



# Arizona Reconsultation Committee Meeting #11

June 17, 2025



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# Meeting Logistics Summary

- Roll Call
  - Members will acknowledge their attendance when their name is called.
- ARC Delegates
  - Please raise your hand to request to speak or ask questions.
  - If online, use the Teams “raise hand” feature to request to speak or ask questions.
  - Wait to be recognized before speaking to ensure clear communication.
- Livestream Attendees
  - Electronic public comment forms are available at [cap-az.com/ARC](https://cap-az.com/ARC) for anyone wishing to submit a comment or question during the meeting.
  - All submissions will be addressed during the Call to the Public at the end of the meeting, unless relevant to a specific topic in the presentation.



# ARC Meeting #11 Agenda

- Message from Governor Hobbs
- Welcome from ARC Co-Chairs
- Arizona Conservation Update
- Remarks from Scott Cameron, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
- Hydrology Update from Bureau of Reclamation
- Comments from ARC Members

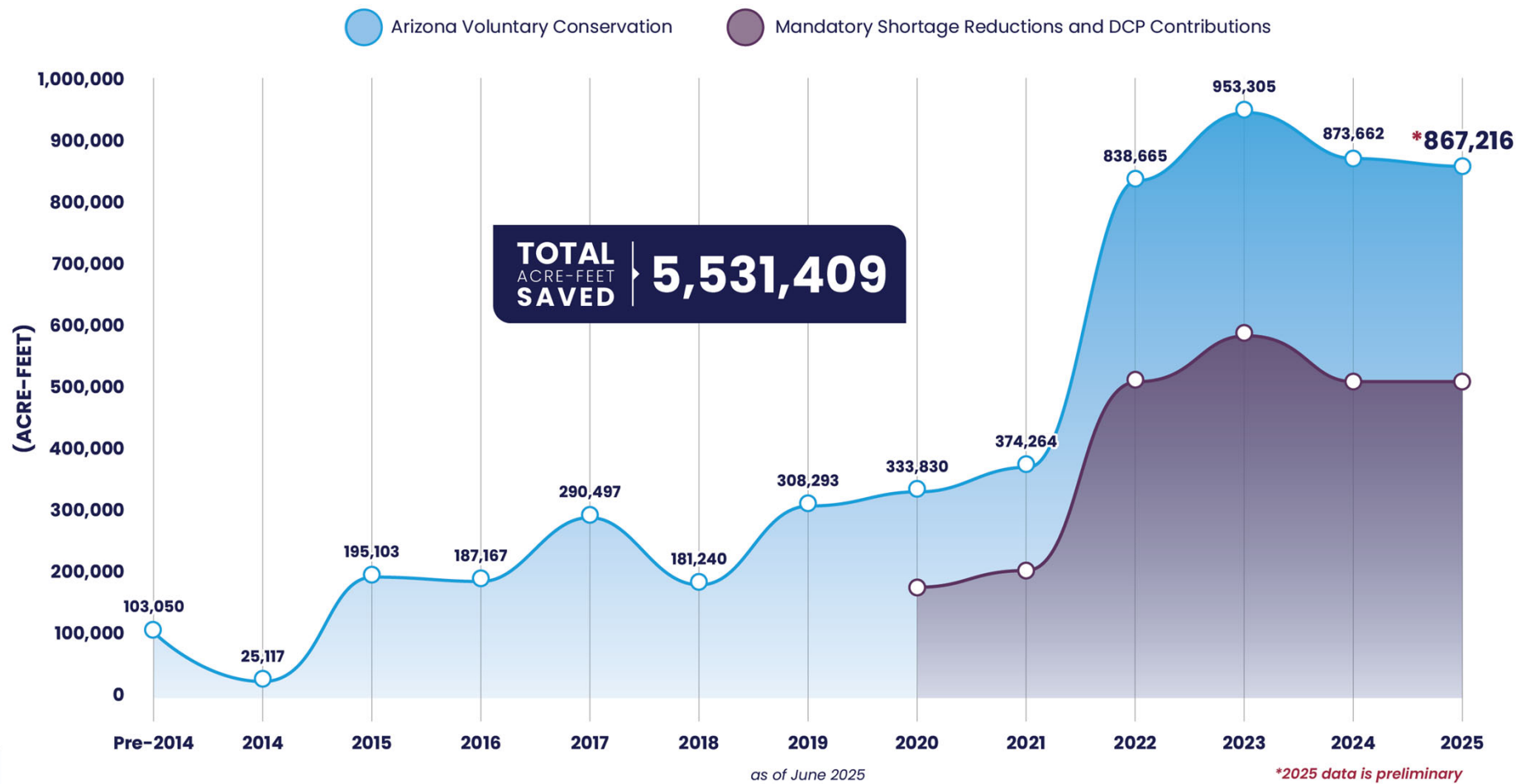
## Break

- Post-2026 Process updates
- Compact Delivery Obligations
- Intra-AZ Process
- Comments and Questions from ARC Members



