Response Operations Agreement (DROA) Plan for May 2022 through April 2023 has been amended to suspend 2022 DROA Plan releases for the remainder of March and April 2023. The suspension of 2022 DROA Plan releases occurred on March 6, 2023. A total DROA release of approximately 463 kaf occurred under the 2022 DROA Plan. The approved Amendment is posted at <https://www.usbr.gov/dcp/droa.html>. The 2023 DROA Plan is under discussion and proposals developed will be provided through processes outlined in the DROA Framework.

A new operation will be finalized in early May 2023, and this will contain an operation plan from May 2023 through April 2024.

The April for unregulated inflows into Flaming Gorge for the next three months projects above average. April, May, and June forecasted unregulated inflow volumes amount to 170,000 af (136 percent of average), 345,000 af (139 percent of average), and 475,000 af (122 percent of average), respectively.

The April water supply forecast of the April through July unregulated inflow volume into Flaming Gorge Reservoir is 1,200,000 acre-feet (124% of average). Current snowpack is 126% of median for the Upper Green Basin.

Reclamation is planning to hold Flaming Gorge Working Group meetings in March (occurred March 16, 2023) and April similar to the last couple of years. The April meeting will be held on April 20, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Carbon County Event Center Price, UT (450 S Fairgrounds Way, Price, Utah) and will also be held virtually. The Flaming Gorge Working Group is an open public forum for information exchange between Reclamation and the stakeholders of Flaming Gorge Dam. The public is encouraged to attend and comment on the operations and plans presented by Reclamation at these meetings. Meeting notes from past Working Group meetings are posted on the Working Group webpage. For more information on this group and these meetings please contact Dale Hamilton at 801-379-1186.

### **Aspinall Unit Reservoirs**

As of April 10, 2023, releases from Crystal Dam are approximately 700 cfs. Flows of the Gunnison River in the Black Canyon are being maintained at about 360 cfs while the Gunnison Tunnel is diverting 320 cfs. Flows in the Whitewater Reach of the Gunnison River are about 1,680 cfs.

The unregulated inflow volume in March to Blue Mesa was 24,600 af (65 percent of average). Unregulated Inflow volumes forecasted for Blue Mesa for the next three months (April, May and June) are projected to be: 60,000 af (77 percent of average), 265,000 af (132 percent of average) and 395,000 af (158 percent of average), respectively. The April 24-Month Study will be reflective of these new forecasted inflows.

The forecasted 2023 water year unregulated inflow volume to Blue Mesa is projected to be 1,101,000 af (122 percent of average). The water supply period (April-July) for 2023 is forecasted to be 850,000 af of unregulated inflow (134 percent of average).

Blue Mesa elevation has been steady over the past month and as of April 10, 2022, was 7,448.48 feet above sea level corresponding to a live storage of 301,040 acre-feet which is 36 percent of capacity. By the end of water year 2023 (September 30, 2023) Blue Mesa elevation is projected to be approximately 7,502 feet with about 675,000 acre-feet of storage which will be 82 percent of capacity.

The Aspinall Unit Operations Group is an open public forum for information exchange between Reclamation and the stakeholders of the Aspinall Unit. The public is encouraged to attend and comments on the operations and plans presented by Reclamation at these meetings. Meeting notes from past working Group meetings are posted on the Operations Group webpage. For more information on this group and these meetings please contact Erik Knight in the Grand Junction Area Office at (970) 248-0629.

The next Operations Group meeting will be held April 20, 2023 at 1:00 p.m., in person in Grand Junction Colorado and also broadcast virtually. The in-person meeting will be at Reclamation's Western Colorado

Area Office located at 445 West Gunnison Avenue in Grand Junction, Colorado. Contact Erik Knight in the Grand Junction Area Office at (970) 248-0629 to get more information regarding this Operation Group meeting.

### **Navajo Reservoir**

On April 9th, the daily average release rate from Navajo Dam was 300 cfs while reservoir inflow was averaging 2,120 cfs. The water surface elevation was 6029.33 feet above sea level. At this elevation the live storage is 0.953 maf (58 percent of live storage capacity) and the active storage is 0.327 maf (32 percent of active storage capacity). An average of 8 cfs is currently being diverted to Cutter Reservoir for the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project (NIIP). Approximately 70 cfs is being diverted to the San Juan-Chama Project (SJC) above Navajo Reservoir.

