Colorado River Commission of Nevada

Hydrology and Water Use Update

Warren Turkett

March 10, 2020



Summary

Lake Powell

- Water Year 2020 snowpack is currently below the seasonal average.
- Below average precipitation from June to September 2019 has caused dry soil conditions in the Upper Basin.
- Water Year 2020 unregulated inflow is forecasted to be 78% of average.

Lake Mead

- In calendar year 2020, Nevada will be required to have an Extraordinary ICS contribution of 8,000 acre feet pursuant to the DCP operation agreement.
- Lake Mead is projected to decrease about 11 feet by end of this calendar year.

Nevada Water Supply

- Southern Nevada has 7 years of water supply banked. ¹
- In 2018, Southern Nevada used 19% less than its annual allocation.

Storage	Elevation (f)	% Capacity	Change since last year
Lake Mead	1,095.9	44%	7.0 ft
Lake Powell	3,602.0	49 %	30.9 ft

Data retrieved March 8, 2020

¹ Based on historical Southern Nevada water use.





Precipitation and Temperature

Monthly Precipitation - February 2020 Averaged by Basin





Above Lake Powell February precipitation: 91% Above Lake Powell water year 2020 cumulative precipitation: 91%

Upper Basin Snowpack Accumulation



Unregulated Inflow, Current and Projected Reservoir Status

Projected unregulated inflow to Lake Powe	ell Acre-Feet	% Average
Water Year 2020	8,482,000	78%*
April thru July 2020	5,700,000	80%*

* 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 ¹
Lake Mead	1,095.9	11,371,000	44%	1,084.8
Lake Powell	3,602.0	11,945,000	49 %	3,611.3

Data retrieved March 8, 2020

¹ Based on Reclamation's February 2020 24 Month Study Most Probable Inflow.

Water Use In Southern Nevada

Southern Nevada Water Use	2018 Actual Use in Acre-Feet	
Nevada Annual Allocation	300,000	
Diversion	479,279	
Return Flows	235,176	
Consumptive Use	244,103	
Unused Allocation Available for Banking	55,897 (19%)	

Southern Nevada Water Use	Diversions	Return Flows	Consumptive Use
January 2020	30,301	20,870	9,431
Banked Water (through end of 20		Acre-Feet	
Ground Water Recharge in So. Nevada			358,045
Banked in Lake Mead		700,448	
Banked in California and Arizona		943,821	
Total			2,002,314