# Arizona Conservation Update





# Arizona Parties that have contributed water



GM GABRYCH FAMILY LIMITED  
PARTNERSHIP

Cathcart Farms

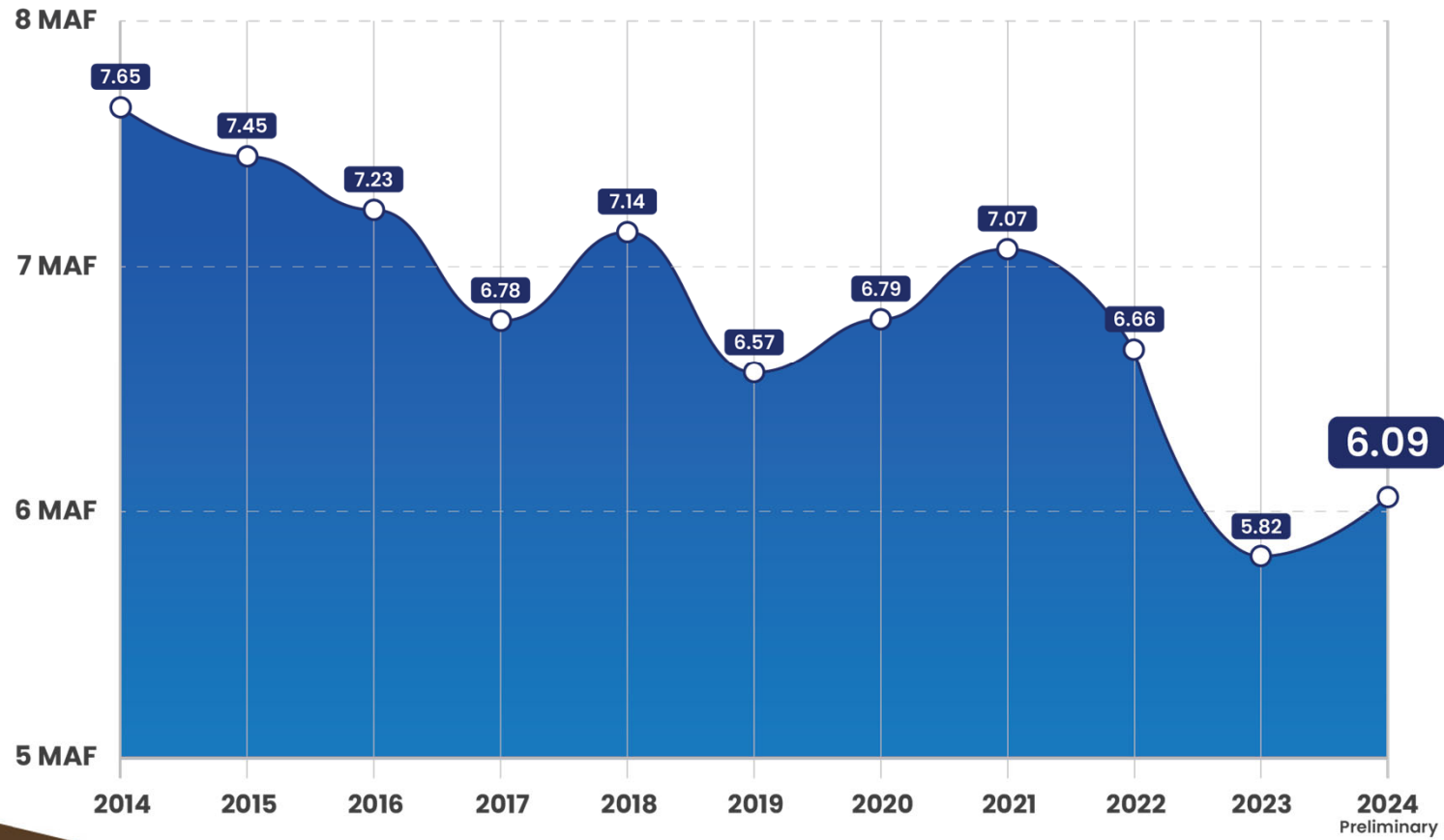
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## LOWER BASIN CONSUMPTIVE USE 2014 THROUGH 2024



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# Status of SEIS ROD Lower Basin Conservation As of June 2025

Year	Amount Conserved (acre-feet)	Cumulative Conserved (acre-feet)
2023 <sup>1</sup>	1,160,697	1,160,697
2024 <sup>1</sup>	871,014	2,031,711
2025 <sup>2</sup>	870,372	2,902,083
2026 <sup>2</sup>	771,148	3,673,231

<sup>1</sup>Information on accounted system conservation is documented in the 2023 and 2024 Water Accounting Reports, respectively, and can be found online at: <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/wtracct.html>

<sup>2</sup>All projected or provisional volumes are subject to change. Additional conservation activities are being considered including system conservation, ICS, and other conserved water in 2025 and 2026. These additional activities will be included in Reclamation's operational modeling.

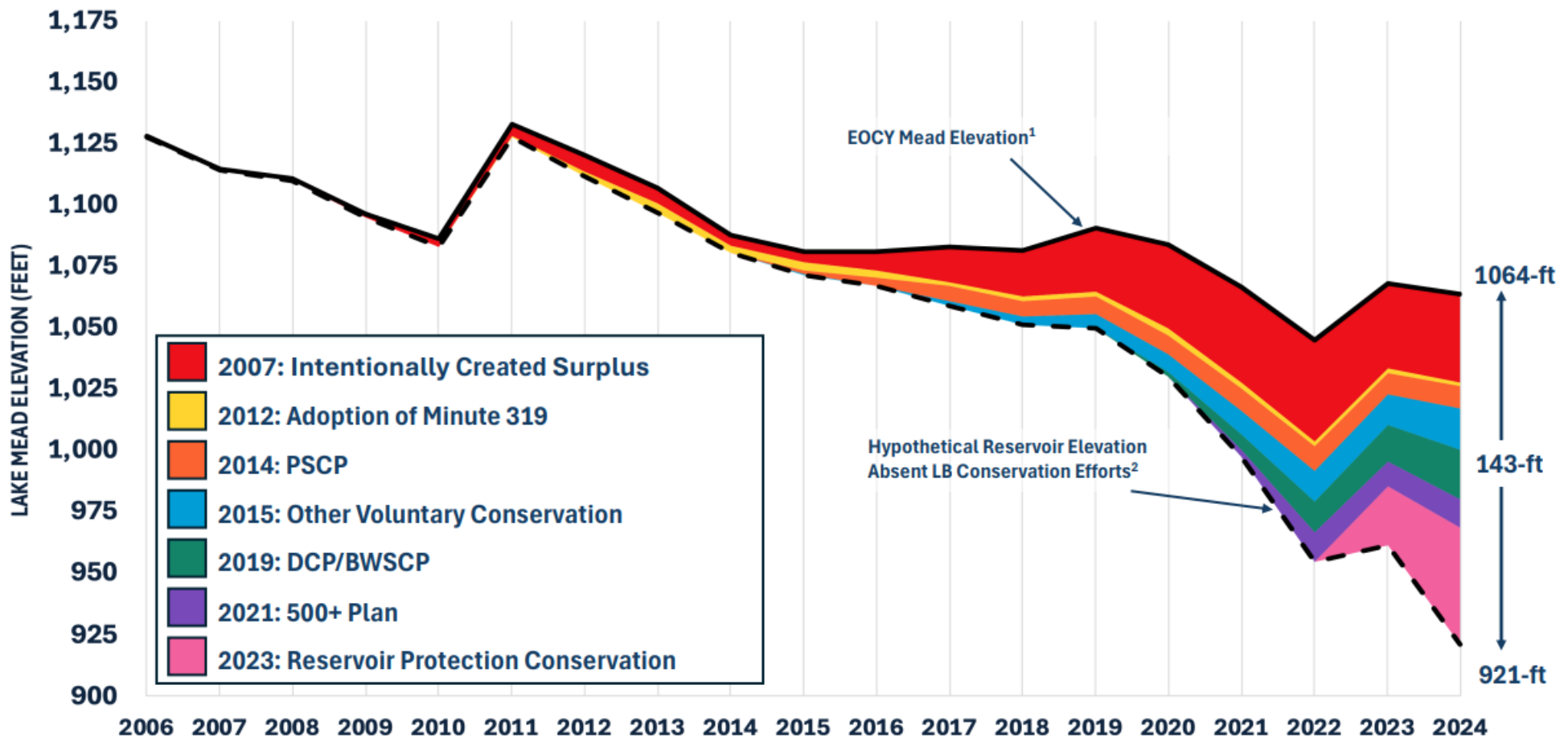
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**Lake Mead's water level would be more than 100 feet lower today without the actions and investments taken over the past 20 years.**