Releases from Navajo Dam are made for authorized purposes of the Navajo Unit and are pursuant to the Record of Decision for the Navajo Reservoir Operations. Releases target the San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program's (SJRIP) recommended downstream baseflow range of 500 cfs to 1,000 cfs through the critical habitat reach of the San Juan River (Farmington, NM to Lake Powell).

Preliminary modified unregulated inflow (MUI) into Navajo in March was 71.3 kaf, which was 87 percent of average for the month. The release averaged 300 cfs and totaled 17.6 kaf, which was 38 percent of average for the month.

The most probable MUI forecast for April May and June, is 160 kaf (109 percent of average), 400 kaf (164 percent of average), and 320 kaf (169 percent of average), respectively.

The official April-July forecasts are as follows:

MIN: 800 kaf (127 percent of average, an increase of 50 kaf since the mid-March Forecast)

MOST: 945 kaf (150 percent of average, a decrease of 15 kaf since the mid-March Forecast)

MAX: 1,170 kaf (186 percent of average, a decrease of 30 kaf since the mid-March Forecast)

It is currently projected that there will be some water available for a spring flushing operation, most likely occurring in late May and early June. Further details will follow as the forecast evolves.

Reclamation conducts Public Operations Meetings three times per year to gather input for determining upcoming operations for Navajo Reservoir. Input from individuals, organizations, and agencies along with other factors such as weather, water rights, endangered species requirements, flood control, hydro power, recreation, fish and wildlife management, and reservoir levels, will be considered in the development of these reservoir operation plans. In addition, the meetings are used to coordinate activities and exchange information among agencies, water users, and other interested parties concerning the San Juan River and Navajo Reservoir. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM. This meeting is open to the public, and will be held at the Farmington Civic Center, 200 West Arrington, in Farmington, New Mexico (subject to change based on guidance at the time). The meeting will also have a virtual option.

### **Glen Canyon Dam / Lake Powell**

#### **Current Status**

The August 2022 24-Month Study projected the January 1, 2023 Lake Powell elevation to be less than 3,525 feet. Consistent with Section 6.D.1 of the Interim Guidelines, Lake Powell's operation in WY 2023 is

governed by the Lower Elevation Balancing Tier with an initial projected WY release volume of 7.00 million acre-feet (maf). Based on hydrologic conditions as of April 2023, in which the most probable inflow into Lake Powell is projected to be 11.30 maf (177 percent of average) during the 2023 April-July runoff period, Reclamation has determined that conditions are sufficient to release up to 9.50 maf from Lake Powell in WY 2023 consistent with Section 6.D.1 of the Interim Guidelines. In addition, Reclamation has removed the operational neutrality of the 0.480 maf that was retained in Lake Powell under the May 2022 action, such that balancing releases are based on physical elevations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead, but could be as low as 7.00 maf consistent with the Interim Guidelines and to protect Lake Powell from declining below elevation 3,525 feet at the end of December 2023.

Consistent with this operating approach and based on the most probable inflow forecast, the April 2023 24-Month Study projects a balancing release of 9.50 maf from Lake Powell in WY 2023; however, the actual release in WY 2023 will range between 7.00 and 9.50 maf and will depend on actual hydrology and reservoir conditions at Lake Powell and Lake Mead during the remainder of the water year. The projected release from Lake Powell in WY 2023 will be updated each month throughout the remainder of the water year. The modeling approach for 2024 and beyond will be consistent with the Interim Guidelines, based on projected physical elevations at Lake Powell and Lake Mead, and assume the 0.480 maf retained in Lake Powell under the May 2022 action was released as part of the WY 2023 balancing release only if the release volume is 7.48 maf or greater.

Reclamation will continue to carefully monitor hydrologic and operational conditions and assess the need for additional responsive actions and/or changes to operations. Reclamation will continue to consult with the Basin States, Basin Tribes, Mexico, and other partners on Colorado River operations to consider and determine whether additional measures should be taken to further enhance the preservation of these benefits, as well as recovery protocols, including those of future protective measures for both Lakes Powell and Mead.

