June 24-Month Study
Date: June 17, 2025

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

Current Reservoir Status

	May Inflow (unregulated) (acre-feet)	Percent of Average (percent)	June 15, Midnight Elevation (feet)	June 15, Midnight Reservoir Storage (acre-feet)
Fontenelle	133,219	76%	6495.36	254,766
Flaming Gorge	156,784	63%	6028.28	3,199,914
Blue Mesa	120,378	60%	7488.79	568,257
Navajo	101,689	42%	6041.76	1,079,269
Powell	848,825	41%	3561.7	7,907,883

Expected Operations

The operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead in the June 2025 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),[1] the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Near-term Colorado River Operations Record of Decision (2024 Interim Guidelines SEIS ROD), [2] and reflects the 2025 Annual Operating Plan (AOP). Pursuant to the Interim Guidelines, the August 2024 24-Month Study projections of the January 1, 2025, system storage and reservoir water surface elevations set the operational tier for the coordinated operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead during 2025.

On May 6, 2024, Reclamation published the 2024 Interim Guidelines SEIS ROD, which included modifications to Sections 2, 6, and 7 of the 2007 Interim Guidelines. Subsequent 24-Month Studies reflect the 2024 Interim Guidelines SEIS ROD in modeled operations.

[1] For modeling purposes, simulated years beyond 2026 assume a continuation of the 2007 Interim Guidelines including the 2024 Supplement to the 2007 Interim Guidelines (no additional SEIS conservation is assumed to occur after 2026), the 2019 Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plans, and Minute 323 including the Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan. With the exception of certain provisions related to Intentionally Created Surplus recovery and Upper Basin demand management, operations under these agreements are in effect through 2026. Reclamation initiated the process to develop operations for post-2026 in June 2023, and the modeling assumptions described here are subject to change.

[2] 2024 Interim Guidelines SEIS ROD is available online at: https://www.usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/documents/NearTermColoradoRiverOperations/20240507-Near-termColoradoRiverOperations-SEIS- RecordofDecision-signed_508.pdf.

The August 2024 24-Month Study projected the January 1, 2025, Lake Powell elevation to be less than 3,575 feet and at or above 3,525 feet and the Lake Mead elevation to be at or above 1,025 feet. Consistent with Section 6.C.1 of the Interim Guidelines, as amended by the 2024 Interim Guidelines SEIS ROD, the operational tier for Lake Powell in water year (WY) 2025 is the Mid-Elevation Release Tier and the water year release volume from Lake Powell is projected to be
7.48 million acre-feet (maf).

The August 2024 24-Month Study projected the January 1, 2025, Lake Mead elevation to be below 1,075 feet and above 1,050 feet. Consistent with Section 2.D.1 of the Interim Guidelines, a Shortage Condition consistent with Section 2.D.1.a will govern the operation of Lake Mead for calendar year (CY) 2025. In addition, Section III.B of Exhibit 1 to the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) Agreement will also govern the operation of Lake Mead for CY 2025. Lower Basin projections for Lake Mead take into consideration additional conservation efforts under the LC Conservation Program.

Current runoff projections into Lake Powell are provided by the National Weather Service's Colorado Basin River Forecast Center. The observed unregulated inflow into Lake Powell for the month of May was 0.849 maf or 41% of the 30-year average from 1991 to 2020. The June 2025 unregulated inflow forecast for Lake Powell is 1.13 maf or 46% of the 30-year average. The 2025 April through July unregulated inflow forecast for Lake Powell is 2.90 maf or 45% of average. The WY 2025 unregulated inflow forecast for Lake Powell is 5.22 maf or 54% of average.

References

The 2025 Annual Operating Plan is available online at:
https://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/rsvrs/ops/aop/AOP25.pdf.

The Interim Guidelines are available online at:
https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/strategies/RecordofDecision.pdf.

The Colorado River Drought Contingency Plans are available online at:
https://www.usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/dcp/finaldocs.html.

The Upper Basin Hydrology Summary is available online at:
https://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/crsp/studies/24Month_06_ucb.pdf.

Information on the Lower Colorado Basin (LCB) Conservation Program is available online at:
https://www.usbr.gov/lc/LCBConservation.html.

Information on the 2024 Interim Guidelines SEIS is available online at:
https://www.usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/interimguidelines/seis/index.html.