<sup>1</sup>2024 EOY Mead elevation from Nov 2024 24-Month Study report (11/6/2024).

<sup>2</sup>2024 conservation volumes are preliminary.



# Scott Cameron

Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science  
U.S. Department of the Interior





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# Colorado River Basin Hydrology Update

Daniel Bunk

Arizona Reconsultation Committee

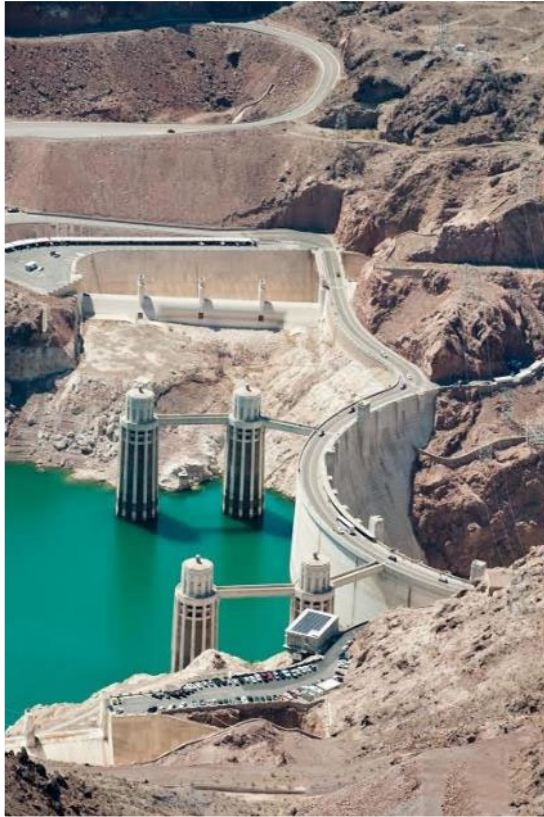
June 17, 2025

# Colorado River – Current Conditions

(as of June 16, 2025)



Lake Powell near Glen Canyon Dam



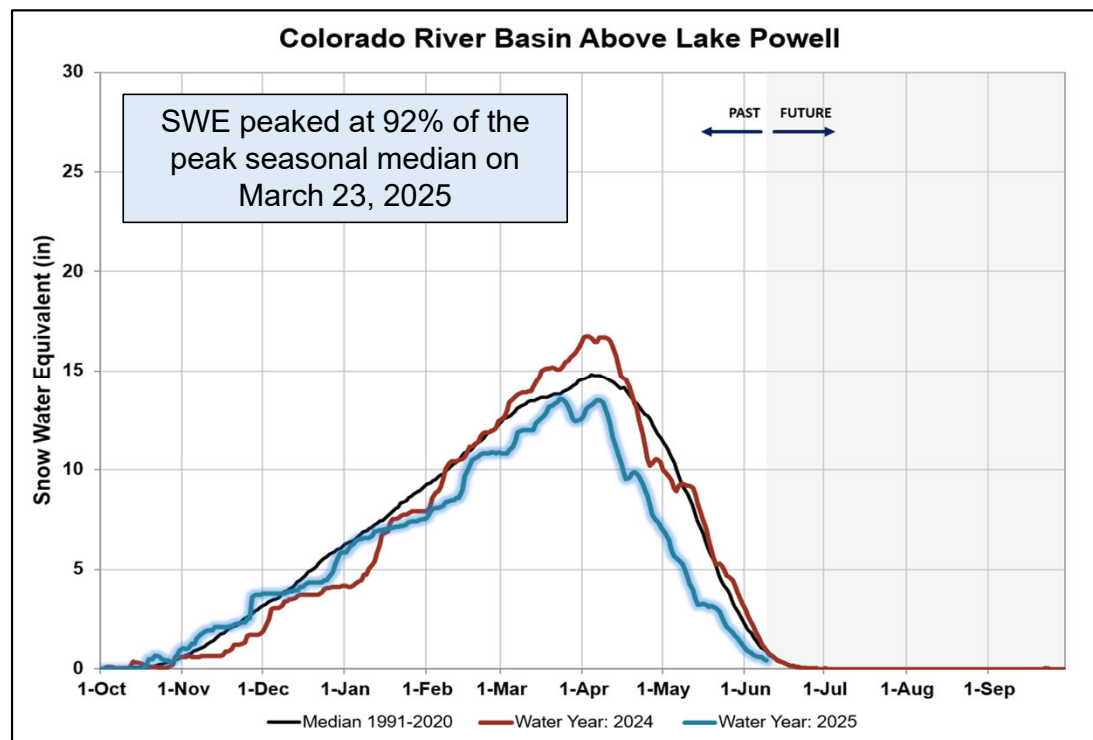
Lake Mead near Hoover Dam

- Lake Powell current elevation is 3,561.7 feet at 34% of capacity (7.9 maf)
- Lake Mead current elevation is 1,055.9 feet at 31% of capacity (8.1 maf)
- Total system storage currently 40% of capacity

# Water Year 2025 Upper Basin Snowpack and Inflow<sup>1,2</sup> as of June 16, 2025

## Lake Powell Unregulated Inflow *Forecast as of June 4, 2025*

Period in 2025	Volume (maf)	% of Average
April through July	2.90	45%
Water Year	5.22	54%



