

# Colorado River Commission of Nevada

## Hydrology and Water Use Update

Warren Turkett

August 11, 2020



# Summary

## Lake Powell

- Upper Basin snowpack reached the seasonal average in April.
- Dry conditions this water year have reduced the unregulated inflow forecasts.
- Water Year 2020 unregulated inflow is forecasted at 59% of average.

## Lake Mead

- Reclamation will release the August 24 Month study on August 14, which determines the upcoming water years operations.
- Reclamation has essential staff continuing to operate the reservoirs water releases and hydropower generation.

## Nevada Water Supply

- Southern Nevada has 9 years of water supply banked. <sup>1</sup>
- **In 2019, Southern Nevada used 22% less than its annual allocation.**

Storage	Elevation (f)	% Capacity	Change since last year
Lake Mead	1,084.3	40%	1.3 ft
Lake Powell	3,604.5	51%	-16.9 ft

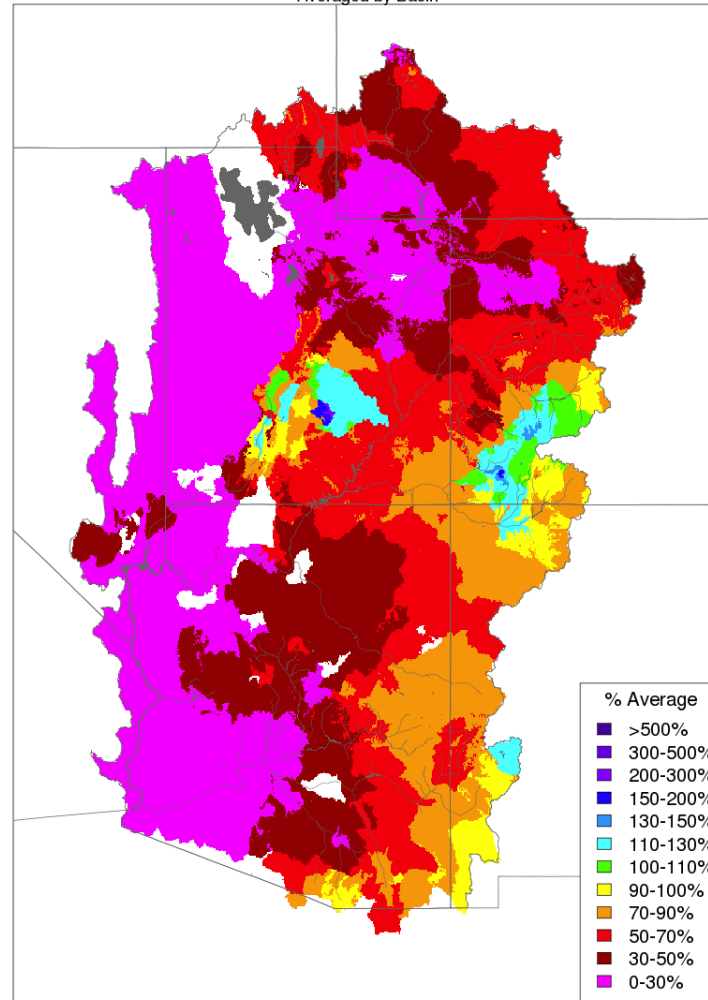
Data retrieved August 9, 2020

<sup>1</sup> Based on historical Southern Nevada water use.