Information on reservoir inflow forecasts is available online at:
https://www.cbrfc.noaa.gov/product/hydrofcst/hydrofcst.php.

Fontenelle Reservoir

As of June 5, 2025, the Fontenelle Reservoir pool elevation is 6489.87 feet, which amounts to 65 percent of live storage capacity. Inflows for the month of May totaled approximately 133,000 acre-feet (af) or 76 percent of average.

Spring releases have started at Fontenelle. Releases from the dam will increase throughout spring to meet elevation targets. Per the June final forecast, maximum total release rates are forecasted to occur in mid- to late June at approximately 3,500 cfs, subject to hydrology.

The June final forecast for unregulated inflows into Fontenelle for the next three months projects much below average conditions. June, July, and August Most Probable inflow volumes amount to 240,000 af (78 percent of average), 78,000 af (46 percent of average), and 45,000 af (69 percent of average), respectively.

The next Fontenelle Working Group meeting is scheduled for August 2025. Details on the meeting will be provided as we get closer to the meeting date. 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 Reservoir

As of June 5, 2025 (end of day), Flaming Gorge Reservoir pool elevation is 6028.09 feet, which amounts to 87 percent of live storage capacity. Unregulated inflow volume for the month of May is approximately 157,000 acre-feet (af), which is 63 percent of the average unregulated inflow volume.

Current average daily release is approximately 1,100 cfs, pending hydrology.

Small Mouth Bass Flow Spike – The Small Mouth Bass Flow Spike release will be beginning on June 16th and end June 20th. The flow spike will consist of one day ramp up to full power plant capacity (~4,600 cfs) for 72 hours with a ramp down rate of 2,000 cfs/day.

The June unregulated inflow forecast into Flaming Gorge for the next three months projects much below average conditions. June, July, and August forecasted unregulated inflow volumes are 270,000 af (69 percent of average), 89,000 af (44 percent of average), and 50,000 af (69 percent of average), respectively.

The June water supply forecast of the April through July unregulated inflow volume into Flaming Gorge Reservoir is 625,000 acre-feet (65 percent of average). Current snowpack is 73 percent of median for the Upper Green Basin.

Reclamation is planning to hold a Flaming Gorge Working Group meeting in August 2025, in Vernal, UT and Teams virtual meeting (tentative). 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 Alex Pivarnik at (385) 475 – 8329.

Aspinall Unit Reservoirs

As of June 6, 2025, releases from Crystal Dam are approximately 2,700 cfs and is continuing to ramp down. Flows of the Gunnison River in the Black Canyon are decreasing and measured at 1,850 cfs. Flows in the Whitewater Reach of the Gunnison River are about 4,000 cfs and is decreasing.

The unregulated inflow volume in May to Blue Mesa was 120,000 af (60 percent of average). Unregulated Inflow volumes forecasted for Blue Mesa for the next three months (June, July, and August) are projected to be 128,000 af (51 percent of average), 52,000 af (48 percent of average), and 43,000 af (75 percent of average), respectively.

The forecasted 2025 water year unregulated inflow volume to Blue Mesa is projected to be 645,000 af (71 percent of average). The water supply period (April-July) for 2025 is forecasted currently for an unregulated inflow volume of to be 385,000 af of unregulated inflow (59 percent of average). Given this current projection of the most probable operating scenario, Blue Mesa is projected to fill to approximately 7,489 feet by late June – early July with approximately 573,000 af of storage. This is approximately 30 feet from full pool elevation (7519.4 feet) with approximately 255,000 af of unfilled storage space in Blue Mesa Reservoir.

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 Conor Felletter in the Western Colorado Area Office's Durango Office at (970) 637-1985.

The next Operations Group meeting will be held on August 21, 2025 at 1:00 p.m in Montrose, CO at a location TBD. There will be a hybrid/call-in option. Contact Conor Felletter in the Western Colorado Area Office's Durango Office at (970) 637-1985 for more information regarding this Operation Group meeting.

Navajo Reservoir

On June 9th the release is 350 cfs. The 7-day average reservoir inflow is 1,400 cfs. The water surface elevation is 6041.7 feet above sea level. At this elevation the live storage is 1.08 maf. Diversions to Cutter Reservoir for the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project (NIIP) and the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project (NGWSP) are 427 cfs.