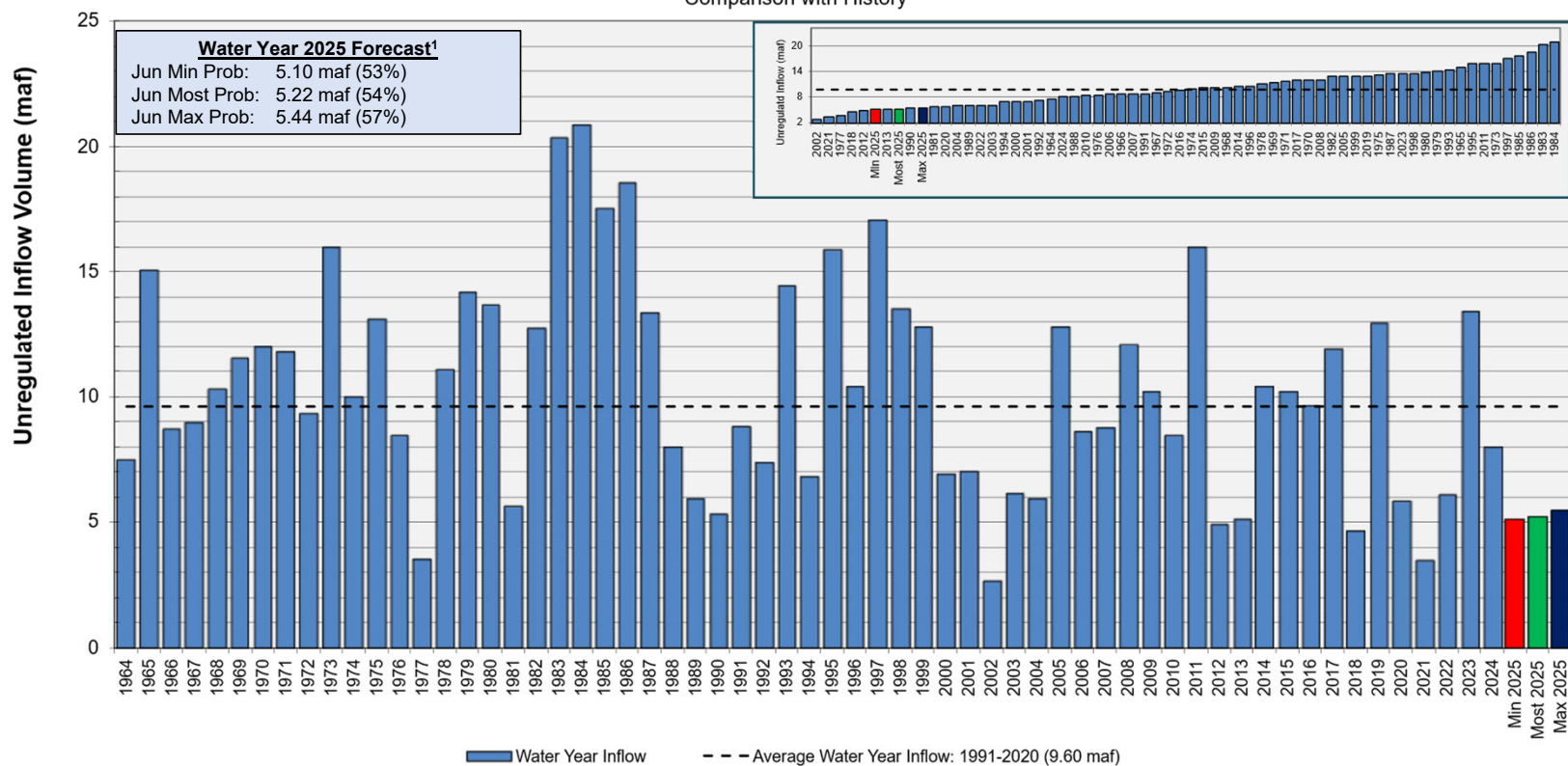
<sup>1</sup>Percent of normal precipitation is based on an arithmetic mean, or average; percent of normal snowpack is based on the median value for a given date.

<sup>2</sup>Statistics are based on the 30-year period of record from 1991-2020.