The unregulated inflow volume to Lake Powell during March was 573 thousand acre-feet (kaf) (96 percent of average). The release volume from Glen Canyon Dam in March was 486 kaf. The end of March elevation and storage of Lake Powell were 3,522.02 feet (178 feet from full pool) and 5.37 million acre-feet (maf) (23 percent of live capacity), respectively.

### **Current Operations**

Reclamation will release a high flow at Glen Canyon Dam during a 72-hour experiment between April 24-27. Water releases from the dam during the 3-day spring flow experiment will be as high as 39,500 cubic feet per second (cfs). High sediment loads in Marble Canyon and favorable hydrology conditions are present to support a spring experiment based on the analysis considered under the Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan, which allows for high-volume dam releases for sediment conservation. Five HFEs have been conducted since the High Flow Experiment (HFE) Protocol was initiated in 2012. Those HFEs occurred in November 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016 and 2018. This will be the first spring high flow implemented under the protocol.

This experiment will mobilize and redeposit sand to rebuild beaches throughout the Grand Canyon. Rebuilding beaches and sandbars in the Grand Canyon also protects archaeological sites and provides other resource benefits. High flows like this one are experimental in nature and are designed to achieve a better understanding of how and when to incorporate them into future dam operations in a manner that maintains or improves beaches, sandbars, and associated habitats. The Grand Canyon Monitoring and

Research Center and the National Park Service will monitor effects to many resources, including but not limited to beaches, fisheries, aquatic insects, and archaeological sites.

April flows will be much higher and will continue for the remainder of the water year. Because of the increased snowpack throughout March in the upper basin and subsequent inflow projections increasing from 125% of average to 177% of average over the last four weeks, Reclamation recently increased the release volume from Glen Canyon Dam to 910,000 acre-feet. Hourly releases during April are scheduled to fluctuate from a low of approximately 8,033 cfs during the early morning hours to a high of 14,631 cfs during the afternoon and evening hours in days preceding and following the HFE. Flow experiments like this one at Glen Canyon Dam do not change the total annual volume of water released from Lake Powell to Lake Mead. This experiment will only rearrange water released in April and will not affect volumes released in other months with the May monthly release volume between 840 to 1,088 kaf. The 72-hour HFE will be scheduled as follows:

- Ramp-up from base releases at 4,000 cfs/hr at approximately 2:00 AM on Monday, April 24, 2023 (all times Mountain Standard Time and not hour ending) until reaching powerplant capacity (~25,500 cfs)
- Open first bypass tube at 6:00 AM on April 24
- Ramp-up from powerplant capacity to full bypass (~39,500 cfs) at one full bypass tube (~3,500 cfs) per hour in 4 hrs reaching total releases at 9:00 AM on April 24
- Stay at peak release (~39,500 cfs) for 72 hrs
- Ramp-down from peak release to base releases at beginning at 9:00 AM on April 27 using half bypass of 1,750 cfs/hr until reaching powerplant capacity and then decreasing at 2,500 cfs/hr

Due to the high flows being released during the experiment, sudden changes to river conditions will occur and recreationists along the Colorado River between Glen Canyon and Lake Mead are urged to use caution during implementation. Visitors to the river are highly encouraged to view visit the National Parks Service website for additional safety information and flow release patterns:

<https://www.nps.gov/grca/learn/nature/hfe-23.htm>.

In addition to daily scheduled fluctuations for power generation, the instantaneous releases from Glen Canyon Dam may also fluctuate to provide 40 megawatts (MW) of system regulation. These instantaneous release adjustments stabilize the electrical generation and transmission system and translate to a range of about 1,300 cfs above or below the hourly scheduled release rate. Under normal system conditions, fluctuations for regulation are typically short lived and generally balance out over the hour with minimal or no noticeable impacts on downstream river flow conditions.

Releases from Glen Canyon Dam can also fluctuate beyond scheduled releases when called upon to respond to unscheduled power outages or power system emergencies. Depending on the severity of the system emergency, the response from Glen Canyon Dam can be significant, within the full range of the operating capacity of the power plant for as long as is necessary to maintain balance in the transmission system. Glen Canyon Dam currently maintains 30 MW (approximately 1,300 cfs) of generation capacity in reserve in order to respond to a system emergency even when generation rates are already high. System emergencies occur infrequently and typically require small responses from Glen Canyon Dam. However, these responses can have a noticeable impact on the river downstream of Glen Canyon Dam.