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).

The release is expected to remain at 350 cfs throughout the remainder of June.

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 Tuesday, August 19th at 1:00 PM. This meeting is open to the public with hybrid options, in person in Farmington, NM and virtual using Microsoft Teams.

Glen Canyon Dam / Lake Powell

Current Status

The unregulated inflow volume to Lake Powell during May was 849 thousand acre-feet (kaf) (41 percent of average). The release volume from Glen Canyon Dam in May was 599 kaf. The end of May elevation and storage of Lake Powell were 3,558.98 feet (141 feet from full pool) and 7.71 million acre-feet (maf) (33 percent of live capacity), respectively.

Current Operations

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The August 2024 24-Month study projects the January 1, 2025, Lake Powell elevation to be less than 3,575 feet and at or above 3,525 feet and the Lake Mead elevation to be at or above 1,025 feet. Consistent with Section 6.C.1 of the Interim Guidelines, as amended by the 2024 Interim Guidelines SEIS ROD), the operational tier for Lake Powell in water year 2025 is the Mid-Elevation Release Tier and the water year release volume from Lake Powell is projected to be 7.48 maf.

On May 9, 2024, Reclamation published the 2024 Interim Guidelines SEIS ROD, which included modifications to Sections 2, 6, and 7 of the 2007 Interim Guidelines. The current 24-Month Study reflects these modifications in modeled operations.

On July 3, 2024, Reclamation signed the Glen Canyon Dam Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision (2024 LTEMP SEIS ROD[4]). The 2024 LTEMP SEIS ROD analyzed flow options to disrupt smallmouth bass and other warm water invasive

[3] 2024 Interim Guidelines SEIS ROD is available online at: https://www.usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/documents/NearTermColoradoRiverOperations/20240507-Near-termColoradoRiverOperations-SEIS-RecordofDecision-signed_508.pdf.

[4] 2024 LTEMP SEIS ROD is available online at: https://www.usbr.gov/uc/DocLibrary/EnvironmentalImpactStatements/GlenCanyonDamLong-TermExperimentalManagementPlan/20240703-GCDLTEMP-FinalSEIS-RecordofDecision-508-AMWD.pdf

non-native fish from establishing below Glen Canyon Dam by interrupting spawning and species expansion.

The anticipated monthly release volume for June is 676,000 acre-feet and anticipated hourly releases during June 2025 will fluctuate from a low of approximately 8,917 cfs to a high of approximately 15,677cfs. The July volume is anticipated to be 710,000 acre-feet and the hourly pattern will be confirmed with a subsequent directive toward the end of June.

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 2025 unregulated inflow to Lake Powell, issued on June 4, 2025, by the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center, projects that the most probable (median) unregulated inflow volume in water year 2025 will be 5.22 maf (54 percent of average).

In addition to the June 2025 24-Month Study based on the Most Probable inflow scenario, Reclamation has conducted runs to determine a possible range of reservoir elevations. The June 2025 24-Month Study most and minimum probable scenarios, along with the April 2025 maximum probable scenario, 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 June minimum, June most, and April maximum probable forecasts for water year 2025 ranges from a minimum probable of 5.10 maf (53 percent of average) to a maximum probable of 9.36 maf (97 percent of average) with the most probable forecast for water year 2025 of 5.22 maf (54 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 2025 of 5.22 maf unregulated inflow for water year 2025, the June 24-Month Study projects Lake Powell elevation will end water year 2025 near 3,550.29 feet with approximately 7.12 maf in storage (31 percent of capacity). Projections of end of water year 2025 elevation using the June minimum and April maximum inflow forecast results from the 24-Month Study model run are 3,549.31 feet and 3,591.01 feet, respectively. The annual release volume from Lake Powell during water year 2025 is 7.48 maf under the Mid-Elevation Release Tier as determined under Section 6.C.1 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 2025 unregulated inflow to Lake Powell is projected to be 5.22 maf (54 percent of average).

At the beginning of water year 2025, total system storage in the Colorado River Basin was 25.15 maf (43 percent of 58.48 maf total system capacity). This is a decrease of 110 kaf over the total storage at the beginning of water year 2024 when total system storage was 25.26 maf (43 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 beginning of water year 2023 with 19.55 maf (33 percent of capacity).