## Lake Powell Water Year Unregulated Inflow

as of June 4, 2025  
Comparison with History

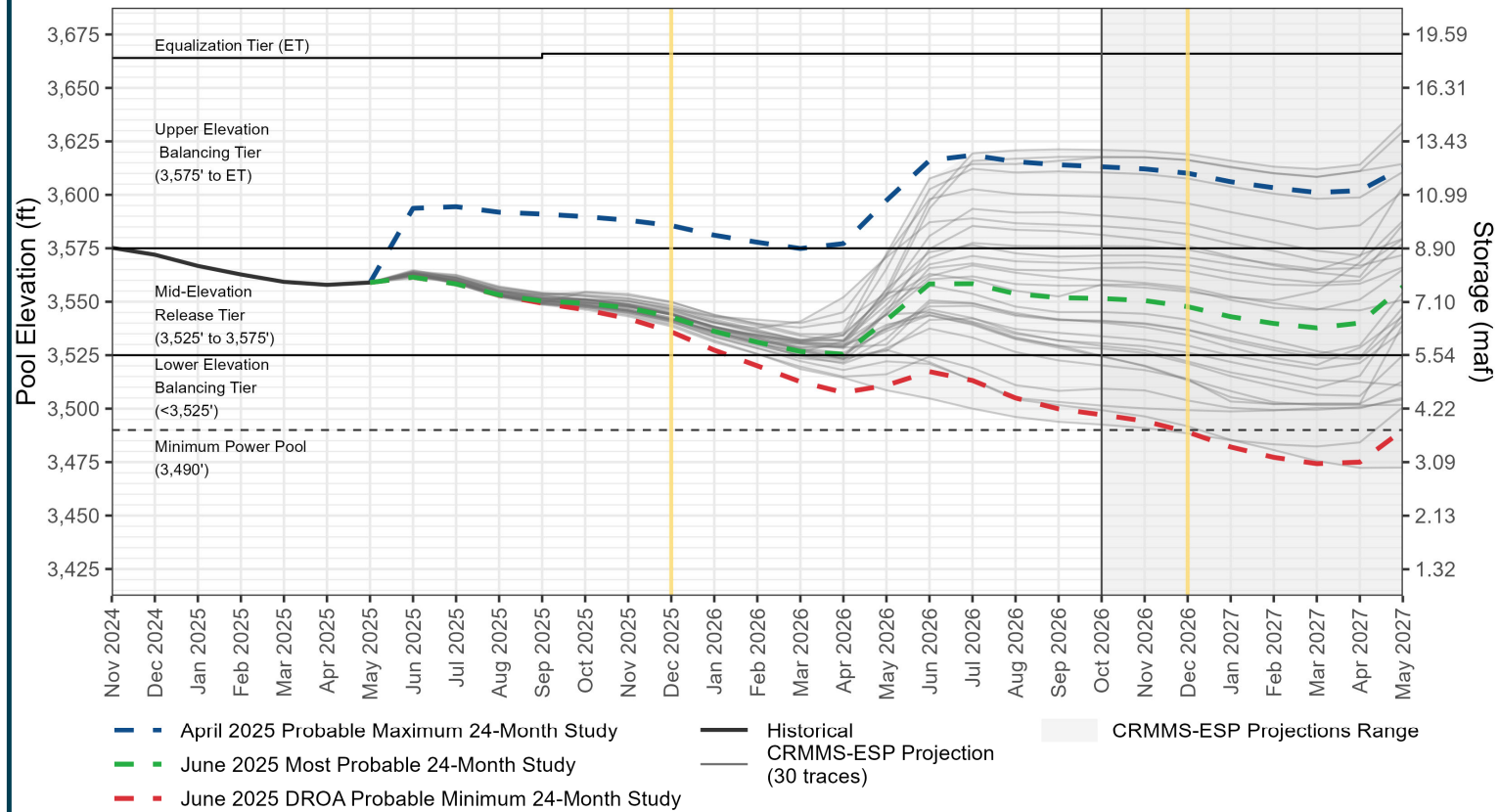


<sup>1</sup>Water Year statistics are based on the 30-year period of record from 1991-2020.





## Lake Powell End-of-Month Elevations<sup>1,2</sup> CRMMS Projections from April and June 2025

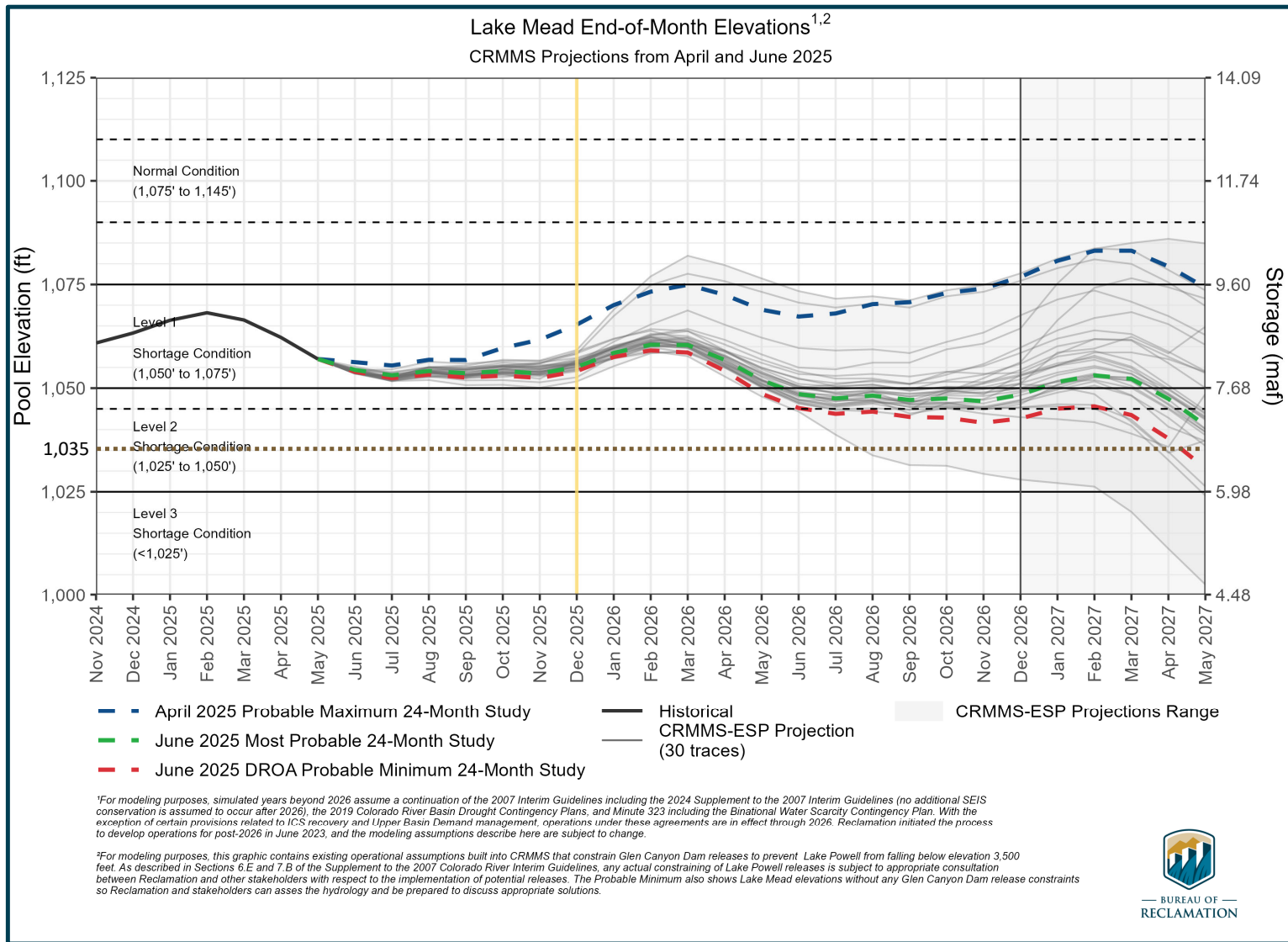


<sup>1</sup>For modeling purposes, simulated years beyond 2026 assume a continuation of the 2007 Interim Guidelines including the 2024 Supplement to the 2007 Interim Guidelines (no additional SEIS conservation is assumed to occur after 2026), the 2019 Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plans, and Minute 323 including the Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan. With the exception of certain provisions related to ICS 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 describe here are subject to change.