### **Inflow Forecasts and Model Projections**

The forecast for water year 2023 unregulated inflow to Lake Powell, issued on April 5, 2023, by the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center, projects that the most probable (median) unregulated inflow volume in water year 2023 will be 14.47 maf (151 percent of average).

In addition to the April 2023 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 model runs in April to determine a possible range of reservoir elevations. The April 2023 24-Month Study probable most, maximum and minimum probable inflow scenarios were used to determine the range of probable outcomes. The probable minimum and probable maximum model runs are conducted simultaneously 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 percent of the time. The most probable inflow scenario reflects a median hydrologic condition which statistically would be exceeded 50 percent of the time. The probable maximum inflow scenario reflects a wet hydrologic condition which statistically would be exceeded 10 percent of the time. There is approximately an 80 percent 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. The DROA coordination will continue until either (i) the minimum probable projected elevation remains above 3,525 feet for 24 months or (ii) the process moves to the next step when the most probable projected elevation indicates Powell elevations below 3,525 feet and a Drought Response Operations Plan is developed. This 2022 Plan is described above and available for review here: <https://www.usbr.gov/dcp/droa.html>.

The April forecast for water year 2023 ranges from a minimum probable of 12.27 maf (128 percent of average) to a forecasted maximum probable of 17.86 maf (186 percent of average) with the most probable forecast for water year 2023 of 14.47 maf (151 percent of average). There is a 10 percent chance that inflows could be higher than the current maximum probable forecast and a 10 percent chance that inflows could be lower than the minimum probable forecast.

Based on the current forecast for water year 2023 of 14.47 maf unregulated, the April 24-Month Study projects Lake Powell elevation will end water year 2023 near 3575.05 feet with approximately 9.02 maf in storage (39 percent of capacity). Note that projections of elevation and storage for water year 2023 have significant uncertainty at this point in the season. Projections of end of water year 2023 elevation using the April minimum and maximum inflow forecast results are 3,564.55 feet and 3,606.71 feet, respectively. The annual release volume from Lake Powell during water year 2023 will be 9.5 maf under the Lower Elevation Balancing Tier and will balance the contents between Powell and Mead with annual release volumes from Glen Canyon Dam between 7.00 maf and 9.50 maf as determined under Section 6.D.1 and 7.D of the Interim Guidelines as determined by the Department of the Interior as described above.

### **Upper Colorado River Basin Hydrology**

Upper Colorado River Basin regularly experiences significant year to year hydrologic variability. The 30-year average was updated in October 2022 from 1981 through 2010 to 1991 through 2020. Shifting the period of record decreased the average unregulated inflow 1.20 maf. The period 2000-2022 is the lowest 23-year period since the closure of Glen Canyon Dam in 1963, with an average unregulated inflow of 8.29 maf, or 93 percent of the 30-year average (1991-2020). (For comparison, the 1991-2020 total water year average is 9.60 maf.) The unregulated inflow during the 2000-2022 period has ranged from a low of 2.64 maf (28 percent of average) in water year 2002 to a high of 15.97 maf (166 percent of average) in water



year 2011. In water year 2021 unregulated inflow volume to Lake Powell was 3.50 maf (36 percent of average), the second driest year on record above 2002. Under the current most probable forecast, the total water year 2023 unregulated inflow to Lake Powell is projected to be 14.47 maf (151 percent of average).

At the beginning of water year 2023, total system storage in the Colorado River Basin was 19.54 maf (33 percent of 58.48 maf total system capacity). This is a decrease of 3.33 maf over the total storage at the beginning of water year 2022 when total system storage was 22.87 maf (39 percent of capacity). Since the beginning of water year 2000, total Colorado Basin storage has experienced year to year increases and decreases in response to wet and dry hydrology, ranging from a high of 94 percent of capacity at the beginning of 2000 to the now current level of 33 percent of capacity at the beginning of water year 2023. Based on current inflow forecasts, the current projected end of water year 2023 total Colorado Basin reservoir storage is approximately 25.53 maf (44 percent of total system capacity). The actual end of water year 2023 system storage may vary from this projection, primarily due to uncertainty regarding this season's runoff and reservoir inflow.