# Precipitation and Temperature

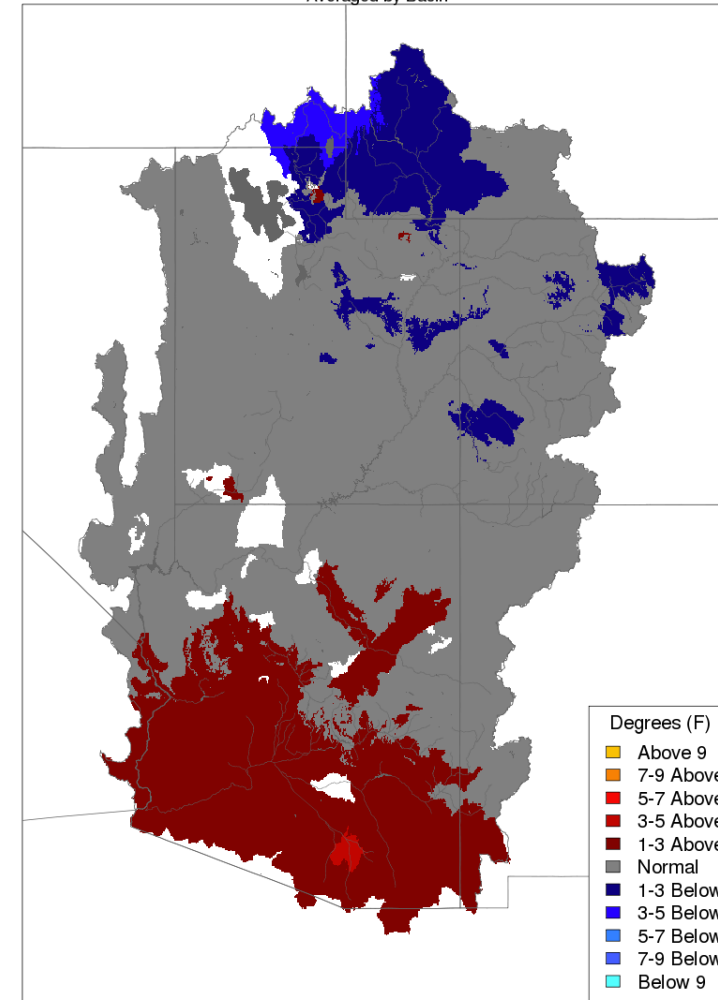


Monthly Precipitation - July 2020  
Averaged by Basin



Prepared by NOAA, Colorado Basin River Forecast Center  
Salt Lake City, Utah, [www.cbrfc.noaa.gov](http://www.cbrfc.noaa.gov)

Max Temp - Monthly Deviation - July 2020  
Averaged by Basin



Prepared by NOAA, Colorado Basin River Forecast Center  
Salt Lake City, Utah, [www.cbrfc.noaa.gov](http://www.cbrfc.noaa.gov)

Above Lake Powell July precipitation: 70%

Above Lake Powell water year 2020 cumulative precipitation: 82%

# Unregulated Inflow, Current and Projected Reservoir Status

Projected unregulated inflow to Lake Powell	Acre-Feet	% Average
Water Year 2020	6,356,000	59%*
April thru July 2020	3,758,000	52%*

\* 2020 forecast reduced due to below average precipitation and dry soil conditions.

Reservoir	Current Elevation	Current Storage Acre-Feet	Current % Capacity	Projected Elevation on 1/1/2021 <sup>1</sup>
Lake Mead	1,084.3	10,393,000	40%	1,085.6
Lake Powell	3,604.5	12,332,000	51%	3,594.4

Data retrieved August 9, 2020

<sup>1</sup> Based on Reclamation's July 2020 24 Month Study Most Probable Inflow.

# Water Use In Southern Nevada

## Southern Nevada Water Use

## 2019 Actual Use in Acre-Feet

Nevada Annual Allocation	300,000
Diversion	472,314
Return Flows	238,318
Consumptive Use	233,996
Unused Allocation Available for Banking	66,004 (22%)

## Southern Nevada Water Use

## Diversions

## Return Flows

## Consumptive Use

January-June 2020	224,096	112,112	111,984
-------------------	---------	---------	---------

## Banked Water (through end of 2019)

## Acre-Feet

Ground Water Recharge in So. Nevada	358,315
Banked in Lake Mead	785,913
Banked in California and Arizona	944,071
Total	2,088,299