<sup>2</sup>For modeling purposes, this graphic contains existing operational assumptions built into CRMMS that constrain Glen Canyon Dam releases to prevent Lake Powell from falling below elevation 3,500 feet. As described in Sections 6.E and 7.B of the Supplement to the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines, any actual constraining of Lake Powell releases is subject to appropriate consultation between Reclamation and other stakeholders with respect to the implementation of potential releases. The Probable Minimum also shows Lake Powell elevations without any Glen Canyon Dam release constraints so Reclamation and stakeholders can assess the hydrology and be prepared to discuss appropriate solutions.







# Status of Additional Lower Basin Conservation<sup>1</sup>

## As of June 2025 (all volumes in acre-feet)

State	Conservation Activity (ac-ft)	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
AZ	CAP ICS Preservation Program	41,776	0	0	0	41,776
	CAP System Conservation Agreements	141,400	123,400	128,400	101,000	494,200
	Cathcart Farms System Conservation	57	61	61	61	239
	Cibola Valley IDD System Conservation	1,682	2,328	2,328	2,329	8,667
	Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation System Conservation	13,933	13,933	13,933	13,933	55,732
	GM Gabrych System Conservation	3,240	3,240	3,240	3,240	12,960
	GRIC System Conservation	91,319	134,302	115,000	125,000	465,621
	Hopi Tribe System Conservation	2,679	3,059	3,059	3,059	11,856
	MVIDD System Conservation	12,812	13,293	13,694	14,475	54,274
	San Carlos Apache Tribe System Conservation	23,804	23,451	23,451	23,451	94,157
	YMIDD System Conservation	21,828	21,657	22,010	22,010	87,505
CA	Coachella Groundwater System Conservation	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	140,000
	Coachella Ag System Conservation	0	725	3,889	10,000	14,614
	IID System Conservation	106,111	257,640	250,000	192,360	806,111
	MWD ICS Creation	450,000	0	0	0	450,000
	MWD System Conservation / Other Conserved Water	25,066	27,010	0	0	52,076
	PVID-MWD System Conservation	52,628	117,021	117,021	79,830	366,500
	Bard-MWD System Conservation	0	5,700	9,286	11,400	26,386
	Quechan Indian Tribe-MWD System Conservation	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000	52,000
NV	SNWA System Conservation / Other Conserved Water	88,156	74,572	82,000	86,000	330,728
	SNWA Tributary ICS / System Water	36,206	34,375	35,000	35,000	140,581
	<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>1,160,697</b>	<b>903,767</b>	<b>870,372</b>	<b>771,148</b>	<b>3,705,983</b>
	<b>Cumulative Total</b>	<b>1,160,697</b>	<b>2,064,464</b>	<b>2,934,835</b>	<b>3,705,983</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Volumes reflect final accounting in the 2023 and 2024 Water Accounting Reports and executed system conservation agreements based on current projections. All projected or provisional volumes are subject to change. Additional conservation activities are being considered including system conservation, ICS, and other conserved water in 2025 and 2026. These additional activities are included in Reclamation's operational modeling. Conserved volumes are credited toward Protection Volume Conservation under the 2024 Supplemental EIS or system conservation efforts under the 2019 Drought Contingency Plan.



# Minute 330

- Minute 330 establishes a program in which Mexico will generate 400,000 acre-feet of water through 2026 (~5 feet in Lake Mead):
  - Mexico will generate at least 250,000 acre-feet of water for the Colorado River system
  - Mexico will defer delivery of the remaining volume (150,000 acre-feet) as Mexico's Water Reserve, available for delivery after 2026

Date	Minimum Cumulative Volume (acre-feet)	Minimum Cumulative Volume (cubic meters)
By December 31, 2024	133,000	164,054,000
By December 31, 2025	333,000	410,752,000
By December 31, 2026	400,000	493,396,000



For more information:  
<https://www.usbr.gov/lc/riverops.html>



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# Comments from ARC Members





# Break



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# Post-2026 Process Update





# Post-2026 Timeline

- June 2023: Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) formally initiated the Post-2026 Process
- October 2023: Scoping Summary Report and Federal Register Notice identified the Proposed Federal Action and Purpose & Need
- January 2025: Alternatives Report identified preliminary range of alternatives
- **Current: Overall process currently refining alternatives for Draft EIS**
- Fall-Winter 2025: Publication of Draft EIS
- Spring-Summer 2026: Publication of Final EIS
- Summer-Fall 2026: Adopt Record of Decision



# Lower Basin Comments on Reclamation's January Alternatives Report



The Colorado River Basin States Representatives of  
Arizona, California, and Nevada

February 13, 2025

Via email and U.S. Mail  
c/o [Daniel.gustafson@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Daniel.gustafson@ios.doi.gov)

The Honorable Doug Burgum  
Secretary of the Interior  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Congratulations and Perspectives from the Lower Basin States on the Colorado River Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead

Dear Secretary Burgum:

Congratulations on your appointment and confirmation as Secretary of the Interior. Your leadership in the West makes you exceptionally well-positioned to lead the Department at this critical time. We look forward to working with the Trump-Vance administration and you as we navigate the challenges and opportunities ahead for the Colorado River and the Nation.

A top priority for Arizona, California, and Nevada (the Lower Basin States) is developing the next set of operating guidelines for the Colorado River. As you know, the current guidelines governing the operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead will expire next year in 2026, and the process of formulating new guidelines for implementation in 2027 is already underway. This effort, including the associated National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, is crucial to the future management of the Colorado River system.

In a January 2025 letter to the seven Basin State Representatives, the fourteen United States Senators representing the Basin States underscored the importance of a seven-state consensus and urged Basin negotiators to commit to developing a consensus proposal for future Colorado River operations. The Lower Basin States strongly support a collaborative, consensus-driven approach to developing these guidelines and remain actively engaged in discussions among the seven Colorado River Basin States to reach a unified agreement. An imposed solution or litigation would undermine decades of cooperative progress and jeopardize our ability to continue managing the system effectively. Collaboration has long been a hallmark of the Colorado River Basin, and we are confident that, with your leadership and support, this tradition will endure and deliver success on the Colorado River in this administration.

Our commitment to this process is reflected in our proactive efforts. As an initial step, the Lower Basin States have voluntarily proposed conservation commitments totaling 1.5 million acre-feet per year under most system conditions, as part of a package that would include more substantial Basin-wide reductions when system contents fall below certain thresholds, among other operational components. We are

- Without fully analyzing the Lower Basin Alternative, the United States omitted it from the January Alternatives Report.
- The Lower Basin States request to have the alternative fully analyzed and included in the draft EIS has not been accepted.
- The Lower Basin identified fatal flaws in the January Report.
- The Lower Basin requested Reclamation retract the report.



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# Reclamation's Recent Comments

At the Water Resources Research Center conference on May 21, 2025, Reclamation's Post-2026 Program Manager, Carly Jerla, stated:

- Preliminary range of alternatives announced in November 2024 (published in January 2025), have received additional input from the Basin States and Basin Tribes since that time
- Reclamation has not made a final determination on the Draft EIS alternatives, currently modifying to incorporate additional input, as appropriate

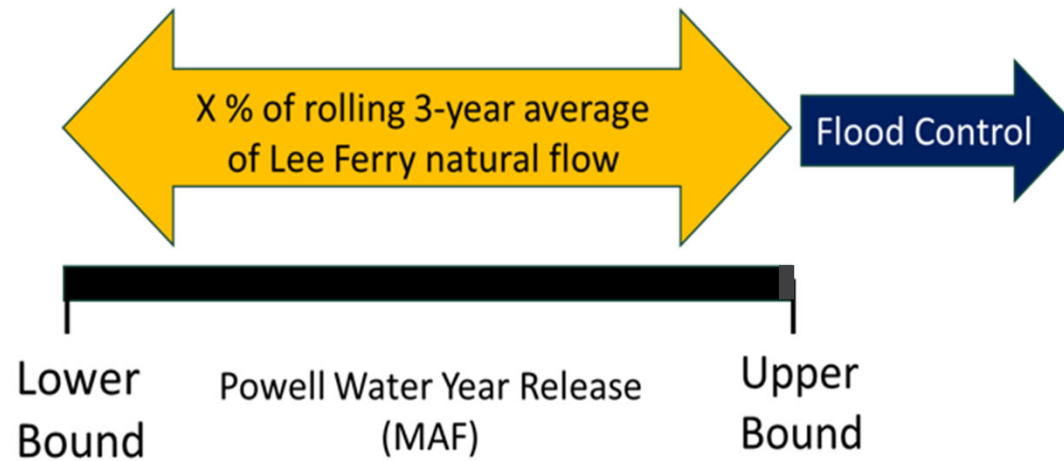
# Seven State Discussions

- A compromise based upon the Lower or Upper Basin alternatives is not achievable
- Arizona continues to seek a collaborative path forward that avoids litigation
- Evaluating a “Supply Driven” concept that shares the water the river actually provides while requiring each Basin to take actions to live within their respective shares
  - Many of the elements already proposed in the Lower Basin States Alternative are actions that need further development for a “Supply Driven” release concept
  - Maintain an Upper Basin delivery obligation to the Lower Basin

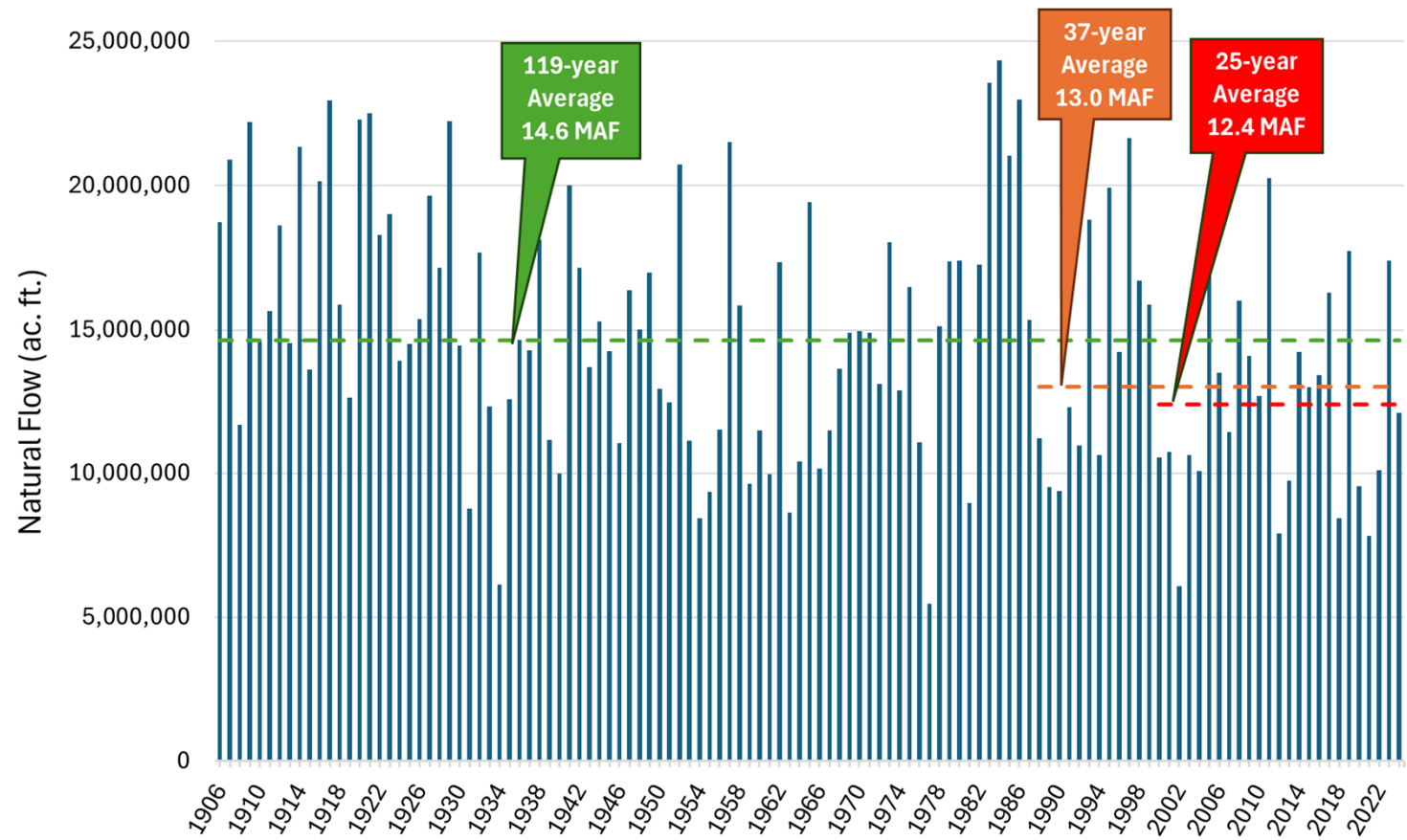


# Overview of “Supply Driven” Concept

- Natural flow at Lee Ferry is the basis for releases from Lake Powell to Lake Mead
- Releases for the current water-year would be derived from the average of three preceding years natural flow, with an upper and lower limit of the annual release
- The release is a fixed percentage of said natural flow average



# Natural Flow at Lees Ferry – 1906 to 2024



Preliminary provisional data, subject to change, estimated values for 2021-2024



# Lower Division States' Current Status

- Lower Division States continue to evaluate the "supply driven" release concept
- Many of the actions identified in the Lower Division States' proposal for the Lower Basin remain relevant, including sharing of reductions up to 1.5 MAF (includes Mexico), storage and other aspects
- Lower Division States remain united





# Arizona's Positions

- The Lower Basin supports the largest share of the basin's population, economic activity and valuable agriculture
- Arizona intends to continue the collaborative path we have forged with MOU, the 500 Plus Plan, DCP, the system conservation program, and many others
- Arizona has stepped up to the plate and would take the largest reductions in the static ramp
- Arizona believes the natural flow percentage should be based on sharing of the hydrologic risk and the Law of the River



# 1922 Compact Issues



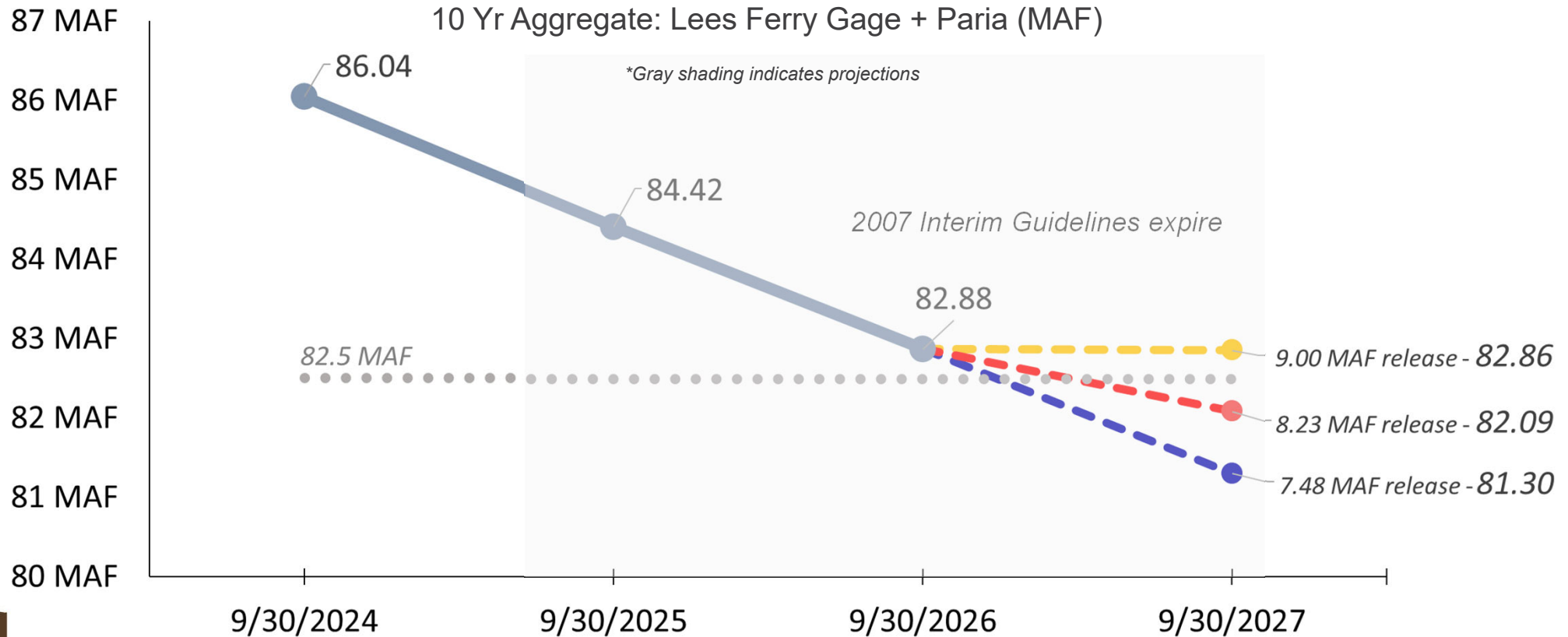
# Colorado River Compact Compliance

Compliance means flow of the Colorado River at Lee Ferry shall not be below an aggregate of 75 MAF over a rolling 10-year period, plus annual releases equal to one-half the Mexico Treaty burden.



# Projected Water Year of Flows Below Compact Requirements

10 Yr Aggregate: Lees Ferry Gage + Paria (MAF)



# Intra-AZ Process



# Intra-Arizona Process Initial Goals

- Balance the need to adapt to reduced Colorado River supplies while maintaining Arizona's economic viability.
- Understand and balance differing perspectives on sharing reductions post-2026.
- Identify resources that could help with developing an intra-Arizona framework.
- Create a framework to leverage the benefits of Lake Mead storage.
- Identify how all Arizona Colorado River water users will contribute to a solution.



# Listening Sessions

- ADWR and CAP will be holding small-group listening sessions in the next few weeks to get feedback and to gauge interest in participating in workgroups
- ADWR and CAP are interested in receiving feedback from stakeholders regarding the post-2026 operational guidelines in Arizona and between the states

## What is your plan to be part of the solution?



# Discussion/Questions





For continued information  
and updates, visit  
[azwater.gov/ARC](http://azwater.gov/ARC) or  
[cap-az.com/ARC](http://cap-az.com/ARC)



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